



Vestry 2019



Table of Contents

Agenda	3
Rector's Report	4
Wardens' Report	8
Music Ministry	10
Children's Ministry	12
Healing & Prayer Ministry	13
Glengarry Hospital Ministry	13
Sanctuary Guild Report	14
Greeter's and Sides-people	15
Kitchen/Special Events	16
Building & Grounds	17
Refugee Settlement Program	18
Camosun College Upgrade Winners	19
Attic Treasures	21
The Chapel Gallery	22
Rwandan Mission	23
Rogers Court Society	24
Chat and Chew Community Luncheon	24
A Message From the Envelope Secretary	25

Agenda

Annual Meeting of the Parishioners 2019

Commonly known as "Vestry"

The Parish of St. Matthias, Victoria

Diocese of British Columbia, Anglican Church of Canada

February 23, 2020

1. Opening Prayer
2. Opening Procedures
 - a. Signing of Parish Membership List
 - b. Appointment of Vestry Secretary
 - c. Approval of Agenda
 - d. Approval of 2019 minutes
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 Call of the Disciples

– Malcolm Guite

*He calls us all to step aboard his ship,
Take the adventure on this morning's wing,
Raise sail with him, launch out into the deep,
Whatever storms or floods are threatening.
If faith gives way to doubt, or love to fear,
Then, as on Galilee, we'll rouse the Lord,
For he is always with us and will hear
And make our peace with his creative Word,
Who made us, loved us, formed us and has set
All his beloved lovers in an ark;
Borne upwards by his Spirit, we will float
Above the rising waves, the falling dark,
As fellow pilgrims, driven towards that haven,
Where all will be redeemed, fulfilled, forgiven.*

This year we were invited by our Bishop into a season of discipleship. Bishop Logan reminded us that "Discipleship is a call and response. It is a call to live in a particular way and to be shaped by a lifestyle. Jesus calls us to live in relationship to kingdom values. Central to these values are the beatitudes. The beatitudes shape and form us as we seek to live as disciples and make the world a fairer and more just place." He also asked us in our scripture study and life together to ask the three questions central to Gospel-based discipleship: *What words or ideas did you hear in the Scripture and in God's Spirit in your midst? What is Jesus saying to you? What is Jesus calling you to do?*

This year in our work and worship, our ministries and conversations we have tried to be attentive to these questions and to respond in word and action to the invitation of the answers we have discerned together. Much time and energy and care has been put in to each of these reports, and I encourage you to read each of them and to give thanks.

Faith in Foundation

Asset Management, Financial Resources, Effective Communication,
Current Ministries & Shared and Remote Ministries

"The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as 'Christians' will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence." – Dallas Willard

This has been a big year for us as we have wrestled with what it means to be disciples and, as we deepen our apprenticeship, how that shapes how we use the resources we have been given to steward faithfully. At the beginning of the year, we made huge strides in bringing down the deficit. This was in great part to the hard work of many, many volunteers and specifically Hazel and her endless hours of work on rentals. Brian was also able to decrease our yearly interest through the strategic shift of funds. While we were sad

to lose Michael and his ministry of presence in the office, the hiring of Andrew was key to the goal of effective communication and updating and streamlining systems that were outdated or ineffectual. We have been able to make a great deal of progress in getting our rentals online, creating live editing options for our bulletins and archiving important documents in places that are accessible to all. We have also made better and more consistent use of our newsletter feature to keep our wider community up to date and we continue to be thankful to Cory and Penny for keeping our website and Facebook current! In terms of our current and shared Ministries, under the beautiful shepherding of The Reverend Canon Karen Fast and help from John and Sheila and other volunteers, we have seen the Glengarry ministry flourish. This ministry has brought the presence of Christ into that place in ways that are bearing fruit - and the presence of Christ that has been offered back to us in this ministry are among the blessings of this past year.

Our choir has flourished under the grace-filled direction of Victoria and we have been blessed by the leadership of the choir and of our two amazing choir scholars. Attic Treasures has had the best year yet and many folks have commented on the way this ministry highlights the hospitality, environmental awareness and care of this church.

The biggest discussion that impacted this area of the vision was around shared ministry. As I have said before, the conversation about sharing life with St. Mary's arose out of my desire to both protect and secure the future of this congregation as well as both Craig+ and recognizing the needs of our two communities and the duplication of our efforts. We met to discuss what it might look like to combine our communities more intentionally and to that end met as Wardens and Incumbents, with both Parish Councils and then in a congregational meeting. While there was goodwill to continue in times of shared worship and activity (such as our Pancake supper and Remembrance Day) there was not, on the part of St. Matthias, a desire to go forward in discussions about a potential merger or amalgamation at this time. This has raised the conversation at a Parish Council level as to how we envision our future as we move forward and "*how we live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence.*" I look forward to delving into these questions as we move into 2020.

While we had almost wiped the deficit clean by the close of our year, we had the unfortunate loss of two of our long-term renters which, along with a continued decline in giving has impacted the strength of our budget going into 2020. We are actively looking at ways to increase the profile of our rentals and to prayerfully examine our own stewardship in response to these realities. At the same time, we need to be focussed on how through our life and ministries we are proclaiming a faith that will nourish and call others in this time of uncertainty. It will be through our love, our welcome and through our witness to Christ's suffering and grace-filled presence in our midst that our hope for the future will be born. Speaking of love and witness, this year we saw Cory step down from leadership and Marilyn and Sheila step in, and finally, just as this report is being completed, Brian Rendell agreed to become our new Rectors, Warden. I am so deeply grateful for each of these amazing people. For the gifts of ministry, leadership, prayer and presence that each have offered (and will continue to offer) in their own unique ways. A special thanks to Marilyn for the many, many roles she has taken on and the clarity and grace she offers in the midst of carrying solo Wardening for a time!

