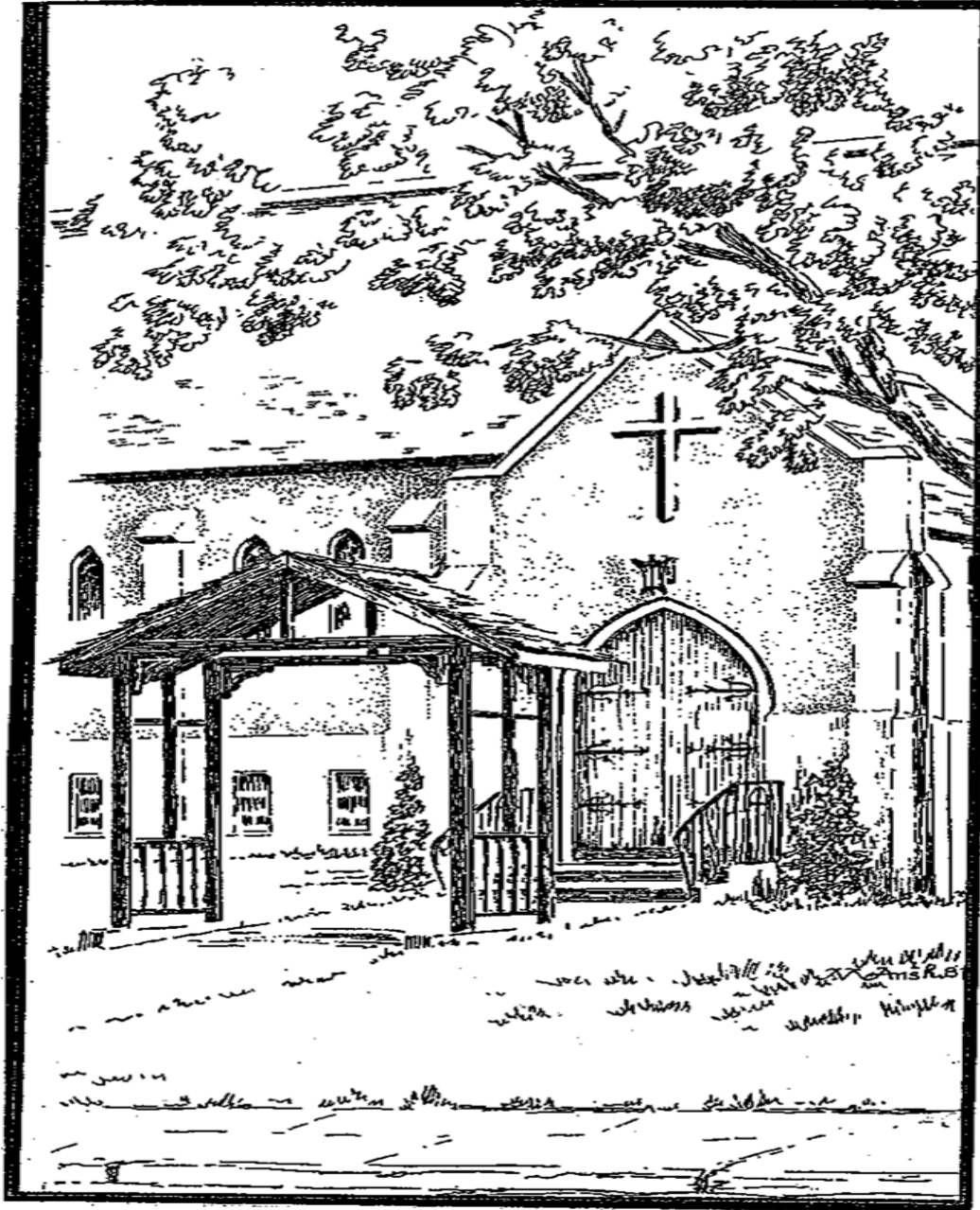


# SAINT MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH



## REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

February 13, 2022

## OUR IDENITTY.

We are a community of Christ`s people from all walks of life, ages and backgrounds who love and worship the Risen Lord according to Anglican tradition.

## OUR VISION

To be a place where one can find meaningful Christian worship in the Anglican tradition, Christian stewardship being modeled, individually and in ministry, a befriending and welcoming community, transformational teaching of the Christian faith to all ages, healing for the sick, broken, downcast and those in need, opportunities to serve Christ`s love to the community.

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December 31, 2021 year-end financial statements  
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## REPORT OF THE RECTOR

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Paula Foster, Interim

I began my time with you on November 1, 2021 for a period of six months while Claude is taking a sabbatical leave of absence. He will be returning May 1, 2022. The diocese is providing the stipend for 20 hours per week plus Sunday worship. I am responsible for administrative and pastoral care for this period of time.

Covid has continued to be a constant challenge for all of us. Thank you to Lyndon and Beth who have so willingly shared their internet expertise with all of us when we had to close again. I have learned how to attend Zoom meetings and also how Live-Streaming our worship services works. I do not run these meetings but God has provided us with people gifted in this critical area. Soon we will be able to worship together in person.

