

# SAINT MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH



## REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING February 19, 2023

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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## REPORT OF THE RECTOR

I want to begin my report by expressing my gratitude to you all for the prayers, support and encouragement for the six-month sabbatical Hilary and I took from Nov 2022 to the end of May of last year, which included a 3-month locum assignment at All Saints Cathedral, Cairo in the newly formed Anglican Province of Alexandria. I am grateful to Revd Paula Foster who served as interim in my absence, and especially to Beth Christianson who as Churchwarden and Lay Reader bore a burden on managing and coordinating parish.

The sabbatical was a rich and stimulating time for us, if not entirely “restful” and I was very pleased to share to offer “Lessons from the Egyptian Desert” presentation at St. Mary’s in July which featured slide presentation and Egyptian cuisine.

The Anglican Diocese in Egypt is a theologically traditional and thriving Anglican church, and I was particularly taken by the “evangelistic” edge to the ministry coupled with impressive social outreach. The Church there is under no illusions that the culture there is Christian. It is decidedly Muslim! However, thanks to the “adhan” (the announcement) that is the Islamic call to prayer which is broadcast from loudspeakers atop the minarets five times a day, God is “in the air” which stands in marked contrast to the secular ideologies that fill our airwaves. This impressed upon me the need for us to recover and develop a culture of evangelism that was once very much part of the DNA of Anglicanism, and to find our “evangelistic voice.” This summer the meeting of Anglican Bishops from around the world at The Lambeth Conference issued a series of “calls” to The Anglican Communion, the first of which is to evangelistic mission. Our Celebrating St. Nicholas event in December which in my view such a great success (see report below) and our evangelistic lessons and carols service in December were baby steps in this direction.

My visits to the Anaphora Retreat Centre of the Coptic Church and the Monastery of St. Macarius (4th century) brought to my awareness the importance of disciplined prayer life, the centrality of liturgical prayer in the life of the Church, rootedness in The Great Tradition, the practice of hospitality, the importance of the liturgical arts and a concern for beauty, and the Church as an agent for the renewal of creation. I really do believe our parish offers fertile ground for the development of these themes, and later in the meeting we will have opportunity to discuss and discern some ideas and proposals.

Without a doubt these last few years of COVID with sicknesses, lock downs, masking, social distancing, and the generalized atmosphere of stress, fear, and anxiety has been rough on us all. We have experienced the fracturing of relationships, the disruption of patterns and rhythms, the departure of parishioners, financial pressures, and in 2022 we were given to mourn the loss of beloved members of our parish, notably Marion Persson, Beryl Forgay, and Jo Crosby. As in many other sectors of society, we now find ourselves in a time of recovery, but also, I believe, rebuilding and renewal. It was a delight to see the unfolding of the Creation Mural during The Gospel in the Garden summer children’s program. This year we celebrated the Baptisms of Dante Williamson, and my first ever ‘baptism by immersion’ of Luka and Johanna Davis, and the wedding of Allison Luff and David Brown. The Morning Prayer Choir resumed rehearsals on Sunday morning, and continue it’s ministry of chanting the service, and also leading in the communion anthems and hymn. In the fall we held a ‘family meeting’ to inform the parish as to our financial challenges, and this was followed by the fall “unstewardship campaign” comprising of a special sermon series and number of personal witness talks by members of the congregation on aspects of Christian stewardship and their own personal experience. The fall also saw the re-boot of our Faithquest Children’s Ministry and the re-introduction of the Children’s Talk on Sunday mornings. The church bell, which some time ago had been donated to St. Mary’s from St. Philipp’s Anglican Church was installed at the 15th ave entrance and now signals the beginning of Sunday liturgy in fulfillment of the Scripture, “Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.”(Isaiah 12:6.) The GrapeVine newsletter featuring personal faith testimonies of parishioners continues to encourage. For several years now St. Mary’s has been raising funds and preparing for the arrival of our refugee family, and news of their delayed arrival came as disappointment, but we now rejoice that Mapio Deng Arok and his family have arrived safely. We rounded out 2022 in December with our Celebrating St. Nicholas Event and the Lessons and Carols Guest Service, and Epiphany Service and celebration.

The heartbeat of our parish, which “keeps the blood flowing” are the weekday services of Morning and Evening Prayer at which I am never alone, and where I am conscious of those absent but are praying at home. The Sunday service of Morning Prayer and Holy Communion and coffee hour are the highlight and climax of our week. This is the time and this is the place where through inner stillness and silence and the hidden inward meditation of our hearts we are mystically and sacramentally united to Jesus Christ.