Faith in Action

Engaging God's World, Emerging Ministries & Reconciliation & Beyond

The gospel doesn't need a coalition devoted to keeping the wrong people out. It needs a family of sinners, saved by grace, committed to tearing down the walls, throwing open the doors, and shouting, "Welcome!"

There's bread and wine. Come eat with us and talk." This isn't a kingdom for the worthy; it's a kingdom for the hungry."

- Rachel Held Evans, Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church

This is a year that will be long remembered for its urgent call to wake up to the climate crisis, in September, Geoff Strong our PWRDF Diocesan Representative, reminded us that on Earth Day 2019, the Canadian Council of Churches, issued an urgent call to climate action. Their collective message was clear: "the global climate crisis has reached a critical stage and requires an urgent moral and spiritual response." We were inspired and certainly awakened to this call by Geoff on his visit to our parish and now as the year circles round again we are reminded by the Bishop to take this call and the call to discipleship deeper and to engage it within our own time and geographic places through the lens of watershed discipleship. I am excited by the numerous events that our Parish will be invited into and how that may shape our engagement with God's world as we move forward.

The Gallery has been a wonderful emerging ministry that has flourished in our midst. I encourage you to read the report and more importantly to attend the openings. I have been inspired and encouraged by the content each artist has shared and how that has given me new eyes to see the art in front of me. At the last opening, there were more than 110 people there. Folk who consistently talked about the role of this church in breaking down walls, offering hospitality, beauty and sanctuary to the arts community and to those who might never enter a church or formal gallery. One person noted to me that they loved to come because they found in these openings 'real people'. I give thanks to God for this ministry that has revealed some of the true gifts of the church to those who may have written the church off. I believe the chapel gallery has provided for folks a tiny opening into the beautiful heart of God.

As we continue to be a people of faith and action may we cry *"Welcome! There's bread and wine. Come eat with us and talk."* *"This isn't a kingdom for the worthy; it's a kingdom for the hungry."*

Faith in Formation

Youth & Family Ministry, Worship Resources, Lay Ministry & Leadership Formation

"Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which we must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs us our life, and it is grace because it gives us the only true life. — Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

A year of discipleship would be in word only if it did not have a strong focus on formation.

This year we engaged on a number of levels this call. We welcomed with joy the baptism of Ava and the reception into the Anglican Communion of Mark. We grieved the passing of Tasma and walked with our Bishop in prayer at the horror and pain of the loss of his Grandson. We prayed for and anointed one another through times of sickness and distress, confusion and the death of our loved ones. And we celebrated in joy, new birth, healing and the marriage of Amy and Dan.

For some us that formation took place in the context of our book study Braiding Sweetgrass and others delved into spiritual practices or walked the candlelit path of the Advent Spiral. We gathered to worship on Thursday and Sunday and from that sweet communion moved from *Gospel to life and life to Gospel*. We gathered to sing at our community carol night, we celebrated the incredible creativity shown in our community arts show and were inspired and enlightened through the preaching and presence of our Honorary assistants. I give thanks to Karen, Brian, Beverley and Duncan for the gift of their leadership

with us. We were moved by the work of our children's minister Jennifer and the presence of those beautiful sparks of light as our children sang with us and led us in retelling the nativity.

One of the great joys this year has been our lay leadership formation and it has been a delight and inspiration to have Dorothy and Nicky and John share with us in our sermon time and to listen to the wisdom and faith so many of you bring to your work on Parish Council and our many ministries. In ways both noticed and behind the scenes you have been the body of Christ in this place.

One of the losses to our world this year was the death of Jean Vanier. He writes:

*"To be in communion means to be with someone and to discover that we actually belong together. Communion means accepting people just as they are, with all their limits and inner pain, but also with their gifts and their beauty and their capacity to grow: to see the beauty inside of all the pain. "*¹

Our formation in the community is meant to build towards this communion with God and with each other. To create spaces between us and in our ministries that, even in the midst of pain or struggle, reveal our belovedness as children of God and hopefully see our preciousness reflected back.

This year we have realized in many ways the cost of discipleship. A cost that does not always let us sit easy in our pews but that asks our whole lives given over to God for the sake of God's world. It is a discipleship of costly grace that is *costly because it costs us our life, and it is grace because it gives us the only true life.*

2020

A new year is before us. A new Bishop. A new beginning. Another opportunity for us to ask how we will practice the presence of God through faith and action in this community, in this watershed, in this time and place. Throughout the questions and amid the joy it has been my great privilege to serve as your Priest, as your companion in faith and as a disciple on this road. May we trust the promise of this new beginning - for God walks with us and before us and calls us to our true life and to follow in hearts unfurled by grace.

For a New Beginning

-John O'Donohue (*Selected verses*)

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge...
Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life's desire.²

¹ — Jean Vanier, [From Brokenness to Community](#)

² John O'Donohue 'For a New Beginning' - [To Bless the Space Between Us](#) – selected verses

Wardens' Report

“Practicing the presence of God through faith.”

Our time as Wardens has given us increased appreciation for the hard work of many St. Matthias volunteers in the operation of this parish and for the faithful and loving leadership of the Reverend Meagan Crosby Shearer, our priest. The time and energy she devotes to the parish vastly exceeds the hours for which she is paid. Our four wise honorary assistants (Reverend Canon Karen Fast, Reverend Beverley and Reverend Duncan McLean, and Reverend Brian Wood) continue to bless us by preaching and presiding in Meagan's absence. Karen also ministers to Glengarry residents and regularly offers hands-on prayers during our healing service.

We are most grateful to Cory Herrera, who continued as Rector's Warden until mid-July. In addition to Warden's duties, she did extensive work updating the document on Roles and Responsibilities, which includes Descriptions and Safe Church Risk Assessment.

Financially, we have seen a reduction in the projected deficit for 2019. Our treasurer Brian Martin provides pie charts, along with details of our income and expenses, to help us “see” our financial picture. Hazel Tremblay has spent countless hours working on financial matters and with our renters. Sadly, Valerie Grant decided to close Arabesque Ballet after renting the hall for 15 years and South Island Music will leave in at the end of January 2020.