Speaking of the wardens, Beth and Mary, have been very busy on behalf of this parish by ensuring that things run smoothly while Claude is away. I am very grateful for the work of the entire vestry during this time, as it has been a bit of a roller coaster with the pandemic still around. Please note that the entire vestry has agreed to continue to serving at least until Claude returns, so there will be continuity for the parish. Thank you very much.

St. Mary's is blessed with very strong, faithful lay leadership. These people led the Advent study on the Return of the Prodigal Son, organized the parish prayer tree and continued the tradition of the Mitten and Toque tree at Christmas. Shut-in folks are called. People have led Morning and Evening prayer services daily during the week and taught Sunday school whenever children were present at worship and maintained teaching and contact with the young people in the parish. Thank you, everyone! It truly takes all of us working together in faithfulness to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Nathaniel, Yvonne, Terry, Mike, Gwyn, Sharon, Efrin all work quietly behind the scenes insuring the details of parish life continue without disruption. The risk in naming people is that I might unintentionally overlook someone. Please accept my apologies if I have neglected to include anyone. You have been very welcoming and gracious towards me and I deeply appreciate your care for one another and for this church.

We lost a long-time member with the death of Don Goss in November and many of you were able to attend his funeral service. Cecile Goss has very generously donated \$4000.00 to the general operating fund towards the 2022 budget in memory of her brother. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. I have written her, thanking her for her generous gift on behalf of the parish.

Our Bishop, Helen Kennedy, will be coming to St. Mary's on March 27 to lead our worship and preach and meet people. I invited her knowing how quickly her Sundays fill up and hopefully we will be able to offer refreshments. More on that later.

The next 2 1/2 months will go by quickly and Claude will return. It is my prayer that he returns refreshed and renewed in body and spirit for you.

Stewardship education and conversations need to be a priority for St. Mary's and should begin soon. We have diocesan resources available to us and it is my recommendation that we take advantage of them. I want to draw your attention to the new Tuesday Newsday weekly newsletter from the diocesan office and the event that Archdeacon Cheryl Toth is hosting on Zoom in March. There is room for about 20 participants and it would be good for us to be represented. Please pray about this and register. It would be helpful if at least one person from the Stewardship committee could attend all four sessions and then report back to vestry.

I closing, I would like to say that I am really enjoying being with you for this time. I thank God for you daily in my prayers.

Blessings,

Rev. Paula Foster

# REPORT OF THE CHURCHWARDENS

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ross, People's Warden

Beth Christianson continued her role of Rector's Warden during 2021. Mary Ross assumed the role of People's Warden at the Annual General Meeting on February 14, 2021.

COVID and the restrictions have limited the normal life of the congregation throughout the year. Even so, it has been a busy time. The wardens have had regular twice monthly meetings with Reverend Claude Schroeder. There were often additional meetings as necessary and regular Vestry meetings. Depending on current restrictions and in winter, the weather, we met in person or by Zoom.

During 2021, the COVID pandemic continued its ups and downs and frequent changes in regulations and protocols. The Church had been closed to in person worship during the early part of the year. We received letters in February and March from Bishop Hardwick regarding opening up services. We determined that by March 14, we could open in person services, and following the guidelines continued to have protocols for hand sanitization, mandatory masks and allowing 30 people to attend services with social distancing. The opening date was postponed.

Beginning in June, the Bishop determined that we could open to a 30% capacity which for us meant approximately 50 people. By July 11, all restrictions were lifted in the province. Some people continued to wear masks and others did not. By fall, the attendance increased to close to 60 on a regular basis. The wearing of masks indoors was again mandatory. By the end of December, attendance was again very low due to the emergence of the very contagious Omicron variant.

Regular activities such as gathering for coffee after services, Church potlucks and meals for special occasions have not occurred this year. There has been limited children's Church activities for all ages. There were a series of Lent small groups and Advent small groups held by zoom and those attending found the learning and the connection very valuable. Janice and Dave Kerr conducted a youth Advent group.

The phoning committee has continued to be in touch with members during times when we have been closed. As one of the committee members, I have always been impressed with how well people are doing and how much people have appreciated the phone calls.

Beginning in April, Clara Der volunteered to play the piano for services. During the summer various organists/pianists were hired on a weekly basis. In November we signed a contract with Jennier Klippenstein to be the organist on a fee for service basis.

Many from the congregation volunteered for the Church yard sale in July and it was well attended by people from the community. Everyone seemed to enjoy being together and interacting.

A congregational meeting was held in September to provide updates on the life of the Parish.

Bob Hawkins and Andrew Davis were the Vestry representatives to Synod on October 16 for the election of the new Bishop.

It is amazing how much we have all learned about technology over the past two years and have been able to continue to use the technology to stay connected. During the times when we did not have live services, the services were live streamed by audio. Once services resumed, the continued use of audio and/or email of the service helped people to continue to feel connected. In November we purchased our own zoom account.

