



# Vestry 2019



# Table of Contents

Agenda	3	
Rector's Report	4	
Warden's Report	10	
Music Ministry	15	
Children's Ministry	17	
Healing & Prayer Ministry		18
Greeters & Sides People	18	
Kitchen/Special Events	19	
Glengarry Ministry	20	
Building & Grounds	21	
Sanctuary Guild	22	
Refugee Committee	23	
St. Matthias Camosun Project	25	
Attic Treasures	26	
Chapel Gallery	27	
Chat & Chew	28	
Africa Mission	29	

Draft Agenda  
Annual Meeting of the Parishioners 2019  
Commonly known as "Vestry"  
of

The Parish of St. Matthias, Victoria  
Diocese of British Columbia, Anglican Church of Canada  
February 24, 2019

1. Opening Prayer
2. Opening Procedures
  - a. Signing of Parish Membership List
  - b. Appointment of Vestry Secretary
  - c. Approval of Agenda
3. Reception of non-financial reports
  - a. Discussion, if any.
4. Elections and Appointments & Recognition of outgoing Wardens
  - a. Appointments
    - i. Rector's Warden
  - b. Elections
    - i. People's Warden
    - ii. Synod Delegate
    - iii. Alternate Synod Delegate
    - iv. Nominee for Regional Youth Synod Delegate
    - v. Parish Council Members
  - c. Appointment of Treasurer by Rector and Wardens
  - d. Signing of Oaths by the Wardens:  
"I, \_\_\_\_\_, churchwarden of the parish of \_\_\_\_\_, declare that I consent to be bound by the constitution, canons and regulations which are now in force, and which may from time to time be made or amended by the Anglican Synod of the Diocese of British Columbia, and that I will faithfully perform the duties of my office." Regulation 6.8.01.a.
5. Financial Report
  - a. Financial Statements for 2018
6. Draft Budget  
Other Business
7. Motion to Adjourn & Closing Prayer

## Rector's Report

*The whole world has risen in Christ... it is filled with the glory and presence of  
God, and nothing is any more separated from God. - Thomas Merton*

In his charge to Synod, Bishop Logan invited us into a year of discipleship - A year when we return the Gospel to the centre of our lives and let the living word transform us. It continues to be a year to re-commit our lives to follow Jesus - even when that takes us to difficult or uncomfortable places.

As we take up the invitation to follow and together practice the presence to God right here in this time and place, we do so as liberated, freed people and we are called to proclaim that liberation and love in our words and in our lives as a church family. Oscar Romero once said “Let us not tire of preaching love; it is the force that will overcome the world. Let us not tire of preaching love. Though we see that waves of violence succeed in drowning the fire of Christian love, love must win out; it is the only thing that can.”

We have embarked this past year on a year of discipleship and of practice. As we move forward together, let us continue to take up the courageous task of following Jesus, open to the breath and movement of the Spirit.

Let us live the gospel of love, in faith and in hope for the transformation of our lives, the life of St. Matthias and the life of the world.

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*Were I a preacher, I should preach above all other things, the practice of the Presence of God.... Those who have the gale of the Holy Spirit go forward, even in sleep. - Brother Lawrence*

### **Faith in Foundation**

(Financial Resources - Effective Communication - Current Ministries)

This past year has seen us taking enormous strides in creating a long-term and sustainable foundation for our life together. Marilyn and Cory and others have worked hard on developing communication and event plans and we have implemented both a new website and are streamlining our email systems. We have moved to monthly newsletters to keep our congregation and friends up to date with all that is happenings and are learning to utilize our social media and print media resources more effectively.

My practice this year has been to ask a lot of “why” questions. This hasn’t always been a comfortable process - but it is enabling us to ask why we are still doing the things we are doing, what practices could be done more efficiently or cost effectively and what are the systems/spaces that could be improved? This difficult task is already bearing fruit as we find ways to cut down expenses and enhance and support existing ministries.

There is so much to give thanks for! This year through the endless hours of our Wardens (Cory and Penny), Rental Coordinator (Hazel), Treasurer (Brian), Parish Council and every single one of you, we have been able to decrease the deficit dramatically and continue to seed and support vital worship and

ministry. We have moved from a projected deficit in 2017 to actual deficit of under 4000 in 2018! This is an incredible testimony to God's presence in this place as well as to your faithfulness and belief that we could and can move forward together. Despite our hard work in streamlining and increasing rental and event income, our own personal giving's have decreased this year. While there are lots of good reasons for this, it does give us each an opportunity to pray about how we may be able to increase our financial support of this community in order to continue to sustain and grow our common life and faithful presence in this place.

We have seen a huge increase in our rental income thanks to the hours of work Hazel has put in! This is not just shown in financial gains but the investment our core renters put into this land and the people here. I am looking forward to seeing how else we might partner for the good of all as we move forward.

Our current ministries have also thrived in this past year. Our Glengarry service has flourished under the strong leadership of the Reverend Canon Karen Fast and our Healing and prayer ministries continue to be the underlying support of all we do.

Attic Treasures saw its best year financially and saw many people come through the church. Some stopped for conversation; others commented on the beautiful space and some we saw again at other events we hosted throughout the year. While this may seem like a simple garage sale, it is one of the ways we continue to practice the presence of God through our commitment to hospitality, neighbourhood engagement and environmental stewardship.

Speaking of environmental stewardship, this year marked the 20th anniversary of our partnership with Threshold housing and the monthly recycle day. It has been wonderful to see this partnership continue and for the church to have a reputation in the local community as 'the church that recycles!' Like all our ministries we hope to have more volunteer support to continue to make this a viable partnership.

What a blessing it has been to have our vibrant music ministry this year! Michael often comments that he can hear Victoria and I laughing all the way to the office as we plan the upcoming season of music. It has been a gift to have Victoria's flexible creative leadership as part of the staff team and I give thanks for her many hours of volunteer time and dedication that she brings to her job. Together we have tried to create liturgies that weave the week's theme through the words, sermon, anthem and hymns. The choir have worked hard all year and it has been wonderful to be gifted by their special services at Remembrance Day, Lessons and Carols and most recently the Emmet Cahill Concert. I have also appreciated the many soloists and instrumentalists that have brought their passion to our worship.

You will have noticed that not only can we hear our performers, but we can see them better too! Our buildings and grounds committee have been working hard on upgrades that will both save us money and be more environmentally sustainable in the long run.

A core foundation of this community has been the strong leadership on Parish Council, and I want to give thanks for Brian R, Sheila R and Bob H who will be finishing their term this year. They have offered vision, stability, wisdom and even some bullheadedness (their word not mine! ☺) which has held this community through its many transitions. We are deeply grateful for their ministry with us!