It has been a very successful year for Chapel Gallery and Attic Treasures. Dedicated groups of volunteers enable the continuation and growth of each ministry which brings in many people from the wider community and adds to our revenue.

Chat & Chew gained a small following over the past two years, but the last lunch was held in October. This project has been suspended until a volunteer chef and co-ordinator steps forward to replace Michael King. For health reasons, he left as Parish Administrator in May. Andrew Lloyd was hired and is mastering the multiple tasks of managing the office with today's technical tools.

As a parish we have embraced technology with Meagan and Cory as our “Webmasters”. We encourage parishioners to go to our website <https://www.stmatthiasvictoria.ca>. It covers all our activities with a welcome page, information on the various ministries, up-coming events, the newsletter, last year's Vestry report, information on renting and more. We recommend signing up for the electronic newsletter (which can be done on-line), so you receive it the instant it is sent. We also have a FaceBook account managed by Penny Martin, who posts Richard Rohr's thought provoking meditations from the Centre for Action and Contemplation, among other items.

St. Matthias continues its music tradition with a small but dedicated choir led by Victoria Beauchesne. She resurrected the choral scholar program (first established under our former organist Jim Hill). She augments the choir with talented soloists for special services. Other music events in the church were concerts by Emmet Cahill, the Greater Victoria Police Choir organized by Sheila Richards and, organized by Cory Herrera, Genevieve Charbonneau who launched her new CD Heart is a Tower.

Sung Evensong from the Book of Common Prayer is a music tradition in the Anglican Church. About a dozen dedicated parishioners hold this service on the first Sunday nine months of the year. Arifin Graham leads the service accompanied by Victoria on the piano. We were saddened by the passing of Tasma Hinch, not only because she was a delightful, energetic friend, contributor to Attic Treasures and long-time member of the congregation, but also because she was one of three parishioners who hold pot luck suppers following Evensong service. Starting in January 2020, the service was moved from 4 pm to 3 pm to allow the AbbeyChurch to hold their service at 4 pm every week.

Our relationship with the AbbeyChurch continues with a renegotiated covenant. The AbbeyChurch operates under the oversight of The Emmaus Community, which is an ecumenical shared ministry of the Anglican Diocese of BC and the Pacific Mountain Region of the United Church of Canada. It is supported by grants from each institution as well as the offerings of the Community. Joint activities with the AbbeyChurch included Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, September back- to-church BBQ, and the Christmas pageant.

The regular mid-week communion service, led by Meagan, offers a supportive, spiritual oasis. It includes time for participants to discuss the Bible readings for the following Sunday and uses a variety of liturgies in addition to the Book of Common Prayer.

We began conversations with St. Mary's leadership on ways we might collaborate. St. Mary's parishioners are known to many in our parish. We have for a number of years invited them to our Shrove Tuesday pancake suppers. In November, a joint the Remembrance Day service was held at St. Mary's where a moving performance by the Canadian College of Performing Arts' followed the service, as well as lunch for students and the congregation. On December 1st, St. Mary's joined us for a shared Advent service and we hosted the lunch.

For individuals and churches, Christian life often presents crossroads, places of decision and direction involving some degree of change. These "cross" roads may also include suffering or sacrifice to bring forth new life. St. Matthias has experienced many changes during the last ten years. Currently, our Bishop encourages us to engage in transformation: both of ourselves as followers of Jesus and of our institutions as vehicles for relating to the world. This is a major crossroad which we need to reflect on and embrace as we move along the uncharted path which is the life of the St. Matthias parish.

Respectfully submitted by

Sheila Prins, Rector's Warden (retired) Marilyn Denton, People's Warden

Music Ministry

It has been a wonderful year in the Music Program at St. Matthias. We have much to celebrate. As with last year, our choir has continued to grow: from an average of 4.75 singers per service from September – December 2017 to an average of 9.57 singers from Sept. – Dec. 2019. These averages include some 2017 Sundays with as few as two people in the choir; and also some Sundays - such as Lessons and Carols, - when invited singers from both outside and within the congregation brought our number up to as many as 16 for a single service. As you can see, we have doubled since I began as Music Director two and a half years ago.

Here are a few highlights of the year for our adult choir.

CHORAL SCHOLAR PROGRAM:

Several congregants and an anonymous benefactor have generously contributed enough funding to provide honorariums for choral scholars in the bass and tenor sections. These singers join the choir four times/month. The honorariums are \$25 per Sunday or Thursday. Though I tried recruiting through music teachers, and by posting audition notices at the University, the Conservatory, the CCPA, and the nearest high schools, I had no response. So I began by asking my son, Louis to sing at Lessons and Carols, 2018, for which I paid him personally. Early in 2019, others began contributing. In approximately April, we made Louis's position as our Bass Scholar official. At that point, Meagan and I decided to find a tenor too. In the tenor position, we have a high school graduate: Julius Hocking, who joined us for the last anthem in June, 2019, and has been with us since.

The scholars help other singers who do not read music to learn their parts. They then lead their sections when anthems are presented. Sometimes, one or both scholars serve as the only voice on a part, thus enabling the choir to sing harmonies not otherwise possible. We are so lucky to have our scholars, and are very grateful to all our donors. Thanks to an individual underwriting the entire year, additional gifts to this program will make it feasible to expand, either to more practices or more singers.

There is strong possibility we will be auditioning in the spring. School for both scholars will reduce their ability to commit to the church in September (Louis enters grade 12 and Julius will start University). If you know a musician in high school or college, who sings tenor or bass, and who is preferably (but not necessarily) in a music program, please let them know about this opportunity, as even if one of our current scholars agrees to stay, we will still need a second singer!