The Wardens attended a zoom meeting on Church insurance in March. In December we had a zoom meeting with Archdeacon Cheryl Toth regarding the state of the congregation, budget and Diocesan Fair Share contributions.

Several new members began attending over the course of the year. There were also some losses due to members going elsewhere.

Rev Claude's Schroeder's sabbatical began on November 1. September and October meetings focused on preparations for that. Since the beginning of November, we have had the privilege of working with Paula Foster, our interim Pastor.

December was spent focusing on budget and renewing the contract with Kathy's Kitchen.

In spite of the difficult year, we know that God is in charge. The work of the Church continues and the congregation has gone through this time together and remained as connected as possible. It has been a privilege to serve in this role throughout this year.

## **REPORT OF THE VESTRY**

Respectfully submitted by Beth Christianson, Vestry Chair

In June, Rev. Nathaniel Deng Mayan was officially recognized by Bishop Rob as an Associate Priest at St. Mary's under the mentorship of Claude. Vestry was pleased to welcome Nathaniel in his new role.

Sharon Klemke raised concerns about the future of the funeral tea ministry at St. Mary's. Funeral teas have not happened since before Covid, so this has not been an issue yet, but the ACW used to organize and host funeral teas, and we have not made new plans for this ministry since then. Vestry thanked Sharon for raising this issue, and discussed possible new arrangements. Kathy's Kitchen has agreed to cater food for funeral teas in the future at \$2.50 a plate. St. Mary's parishioners will be needed as volunteers to host and do setup and clean-up.

Kate Berringer has stepped down as organizer for the Faith Quest ministry. Faith Quest has only been active for short periods of time because of Covid, and it was decided that we would not pursue discussions about the future of Faith Quest in 2021, because of the uncertainty of when children's ministry could recommence. The decision about the future of children's ministry in general and Faith Quest in particular at St. Mary's will need to be made in the near future.

Vestry acknowledges the wonderful work Mike Delaney has done for St. Mary's as our website coordinator, editing, streaming and posting our services online, and as our bookkeeper for many years now. Mike and Linda moved to Victoria, BC in December, but Mike has continued to fulfill all those roles for St. Mary's. We are so grateful to Mike for all he does for our parish, and we are so pleased for Mike and Linda to enter into this new phase of their life. We wish them all the best in Victoria, and our best wishes for mild winters here on out!

On behalf of Vestry, I want to thank all St. Mary's parishioners for their steadfast faithfulness in 2021. It was a difficult year in which our early hopes for an end to the pandemic were not realized. We have weathered many changes in pandemic rules on gathering sizes and masks, and moving from online worship to in-person worship, and back again. But you have remained faithful in attending church as you may, and giving of your time, talents and treasure to the church. Your faithfulness as a congregation makes decision-making at the vestry level much easier, and it is a joy for us to serve our church in this way.

## ENVELOPE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Respectfully submitted by Blair Laforge

The envelope secretary issued tax receipts for a total of \$167,349 contributed in 2021. This was down \$6,442 from 2020. Of the 75 envelope holders and other identifiable givers, the frequency distribution of 2021 annual contributions is as follows:

Amount of Annual Donation	Number of Donors
\$1-\$99	6
\$100-\$499	12
\$500-\$999	12
\$1000-\$1999	14
\$2000-\$2999	10
\$3000-\$3999	8
\$4000-\$4999	4
\$5000-\$5999	4
\$6000 or greater	5

Total Donors: 75

Total donors were up 11 from the previous year. At year-end, 14 parish families were participating in the direct deposit program. \$275 was contributed to the Memorial Fund. Thank you all for your patience and co-operation. In particular, thanks to Mike, Norma, Alanna, and Yvonne for all their help.

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Respectfully submitted by Alana Schemenauer, **Co-Treasurer**

In 2021, St. Mary's had a net loss of \$2,041 compared to a budgeted loss of \$10,951. This higher than expected surplus is primarily due to receiving \$17,209 in government grants (Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy). Total revenue was \$220,368, an increase of \$8,435 from 2020. In addition to the aforementioned government grants, the other significant revenue increase was the recognition of memorial fund revenue of \$11,319 to fund larger capital expenses. Other changes to note include the following:

- Pledges and Envelopes decreased by \$2,946
- Unspecified donations decreased by \$3,653
- Total use of facilities (including Kathy's Kitchen) increased by \$996
- Living the Mission transfer decreased by \$2,714

Please note that Rectory Trust Fund revenue of \$13,681 is an annual offset to roof amortization expense. Expenses increased by \$26,419 from 2020. This was primarily due to an increase in maintenance and repair items, and the decision to pay the remainder of 2020's fair share with part of the government grant received. If you have any questions about the church's financial position, please contact me and I would be happy to answer. Thanks to everyone for your generous support of financial and non-financial nature in 2021. I also thank you in advance for your support in 2022.