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*We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade the presence of God. The world is crowded with Him. He walks everywhere incognito. - C. S. Lewis*

### **Faith in Action**

*(Engaging God's World - Emerging Ministries - Reconciliation & Beyond)*

What an amazing year this has been! This congregation remains active and engaged in so many different areas of God's work in our beautiful world. Some of you were involved in the teaching series that addressed the role of the Church post-residential school and we were honoured to have Eddie Charlie with us to share his story. John Jordan has been a light in our midst, sharing the stories and ministry alive in Rwanda and we have had community members involved in charity events, non-profits and creation care actions across the city and country.

This past year the St. Matthias and friends refugee Committee, under the leadership of Brian Rendell, were able to support the arrival of a newcomer and to walk alongside him in the difficult adjustment and transition of coming to Canada. We are humbled by the role we have had in this process and it makes us all deeply aware of the privilege we all have in residing in relative safety and comfort here in Canada.

Supported by the Diocesan Vision Fund and our own Outreach fund two new ministries were born. The Chapel Gallery and The Chat and Chew Community Luncheon. You will read about those in the reports, but I will say that I have been inspired by the vision that Nicky, Michael and the crew of volunteers have brought to these initiatives and for the ways these ministries are touching the lives of people beyond the walls of this church. I have seen first-hand how transformative these ministries have been in the lives of individuals outside the church. I have witnessed folk come and sit in the Chapel and comment on the sense of Divine presence here and I have seen Michael's warm presence and caring preparation of food light up the afternoon of one of the Wednesday lunch participants.

What a gift to be able to offer to the community! A warm lovingly prepared meal and a space of art and prayer and peace that says more than words that God is

here and that each person, all of creation resounds with God's gracious abounding love.

As we heard in the Isaiah a few weeks back, God's presence fills the temple and we sing with all the company of heaven "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts! And then we go on and sing "the whole earth is full of God's glory"!

The whole earth is full of God's glory. We come on a Sunday to be recalled - remembered as the body of Christ. We come to bring our lives in worship of the One who has created and called us and to be fed by the holy Presence of God. This is a vital part of becoming God's people and being nourished for the work that God calls us to. And then we are sent at the end of the service back into the world as bearers of God's light, to love God and serve God's people, to move beyond the walls of the church building. David Fitch reminds us that God is present in the world and when the church is this faithful presence, God's kingdom becomes visible.<sup>1</sup>

The church is present when we sit in the gallery and are a welcoming presence in the lives of those who enter there, we are the church as we work to support and welcome a newcomer, we are the church when we sit at a table with a stranger and through conversation and food let them know they are valued, we are the church as we strive to care for our land and share the beauty we see revealed all around us as the glory of God made manifest in the ordinary and every day of our lives.

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*We need prayer to understand God's love for us. If we really mean to pray and want to pray we must be ready to do it now. These are only the first steps towards prayer but if we never make the first step with determination, we will not reach the last one: the presence of God - Mother Teresa*

### **Faith in Formation**

*(Youth & Family - Worship Resources - Lay Ministry & Leadership Formation)*

As I had committed to last year, we experimented in the beginning of this year with a variety of styles and forms of worship. With our Diocesan Communications Director Catherine Pate, we had the chance to review our worship survey and how we wanted to move forward. Out of that day we came up with some common commitments.

We agreed we wanted to sing and pray together and to observe times of silence. We wanted to come together around the Eucharistic table and find ways of linking our faith to wider church/world issues. We wanted to be

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<sup>1</sup> Faithful Presence: Seven disciplines that shape the church for mission David Fitch

nourished/challenged by our worship and to find balance, structure and welcome. We wanted to hear the Word, explore questions and absorb mystery.

We shared that worship was about encountering the Holy in holy community, that worship should be about more than ourselves; a place to raise our thanksgivings and laments, a place to encounter God.

Together we committed to bring our strengths and weaknesses and gifts to worship. We committed to coming prepared and to cultivating attentiveness, openness, compassion, a generosity of spirit and a willingness to move and work together into the future.

We have lived into many of those commitments this year. We have created a monthly structure of worship that is allowing us to dig deeper into the liturgies for these Sundays. The Thursday communion and discussion has been a way that we come prepared for Sunday morning and I am personally enriched and inspired by the depth of reflection and community that is formed during those times of sharing. I am also deeply grateful for the leadership of our two Honoraries, Karen and Brian who bring their unique gifts and support to our worship life.

Children and Family ministry continues to be an area of discernment and joy. This past year we celebrated Gillian's wonderful ministry with us and in September welcomed Jennifer Sharlow to the staff team. I have appreciated her willingness to reach beyond the parish to encourage others to learn about the community and the way she has supported our youth to find community with other young people of faith. The Advent Messy church was a wonderful evening as we marked in food and community the new church year and our pageant this year was the biggest yet - and filled with absolute joy!

As we look to the future, we continue to hold this ministry in prayer as we discern how God might be calling us to engage in the life of our Parish parents and children.

Looking forward, I want to delve deeper into our mission statement and through worship, study and shared ministry, find new insight into how we understand and live intentionally into this mission.

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This has been a year filled with presence, prayer and hope. When I arrived, there was optimism but certainly some fear for the future. While some uncertainty remains, I have had a true sense of folk settling into the quiet steady work of building community here in this place. It has been wonderful to see new folk come and add their gifts and light to our worship and to see long-time members stepping into new areas of ministry and leadership.



I want to close with another prayer of gratitude. As you know, Cory and Penny step into different roles this Vestry after serving as Rector's Warden and People's Warden for many years.

They have seen this community through very difficult times and have been steadfast anchors. They have truly been examples of cruciform leadership, bearing both the hurt and disappointment of this role along with its rewards and beauty. They have both been invaluable to my ministry as I began here at St. Matthias and have been that steady presence that has provided me with everything from a hot meal just at the right time to tips on chairing an AGM. ☺ I think it is safe to say that St. Matthias would not be the community it is today without the courageous leadership of these two women and we are all indebted to them. I give thanks to God for your ministry with us Cory and Penny and wish you God's peace as you continue to shine the light of the presence of God in our midst.

The reports in this package reflect the joy-filled ministry done by the people of God here at St. Matthias. It is truly humbling to look at how far we have come together over this past year (over these past 10 years!) and the seeds of hope planted deep in the soil of this community.

Thank you for the gift of walking beside you in times of doubt, struggle, faith and wonder.