EMMET CAHILL CONCERT:

Over 20 singers assembled to provide backing for his concert early in 2019. It was lots of work and lots of fun! The caliber of our ad hoc choir was very high, upon which not only Emmet, but several of his entourage remarked. Some of these "extra" singers have returned a few times, with one in particular joining us to sing some of the more challenging anthems.

REGULAR PRACTICE:

Although there were months with weekly evening practices in the first part of 2019, officially, we were meeting every other week. In September, to our Sunday morning practice, we reinstated practice every Thursday, with one Thursday off per month. The benefits of regular practice are many: improvement of music caliber and options, commitment to the choir, and therefore, both attendance and choir community.

CHOIR COMMUNITY:

Every one of our choir members is a valued presence, both in song and in other ways. Singers, thank you for your dedication!

Hazel joined us in the alto section this past year. Marilyn has been quarterbacking the section for a long time, and now we are two strong.

Hazel also researched, sourced, ordered and gifted new ***choir folders*** to the choir. They help us stay organized, as well as look good.

Jan has sung soprano with us for over two years now. Her steady dedication as ***Choir Librarian***, sorting music every Sunday after the service is absolutely fabulous.

Amy, also singing soprano, was married in the church in August. She is a quiet but constant help – whether stepping in to serve tea, sourcing and emailing links to YouTube performances of upcoming anthems, or creating posters and documents for us. Her background in ancient languages and expertise with religious history means she can be relied upon for answers to a wide range of pronunciation and research questions.

Veronica has been singing tenor for two years. She is an able and enthusiastic social convener, spearheading such events as the choir-organized Strawberry Tea in June, and our successful ***Christmas Carol Concert*** in December. We plan on making it the first of many.

David is a welcome addition to the bass section this past year.

Choristers not mentioned here by name are not forgotten. Each is a blessing to us; and you are cherished, every one!

OTHER MUSIC ACTIVITIES WORTH MENTIONING – BUT NO DETAILS:

Guest instrumentalist and singers, children's choir, concerts other than Emmet's: all these happened successfully.

In gratitude to the energies of our fantastic community: singers, volunteers, and staff,

Victoria Beauchesne, Music Director

Children's Ministry

After a very busy Advent and Christmas season in 2018, January was a quieter time in our Sunday School. We had a regular group of about 2-6 children, from ages 3-14. We followed the lectionary for our lessons, focusing on a story, followed by a craft and an activity. On Valentine's Day the children surprised the congregation by giving each member a valentine as they walked out of Church. We also had days where we made cookies for coffee time and helped out with selling cupcakes and books at the monthly "Attic Treasures" Sale. On Easter Sunday, we witnessed the beautiful baptism of Ava, aged 13. Her grandmother waited until she was ready to make the choice, herself, and it was heart-warming to see her spirit glow as the sun shone through the stained glass windows. This touching event was followed by an Easter Egg Hunt on the Church grounds. Over the Spring Break, Ava and Emily also joined with the St. Philip's Youth Group to make cupcakes and bring them down to the Oak Bay Police Station. It was a very special afternoon and the police officers were pleased.

We took a temporary break over the summer, although I taught a few times when parents let me know they were back from their holidays and bringing their children to class. In September we enjoyed our back-to-school barbecue and concentrated on fall activities and the changing of the seasons. We also celebrated several of the saints, according to the liturgical calendar. The Choir Leader, Victoria, taught the children a beautiful song to sing for Thanksgiving, and we shared Remembrance Day with St. Mary's in Oak Bay. In December, the children participated in Advent activities, including readings and candle lighting. We also gathered with children and youth from other parishes to join in a Christmas Craft and Cookie Decorating Party with St. George's. We made some great connections and enjoyed a spaghetti dinner. Our Pageant was shared with the Abbey and was a magical and touching event preparing us for the joy and mystery of Christmas day. I have considered it a privilege to be the Children's Minister this year and have felt welcomed and encouraged by the community.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Jennifer Sharlow

Healing & Prayer Ministry

Our "Book of Alternative Services" states that "The Church's ministry to the sick is based on Jesus' constant concern and care for the sick. It is reinforced by the Epistle of James' admonition to the sick to call for the elders of the Church to pray over them and anoint them with oil, in the land of the Lord... The ministry those believers offered was an extension of the Church's basic act of worship, i.e. The gathering around the word and the bread and wine each Sunday. "Do this in remembrance of me" is the primary healing service.

In our parish we are privileged to take part in a "Healing Service" on the third Sunday of the month. Through specially chosen liturgy and music and through prayers and ministration we may be touched and made whole by His love. As the disciples were sent out two by two to preach, teach and heal, so two of our community minister on behalf of the whole community of faith. The prayers in the chapel are brief - respecting physical boundaries and confidentiality; not diagnostic; not counselling--focussing on the love and compassion of Christ.

Most requests from the congregation for prayer are given to the office to be included in the bulletin. In addition, an emergency telephone prayer chain is available through 250-598-8252. Are you being led to become a part of this confidential ministry?

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy M. Robertson.

Glengarry Hospital Ministry

As an appointed honorary clergy person 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.

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, particularly John and Sheila Prins and our honoraries The Revs. Duncan and Beverley McLean who took the service on Easter Sunday when I was suddenly ill. Our parish further supports this ministry with a \$30 honorarium for the talented and much appreciated piano player Greg Davidson. Additional singing voices are always welcome!

On the fourth Wednesday afternoon of each month I preside at a said communion service in the Chandler Unit. This gathering varies in attendance from 3 to 8. Cornelia Freeman, a resident and member of St. Luke's, continues to be a real evangelist for this service.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon Karen Fast

Sanctuary Guild Report

The Sanctuary Guild is a group of cheerful and welcoming learners! If you are new to St. Matthias, you may wonder what we do. (And, long-time members of the community, consider this a joyful invitation ...)

Before and after worship, the Sanctuary Guild ensures the church is ready to celebrate our life together. We prepare the altar, arrange for flowers, ensure that the linens are cared for, and generally prepare the Lord's Table.