# REPORT OF THE SEXTON

Respectfully submitted by Terry Page

The ministry of the sexton is for the on-going maintenance, safety and care of the parish buildings, contents and grounds. Activities carried on in 2021 performed were a combination of regular routine and many one-of type activities totaling an accumulation of **232.5** hours of time. Other jobs requiring expertise were contracted to specialists.

## **A. The routine activities included:**

1. Replacing light bulbs and fluorescent tubes as well as EXIT light bulbs and emergency station light bulbs,
2. Checked and recorded the boiler system regularly to ensure proper circulating hot water temperatures to the radiators and thermostatically controlled zone valves are operational

## **B. The preventative maintenance work included:**

1. Having thermal imaging of all electrical panel breaker connections for potential hot connections required by the insurance company. Several electrical connections required tightening.
2. Arranged for elevator hydraulic hose to be replaced and servicing twice a year
3. Arranged access for annual fire extinguisher recertification
4. Arranged for Sask boiler inspector to perform boiler safety interlocks.
5. Arranged with heating contractor for prewinter boiler checkup
6. Tested emergency EXIT light batteries & replaced as needed.
7. Placed ant bait in kitchen to control ants.
8. Had elevator access key disconnected to prevent being trapped in the elevator.
9. Arranged for electrician to replace external light fixtures on west and hall exits.

## **C. Other one-off activity items included:**

1. Arranging for sewer specialist to unplug the lower hall floor drain as well as upper hall sewer lines.
2. Two year hall roof warrantee inspection by RMIS with minor repairs by Clarke Roofing performed.
3. Had Clarke Roofing repair/replace several damaged shingles on church roof due to high winds on two occasions.
4. Had one of the boiler hot water recirculation pumps repaired due to oil leakage from worn shaft seal.
5. Assisted with installing & dismantling Christmas tree and Advent wreath.
6. Coordinated sound system replacement.
7. Coordinated pot light installation on a dimmer switch in the library space.
8. Installed curtain in Kathy's Kitchen area for security and privacy.
9. Arranged for upper hall noisy exhaust fan to be rebuild with a new motor and damper
10. Patched cracks in wall & ceiling plaster of sacristy room.
11. Touched up paint chip marks in both bathrooms in upper hall.
12. Several pews were modified by carpenter for use in the sanctuary
13. Arranged to have hot water system pipe leak repaired.
14. Arranged for a chimney cap to be placed on top of chimney.
15. Sealed stucco cracks
16. Rebuilt sacristy door as slates were falling apart.

## **D. Outside Activities:**

1. Picking up garbage in the back lane from time to time from over flowing garbage cans to make the place presentable to the neighbourhood.
2. Trimmed weeds in back lane and court yard
3. Mowed lawns
4. Arranged for lawn & court yard weed control services
5. Arranged for snow removal services for the 2021- 2022 season
6. Arranged for a contractor to repair several sprinkler heads, make the underground sprinkler operational on timer system and blow out lines in the fall.
7. Arranged with Stan Webb for transporting eight pails of chemicals to city disposal site.

8. Removed ice out of down spouts

9. Constructed and filled six elevated flower beds on west side of the church with Rev Claude's help.

**E. Items proposed/pending in new year- 2022:**

1. Regular lawn care & weed control

2. Scrape, caulk & paint four exterior south office windows in the spring

3. Supply & install wall board in craft room following cleanup of mold last year

The sexton's work is only successful with reporting, support and fellowship of the rector, wardens and Wednesday morning prayer parishioners.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Baptisms: Derek Elliott, Gunnar Maupin

Burials: Allison Walker, Elsie Barrie, Donald Goss

Marriages: Derek Elliott and Li Pan

## **ST. MARY'S SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT**

Respectfully submitted by Karen Jaster-Laforge

Depending on the season, between 5-15 posts are scheduled to appear each week on the St. Mary's Anglican Church Family Ministry page. Post types include:

- Upcoming events
- Images from around St. Mary's (the church, garden, and in-person activities - when available)
- St. Mary's Announcements
- Diocese Announcements
- COVID Updates

Post are accompanied by clipart or a photo taken at or around St. Mary's.

We setup Facebook events for activities such as bible studies, children's activities, meetings and event such as our Outdoor Yard Sale.

As of January 30, 2022, the St. Mary's Facebook page has 164, an increase of 22 from last year at this time (when we started actively tracking followers in 2018, we had 43). Our largest demographic of followers is aged +65 and makes up 36% of our followers, and our second highest demographic is those aged 35-44 at 19%.

Where do our followers come from? Unsurprisingly, most are from Canada, but we also have followers from the US, Myanmar, Malaysia, Brazil, Congo, Uganda, Thailand, Nigeria, and the United Kingdom.

If you are on Facebook, please like the St. Mary's page - @StMarysAnglicanChurchFamilyMinistry and share our posts, events and the page details to help us stay connected online and grow. If you have anything you would like shared on the St. Mary's Facebook page, please email the details to me to be posted.