Thank you for the opportunity to explore with you what it means to follow God into the abundant light of the kingdom.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

The Reverend Meagan Crosby-Shearer

## Warden's Report

*Come, let us sing to the Lord,*

*Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation*

*Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving*

*And raise a loud shout to him with psalms. (Psalm 95, v. 1-2)*

It is no accident that we begin our report on a note of celebration and thanksgiving! As wardens, it is our privilege to reflect on a wonderful year of “practicing the presence of God through faith and action in our community.” We want to acknowledge the many comments we have heard (and overheard) about the special spirit that pervades our community. St. Matthias not only **is** but **is seen to be** a community of warm welcome.

Welcoming is not always easy. Sometimes it is extending a welcome to each other, in the sense of respecting the diverse and evolving views we have about worship, priorities, activities ...

Sometimes it is extending a welcome to those who’ve dared enter a church wondering if we truly want to see them, because at first glance they might appear different.

Sometimes it is making sure our “sometimes-attenders” know we welcome them whenever we see them.

These days, faith communities often encounter scepticism or even animosity, that can be born of earlier pain, misunderstanding or – yes – harm done in the name of “the church” or by folk associated with the church. We will not minimize these sources of pain. Each of us can, however, show our commitment to being the loving, respectful, community we can be. We want to shout for joy, because the people of St. Matthias have never wavered in their efforts to practice the presence of God. We thank you and ask God’s ongoing blessings on each of you.

### **Faith in Foundation**

*Budgeting.* We begin again with our earthly foundation. We have exciting news that our financial situation grows stronger. We suggest it’s time to stop looking over our shoulders, worrying that our parish will need to consider closing its doors.

This daring suggestion doesn’t mean we have no challenges. We are, however, challenging all of us to practice our faith even more strongly, by looking to our individual offerings to support the life of the church.

Why? Our revenues from rentals, Attic Treasures sales, and other special activities are blessings, the fruit of much work from many dedicated and talented folk. But we think it is important for each of us to consider how we might find a way to increase our direct support of our church. “One size definitely does NOT fit all”. You might review (or begin) your Pre-Authorized Direct Debit. You might make a private resolution to yourself to dedicate one coffee or one ice cream a week to church and then quietly slip that money into

an envelope that you periodically place in the offertory basket (with your envelope number). However, it fits for you, please consider some way to increase your direct support of St. Matthias.

*Clergy and Staff.* What a year! The Wardens shout for joy at the blessings we have enjoyed during this year of wondrous ministry. We find it hard to imagine St. Matthias without the Reverend Meagan Crosby-Shearer.

Meagan is a priest of enormous grace and talent. She can listen and hear our many voices, with different needs and wishes, and then lead us through our many questions and perspectives. Working on our earthly foundation, she has grappled with us through the myriad tasks that accompany our wonderful buildings and grounds. We don't imagine it was "fun" for her to shoulder the chapel door shut after it was so rain-swollen that it wouldn't shut and lock. However, as she recounts the tale, that infectious laughter turns shock to amusement -- and then to determination!

In the budget we recommend for your consideration, we draw your attention to an increase in the time allocation for Meagan's salary. We acknowledge humbly, that she has never worked "part-time" for us. We still cannot pay her for her full-time work and dedication, but the Wardens want you to know that we recommend that we begin the move to making her salary reflect a more appropriate recognition of her time. We budget one year at a time, but the Wardens challenge the congregation to recognize and resolve that it must be our priority to address this gap.

The music ministry delights us all. We applaud Victoria Beauchesne for her grace, cheer and talent. She is a musical leader with a knack for partnership. The Vestry meeting comes so soon after Christmas that we know our hearts are still singing after our lovely Advent and Christmas-tide. This year, Victoria led the musical partnership with Abbey Church for an incredible Children's Pageant on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Again, we believe that adding our financial support to this ministry is important. We can't achieve all our dreams in one year, but we are dancing forward.

St. Matthias has always been a community of change. This summer, we thanked Gillian McKinnon for helping our children through a time of great transition and re-introducing us to a regular children's program. Gillian has moved on to other pursuits (yes, you may still see her as an Altar Server from time to time), but St. Matthias was ready to introduce a new approach to the Children's Ministry. We have welcomed Jennifer Sharlow, her warm leadership and her experience with ministry. The Children's Pageant owes a great deal to the wonderful collaboration between Jennifer, Victoria and Abbey Church. The number of children at Sunday School still fluctuates, but we remain a community of hope and joyful expectation.

We lift our hands in thanks to Michael King, our Parish Administrator. We keep tinkering with procedures and systems. And yet, he's never said, "enough, already!" Michael has embraced us all, and embraces the need to update our process, our procedures, and systems. And, in a spirit of volunteer generosity and ministry, he proposed a brand-new ministry to the Outreach Committee: "Chat and Chew (more later)." Talk about "embrace."

#### *Using the St. Matthias "campus" effectively*

We continue to practice the presence of God in our physical buildings and in our virtual community. (Right: please log on to our website (or ask a friend) and tour our new website, designed and supported through Diocesan help. The website is proving to be a fun and painless (ok, mostly) way to keep ourselves and our neighbours informed of our actions. Follow us on Facebook!

Our relationship with the AbbeyChurch continues as a blessing and a joy. Did you attend Reverend Rob Crosby-Shearer's June ordination to the priesthood? His ordination is only one sign of the grace that has come to us through our arrangement with AbbeyChurch. We've noted the incredible Christmas Pageant and we hope you've managed to attend some of the AbbeyChurch worship opportunities. If not yet, then make sure you join us for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and ask the AbbeyChurch folk what their worship community means for them!

We continue to strengthen our foundations. Hazel Tremblay's talented work in church hall rental policy is ongoing. We acknowledge her business skills, but we are thrilled with her graceful building of relationships with the many groups who may or may not have a positive view of "church."

This summer, we took the opportunity of preparation for the Chapel Gallery (more later!) and we updated the church lighting. We've now joined the not-so-new century and use LED lights! We hope your eyes notice the difference, and we hope that our electricity bills also reflect this long-term benefit! We changed our locks and re-issued keys. That move helped us catch up with outdated, potentially unsafe, procedures. Again, Meagan's attentive eye and gentle guidance help us make strides in updating our overall procedures and methods.

#### **Faith in Formation**

We've been "practicing the presence of God through faith and action in our community." Practicing is a good word. It reminds us that our work as members of the Body of Christ is neither easy nor easily mastered. We work at it, and sometimes it takes more than a little effort!