Over the past few years, we have refined our process and materials to accommodate different schedules and uses. (For example, we generally prepare the altar on Saturday for our Sunday worship. When we have a wedding or concert in the space, we re-arrange our timing.)

Specifically, what have we done this year?

- We mark the church year and liturgical seasons, primarily by ensuring the colours on the lecterns are consistent with the season. We use the frontals on the high altar for special occasions, and when we have a lengthy season with one colour.
- We continue to arrange the communion vessels on a side (credence) table near the altar. We place the bread and wine on a table near the back of the church to be ready during the Offertory (whenever possible, inviting youth to participate).
- Each week, we launder and iron the linens you notice on the altar or during Communion.
- We clean the silver as it is used (no more "cleaning bees"). The church still sparkles for those special occasions -- and we give things a little check to make sure we're ready.
- We use oil candles, rather than beeswax. (Generally, we refill the candles as we set the table.) We're happy with the cost savings, too!
- We have continued to use some artificial flower arrangements to good effect this past year.

For anyone interested in identifying dates when they would like to remember a loved one or special occasion with flowers, please contact the office. With gratitude to Marilyn Denton and her gardening committee, many of the flowers and greenery used on the altar come from our own church gardens. However, we can fulfill almost any request for a particular flower or colour.

Sanctuary Guild includes Cory Herrera, Jean McCaw, Penny Martin, Sheila Prins and Debbie Winchester. Everyone appreciates those delightful folks who step in at special times of the year. This means the church is decorated appropriately for special feasts and observances. Once again, we marked Advent and Christmas with beautiful seasonal decoration. Special thanks to Marilyn Denton, John and Sheila Prins, and Brian and Nicky Rendell.

Sanctuary Guild is part of an ancient tradition. The task of preparing and caring for the Lord's Table offers each participant a special way to consider the wondrous gifts we receive. We welcome new participants -- whenever your schedule permits.

Respectfully submitted,
Cory Herrera

Greeter's and Sides-people

We have had a good year among the greeters/sidespersons — often the first point of contact and “hospitality” as parishioners and visitors arrive for services on Sunday mornings, followed by various duties as the service progresses.

Our active team currently consists of Fred Hayes, John Prins, Judith Kennedy, Peter Gatt and ourselves. Peter is a recent welcome addition to our numbers. Steve Martin is currently on leave for medical reasons. Over the past year we lost one of our greeters when Mark Thompson became part of the Cathedral congregation. We thank him for his work at St Matthias, and wish him well on his continued journey.

We thank John Prins for his previous, many years of service as the coordinator of this ministry — it is very much appreciated. He has also continued to mentor us over the past year. And we thank all our team for their continued presence and sincerity in this work.

If any members of the congregation would like to consider joining in the enriching, fulfilling work, please let us know.

Sincerely and with thanks,

Arifin Graham and Richard Heden, coordinators

Kitchen/Special Events

Coffee hour after church continues to run efficiently. A big thank you to David for his efficient service in setting up, serving and clearing up afterwards. Thank s also to helpers Marilyn, Mary and Amy for their help also.

Donations to 'Tommy Turtle' help with kitchen supplies, e.g. Coffee, tea, cookies and soap. We have \$100.00 currently in the kitty.

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

- Feb 9 Police Choir. Great success. Cheque of \$500. to the police choir, and we made an overall profit to St. Matthews of \$1,305. 131 people attended, even though we had a snow storm! The choir expressed they would be happy to make a return visit.
- Feb 5 Shrove Tuesday supper. 65 attended and enjoyed a supper of pancakes and sausages. Profit of \$150 to church
- June 23 Strawberries and shortcake provided by members of our choir.
- Sept 22 Welcome back Sunday. 40 attended. Thriftys supplied a large decorated cake, and parishioners supplied, sandwiches, stuffed eggs, fruit and vegetable plates.
- Dec 1 Advent Sunday combined with St. Mary's Church. Combined choir of 22 voices. Successful occasion. St. Mary's provided hams, and deserts. We supplied salads, coffee, bread etc.
- Dec 11 Hall decoration. Helpers, Bob, Marilyn, Bernadette, Sheila, David and Alan Gregory.
- Dec 15 Festival of 9 lessons and carols, followed by Wassail and Christmas goodies in the hall. Thriftys supplied 9 trays of mixed excellent sandwiches. Letter of thanks sent to them. 45 people attended.
- Dec 18 Sing along carol service. Very successful, approx. 60 attended. Hot chocolate and cookies served afterwards.
- Jan 8 Hall decorations taken down, packed and stored in cupboard on stage. Marilyn, Sheila and ably assisted by Robert Nagaski.

I would like to say thank you to our volunteer helpers who are always ready to lend a hand. But I would also mention that there are occasions when we could do with more!!

Respectfully submitted by
Sheila Richards

Building & Grounds

As secretary for the B&G committee for 2019, I decided the best way to capture the year was by thanking those who volunteered. The following people participated in B&G meetings: Robert Nagasaki, John Jordan, Gerry Howell Jones, Bob Hall, Steve Martin, Duncan McLean, Brian Wood and Peter Gatt.

John J agreed to take on B&G from Bob. John cuts the lawns, prunes bushes, spread cedar mulch, fixed the shed door, fixed a broken chair, tightened the toilet in the men's room, fixed the folding cupboard door in room C/D and probably many other repairs I have not captured in my reports to Parish Council.