In a sermon entitled, “On the State that Jesus Confers”, the Abbot Aimilianos of Simonopetra Monastery said,

“When we come to church filled with longing, when we celebrate liturgies and vigils what are we looking for? Christ! In order to find Him, strive to enter that hidden, inner meditation and you will see that He’ll come of His own accord. You will see the heavy stone roll away from your heart and He Himself will rise!

What are we looking for? A universal state of being within the Church; an inward state of being, conferred by Jesus. Experiences, feelings, longings, and visions; it would be unfitting to say that these are anything other than a state of being created by Jesus Christ; a state of being realized and fulfilled only by His presence, and which without Him, disappears at once.

My beloved children, behold that which is here; nothing else. Whatever you see has been established and conferred by Jesus. “

May our crucified, risen and ascended Lord continue grace us with His Presence as we to strive to enter into that state of being which he has established.

Yours faithfully,

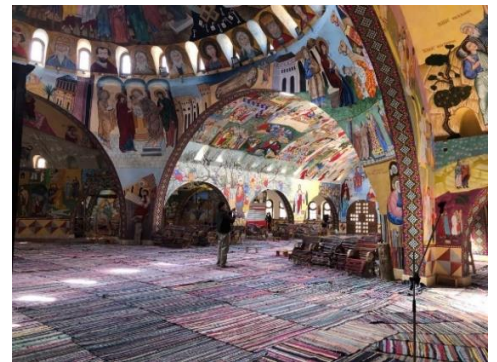
Claude +



All Saints Cathedral Kairo



Monastery of St. Macarius



Underground Church, Anafora, Egypt

## **REPORT OF THE VESTRY AND WARDENS**

Respectfully submitted by Beth Christianson, Rector’s Warden

We began 2022 once again in lockdown, with services in January and into February happening online. We were able to meet in person again by Lent.

We had changes in renting groups, with the dessert company “Fluffy as Fluff” leaving us in January, and Kathy’s Kitchen needing to renegotiate their rent due to a slow return of business. Other weekly renters did begin to return, including the Regina Ladies’ Choir, the Japanese Drumming Group, AA, etc.

We formed Stewardship and Discipleship committees this year, with membership from Vestry and from the congregation at large. These groups offered leadership and suggestions to the Parish executive, for which we are very grateful.

We are grateful to the new leadership and volunteers who are revitalizing our children's and youth ministries.

It began to be clear in the summer that we were going to have a larger deficit in 2022 than anticipated, because of the loss of some long-time parishioners and unexpected increases in insurance and utilities costs. In September we held a Family Meeting to discuss the situation, and later in the fall we had a successful stewardship campaign which resulted in increased giving. The result was that our 2022 deficit was less than we feared. Vestry is very grateful for the faithfulness of St. Mary's parish family.

Attendance has been steadily rising over the fall and winter months, with many new people joining us regularly for worship, including the Mapiou family from the refugee camp in Uganda. Fall and winter events like the St. Nicholas Festival were very well attended, and we were able to share our hospitality with the community and give people a taste of what our life together is like.

We faced many challenges in 2022, and the people of St. Mary's rose to the occasion time and again. As Vestry and Wardens, it has been a great blessing to see the people of this parish work together to keep our church home vibrant, warm, and welcoming. Thank you.

## **ENVELOPE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Respectfully submitted by Blair Laforge

The envelope secretary issued tax receipts for a total of \$156,981 contributed in 2022. This was down \$10,368 from 2021. Of the 76 envelope holders and other identifiable givers, the frequency distribution of 2022 annual contributions are as follows:

Amount of Annual Donation	Number of Donors
\$1-\$99	14
\$100-\$499	13
\$500-\$999	8
\$1000-\$1999	15
\$2000-\$2999	4
\$3000-\$3999	8
\$4000-\$4999	5
\$5000-\$5999	4
\$6000 or greater	5

Total Donors: 75

Total donors were up 1 from the previous year. At year-end, 13 parish families were participating in the direct deposit program. \$50 was contributed to the Memorial Fund. Thank you all for your patience and co-operation. In particular, thanks to Norma, Alanna, and Yvonne for all their help.

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Respectfully submitted by Alana Schemenauer, Treasurer

Attachments include:

- December 31, 2022, year-end income statement and balance sheet (internal)
- 2023 budget

In 2022, St. Mary's had a net loss of \$17,327 compared to a budgeted loss of \$11,403. This higher than budgeted loss was primarily due to lower than anticipated rental income.

Total revenue was \$193,346, a decrease of \$27,023 from 2021. In addition to lower rental income, there was no government wage subsidy received in 2022.

Please note that Rectory Trust Fund revenue of \$13,681 is an annual offset to roof amortization expense and Memorial Fund revenue of \$3,016 is an offset to the organ repair amortization expense.