This year, Meagan asked each of us in a survey what's important in our worship and spiritual lives, to consider the elements of our liturgy and music. We discussed the results and gave each other the gift of respect and love while

we considered how to move forward. As we report to you, Meagan has introduced an approach to Sunday morning worship that sees us using the *“Book of Alternative Services,”* our own Diocese’s *“Liturgy of the Islands and Inlets,”* a Healing Service, and Morning Prayer (based on the *“Book of Common Prayer”*) for various Sundays. Evensong and Thursday Eucharist are also part of our regular schedules. Everyone is warmly invited to participate and to explore in some of these worship opportunities that might be new to them. God’s grace pours in through each window we offer.

One of the three foundations of the Anglican Communion is “reason.” We are meant to be learners, and to deepen our faith through exploration and learning. We urge you to consider one of the Book study opportunities or the Thursday Eucharist, where we explore the readings for the coming Sunday. And, once again, as Wardens we want you to know that we continue to attract visitors and “repeat visitors”. There have been many delighted comments shared with us by folk who may have little if any experience of “church.”

And, yes, as we reported last year, it is time to “change it up” in our lay leadership. Penny and Cory are ready for the new chapter. More importantly, the congregation is ready. Working with Meagan, we have developed a transition plan for the leadership team. We are delighted!

This congregation has embraced active participation in lay ministry. It’s an exciting congregation, with so much warmth and willingness to serve. “Practicing the presence of God” ... tough work but reflected daily in “faith and action in our community.”

### **Faith in action**

People of St. Matthias, you are a joy!

Events and projects that we celebrated as innovations in ministry now seem part of our established calendar! We rejoice.

St. Matthias has an ongoing relationship with a sister parish in Rwanda, and John Jordan has movingly reported on the amazing work that is making substantial differences to people’s lives.

“St. Matthias and Friends” delight in the continued success of the Syrian refugee family who came here in 2016. A second refugee is half-way through his year with us and we pray that his transition, while meeting the needs of a single adult individual rather than of a family, will be successful.

We’ve already mentioned the wonderful ongoing presence of the AbbeyChurch. Once again, God’s grace fills us with opportunities to deepen and broaden our religious experience and fellowship.

Attic Treasures is, indeed, a treasure. We appreciate the financial success of the sales, but we are thrilled by the fellowship and support of marvellous

volunteers, led by Marilyn Denton. We might have another group we could call “St. M and friends;” this team is generous of spirit and warm of welcome. St. Matthias is a music-loving community. The choir continues to impress us, and we are delighted by the “recurring” guest appearances of several talented voices. We’ve hosted concerts and continue this work. Our gifts and talents are, indeed, diverse and we love celebrating these special things with our broader community.

Our newest outreach projects have quickly found receptive and appreciative audiences.

Michael King developed a plan for monthly community lunches, “Chat and Chew” that feature marvellous food, warm fellowship, and light entertainment for the noon hour! The compliments roll in, and this pilot may have found its niche.

Sparked by the talented Nicky Rendell and supported by the Diocesan Vision Fund as well as our own Outreach Fund, the Chapel Gallery opened in September. As Vestry meets, the third exhibit draws to a close – but the curatorial team has already developed a schedule reaching into 2020! This exciting project invites art along themes found in the Church’s own seasonal calendar. The gallery is intimate and welcoming for everyone -- whether new to the art world, new to walking into a church building, or new to the combination. Join the team and help welcome visitors to the Gallery!

At the Vestry meeting of February 24, 2009, St. Matthias was at a very different place in its history. Since that time, there have been many changes; our congregation includes some folk who have direct experience of that time, but still more folk who have come together to join a community that sings with faith, optimism and commitment. St. Matthias has confronted many challenges. We, as Wardens, however, rejoice in the grace and gifts that have been sent us -- and in our shared willingness to use those diverse gifts to practice the presence of God in our community. We are walking forward, always held in God’s light.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Penny Martin, Rector’s Warden

Cory Herrera, People’s Warden

## Music Ministry

It has been a wonderful year in the music program at St. Matthias. Although there are some areas in which we need to continue our efforts to reach our goals; overall, we have much to celebrate.

Our choir has continued to grow. We have been thrilled to welcome new singers, whether they come sometimes – over 20 different guests have joined us on one or more occasions - or have become regulars. It has been wonderful for me personally to have my son Louis lead the bass section lately. We rejoice in our newest members Amy Fisher, Veronica Barlee, and Jan Edwards. Jan has been with us a year now, and has not only been a reliable presence, but has taken on the role of choir librarian, putting in lots of extra volunteer hours sorting music. Hooray!

I thought it might be interesting to see the actual numbers - the feeling of growth is borne out by the steady increase in the “average” number of singers in the choir on a Sunday morning:

From Sept. – Christmas, 2017 the average was 4.75

From Jan. – June 2018, the average was 6.6

From Sept. – Christmas, 2018, the average was 7.4

May the trend continue!

Another cause for celebration is our dedicated choir room. It is not only practical, but it is also a morale booster, sending a strong message to our choir that they are valued. We are grateful.

A challenge area remains regular attendance both for practices and Sunday anthems. We have dedicated people who attend any and all choir practices scheduled, and people whose other commitments call them away. Choosing appropriate anthems for who will be present is tricky when the “who” is not known. Several solutions have already been tried, and more solutions are in the works. Regular choir practice, even if it isn’t every week, is essential when members have a wide range of music backgrounds, as is the case for us. In December and January, we met every Thursday, but our numbers, particularly in December, were low. The best turnout was for a carol evening. (Which we will do again this year) Choir members have been polled, but will be polled afresh about frequency (every other week?) and day of the week (switch to Wednesdays?) I’m hopeful that we will find the right formula for September, to continue not just growth in membership, but in quality of musical experience.

We are sad that our wonderful tenor, Bob, is not able to join us regularly. He nevertheless sang some beautiful solos last year, and although we miss him, we look forward to his occasional involvement.

We have had guest soloists during services, including singers Eva Bild, Marnie Setka-Mooney, oboist Pierre Cayer, young pianists from the studio of Shoko Inoue, children and grandchildren of congregants singing and playing the piano, and even student euphonium players. We have also hosted a few excellent concerts thanks to the energy of people such as Cory who spearheaded Genevieve and the Wild Sundays, and Sheila who booked the Victoria Police Choir upcoming. As I write, we are also excited about the return of Emmet Cahill!

In the works: an anonymous donor is willing to give us a matching grant to support a choral scholar. More news as the plan is fleshed out.

We have had growing interest in our children's choir, which is on temporary hiatus as I focus my time and energies on our adult choir. It remains part of the plan at St. Matthias and was greatly assisted in the autumn by the enthusiasm and dedication of Jennifer, our new children's minister.

In gratitude to the energies of both our tireless volunteers, and our fantastic staff: We are truly blessed!