In addition to his job at Rogers Court, during his "free time", Robert gets quotes and oversees contractors when working on the property. This year's largest project was sweeping, cleaning and painting lines on the parking lot. Other contractors were Mark for gutter and stairwell cleaning, auditorium floor cleaning and sealing, junk removal; Victoria Sprinkler (garden watering system), Pacific Coast Fire Equipment, Mac's Heating, Impact Plumbing, ThyssenKrupp Elevator, Tech safety, EB Horsman. Robert does numerous repairs, some were: holes in the parking lot, replacing burnt out light bulbs, removed the hinge which made the auditorium door slam, fixed the kitchen roller screen (which he calls the "guillotine") when it was jammed, painted the auditorium wall where the ballet mirrors were removed and did touch ups, patched holes in walls, installed door stops. He and Mark put up and take down the Nativity pageant stable, plus the Christmas tree. Robert is always willing to lend a hand and was sorely missed when he was on extended sick leave and his vacation.

As a favour to his father, Robert's son Miles cleared snow after several storms last winter. Unfortunately, Miles did not want to take on the contract for 2020. In the fall, Robert and Steve Martin prepared a statement of work. I contacted eleven companies. He agreed to be the primary contact as we are looking for a company to clear snow from St. Matthias, Rogers Court and Christ Church Cathedral Pre-School properties and will share the cost.

Gerry diligently sets the thermostats. John Prins raised the Christmas lights when they were catching in the church front door, installed additional hooks for the light string in the church. Sheila Prins helped me hang art removed from the chapel in the Peg Lowe room. She also reviewed the Memorial items binder which I created with photos found in a file. Hazel Tremblay repaired the sofa in room C/D. Arifin Graham designed and installed stickers to update the outdoor signs. Cory Herrera and Nicky Rendell helped me "spring clean" the Sacristy. Working with Meagan, the Emergency Plan was updated. Mary Gillander helped me in the garden one Saturday. John J and I hired Powell occasionally for lawn cutting, spreading mulch and pruning bushes.

In the backyard, with permission from the city parks department, Custom Tree Falling removed dead cedars and three living cedars which were hanging over the power wires. Mulch was spread along the backyard fence around the cedars and around bushes at the east end of the church. The logs and mulch were advertised for free in Used Victoria and disappeared. The final step for the backyard is to create "animals" out of the stumps, but that is on the 2020 list.

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Denton

Refugee Settlement Program

In the fall of 2014 St. Matthias Parish Council approved a motion to support the formation of a Refugee Constituent group to engage in refugee settlement through the Diocesan Refugee Program and the Canadian Government Private Refugee Sponsorship Program.

A group was created, with Brian and Nicky Rendell as co-chairs, and several members of St. Matthias involved. The majority of the approximately twenty-five members were not members of the church. The group was titled St. Matthias and Friends. A successful fund raising campaign was launched and quickly raised approximately \$60,000. In February 2015 a four person Syrian refugee family were greeted at the airport. Shedwan Herba, Lama Harmoush and their beautiful twin children, Talia and Abdulaziz had arrived. By the end of the Group's one year responsibility Shedwan had established his own house painting business, Lama was successfully studying ESL and the children were well settled in their new school; and strong friendships between the family and the group had developed. Not quite four years later, on January 23, the family became Canadian citizens and the majority of the committee gathered to feast and celebrate.

In the spring of 2018, St. Matthias and Friends, reduced to four members, agreed with the Anglican Diocesan Refugee Committee to accept another refugee for settlement. In June a single Iraqi gentleman, Saad Alad Hamee, was welcomed at the airport. Over the following year he was accommodated and cared for, involved in ESL training, and otherwise, to the best of the committee's ability, prepared for life in Canada. At the end of the group's involvement at the end of September 2019, Saad's proficiency in English had greatly improved, he was still accommodated and was working part time able to pay his rent and otherwise manage financially.

As of this report the St. Matthias refugee fund continues to have approximately \$18,000. In the near future St. Matthias will have to decide whether to take on the settlement of another refugee, or to provide the funds to another established committee. Since 2014 public enthusiasm and support for refugee settlement has waned. St. Matthias reengaging in this work would require an increase in commitment on the part of the congregation. At this time the needs and numbers of refugees worldwide is larger than ever, exceeding 65,000,000

Brian Rendell, Refugee Constitute Chair
January 28, 2020

Camosun College Upgrade Winners

Project upgrade was established in 1987, led by Bob Battles. From 1987 to 1998, the parish transferred funds to Camosun College Foundation which were matched by the province. Bob retired at the end of 1998 and a Steering Committee was led by Mike Damant. In 2006 responsibility was transferred to Parish Council. Endowment of the project was established in 2000 with an initial contribution of \$10,000. The fund grows each year based on the interest on the St. Matthias endowment and annual contributions from St. Michael and All Angels. As of December 31, 2018 the principal in the fund was \$66,668.45 which allowed disbursement of over \$3000 to eight students.

Criteria for selection is students judged to have the greatest financial need and who have worked to overcome obstacles to their education. Candidates must demonstrate effort in attendance, quality of work and display a personal commitment to their schooling. Camosun selects the award winners.

The 2019 winners of the St. Matthias and St. Michael and All Angels' Project Upgrade Funded Awards went eight deserving students who will further their education at the college. Camosun College provided these brief descriptions of the eight students and reasons for receiving the award.

Jasmine is a very hard-working student who perseveres and holds herself to high standards. Despite obstacles she completed Math 025 and 026 in 2018, followed by Math 052 and Math 053. Jasmine is very committed to her studies and maintains an impressive quality of work in everything she undertakes.

Mehra works hard, has an open heart and is always smiling. She would come to class with her reading book highlighted, many words translated into her first language and her homework completed. She is a woman with a goal to become an accountant in Canada. Mehra was nominated for this award because her teacher saw something special in her, and her teacher wanted to show appreciation for her hard work and good attitude.

After being hit by a car, a brain injury changed the course of Amanda's life. After 8 months of neuro rehabilitation at VGH, her occupational therapist and her psychologist encouraged her to take a course to increase neuroplasticity. A vocational assessment determined that a career as a medical laboratory assistant might be right for her. To assess whether her brain would be able to adapt, she took a medical terminology course, which she successfully completed, followed by math and the prerequisites for the Certified Medical Laboratory Assistant program. In spite of the limitations of a brain injury and challenging family circumstances, she is now enrolled in the program.