Expenses decreased by \$ 11,825 from 2021. This was primarily due to lower maintenance and repair expenses and the decision to pay less in fair share (in 2021 the government grant was used to pay the outstanding fair share from 2020).

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 2022. I also thank you in advance for your support in 2023.

## 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 2022 performed were a combination of regular routine, preventative and several one-off activities totaling an accumulation of 183 hours of time. Other jobs requiring technical expertise were arranged using contract 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 boiler system readings regularly to ensure proper circulating hot water temperatures to the radiators and thermostatically controlled zone valves.

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

1. Arranged for annual city back water check valve testing
2. Arranged for elevator servicing twice a year
3. Arranged access for annual fire extinguisher recertification
4. Arranged heating contractor for prewinter boiler checkup
5. Tested emergency EXIT light batteries & replaced as needed.
6. Placed ant bait as needed in kitchen to control ants.
7. Arranged for three hot water heater tank annual checks

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

1. Arranged for lower hall carpet cleaning.
2. Arranged for sewer specialist to unplug the lower hall floor drain as well as upper hall sewer lines.
3. Assisted with installing & dismantling Christmas tree and Advent wreath.
4. Arranged for chimney cap to be painted black to reduce glare to surrounding neighbours.
5. Repaired furniture.
6. Assisted with replacement vacuum cleaner.

### D. Outside Activities:

1. Picking up garbage in the back lane from time to time from overflowing garbage cans to make the place presentable to the neighbourhood.
2. Trimmed weeds as required in back lane and courtyard.
3. Mowed lawns.
4. Arranged for lawn & courtyard weed control & fertilizing services.

5. Arranged for snow removal services for the 2022- 2023 season.
6. Arranged for several sprinkler head repairs, make the underground sprinkler operational on timer system and blow out lines in the fall.
7. Scrape, caulk & paint all exterior south office and upper hall windows.
8. Replaced grass with wood chips around tree, shrubs, and swing at Montague St entrance on west side of the church with Hilary & Sandra's help.
9. Securely mounted the church bell to the ground near northwest church entrance door.

**E. Items proposed/pending in new year- 2023:**

1. Regular lawn care & weed control.
2. Recording boiler readings
3. Sealing stucco cracks
4. Supply & install wall board in craft room following cleanup of mold issue couple years ago.

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



Chips scattered around tree, Church bell installed, and chimney cap painted black.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Baptisms: Dante Williamson, Luka and Johanna Davis

Burials: Marian Lynn Persson, Beryl Alice Forgay, Josephine Crosby

Marriages: Adam Brown & Allison Luff



# ST. MARY'S SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Respectfully submitted by Karen Jaster-Laforge

The purpose of the St. Mary's Anglican Church Family Ministry Facebook page is to support the St. Mary's Vision by building an online presence through Facebook, connecting online with the community around us (fellow Anglican churches in Saskatchewan and Canada, organizations in the Cathedral neighborhood, and other communities in Regina that share our goals and vision), and providing clear and welcoming information that will encourage those with similar passions to connect with us.

Between 5-15 posts are scheduled/shared each week. Post types include:

- Promotion of upcoming events (St. Mary's events, events hosted by our Facebook connections, etc.)
- Images from around St. Mary's (the church, garden, and in-person activities - when available)
- St. Mary's and congregant announcements
- Posts shared from our online community's Facebook pages.

Facebook Events are created for larger activities such as: bible studies, youth activities, meetings and larger events such as Yard Sales, Christmas and Easter Services, and special Holy Day celebrations.

As of January 29, 2023, the St. Mary's Facebook page has 191 followers, an increase of 27 from last year at this time (when we started actively tracking followers in 2018, we had 43). Our largest demographic of followers is aged 35-44 and make up 22.1% of our followers, and our second highest demographic are aged 25-34 and make up 21.9% of our followers.

Most of our followers are unsurprisingly from Canada, but we also have followers from the US, Malaysia, Nigeria, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, India, Martinique, and Myanmar.

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

The Ethiopian Church is using our Lower Hall and Sanctuary every Saturday morning.

Our regular renters the Ladies Choir, Photo Club, AA Group and the Hibiki Taiko drumming group renewed their contracts for 2023. Kathy's Kitchen operated year-round from our downstairs kitchen.

From June 1-3 the Metis Nation will hold their Mosaic Pavilion in our Upper Hall.

We get a lot of inquiries for example a square dance group, Long & McQuade, acoustic open mic nights, City Kids and more are looking into booking our Upper Hall.

A big thank you to Ben who updated our website with all the rental information!