Respectfully submitted by,

Victoria Beauchesne

## Children's Ministry

I began my job as a Children's Minister with St. Matthias at the end of September 2018. I am excited for what the future can bring to this special



place. We have a lovely section at the back of the Church where children can colour, build Lego or play with puppets while they listen to the service. Whenever it fits, we have the children participate in the procession to the front of the Church. Recently, we had this opportunity with the decorating of the Christmas tree, the bringing of figures to form our Nativity and the Magi for Epiphany.

We have a Children's Time every Sunday, in which I do as much as I can to incorporate the children into what is being presented. I will give them a piece of scripture to share, a prayer to recite, or recently we have been including the puppets in our talk. We have occasionally had other members of our congregation contribute to this, and we are continuing to encourage more volunteer participation. In both our Children's Time and Sunday School Lesson we follow the Lectionary and Special Days of the Church. Our Sunday School takes place in the church hall. I will often have the children do some Bible reading, discussion, story time and crafts that fit with what we have learned. I plan for flexibility in my lesson, depending on the age group and number of children. Our numbers vary from week to week.

I am currently working on expanding our program by reaching out to the community around us. For our Pageant, I invited dancers from the ballet school to be angels and we had approximately nine join us. We also had some local children eager to sing in our choir. The result was magical, and we had many people witnessing the true meaning of Christmas, who might not have otherwise had the opportunity. Several parents and members of the congregation told me how moving and touching they found the event.

We had our first Messy Church on December 1<sup>st</sup>. This was quite successful with 36 people in attendance. We ate a spaghetti dinner, produced some Christmas crafts, sang hymns and made Advent Wreaths. A good time was had by all and we are organizing another one close to Easter. We are planning on starting with four, annually.

There are several ideas that we are discussing for the year ahead. We are hoping to have more youth events in conjunction with some of the neighbouring Anglican Churches. I am planning to meet with several of the other Children and Youth Ministers at the end of January to make some arrangements. We are also going to organize a week-long camp this summer. I feel blessed to be a part of this joyful ministry.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Jennifer Sharlow

## Healing & Prayer Ministry

The traditional ministry of prayer with laying on of hands (“...an extension of the church’s basic act of worship, i.e. the gathering around the word and bread and wine each Sunday” BAS) is offered on the third Sunday of the month. This ministry takes place in the chapel during the communion service.

Requests for intercessory prayer are usually given to the church office for inclusion in the weekly leaflet. However, a six-person telephone prayer chain (250-598-8252) will address, confidentially, urgent requests for prayer. This is not a closed circle – please call the above number if you are led to be part of the prayer chain.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Dorothy Robertson

## Greeter’s and Sides-people

This past year we welcomed Mark Thompson to our group, which includes Judith Kennedy, Fred Hayes, Stephen Martin, Arifin Graham and Richard Heden. Last year also marked Penny Young’s retirement. Thank you, Penny, for your many years of cheerful service!

Our primary tasks are welcoming people as they arrive, handing out leaflets, recording attendance, and counting the offering after the service.

I thank my colleagues for their week in, week out service and encourage all parishioners to make St. Matthias a welcoming place of worship.

Respectfully submitted by,

John Prins, Coordinator.

## Kitchen/Special Events

Coffee hour after church continues to run efficiently. A big thank you David for setting up, serving and clearing up afterwards. Thanks also to helpers Bob, Tasma, Marilyn and Mary for their assistance. Helpers always welcome. Donations to "Tommy Turtle" help with supplies like Coffee, Tea and other assorted treats. There is \$150.00 currently in the kitty.

During the past year, with willing helpers, we have hosted and provided refreshments for:

Feb 13 Shrove Tuesday. Pancakes and sausages cooked by Steve, Bob and Benedict. Helpers – Tasma, Marilyn, Judith, Cory, Sheila, Sue Paterson, and the men who put the tables away afterwards.

65 People attended. 18 from St. Mary's Oak Bay. A very successful evening, with square dancing after. A total of \$213.50 was collected for the Outreach Fund.

Feb 12 Funeral Tea for Ed Price. 10-2pm. 150 Guests

Family provided the food, we provided tea, coffee, and juice. Setting up and clearing after, assisted by Dorothy, Sheila, Veronica, Cory & Tasma.

Feb 14 Funeral Tea for Nicky Graham. 12-1:30pm. 150 guests.

Family provided food, we provided tea, coffee, and juice. Setting up and clearing after assisted by Tasma, Sheila & John P, Cory, Bob, & Penny Y.

May 1 Baptism for Kate Barry's baby. Family provided cake. We made the rest.

May 13 Mothering Sunday. Lunch after service. Donations of food by congregation. Well attended.

Jun 10 Father's Day. Lunch after service. Sandwiches provided by congregation. Strawberries & Cream & Cake were provided by the Choir.

Sep 16 Welcome Back Sunday BBQ. Robert and Steve caught and cooked the salmon accompanied by coleslaw. Donations of salads, fruit plate, veg plate and desserts from congregation. Well attended. Plenty of helpers.

Dec 14 Hall decorated for Christmas. Fun time. Thanks to helpers Marilyn, Bob, Judith, Bernadette from Roger's Court and Sheila.

Dec 16 Wassail after Lessons and Carols service. Great Success! Thrifty's provided \$50.00 towards food supplies. Congregation donated lovely Christmas goodies. Wine etc. from Special Events fund.

Dec 31 Hall decorations down. Same crew as put them up.

Many thanks to all our volunteer helpers, who are always ready to lend a hand. What a great bunch we are!

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sheila Richards

**Glengarry Hospital Ministry**

As one of two appointed honorary clergy for St. Matthias Anglican Church in Victoria, I am pleased to assist our Rector by assuming responsibility for worship services in the Chandler Unit of Glengarry Hospital. This effort continues a long-standing ministry in the immediate neighbourhood of our parish, and it has grown in the last year!

Around 15-20 gather for the monthly hymn sing with prayers and a short reflection, held on the third Sunday, 2:30 - 3pm, ten months of the year. Attendees now also include some residents from other units in Glengarry, visiting family members, and of course the support of St. Matthias members: John and Sheila Prins, Mary Glenne, Aileen McConnell with her very popular therapy dog Chance, and Sheila Rowand and Marilyn Denton when they can make it. Our parish further supports this ministry with a \$30 honorarium for a piano player, often Emily Markwart.

On the fourth Thursday afternoon of each month I preside at a said communion service in the Chandler Unit. This gathering began with no more than 3; now eight residents take communion. One, Cornelia Freeman, has been a real evangelist for this service. Some of you might know her. She is the widow of Paul Freeman, one-time director of the Victoria Symphony, I am told. Her father was an Episcopal priest who served in the state of Alabama.