## FACILITY RENTALS

Respectfully submitted by Yvonne Schmidt-Sobek

Our first half of 2021 has been very quiet, thanks to COVID restrictions.

The Hibiki Taiko drumming group paid their storage fee and returned to practice in July.

Fluffy as Fluff Dessert kept our upstairs kitchen busy on Friday nights year round. We have received word that they will no longer be using our facility after March 2022. Rigel and Veronica move away from Regina. We wish them all the best.

The Ethiopian Church used our lower hall in March and again more regularly from August to December.

The Ladies Choir, Photo Club and AA Group returned for regular meetings in September.

Kathy's Kitchen operated year round from our downstairs kitchen.

2021 rental income	
AA One way group	\$150
Cathedral Village Arts Festival	cancelled
St.Marys Ethiopian	\$1,000
Regina Ladies Choir	\$768
Regina Photo Club	\$496
Special Olympics	no meetings
Regina Fringe Festival	cancelled
Hibiki Taiko	\$1,250
One time renters	\$2,289
Rigel/Veronica desserts	\$7,433
Kathy's Kitchen	\$17,640
Total	<b><u>\$30,876</u></b>

## WORSHIP

### ORGANIST

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Klippenstein

After playing services for the month of October, 2021 on a trial basis, in November I was pleased to accept the position as the Director of Music for St. Mary's Anglican Church. I have enjoyed meeting some of the parishioners thus far.

I am happy to play St. Mary's fine pipe organ and grand piano, and to have the opportunity to coach and direct the Morning Prayer chant group. This small group of talented and dedicated singers rehearses on Sunday mornings to learn the Morning Prayer Liturgy in 4 part harmony, which is sung at 10 am Sunday mornings prior to the 10:30 worship service. The group has also learned the Surge Illuminare (based on Isaiah 60) in 4 part harmony, which they sang during Advent.

I look forward to playing and hearing the parish of St. Mary's sing the Anglican Easter hymns this April.

God bless us all and grant us His peace.

## **SERVER GUILD**

Respectfully submitted by Gwyn Crozier-Smith

This has been a very interesting year as we are still in the grips of covid 19, however the two loyal server Lyndon & Gwyn have been in their places serving at the Lord's table assisting the Priest on that Sunday.

## **SACRISTAN GUILD**

Respectfully submitted by Gwyn Crozier-Smith

At this time there is only one member of the sacristan guild, but with the ongoing protocol for Clovis there has not been a lot to do, I am still keeping the Altar hangs changed for the different seasons and setting up for communion.

At this time I would like to say a huge big Thank You to everyone who came out help decorate the church for Christmas I really appreciated your help we had a good time, and also to Rev Paula and Sharon Klemke who came out on a very cold day to help take the decorations down.

## **COUNTING AND DEPOSITING OUR OFFERINGS 2021**

Respectfully submitted by Norma Trim

When St. Mary's Church closed in March 2020, Bill and I started going to the church usually weekly and counting the offerings mailed in or dropped into the mail box and then putting the money in the night deposit at the Credit Union. This continued though the opening and closing and reopening of the Church. I remained in contact, with Blair, Mike and Alanna when necessary. In September 2021, the vestry determined that that is not best practice (one family handling the money). I asked for volunteers to join us at the Church, and now Len and Brenda Gendall come to the office each week, and share in counting and preparing the deposit.

I do not think I wrote a report in 2020, and therefore I would like to thank the members of our four Greeting, Counting and Cashier Teams who volunteered until March 2020. Some of you were volunteers, in this ministry, longer than I was, and all of you were always there, when it was your turn. I hope that I can see you in the pews again, you remain in my thoughts and prayers.

## **PASTORAL CARE**

### **HOME COMMUNION AND PASTORAL CARE REPORT**

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Klemke (Lois Martin)

Like other ministries ours was affected by COVID restrictions and safety precautions. This report needs to represent Lois's ministry and mine separately. We have the same mission in mind but there were differences. Lois took Home Communion to her people when allowed throughout the year until she developed Macular degeneration and in November was not allowed to drive. Lois deserves praise for her dedication. She has been a church visitor since 1965 and began serving Home Communion in 1990 when Bishop Eric Bays first allowed lay ministry of communion. When Holy Trinity joined with St Mary's she continued on our team. Thank-you Lois and bless you.

My ministry this year has been completely of a pastoral nature. I chose not to visit anyone personally.

Like Lois I continue to phone people and send cards to keep in touch. (Thank-you to Judy Packwood for giving Lois a box of home crafted cards.) Sometimes this outreach includes sending packages like annual meeting reports, church calendars, fabric for quilts, prayer shawls, books, magazines and even a blanket. In these isolating times it is so important to keep in touch, to give our shut-ins a sense of inclusion and love. The shut-ins really appreciate receiving the bulletin, sermons and especially life notes in the mail. They like to keep up

with news of their church family. We show genuine interest in the lives and wellbeing of those we contact and this connection is reciprocal, we benefit as well.