Abigail came to class every day, quietly and methodically turned out thoughtful, organized, well documented and socially conscious essays such as "The Stigmatization of Mental Health Issues in Movies." Another essay was about the way we genetically modify animals not just for our consumption but also for our entertainment. She seemed to instinctively know that a good writer doesn't tell her reader what to feel. She simply presents well-researched facts, in such a way that her reader experiences the impact of those facts. Abigail plans to pursue graphic art because, in her words, "I'm better at drawing than I am at writing."

Chloe is an excellent writer, artist and thinker. One of the ways she expresses her art is through knitting. When she was looking for a research topic, her teacher suggested she research something she had an interest in. The resulting essay was "Knitting Throughout the Twentieth Century: A Feminist Perspective."

Asher was a top student in Math 137 and made the class more interesting for everyone with probing questions and by thinking outside the box. Even though Asher understood the material quickly and thoroughly, most of the practice time was spent helping others who might be struggling. Asher is currently in the Exploratory Studies program at Vancouver Island University (VIU) and will likely be in VIU's Computer Science program starting September 2020.

From Morocco, Hasna was positive and supportive towards her classmates and hard-working. At the beginning of term, she was looking for more ethical employment, but never openly criticized or mentioned her employer by name. Mid-way through the course it became evident she was struggling personally, and Camosun teachers were concerned she would drop the course. All the while, she maintained a joyful demeanor in class. It took some coaxing, but she revealed several very personal challenges she had been facing. With the support of classmates and counselling services, Hasna attended class, helped her classmates, actively participated in class and completed all assignments on time, ultimately raising her test scores and writing quality. She was also able to overcome some of her personal difficulties.

Elly is a hardworking student who always participates in classroom discussions and is a conscientious classmate. In fact, ever dependable, once home with a terrible flu, Elly forwarded her thoughts so her discussion group could work with her ideas that day. She has participated in labs, a sweat lodge, classes, and support centers. She is always receptive, open minded, and reflective of her experiences. She's currently working towards attending the Nursing program at Camosun.

Attic Treasures



Attic Treasures was extremely successful in 2019 generating over \$10,000, due to many hours of labour by volunteers, excellent donations, and repeat buyers.

Assisting two friends clear out their parent's estates resulted in many unique treasures, a good way to increase inventory.

Most of the unsold items went to Beacon Community Services (BCS) who picked up after the Jan, May and Oct. sales. BCS programs and services include health, children, youth and family services, training and employment, seniors' services, housing, and volunteering.

Continuing in 2019 with the idea of themed sales, January had many Valentine gifts. February featured silver and crystal. March focused on jewelry and china, with a fun flags craft for children. May was the Fairfield Community garage sale, when it rained, damping the outdoor lemonade sales by the children. However, the weather did not deter buyers in the church. The June sale was augmented by the donation of a bicycle sold on Used Victoria. July featured art, crafts, jewelry and music plus a Sudanese sword which sold on Used Victoria. In September Hallowe'en costumes were sold with other items. The final sale was October with Christmas decorations and re-gifts (those lovely things never used, some in their original boxes).

Throughout the year, books are available at the back of the church and the card rack is replenished regularly. Payment for books and cards is on the honour system with money placed in the locked donation box at the bottom of the card rack. A donated high end wheelchair that we were unable to sell was donated to Christ Church Cathedral at their request. Although not generating any funds, cedar logs and mulch were available for pick up and disappeared over the fall, advertised as part of Attic Treasures on Used Victoria. As well, pews stored in a variety of locations and the contribution of large iron flower stands from St. Mary's helped a couple set up a small rental business.

We can always use more donations, but we have to be selective in what we receive due to storage issues. We are asking that donors contact us before leaving things in the church. The best items are photographed, researched for appropriate pricing and posted on Used Victoria, CraigsList and Varage as marketing for the sale. Organizations that support refugees are invited to take items they need when we were doing the final pack up for BCS.

There are often heartwarming stories as we connect with buyers, hoping they feel the warmth of our SMAC community. We delighted in engaging with the sword collector in Sooke, new business operators needing equipment, a small business relocating needing a coffee maker, providing a bicycle bought for the daughter of a single Mom, adding to a fountain pen collection, and seeing the wide smiles on the faces of children who shop.

Best of all is the fun we have, puzzling over items never seen before, laughing at bizarre objects, debating on pricing, and finding “treasures” we cannot resist. The wider community is involved as buyers, donors, and some of the volunteers. All their efforts and time are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Denton and Hazel Tremblay

The Chapel Gallery

The Chapel Gallery is now in its second year and flourishing.

In 2019 the Gallery hosted six art exhibitions, a refugee fundraiser and three poetry evenings. Approximately 1000 visitors have enjoyed a friendly welcome whilst being enriched and nourished by the art in this very special space.

The artists have been varied in style, but, uniform in their contemplative and reflective voice. All of the exhibiting artists have been very complimentary of our beautiful Chapel and have all commented on how very ‘special’ their experience has been.

There will be seven shows in the coming year with the curators still continuing to consider the church seasonal Calender when choosing upcoming artists.

The success of the gallery is due in large part to the hard work of all our dedicated volunteers who tirelessly help to host the Gallery, clean up and prepare food for openings and be the welcoming face of our church to all our visitors. I would like to thank, Judith Kennedy, Marilyn Denton, Joan Wilson, Cory Herrera, Hazel Trembley, Brian Wood, Sheila & John Prinz, Mary Gillanders, Elspeth Hough, Kristina Thompson, Brian Rendell, Arifin Graham and Duncan & Beverly Maclean, our wonderful Gallery hosts. A very Special thanks goes to Cory for her skilled website management and to Arifin for his beautiful designing of all the Gallery posters, as well as to Andrew for his efficient help with newsletters, scheduling and printing.