I sincerely thank St. Matthias parishioners making this outreach ministry possible. Certainly, spirited singing voices -- There is always room for more! -- encourage acknowledgment of the presence of the Holy Spirit. As well, volunteers who can assist residents getting to and from the service held in their dining room, and who can visit with them a little, make the time more enjoyable for all.

Respectfully submitted by,

The Rev. Canon Karen Fast

## Building & Grounds

First, a big thanks to Gerry Howell-Jones and Marilyn Denton who have been of invaluable help in many ways with building and Grounds tasks which have arisen during the year. Gerry is on constant alert for wasteful energy costs such as thermostats which have been turned on and left to maximum when the rooms are not being used as well as many other heating related issues such as improving insulation. His input into the heating upgrade of Room A will make it much more user friendly for tenants and as well it will save us on heating costs in that part of the church hall. Both Gerry and especially Marilyn have undertaken to organize Building and Grounds ongoing yearly costs, forward-looking cost projections and other contingency items in a manner which will make it much easier for all of us to access in efficient and meaningful ways in the future.

In order to cut down on fuel consumption in both buildings, given escalating costs, an energy audit was conducted several years ago. It showed several areas both in the Church Hall and in the church itself which could benefit from increased insulation. As a result, upgrading was carried out at modest cost which has demonstrated benefits in cost reduction this year. The digital thermostats which were installed in the church and hall have also saved us money as they are set to provide heat only at times when the church and hall are being used while operating on standby at other times and operating only at critical times of severe temperature drops.

The biggest cost undertaking this year under the B&G envelope was to replace all the lights in the church and in the hall with LED lights. These lights use approximately 85% less energy than the conventional bulbs which have been in use for so many years. Their estimated life span is approximately ten years and the financial payback in our plant is approximately one year. We also were able to obtain them through the kindness of the Canadian Tire company at a considerable saving.

This has been a year in which there was a concerted attempt to hold down building costs as much as possible considering the considerable church deficit which we have continued to address over several years now.

During the coming year the aim will be to maintain the plant in an efficient and timely manner and to continue to look forward in planning for at least the next three years while being mindful of cost restraints until our financial picture improves and the deficit is eliminated.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert Hall

## Sanctuary Guild Report

Many aspects of managing the work of Sanctuary Guild have continued in a simplified version over the past year:

- The management of the liturgical colours has continued to be addressed by having the colours on the lecterns mark the seasons, only using the frontals for the altars on special occasions.
- The communion vessels are set on a side (credence) table rather than placed under the traditional pall and burse on the altar in preparation for the service.
- Silver is cleaned as it is used rather than having a large cleaning 'bee' and tackling every silver item in the cupboard. The church still sparkles for those special occasions.
- We have become accustomed to filling the oil candles and have appreciated the cost savings.
- We have continued to use some artificial flower arrangements to good effect this past year.

The Flower Calendar was seeing little use and so has been replaced by more pertinent information at the back of the church. People may still identify dates when they would like to remember a loved one or special occasion with flowers by contacting the office.

Many of the flowers that were used on the altar this year came from our own church gardens (thanks to the work of Marilyn Denton and her gardening committee!) but we can fulfil just about any request for a particular flower or colour.

We have welcomed Debbie Winchester to the work of Sanctuary Guild this year and continue to be blessed by the ongoing dedicated work of Cory Herrera, Jean McCaw and Sheila Prins. We have also been blessed by those extra willing hand who have stepped in at the special times of year to ensure the church is decorated appropriately for special feasts. This past Christmas the church was again beautifully decorated for the season by a wonderful team of artistic volunteers led by Marilyn Denton, Nicky Rendell and Judith Kennedy. We are grateful for the participation of so many in this ancient ministry and would be delighted to welcome any others who might be interested at any time of year.

Respectfully submitted by,

Penny Martin

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## Refugee Settlement Program

2016 - 2018 were good years for the refugee ministry, a Faith in Action ministry, at St. Matthias. 2019 looks to be another year of successfully reaching out to help refugees in need.

St. Matthias is involved in several aspects of the Anglican Diocese of BC Refugee Settlement program. This program has been and is directly responsible for bringing into B.C., mostly Vancouver Island, hundreds of refugees.

Prior to 2015 the Diocesan Program settled approximately 3 to 5 refugee families a year. Responding to the growing refugee emergency in 2015 over the following three years the Diocesan Program accomplished or continues to work on: 133 people landed and settled; 47 landed and still being settled; 174 waiting to arrive for whom groups have been created; and 112 in the application stage. This is over 450 people to whom the Diocesan program gave and continues to give hope. This ministry involves the efforts of approximately 800 volunteers in 74 Constituent Groups. The Diocesan Refugee Program has become one of the Diocese's most engaging ministries, with strong ecumenical and community involvement aspects. In the face of 22.5 million refugees worldwide our work is a drop in the bucket. But is a very important, life giving drop to those we have been able to help.

Most of the work necessary to land and support refugees is done by volunteers. However, the Diocesan program is the mechanism through which this is accomplished, and is responsible for, inter alia, ensuring the fitness of volunteer groups, providing necessary training, monitoring the work of the constituent groups, and the all essential direct work with the Federal Department of Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship to enable the refugees to come to Canada. Much of the work of the Diocesan program is done by volunteers, however the very technical and complicated application process and monitoring is done by paid staff. It is done with ability, commitment and great faithfulness by Rebecca Siebert (Greater Victoria & the Gulf Islands) and Tony Davis (the rest of the Island). The Diocese has generously provided funding to date for these part-time positions. In November and December of 2017 Diocesan Counsel, despite significant competing demands for resources, voted to financially support continuation of the work of these staff to the level of one full time employee. Fund raising in various forms is essential to top up this funding.

St. Matthias's role in all of this is several fold. Through 2015 and 2016 our then Rector, Rev. Bruce-Bryant-Scott, was the Diocesan Program coordinator. In 2016 Parish Council supported the establishment of a refugee constituent group which became known as St. Matthias and Friends. Six parishioners and approximately twenty others formed the group. Additionally, several

parishioners were very generous financial supporters. Through 2016-2017 this group successfully landed and settled the Harmoush family from Syria. Father Shedwan now has his own painting business, mother Lama has won several English language scholarships and plans to become a teacher's assistant, and their beautiful children, Talia and Abdul-Aziz, are thriving in their school work and otherwise. Our work with this family officially ended February 10, 2017, but several parishioners continue to be involved with and supportive of the family.

Additionally, two members of our congregation are actively involved with the Diocesan Refugee committee, Fred Hayes and Brian Rendell.