Keep an Eye on our Community Calendar here at the Montague Street entrance hallway and do not forget to check our website: [www.stmarysregina.ca](http://www.stmarysregina.ca).

### 2022 estimated rental income

AA One way group	\$450
Cathedral Village Arts Festival	\$350
St. Marys Ethiopian	\$2,400
Regina Ladies Choir	\$1,232
Regina Photo Club	\$528

Hibiki Taiko	\$2,000
One-time renters	\$480
Kathy's Kitchen	\$12,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,840</b>

## **WORSHIP**

### **ORGANIST**

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Klippenstein

I continue to enjoy playing St. Mary's pipe organ and grand piano. Both instruments were tuned in 2022 and the organ underwent a few minor repairs.

The Chant Group/Choir completed the project of learning the Morning Prayer Setting in 4-part harmony, which we sing every Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. We also learned the Surge Illuminare . (Isaiah 60), to be sung during Advent Morning Prayer. The group has been learning hymns, familiar and new, to lead the congregation in song during the Eucharist. They are a most pleasant group to work with. God bless St. Mary's as they sing praises and thanks to Him.

### **SERVER GUILD**

Respectfully submitted by Gwyn Crozier-Smith

The two loyal Servers Lyndon and Gwyn continue to take their place at the lords table on Sunday mornings. And ready to aid in other services as needed.

### **SACRISTAN GUILD**

Respectfully submitted by Gwyn Crozier-Smith

As there is only one member, I am able to come in on a Saturday afternoon and set the Altar. for Sunday morning and change the Altar hanging for the different seasons.

I would like to say a big Thank You the Sharon Klemke for helping to decorate the Church for Harvest and to Claude and Terry for putting up and taking down the Christmas and Hilary for putting up the cedar boughs this was very much appreciated.

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

Respectfully submitted by Len & Brenda Gendall & Bill & Norma Trim

This ministry is still very necessary, but much smaller than it used to be. Most of the money is now handled electronically, but there is some cash every week. Two families are handling the cash, thus one family is doing the data entry and one family doing the deposit (on a week day). We take turns bringing tea and coffee.

## **PASTORAL CARE**

### **HOME COMMUNION**

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Klemke and Lois Martin

Lois and I are licensed by the bishop to take Home Communion to the home-bound members of St. Mary's church, under the direction of Claud. It is a very rewarding ministry.

Lois visits her church members regularly. She no longer drives so takes paratransit. This is dedication! I believe a family member pays her costs.

Home Communion is offered to the people I visit but most of them are happy with a pastoral care approach. (I believe this is a result of the Covid isolation) They like phone calls, cards, church calendars, and occasional food. Three of them phone me which I appreciate. They always appreciate getting news of the church activities, the bulletin, sermon and (I hope the life notes) are sent out to them.

Lois comments: "She is encouraged that the Diocese is offering a program of Home Communion classes, it will be advantages to many people. The new services offered by retired priests and laity to local nursing homes is good news. She hopes they can set up a service for Wascana Rehab."

This ministry is not restricted to shut-in seniors. If you know of anyone that is not able to get out to church due to illness or other affliction, and you feel they would like a Home Communion visit, please contact Claude, Lois, or myself. We visit hospitals, care homes and private homes.

These people that we visit, several over 90 years old, have been an integral part of our St. Mary's church family, sometimes for decades. It behooves us to include them in our outreach and prayers as they feel a strong attachment to their home church, and they need to be encouraged to feel that they are still part of our church community.

### **COFFEE MINISTRY**

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Cross

In 2022 the coffee ministry has needed to be quite inventive because of the Covid situation.

We celebrated anniversaries and birthdays with careful distancing in doors.

And one baptism out of doors. Each event was special, enjoyable, and blessed.

The last few months some of the covid concern has lessened and we have re-established.

the regular coffee ministry after the service. It is a happy and relaxed time visiting with old friends and the opportunity to meet and welcome newcomers.

I am thankful for all the help I have received in getting this ministry re-established.

A special thank you to the weekly teams and to those who have donated goodies to serve with the tea and coffee. Volunteers to help in this ministry are always welcome.

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

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Cross & Shelley Baron

*TELLING OUR STORES SHARING OUR FAITH* The first Grape Vine in 2020 brought stories of how God helped the writers deal with the Covid out break. Little did we know that we would have 2 more years of needing and experiencing God's help to deal with it.

2021 and 2022 editions of the Gape Vine brought stories from our seniors about their faith journeys. Others told stories of experiencing God's grace and answered prayer for their day-to-day needs. St Mary's children

shared their faith through hand drawn pictures and stories. Which was a highlight in that edition. Thank you to all who shared their experiences of God's love and care.

The next Grape Vine is scheduled for May. We are hoping there will be many submissions.

## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Respectfully submitted by Norma Trim

Colossians 3: 12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness humility, meekness, and patience.

The St. Mary's Anglican Prayer Ministry began in Lent of 2008. The Shawls are given out after a. new baby, leaving town, bereaved, having surgery, in crises, requiring treatment, terminally ill. At this time, we have 6 people making shawls with many different patterns and sizes. This year there were 22 shawls donated and 29 shawls blessed by Paula Foster Interim Minister and the Revd. Canon Claude Schroeder. We have yarn donated by the crafter, by other parishioners and by friends and relatives of parishioners.

When the shawls were blessed in October, I gave some history of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, I have added it to this report. 208 shawls have been crafted by 18 different people over the last 14 years.



## **PRAYER CHAIN**

Respectfully submitted by Ann Knutson

St. Mary's Prayer Chain is a valuable ministry offered by a dedicated group of church members. During times of illness or crisis, individuals can contact the chain for prayer, either for themselves or for a friend or family member. The leader passes on the request and it continues down the chain. Prayers are kept confidential but often updates are received and subsequent prayer may be required. Fifty requests were received and prayed for in 2022.

"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise." James 5:13

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH SPIRITUAL FORMATION

## CHILDREN'S WORSHIP CENTRE (GODLY PLAY)

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Dowie

In the Children's Worship Centre we use Godly Play for introducing children to the wonder of worship. It is based on the book *Young Children and Worship* by Sonja M. Stewart and Jerome W. Berryman. It integrates religious education and worship. Key scriptures are used to learn about Jesus. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined." Isaiah 9:2." Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" Matt. 21:9; and about the kingdom of heaven "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." Matthew 13:31-32. Prayer is included: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise. Average attendance is 6. We enjoy welcoming visitors. Thank you to faithful Worship Centre leaders: Anya Mandziak, Oleksandra Orr, Eli Der, Myka Der, Jon Deng Mayen, Heidi Dupont, Abuk Jurkuch.

## FAITH QUEST

Respectfully submitted by Andrew Davis

Faith Quest (FQ) is St. Mary's program for children aged 7 – 13. FQ operates on a rotation model, where one Bible story/ lesson is covered in 3-4 different workshops (i.e. drama, art, cooking, games, movies, music, science, etc.) As of the winter of 2020, Faith Quest regularly had 10 or more children in attendance. In-person programming all but ceased during the pandemic and remained suspended until the fall of 2022. During that time Kate Berringer stepped back from coordinating FQ.

### The Relaunch

I agreed to take over coordination of the program in September 2022. I was new to it, and the profile of the church and especially its children had changed significantly over the preceding 30 months. Several families have not been back at St. Mary's or have been back only sporadically while new families have become more engaged in the church with the result that there has been 100% turnover in Faith Quest-aged kids, and approximately 75% turnover in adult leadership in that time.

Kate Berringer graciously agreed to stay on to train new volunteers, to advise, and to lead or coordinate individual lessons. She offered a training session for anyone interested in contributing to FQ in October 2022. This was well-attended, and particularly encouraging was the interest shown by several fathers of FQ-aged children in taking on leadership roles.

Faith Quest relaunched weekly Sunday programming in mid-November. We covered a short unit on the Prodigal Son before moving into Advent, spending 4 weeks on Isaiah's prophecies about the coming of Christ. The children memorised Isaiah 9:6. We had no FQ for 3 Sundays over Christmas (on one of which we held a planning meeting for the next half year) but resumed on January 15 with the first of 4 lessons on the book of Esther (memory verse: Proverbs 3:5). Between now and the end of June, we will offer FQ every Sunday except Palm Sunday and Easter. We are adding a few new lessons in that time, as well as updating some lessons from previous years.

### Attendance

Attendance has been steadily growing. 2 children attended our first lesson, 3 attended the second, and we were joined partway through by the kids from Worship Centre. 5 - 6 children were in attendance for the last few lessons of Advent. The new year has seen those numbers increase again with between 8 and 10 children in attendance so far in January. I would assess that there is a core group of 8 children that are likely to be in attendance most Sundays.

This group of kids skews younger. In part, this is because some older children in Worship Centre have started coming occasionally to Faith Quest. Whether these younger children can benefit from the content and structure of FQ depends on their individual personalities and ability. Some of the 5–6-year-old kids can read, memorise verses, and understand key concepts. While there are a few older FQ-aged children in or associated with the church, these have not been back at FQ since we relaunched.