We pray that the Covid restrictions will soon be lifted and that the Home Communion Ministry can continue in its natural form.

## **CASSEROLE AND MUFFIN MINISTRY**

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Dowie

“If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.” Isaiah 58:10

The purpose of the Casserole Ministry is to distribute nutritious food such as casseroles, soup, bread, muffins to people in need. This need may be due to personal or family crisis such as illness, injury or a death in the family. It is a tangible way for the community to support members going through difficult times. We also like to take meals to families that have a new baby. We also like to give muffins as a warm welcome to newcomers. This year food has been taken directly from one home to another home rather than stored in the freezer at the church.

Sometimes such as when there is a new baby in the family a meal train is set up. A schedule is set up and meals are delivered every other day or once a week as best for the receiving family. Families take turns making and delivering the meals.

Thank you to the many people who have taken part in this ministry.

## **THE GRAPEVINE: TELLING OUR STORIES SHARING OUR FAITH**

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Cross, Shelley Baron

The first edition of the Grapevine was distributed in December 2020 and was received with appreciation for the stories and for the people who shared their experience of how God had helped them deal with Covid.

The second edition came along in September 2021 and readers again expressed appreciation and comfort in the stories of other faith journeys. With this edition some of the children and seniors shared their faith in God's care and love for them. The drawings were delightful.

Sharing real life experiences of God's intervention in our lives strengthens our faith in the reality of God's love, care and power. It also builds up and binds the church community together which is extremely important in the work of the church.

The next Grapevine should be available sometime in March. We are hoping there will be many submissions. Should anyone have a story to tell but needs a bit of help getting it on paper, there are people who have offered to help.

## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY 2021**

Respectfully submitted by Norma Trim

Colossians 3:12 "Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe your selves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Contemplative Knitting (Crochet)

St. Mary's Prayer Shawl Ministry launched in Lent 2008. In 2021, we had at least 3 contributors. Occasionally prayer shawls get a private blessing and do not come through the Church. We have given prayer shawls to parishioners or others known to our parishioners: when ill, after the birth of a baby, after a move and when mourning a family member. We had 8 new prayer shawls added to our inventory and 13 prayer shawls given out this year. Two of our new parishioners are willing to join this Ministry.

# **CHILDREN AND YOUTH SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

## **NURSERY CARE**

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Dowie

The nursery room was kept open and clean for parents to use for changing and feeding their babies. Babies stayed in worship with their parents. One to three years old joined the children age 3-7 years in the children's worship Centre.

## **CHILDREN'S WORSHIP CENTRE (GODLY PLAY)**

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Dowie

"And Jesus took the children in his arms, put his hand on them and blessed them." Mark 10:16

"Godly Play" is the model for teaching biblical literacy used in the Children's Worship Centre. Godly Play is a method for telling stories using three - and two - dimensional materials in a liturgical context. Godly Play invites children to watch, listen, do, remember, and worship.

Two leaders each week prepare to lead the children in worship taking on the role of story teller and greeter. Eli Der, Myka Der, Heidi Dupont, Anya Mandziak, Jon Deng Mayen, Abuk, Ginny Lane, Nichte Recinos - Lane, Sandra Dowie have been Worship Centre leaders this past year. We thank God for these people who make Worship Centre possible. There are 11 children who attend Worship Centre regularly. The average attendance in our Worship Centre is 6 per Sunday.

## **SUMMER PROGRAM**

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Dowie

Each Sunday in July and August children and teens left the sanctuary at the gradual hymn and went to the church garden where they read the Gospel of the day, prayed, looked at, harvested, weeded and watered the church garden. They did art work outside using play dough, paints, and crayons. The produce harvested was shared with St. Mary's parish family and St. Mary's church neighbors. Thank you to Yvonne Schmidt-Sobek for taking care of the garden during the week.

## **FAMILY MINISTRIES**

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Dowie

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door-frames of your homes and on your gates." Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

Family Ministry is the teaching of the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord to our babies, our toddlers, our older children and our teenagers and the enabling of their parents and grandparents in this teaching. This may take place in the worship services, the class rooms, planned activities, mission work and in the homes of our families.

The Family Ministries team for 2021 was made up of Andrew and Starr Davis, Clara Der, Heidi Dupont, Dave and Janice Kerr, Norma Trim, and Sandra Dowie. With the cooperation and prayers of you, the parishioners of St. Mary's, the Family Ministries Team has organized "teaching" opportunities.

## CHURCH YARD SALE

Respectfully submitted by Clara Der

St. Mary's hosted a Church Yard Sale on July 24th. It has been a long time since the last rummage sale and the first to be held outdoors. It was a huge collaborative effort from the young and old of St. Mary's. With the work of many hands and over the span of weeks, donated items were collected, sorted, priced and carried outside the morning of the sale. The day was clear, breezy and sunny, perfect for being outdoors. This was also a year into our pandemic where we were masking, often social distancing and/ or isolating. \$2400 was raised for roof repairs. Our gratitude to the generous donations and to the many volunteers. It was a blessed time of connection!