Finally, in November 2017 our Parish Council voted to support another refugee, a 54-year-old Iraqi man who has lost everything in the Iraqi civil war and was forced to flee for his life. He arrived in June 2018. His is a co-sponsor situation with his sister, who has been in Victoria for many years, as the co-sponsor. He is now comfortably settled in Rogers Court housing and is working hard to learn English. Fortunately, St. Matthias had funds remaining from our previous fundraising effort, which with the co-sponsors contribution is enough for the budget. Brian Rendell is chair of this constituent group, and other constituent group members are Fred Hayes, Cory Herrera, and Mike Macey. Reverend Meagan is also involved in both her pastoral role and when a calm hand is needed.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brian Rendell, Refugee Constitute Chair  
January 28, 2019

## Camosun College Upgrade Winners

The 2018 winners of the St. Matthias and St. Michael and All Angels' Project Upgrade Funded Awards went to: Rhaina Bowers, a dedicated single mother;



Nasreen Noorani who completed several courses over a period of 2 years, with consistently high marks; Michael Joyce, a man who overcame significant obstacles (head injury and long recovery affecting his ability to finish his high school); Savanna White, First Nations student with significant obstacles (personal, financial, social, or institutional) who was diligent in pursuing her education; Lamiae Tchalba from Morocco has a unique blend of communication, health and technical skills that will certainly pave a path for a successful professional career in health and/or academics; Richard Denomme First Nations student who transitioned to a relaxed, thoughtful, responsive learner; Eilidh McNulty relearned some lost reading skills, became more comfortable in class, and developed powerful writing which she not only shared it with the class but was open to answer questions and discuss some very personal experiences with others; Leanne Sam from TSAWOUT First Nations overcame many life challenging obstacles as a single mother to one child, is now inspired “strive to set eye opening goals, that will set me up for success; not only do I have new goals, I take this opportunity with Camosun College as building my role model appearance for my daughter and her future”.

This award is for students who have worked to overcome obstacles to their education (preference must be for students who have the greatest financial need). In 2017, St. Michael and All Angels (West Saanich Road) contributed \$930 and interest generated by the St. Matthias endowment, which brought the principal to \$64,311. This generated a disbursement allocation of \$3180. Each of the eight winners received \$325, for a total disbursement of \$2600 for 2018. The remaining \$580 will be forwarded toward disbursement for awards in 2019.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Marilyn Denton with permission from the Camosun College

## Attic Treasures

The fourth Saturday of each month, there is a sale in the church in conjunction with recycling on the parking lot. We rebranded this year as *Attic*

*Treasures*, which allows us to be more selective in the items for sale. There were monthly themes. January was Valentine gifts. February only books sold, due to the presentation of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. March we received and amazing amount of material for arts & crafts. April was the ever-popular jewelry and household items. In May, we are part of the Fairfield community-wide garage sale. With Genevieve and the Wild Sunday's concert on Friday, June 22 there was a smaller set up of books and music. At the end of the July sale, the *Refugee Housing Project* picked out items for their needs. Two sales were held in August, a table at the Rockland Neighbourhood garage sale the week prior and, due to the donation of art from the estate of Michael Peter Page displayed in Chapel Gallery, plus the sale in the church; it was our best month ever. September featured Hallowe'en costumes, other donations and continued the sale of Page's art. October, no theme. November focused on gifts and Christmas decorations. No sale has held in December due to the nativity play. The total raised for the year was over \$8000.

It takes a large team of volunteers each month to set up the tables, bring down items stored in the balcony, price and arrange "artistic" displays; then pack up and clean up so the church is ready for Sunday services. Once a quarter unsold items are donated to *Beacon Community Services*, who provide pick up service. BCS operates two thrift stores. Funds raised provide care and support to thousands of people on southern Vancouver Island and the outer Gulf Islands, through a wide range of programs and services.

Attic Treasures regularly receives many new books, which are available whenever the church is open for \$3 hardcover, \$2 softcover, \$1 pocket book, plus the greeting's cards and magnets. These sales are on the honour system with a donation box on the card rack. There were 15 parishioners who helped with the sale, plus some "friends" of St. Matthias. To promote the sale, many items are posted to Used Victoria, so the sale reaches out into the wider community. Volunteers have helped clear out estates and provided advice on where to donate items if we cannot take them in our sale. For many buyers, it is their first time seeing the delightful interior of St. Matthias and getting to know the dedicated volunteers. It is a joy to see someone discover an affordable treasure. For some of the regulars, this is their social and shopping day. For the volunteers, it is a never-ending learning experience. What treasure will be donated next, how do we price it and who will buy it?

Respectfully submitted by,

Marilyn Denton and Hazel Tremblay

## The Chapel Gallery

In January 2018, parishioner Nicky Rendell, proposed to Parish council the idea of enhancing the Chapel space to facilitate the showing of art. The

proposal was unanimously approved. It was agreed that the chapel would remain a sacred place of worship as well as an art gallery to show works of a reflective, contemplative and transformative nature to benefit St. Matthias and as a gift to the larger community. With a grant of \$3,000.00 from the Diocesan Vision Fund and a further \$1000.00 granted from our parish outreach fund.

A steering committee of parishioners, Nicky Rendell, Cory Herrera, Marilyn Denton, Hazel Tremblay, Judith Kennedy and Joan Wilson was charged with the enormous task of making the Chapel Gallery vision a reality in less than two months in the summer! All on the steering committee worked tirelessly and on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018 the Gallery had its Grand opening reception showing artist Jill Ehlert's work. The opening was attended by over 120 including Bishop Logan and members of the diocesan office and was very much enjoyed.

We are now hosting our third artist in the gallery and have had over 400 people visit the chapel gallery since it was opened. The response of visitors is consistently positive and appreciative of our very beautiful and unique space. The gallery is open Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday 10-2pm and visitors are greeted by Parish hosts, Cory Herrera, Elspeth Hough, Sheila Prinz, Hazel Tremblay, Judith Kennedy and Nicky Rendell.

Nicky Rendell leads the curatorial team and is supported by three other accomplished artists with excellent curatorial experience from outside of our church community. We propose to host six art shows a year with the artists being asked to respond in their own unique voices to the Seasonal themes of our church calendar.

This is a very exciting new ministry that invites the local Arts community to share in our understanding of the divine in all creativity. We are reaching out through the medium of art to our community and inviting them to enjoy, be enriched and possibly transformed a little by their experience of entering our beautiful chapel.