### Needs work

1. We need to monitor the progress of the younger kids to 1) make sure they are benefitting from FQ without detracting from the older kids' experience and 2) make sure their absence from Worship Centre is not negatively impacting on that ministry.
2. We need to consider ways to re-engage with the older FQ-aged kids or to help them transition into a youth program.
3. We have 13 individuals who have said they will lead, coordinate or shepherd a lesson. We can operate with 2 adults present for every FQ lesson. However, this puts a significant strain on some individuals and families. Ideally each leader, coordinator or shepherd would have no more than 1 duty per month. Currently, some people have up to 3 duties per month. We need 2 – 3 more volunteers to help with various tasks and to make sure the core group of leaders do not get burnt out.
4. Faith Quest mostly operates in 2 rooms off the lower hall. While this is a good and useful space, some things need updating. The flooring and some of the walls are in relatively poor shape, and we need to rethink some of the storage/ organisational solutions. Other items of furniture, costumes, game supplies etc require minor repairs and/ or updates.

Overall, I am encouraged by how the relaunch of Faith Quest has gone to date. We have a core of enthusiastic and engaged children who are already getting their parents more involved in the life of the church. This is coming at an important time, as there is a relatively large group of kids aged 1 – 5 who will be entering FQ in the coming years.

## **SUMMER PROGRAM**

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Dowie

Each Sunday in July and August the children and their leaders left worship at the gradual hymn to go to the garden. At the garden they read the Gospel of the day, prayed, looked at, weeded, watered, and harvested the garden. Paper, pencils, scissors, markers, paint, sidewalk chalk, Sunday papers were provided for extra activities. Myka Der created an amazing creation mural on the sidewalk for the children to paint. The mural provided many opportunities to talk with neighbors and passersby. Snacks of water, crackers, vegetables, and fruit were provided.



## ST. NICHOLAS

Respectfully submitted by Angèle Poirier, Saint Nicholas Day organizing committee co-chair

### Vision and purpose

The motto of Saint Nicholas Day was “Growing in love for God, for the Church, for the children, for the poor.” One of Father Claude Schroder’s personal missions was to help the parishioners of Saint Mary’s find their “evangelistic voice.” Parishioners were encouraged to look out and invite in. Saint Nicholas Day offered an opportunity for Saint Mary’s to show love and kindness in the community, to collaborate with organizations and to be hospitable hosts on Saturday, December 2, 2022.

### Chronology

On Sunday, October 23, 2022, an organizing committee for St. Nicholas Day was struck. The members were Father Claude Schroeder (rector), Andrew Davis (vestry member), Norma Trimm (baking team lead), Heidi Dupont (kids’ activities), Janice Kerr (she did a bit of everything), Terrance Williamson (live music), Angèle Poirier (coordinator), and Simon Elkin (co-chair with Angèle). Len Gendall later joined as the grill team liaison.

The organizing committee met each Sunday until the event on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2022. There was a lot of communication which happened through the week, mostly by email.

In the 7 to 14 days leading up to the event, several noteworthy activities took place. The grill team had a dress rehearsal to test the quality of the food and the ease of running a barbecue in the snow. The outdoor banner was designed, ordered, paid for, picked up, and mounted with ropes between two trees. Items were purchased to stuff children’s shoes. The program was designed, edited many times, and finally printed and folded. Invitations for Lessons and Carols were designed and printed, to be handed out to guests on their way out. The Saint Nicholas workshop sign was built, complete with lights and garland (luckily, this can be reused next time). I understand that Andrew Davis was up until the wee hours of the morning building the outdoor nativity scene.

On Friday, December 1, a setup crew attended the church from 8:30 am to 8pm. The team set up the gym, Saint Nicholas’ workshop (kids’ area in the basement), the café, the baking, the market area, and the cashier table. At least three working professionals took holidays from their day jobs. At least two people also booked holidays for the day of the event.

On Saturday, December 2, 2022 (Saint Nicholas Day), volunteers and organizers presented at the church beginning at 10am, 4 hours before the start of the event. Guests began arriving as early as 1pm, and we turned them away, but they came back for 2pm.

The outdoor vendors were well in place by 2pm. Cozy Cuffs (“the mittens lady”) arrived by 1:30 and found everything to her liking (we had communicated every detail in advance, including parking, table dimensions, and plug-in locations). She and her husband (whom later self-identified as Christians) even participated in our group huddle and prayer.

### Layout

Visitors to Saint Nicholas Day could easily spend two hours or more at the event because there was so much to do and see. Before even entering the church, visitors would smell the caramelized onions coming from the bonfire on the north side of the church grounds. For \$5, we provided a kielbasa sausage on a hearty panini bun, as much ketchup and mustard as you like, and onions and pickles, all on a bed of potato chips. (A veritable heart attack in a cardboard dish but a real crowd-pleaser.) The grill area included a barbecue, a bonfire surrounded by straw bales, and Christmas tunes gently ringing out from a large multicoloured speaker. The evergreen trees surrounding the scene added a touch of greenery to complete the Norman Rockwell-esque portrait.