Organizers : Norma, Sharon, Janice, Clara



## MEND WITH CARE

Respectfully submitted by Clara Der

Mend with Care began as an idea during isolation. It was a way to serve during a time of isolation when the church doors were closed. Within our small group we welcome items that require simple mending or patching. The proceeds or donations offered in return would go toward the church. Thank you to those who responded and supported this quiet service.

Menders : Sharon, Norma, Clara

## ST. NICHOLAS

Respectfully submitted by Len Gendall

St. Nicholas visited 10 homes on Saturday afternoon Dec. 4th, and it all went well: 28 children under the age of 10 received a blessing and small bag of treats. Only one youngster, Claire Meeres (age 2), was asleep for the visit but St. Nicholas left a written blessing and a small bag of treats for her just the same. Both St. Nicholas and his driver had a lot of fun during the day. (My daughter, Amy, actually volunteered to be the navigator/driver this year because it was such a nice thing to do.) (Notice the empty boots on the doorsteps - that's where St. Nicholas would put the treats after the kids went back inside!)



## **ADVENT YOUTH**

Respectfully submitted by Janice and Dave Kerr

It was a wonderful blessing for us to spend four Sundays in Advent with our St. Mary's youth. We began on Sunday, November 28 and continued to meet each Sunday at 7 pm, finishing on December 19. Each evening included playing some games followed by a Bible Study which included an activity for them to do and ended with prayer and a goal for each of them to work on through the week.

November 28 - Beth and Lyndon joined us. After some games we talked about the Outcasts (the shepherds) and did a shepherds crook craft. 8 youth attended.

December 5 - Katherine joined us. After some games we talked about the Givers (the wisemen) and wrote Christmas cards for our parishioners who are house bound. 13 youth attended.

December 12 - John and Roberta and Nathaniel joined us. After some games we talked about The Rebel (King Herod). John also told the youth some of his story about growing up in Northern Ireland. 7 youth attended.

December 19 - Fred, Len and Brenda joined us. After some games we talked about the Watcher (Simeon) and looked through newspapers to see where God is at work. 13 youth attended.

Masks were required as were double vaccinations for those 12 and over. There is a huge need for us to keep connected with our St. Mary's youth and it was really great to see them interacting and enjoying being together.

## **OUTREACH/CITY MINISTRIES AND PARTNERSHIPS**

### **THE MITTEN TREE 2021**

Respectfully submitted by Norma Trim and Sharon Klemke

We wanted to have a way that the St. Marys parishioners could still be involved in our community, even though we can't volunteer in our usual ministries. Sharon and I put up a tree on the landing, with only lights and garlands, as the donations were to be the decorations. We chose Souls Harbour Rescue Mission, as the recipient, as they minister to all ages.

Our Giving for Warmth Mitten Tree request for mittens, socks and toques was blessed by receiving 125 donations; mittens-22 pairs, socks-60 pairs, hats-23, Scarves-8 and hand warmers -12.

Thank you to Paula for helping to take down the tree, and sort the donations.



## **WORLD VISION**

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Dowie

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven... a time to weep and a time laugh, and a time to mourn and a time to dance...” Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4

Another way the Family Ministries team aims to work together to bring about individual growing in faith is in the cooperation in helping our World Vision child. Our children and teens and their families are committed to helping Jefrin and his community through child sponsorship through World Vision. The children’s Sunday morning offering supports this sponsorship of \$35.00 per month. Our families take turns writing a letter or card to Jefrin. Sometimes they draw a picture or include a photo, bookmark or stickers.

We received Jefrin as our child in 2002 when he was 4 years old. From regular correspondence with Jefrin and his mom our children learn about Jefrin and his family. Jefrin lives in Honduras with his mother, father, three brothers and two sisters. His mother is a housewife and his father is a day labourer who does not have regular work. Jefrin is 14 years old and in Grade 7 at school. He likes to play football with his friend and to help his parents with errands. Our support helps Jefrin and his family receive medications and participate in birthday celebrations and sports. It helps families in his community buy small animals and have healthy homes and school. In their letters Jefrin and his mom tell us they pray for us and ask God to bless us. We receive a Christmas card from Jefrin each year.

Please pray for Jefrin, his family, and community. In the Children’s Worship Centre at St Mary’s there is a binder with letters from Jefrin for anyone who is interested to read.