The Chapel Gallery is very blessed to be supported by a growing number of people from outside the church community, people who believe firmly in the importance of community and who find the Chapel gallery a safe and nourishing place to engage with.

The Gallery has now become financially self-sustaining due to the 15% commission on all art sales. We no longer require monetary support from our Community outreach fund and the Gallery is now contributing to the Church’s revenue.

Lastly, I would like to thank my dedicated co-curators, Jill Ehlert, Mary-ellen Threadkell, Mary Wolfe and Trish Shwart who believe, like myself, passionately in the importance of community and bringing enrichment through the arts to everyone.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Nicky Rendell, The Chapel Gallery curator.

Rwandan Mission

We welcomed a second Rwandan Anglican parish into partnership in January 2019 and established support there for a nursery school and a women's cooperative. Both embrace populations who have struggled to create small steps up out of desperate need with their own meagre resources. Our financial and organizational support has made those efforts bear fruit. 65 village children attend 5 hr/day programs instilling classroom decorum and learning process. They also receive a big cup of porridge, for many their only morning nourishment. The cooperative of 25 unwed moms opened a tailoring training workshop, building the skills that have already begun to support them and their children.

This second parish of Gatare sits about 5 miles off the main road and about 24 miles from the Kinini Parish where we have supported nursery school and family development projects for 3 years. Kinini programs continue: nursery school for 35 kids, Healthy Mums teaching mostly single moms effectively to nurture their kids and understand reproductive health, two year training and certificate for the teacher, bought health insurance for 45 destitute people, rented 2 fields for groups of poor mothers, and improved housing conditions of over 50 families.

In all cases our interventions teach skills and provide tools that offer avenues of sustainable improvement. Expenditures increased in 2019 to \$10,000 CAD, adding \$5,000 from donors to the \$5000 provided by St M's. These new project investments are expected to reach completion in another 6 to 14 months allowing required budget to adjust downward to meet expected resources. St. M's commitment of \$5000/yr for 3 years will conclude end of 2020 and project planning makes no assumptions about an extension.

The \$3,800 that was "lost" in April, 2019, when under the control of project coordinator of that time, was replaced by my own "donations" of \$800 cash sent in May to continue programs and \$3000 by check thru ICO to the Rw. Anglican diocese in October. The diocese found a very capable, 26 yr old divinity student to fill the vacant Coordinator position as of Aug 2019 and he shows excellent judgement in managing projects. I attach several of his monthly reports as examples of his work. Below is the spending summary of 2019 in CAD.

Gatare Parish: Womens Tailoring Workshop, 25 mothers:	\$2,420
Nursery school, 65 kids, 2 teachers, one cook:	\$1,652
Kinini Parish: Nursery school, 35 kids, one teacher, one cook:	\$1,800
Teacher training:	\$,462
Healthy Mums, 20+ moms for 8 months:	\$,590
Various housing improvements	\$1,280
Renting 2 fields for poor mothers	\$,185
Health insurance for 45 poor	\$,208
Coordinator: Salary of \$100/mon plus travel expenses of \$50/mon	\$1,390
Total:	\$9,987
Respectfully Submitted by,	

John Jordan

Rogers Court Society

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 an one bedroom unit). The average rent is \$635 per month (highest is \$820 and the lowest is \$368 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).

Starting January 1, 2019, Stephen Martin resigned as Board Chair and President to take the roll of Executive Director. At the same time, all administrative involvement by St. Matthias office and the administrator were deferred to the Executive Director. All communication was to continue through the property manager and now the Executive Director. The changes have been well received by the tenants and the interruptions in the office are no longer a distraction.

We had our annual Christmas lunch led by Robert Nagasaki with strong support from chefs-at-large Dominique Chapeau, Bob Hall and Stephen Martin; Marilyn Denton, Brian Rendell set up, served the tables and with the help of Bernadette Casperson, a Rogers Court resident, cleaned 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, 2019). We also have a few very dedicated volunteers led by Ian White who keeps the gardens and the grounds in impeccable shape. The year ended August 31, 2019 we recorded a deficit of \$2,223 before an extraordinary charge of \$75,000 to establish a Capital Reserve for future suite renovations. Residents and neighbours have mentioned how nice this has been.

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. We are continuing to work with M'Akola Development Services as the project managers and BC Housing to get this project moving forward. We are optimistic we will have good news in the first quarter of calendar 2020 and get this moving forward.

I would like to thank the members of the Board – Brian Rendell (Vice President), Bob Hall, Marilyn Denton (Secretary), Judith Kennedy for their service over the year. I am also very excited to welcome Fred Hayes to the Board effective October 29, 2019. 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 recovering from surgery. Robert is back on the job and continues to have the best of Rogers Court and St Matthias at heart.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Martin, Executive Director

Chat and Chew Community Luncheon

It was with much regret that I had to step away from The Chat and Chew Luncheon due to health reasons. Since the last vestry we did 5 luncheons, the last one being in September.

Many thanks to St. Matthias for their support of the program. A monthly ministry like this takes a lot of work by many volunteers. Hazel, Marilyn, Mary, Bernadette, Beverly and Duncan, Sheila, Meagan, Karen Fast, it could not have been done without you. Thank you all. If I have forgotten anyone, forgive me, Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted by Michael King

A Message From the Envelope Secretary

Thank you for your ongoing support of St. Matthias, whether by way of weekly envelopes or by monthly pre-authorized remittance (PAR).

Of our 41 regular contributors 16 already use PAR, and I would encourage more of the 25 envelope users to enrol in PAR this year.

Its benefits include greater convenience for the donor and less risk of error on my part, especially in the busy year-end period.

If required, adjustments in monthly giving can be made by filling out a simple change form. As well, plastic tokens are available at the back of the church to put in the offering plate.

Please see me for enrolment forms and any other information you may need.

Respectfully submitted,

John Prins