Upon entering from the Montague Street doors, they were greeted with a bright and perky smile from John and Roberta McGregor. With their lilting Irish accents, they would have handed the visitor a program, complete with a map of the event.

Directly down the stairs from the entrance was found a blinking wooden sign: “Saint Nicholas workshop.” In the basement, Heidi Dupont and Aaron Cross welcomed kids and parents for icon painting, cookie decorating, and a bingo game.

To the right of the entrance was found the gym, the location of the Christmas market and café. The comprehensive list of tables at the market is: the Ethiopians, a table of crafts and Christmas cards all created by the Davis family, the mittens lady, Loop by Loop (Anatalie Poirier), the bike raffle, soaps (handmade by Beth Christianson), crafts including beeswax candles, homemade kombucha, and the baking. The cashier table was located between the market and the café and a wall separated the two. Approximately six large tables were set up in the café, each with approximately eight chairs. For \$1, guests could buy a hot drink and a German spiced cookie. For another \$1, they could have a piece of carrot cake. From 2:30 to 3:30, the Regina Ladies’ Choir sang in the café. From 3:30 to the end, Empire Associates performed.

Church tours took place at approximately 30-minute intervals from 2:00 to 4:00. The tour guides were Father and Beth Christianson, each with their individual tours which lasted about 20 minutes. The tours began in the narthex and ended in the knave.

A family vespers service was held in the knave from 4:00 to 4:30 with Father as the officiant. Bishop Saint Nicholas made a grand entrance, sat in the bishop’s chair, and visited with the children at the front of the chancel. (Simon Elkin dressed up as Saint Nicholas). The bishop Helen attended the vespers and visited the entire event.

## Collaborators

Saint Nicholas Day offered us the opportunity to collaborate with several individuals and organizations in the neighbourhood and in the community. Saint Mary’s Church has the unique benefit of being located in a heritage neighbourhood, perfectly located to be a community hub. The table below lists the ways in which Saint Mary’s connected with people and organizations outside the parish as a result of Saint Nicholas Day.

Individual or organization	Premise
Cozy Cuffs (“the mittens lady”)	Invited her to have a table at the market
Anatalie Poirier, Angèle’s sister	Invited her to have a table at the market to sell her knitting
Ethiopian church	Invited them to have a table at the market
Ethiopian drummers	Play the drums for the grand entrance of Bishop Saint Nicholas
Regina Ladies’ Choir	Sing a capella Christmas tunes at the Christmas café
Empire Associates	Play live music in the café
Bike Regina	Donated four bikes for the raffle

## By the numbers

Item	#	Revenue	Expense
Guests welcomed <i>aside from parishioners</i>	~150		
Tours given	4		
Church tour participants	~50		
Vespers attendees	~30		
Members of organizing committee	9		
Grill team	4		
Bakers and crafters	11		
Setup Friday	12		
Volunteers at the event	22		
Net profit from sausages		~\$80	
Sausages sold	~75		
Café proceeds		~\$200	
Bike raffle proceeds		\$42	
Moneris machine purchases		\$1413.50	
Moneris machine fees			~\$100
Cash proceeds (includes grill)		\$1635.30 (Norma)	

		\$2090 (Alanna)	
Total out-of-pocket expenses			\$1133.56
In-kind donation receipts given to parishioners			\$400.08
Benefactors (CityKidz and Marian Centre)			\$1534.46

Given total revenue of \$3048.88 and a total cost of \$1533.64, the total profit is \$1515.24. I feel that giving \$1534.46 to other charities is far too much.

## Successes

I thought that the organization of teams worked well. A grill team and advertising lead were formally assigned; a baking team informally came together. Next time, I think the teams should be all set formally: grill, at-home bakers, baking pricers, cashiers, greeters and hospitality, advertising, music, et cetera.

We had three outside vendors (Cozy Cuffs [“the mittens lady”], a home knitter (Anatalie Poirier of Moose Jaw), and the Ethiopians. We did not charge them a fee for their tables, unlike most Christmas markets. I thought this worked very well, though I would not advertise this around. Outside vendors were by invite only and I think we should keep this policy.

The Christmas café was, in my view, the most charming element of the event. Although we received feedback that the music was pitchy and too loud, the café was still a place of relaxation and visiting. This scene, I think, helped distinguish Saint Nicholas Day from other church fundraisers in Regina at Christmastime: we wanted our guests to linger rather than shove them through the cashier cattle chute as quickly as possible. Our visitors were our guests and not mere cash-carrying customers.