## **NEWCOMER/REFUGEE COMMITTEE**

Respectfully submitted by Nathaniel Athian Deng Mayen

### **Votes of Thanks**

The Refugee Support Program has been prayfully quiet after the generosity of St. Mary’s enabled us achieved our fundraising goal to sponsor a refugee family of six within two years. Special thanks to the Vestry for the designation of the offering for Advent to refugee fund, Nate and Mary Ross and the volunteers for Plowing for the People’s roto tilting, Clara Der and the volunteers that amend the torn clothes, Yvonne and the team selling the beeswax at the church, and the families and individuals who donate their recycling to St. Mary to support refugee sponsorship. The Plowing for the People, which recently made a donation of \$2,500 to the refugee fund in addition to their previous donation of \$3,500, has been our greatest donor during the pandemic. Individual donations kicked off the refugee sponsorship process with a donation of \$7,000 and \$5,000 from anonymous donors in 2019 and 2020.

### **What Can You Do If You Volunteer for the Refugee Support Committee?**

- Arrange for financial support for shelter (rent, electricity and other utilities), clothing (winter and other clothing), furniture, household effects (bedding, cleaning products, kitchen supplies, linen), school fees and supplies (if applicable), food staples, and hook-up costs for phone and internet, transportation (public transit), pocket money and other allowances.
- Arrange necessary housing for the refugee family (permanent and temporary housing).
- Meet refugees at the airport and provide transportation to final destination in Regina
- Arrange transportation to medical appointments and other activities
- Provide orientation for money and its use, shopping, and rights and responsibilities
- Assist with application for health card, banking card, social insurance and child benefits

- Assist with finding family physician, dentist, optometrist, social worker, or another specialist.
- Link the refugees with community groups, such as Open Door Society, for language, if needed
- Assist with childcare arrangements and enrolment in adult English classes, if applicable.
- Provide assistance in getting employment or accessing groups to assist with employment.

### **Plans for the Refugee Family – Application in Process**

The refugee family includes Mapiou Deng Arok and his wife Elizabeth Ahou Bol Thon (see their picture attached), their three children, and Dau Mark Atem. St. Mary is blessed with family members who can take on some responsibilities for the refugee family. Elizabeth Amuor Deng and Deng Mark Atem are available to provide transport for medical appointments and emotional support when the refugee family arrives in Regina. Rev. Nathaniel Deng Mayen will arrange for family physician for the refugee family.

However, we are looking for volunteers to assist with welcoming at the airport and providing transport to Service Canada to apply for Social Insurance Number (SIN), Ehealth Saskatchewan to apply for health cards and to the Royal bank of Canada to apply for banking cards. Three of the refugee family members, Mapiou, Elizabeth and Dau, will attend the Language Assessment Centre for language assessment. Dau and Elizabeth will likely attend English language classes with the Regina Open Door Society. Mapiou is a university undergraduate and will likely enter the Canadian workplace to support the family or attend the university of his choice for further studies if he chooses to continue with graduate studies. The children will attend the elementary school, preferably through the Regina Catholic School system.



Since January 2020, we have been waiting for the family of Mapiou and Dau to arrive in Regina, but the pandemic has made sponsor more difficult. However, we are thankful because our decision to sponsor has given the family hope. They know they have St. Mary as a second family in Regina, in addition to their relatives Elizabeth Amour Deng and Deng Mark Atem.

Final special thanks to the members of Refugee Support Committee: Janice Kerr, Mary Ross, Deng Mark, and Sandra Dowie. Their positivity and patience have been unmeasurable. Having Sandra, Janice and Mary on the wheel is a blessing during the pandemic when the process has taken a longer time.

### **Item for Future Discussion**

We have received a request for refugee sponsorship from overseas. The Refugee Support Committee will deliberate on the request and respond with the decision whether we will take on the responsibility of sponsoring another refugee family in the future. What do St. Mary members think about this journey?

## **ABORIGINAL, NON ABORIGINAL SHARING CIRCLE**

Respectfully submitted by Norma Trim

Our ANARC participation has not been in St. Mary's hall or kitchen since February 2020. As in all of our Ministries, there has been alternate ways of continuing our relationship. We met by Zoom (from January to May and October to December). We met in Candy Cane Park (with individual cookies and drinks) and our own picnic supper. On September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation a Prayer Service was held in Holy Rosary Church. At 4:30, in the parking lot, a cultural experience and teaching through traditional dance was performed, where the steps and the spirits of the dancers bring healing to the survivors of the residential schools, individual snacks were provided. I have conversation with Reanne Letourneau, usually monthly and we all pray for each other.

## **FOREVER IN MOTION SENIOR EXERCISE**

Respectfully submitted by Yvonne Schmidt-Sobek

I am thankful to offer the Forever in Motion Senior exercise program to couples from St. Mary's and friends from all neighborhoods. The program includes endurance, strength, balance and flexibility activities which may be performed either in sitting or standing positions.

For the safety of my clients the rules for online classes are: have your chair close so you can hold on, do not join the class when you are alone at home, stop doing the move if you feel pain or not comfortable, keep breathing and have a good time.

Thank you to all who come and keep fit and welcome to all who want to join us, it is free. Class time: Tuesday mornings from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. For more information please email Yvonne Schmidt-Sobek: [yvonne.sobek@web.de](mailto:yvonne.sobek@web.de)