My heartfelt thanks to all who have helped in the birth and ongoing success of this ministry. I really look forward to seeing the Chapel Gallery evolve and hopefully become part of the fabric of our community.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Nicky Rendell

## Chat and Chew Community Luncheon

*“For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.” (1 Timothy 6:7-8)*

When Parish council put the word out that applications were available for some money to start new ministry, I jumped at the chance. I had created a program in Vancouver about 20 years ago at a very large social housing complex. Once a week we served a meal and supplied some entertainment. On average there were about 100 guests. I have wanted to do a similar kind of a program again here in Victoria and the announcement that there was some money for new ministry gave me the opportunity. The situation is a little different, but the outcome is the same. A good meal, some entertainment and some social time. On September 26<sup>th</sup>, we served our first luncheon. We had 6 people from the community and about 12 people assisting. Our first lunch consisted of Lasagne, Caesar salad, Garlic Bread and a wonderful welcome cake from Thrifty's. We had a singalong afterwards and everyone went home with a full tummy and very much enjoyed the event.

Since then, we have continued the monthly luncheon and it has grown! For our December luncheon, we had more than 40 people for lunch, a Christmas Carol Singalong and a visit from Olde St. Nick. Upcoming lunches will include entertainment from Target Theatre (who performed for us in October and wanted to come back in February!) a Victorian Vogue fashion show, talks from various community services and of course some amazing food. Sometimes, if we are lucky, we are treated to some wonderful music on the piano from Geoff Richards.

We ask for a suggested donation of \$5.00 to help defray costs. We have also sold whole quiche for \$10.00 each, used Chat and Chew supplies to make lunch for the Diocesan Council for which we received \$330.00 and there is The King's Seasoning for sale in the office. All will help make The Chat and Chew self-sustaining.

Of course, you cannot accomplish an event like this without some incredible help. From the beginning, we have had so much help from many people. Specifically, special thanks to Sheila Richards, Marilyn Denton, Mary Glenne, Hazel Tremblay, Minah King, Nicky Rendell, Rev. Karen Fast, Judith Kennedy, Reverend Meagan and Bernadette Casperson for all the work they have done setting up and looking after our guests. There are many others who have shown up to help and we are always happy to put anyone who would like help, to work. I would also like to thank the Outreach Committee who gave us the opportunity to get out into the community. Thanks be to God!

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Michael King

## Rwandan Mission

I've had many happy days to see student grads in jobs, the Pigmy village enjoying relatively prosperous industry of making our eco-stoves, 5 houses

being built for desperate families. Nursery school and nutrition program bringing wonderful transformation to kids. Lots of our donated pigs and goats giving birth, 22 kids in boarding school, 15 more in vocational and lots of future works, large and small, in development. focus for new projects is sewing coops for 2 groups of unwed moms to create sustainable income. Those young women have already received 3 days of sex ed training and want to bring this information to all girls in their communities so we will have a grass roots gateway to most youth at risk of the early pregnancy which puts huge impediment to any hopes for opportunity in future.

So many plans fall in place so easily. It is beyond my capacity and i accept that god is making it happen according to his plan. He asks that I show up and act like a Christian and the rest just follows.

I thank you for your support that I am drawing on to accomplish so much. These unwed moms are marginalized into such a state of need and struggle. They respond so positively to our acceptance of them and confidence that they can build a full life. their solidarity will be strengthened by the skill building of our training programs and that solidarity will make their progress sustainable. I worshiped at St M's sister parish Sunday and there were 10 of those moms in front rows with babies and they led congregation in 2 exuberant hymns full of shouting and dancing. The Batwa Pigmies were there also and led us in 2 hymns which is such a wonderful sign of inclusiveness of another marginalized group.

There are many more stories which you can find at [rwandanvillage.blogspot.com](http://rwandanvillage.blogspot.com)

Respectfully Submitted by,

John Jordan

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## Rogers Court Society

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It has been a good year of ministry at Rogers Court. We are full and have generally happy residents, all looking forward to spring.

As a reminder, we have 24 units of bachelor and one bedroom with 25 tenants (one mother and daughter are living in one of the one-bedroom units). The average rent is \$598 per month (highest is \$820 and the lowest is \$352 per month). We have renovated 15 units with new flooring and new kitchens, cleaning and painting. This gives us the opportunity to keep our rents below the senior's market rates (around \$ 600 per month for a bachelor).

As you can imagine, the community has challenges at times but by and large it is a happy community. Our Property Manager, Robert Nagasaki has had some medical challenges in 2018 but Robert is back on the job and has accomplished a lot this year

We had our annual Christmas dinner led by Robert with strong support from chefs-at-large Dominique Chapeau, Bob Hall and Stephen Martin and many others who assisted in setting up, serving and cleaning up.

Financially, Rogers Court is very stable and has been break-even or a small surplus for several years. (The year end for Rogers Court was August 31, 2018). The year ended August 31, 2018 we recorded a surplus of \$11,628. During the year and at the beginning of our 2019 year we completed several upgrades to the property. We have painted the exterior stucco and wood trim, replaced the lateral shingles on the facia, made several repairs to prevent water damage, upgraded the work-shop and created a meeting and small office space where the old garbage bins were previously placed. Residents and neighbours have mentioned how nice this has been. We also have a few very dedicated volunteers led by Ian White who keeps the gardens in very presentable shape.

As many of you know, Rogers Court was a successful sponsoring society for an application to B.C. Housing to develop and assist in managing a new building proposed at St. Peter and St. Paul in Esquimalt. B.C. Housing accepted our submission and at Diocesan Council Saturday January 28, 2017, Council approved the project in principal. B.C. Housing had a second call for proposals due in September 2018 which we were asked to apply as the initial proposal did not fit the new criteria. In December 2018 along with several other projects on the island we were approved to move forward. A rezoning application was filed with the City of Esquimalt late in 2017 and we received rezoning approval in 2018. The next hurdle is a Heritage Alteration Permit which is required because the design 'attaches' to the heritage church. We anticipate receiving this clearance in February 2019. This will allow us to move forward with architectural design work to support the application for a building permit in the months to come. Rogers Court is not financially at risk as seed costs will come from the Diocese and any predevelopment loans are guaranteed by the Diocese. B.C. Housing is providing grant monies to assist in the process moving to building permit. We are optimist to get 'into the ground' by September 2019.

I would like to thank the members of the Board – Brian Rendell (Vice President and Secretary), Bob Hall, Marilyn Denton, Judith Kennedy for their service over the year. I would also like to thank Meagan Crosby Shearer for her service, and she will continue as a member of the society but no longer serve on the board. And finally, I would like to thank Robert Nagasaki for his dedication to Rogers Court through these years and continued concern and involvement even while he was on sick leave!

If anyone wants to know more or would like to become involved, please talk to any of the Directors or myself.

Respectfully submitted by,

Stephen R. Martin, President and Treasurer

January 29, 2019