We assigned a photographer for the day and ended up with over 100 photos which captured every single element of Saint Nicholas Day. This was a great addition to the documentary history of Saint Mary’s.

The organizing team had a wrap-up meeting on a Sunday after church at the Davis household. Before the meeting, we solicited feedback from the congregation (only about five comments came in and only one material recommendation). We drafted a document to record specific successes and failures (Exhibit 1). This, along with the Click up task list (Exhibit 2), will make it easy to hand the portfolio to the next organizer.

## Learnings and recommendations

We were pleasantly surprised at how many visitors came to Saint Nicholas Day. However, we did not ask them how they found out about the event. It would be nice to know what advertising methods were the most effective.

I learned a lot about the makeup about our parish. I saw some people go above and beyond, and I saw a lack of engagement from other members. Some people unabashedly expressed their gratitude to the organizing committee, some people were silent. I would like to see the church put more effort into facilitating communication within the parish family so that members feel more connected to each other.

While we were not short on help the day of the event, I observed a few instances where a volunteer did not seem to be enjoying their duties. As the newest member of Saint Mary’s, I don’t feel I did a great job of matching volunteers with suitable roles. Although we asked the congregation to sign up for roles, many of them asked to just be put anywhere. A volunteer coordinator who is more familiar with the volunteers would have done a better job than I did at matching volunteers with suitable jobs.





## OUTREACH/CITY MINSITRIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

### WORLD VISION

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Dowie

St. Mary's child sponsored through World Vision is Jonathan Matias Pozo Medina, who lives in Nicaragua. The last letter told us a bit about how they celebrate. At Christmas they share 'cajeta' a kind of fudge made with sugar, cinnamon, and spices, and either coconut, pumpkin or milk depending on the desired flavour. On New Year's Eve they hug family members and neighbours, play music, have fireworks, and exchange gifts.



## **NEWCOMER/REFUGEE COMMITTEE**

Respectfully submitted by Nathaniel Athian Deng Mayen

To the glory of God, the refugee family of Mapiou Deng Arok, Ahou (Elizabeth) Bol Thon, Arok Deng Arok, Ayak Mapiou, and Arok Mapiou safely arrived in Regina on January 18, 2023. St. Mary member Elizabeth Deng Arok met her brother Mapiou Deng Arok and sister-in-law Ahol Bol Thon and their children and hugged them with great tears of joy. The family members have not met for almost eleven years since Elizabeth migrated to Canada to establish her own family. It was a wonderful family reunion. The children of Elizabeth, who were born in Canada, came to the airport to meet their uncle and cousins for the first time with great joy and excitement. The family dream to live together was fulfilled to the glory of God.

Thanks to all the members in St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church and in the Diocese of Qu'Appelle, who contributed their time and money to make this family reunion dream come true for Elizabeth and Mapiou and their families. Special gratitude to the members who tirelessly organized the events to raise funds which will now cover their monthly rent and household expenses, who furnished and set up the house before the arrival of the refugee family, who provided transportation from the airport to home, who put up of the curtains, and who provided assistance with food preparation for the first day.

As we celebrate the grace of God in working in us, some of the members may be wondering what is next for us to do after the refugee family has arrived to Regina. Should we start a new refugee application process for a different refugee family? Or should we call the refugee sponsorship a quit after the family of Mapiou has arrived since we were only helping our member Elizabeth to bring her family to Canada? Should we continue to help other members at St. Mary's to bring their family members who live in the refugee camp? Should we extend our horizon and ask the Diocese to give us numbers for people who are not related to our parish

The Refugee Sponsorship Committee will discuss the next steps towards this significant process and inform the members of the decision. For those who would like to know more about the process of refugee sponsorship, I have attached the private sponsorship program based on the Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) for which we are a Constituent Group within the Diocese of Qu'Appelle. The Constituent Group and co-sponsors get the numbers that the Diocese distribute to them from the total numbers that the Diocese receives from the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) every year. Few members can become the co-sponsors with the Diocese and bring a refugee family.

Refugee Sponsorship Committee members: Nathaniel Deng Mayen (chair), Janice Kerr, Mary Ross, John McGregor, and Kate Berringer.



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

Respectfully submitted by Norma Trim

ANARC uses our facilities and donates for the use of the kitchen, but also has become part of our Outreach Ministry. ANARC functions within the Archdiocese of Regina's Truth and Reconciliation Ministry. In 2022, ANARC met at St. Mary's, at Candy Cane Park and over ZOOM. During the Sharing Circles, we see Truth and Reconciliation in action. We were pleased to have more St. Mary's parishioners join us for the Potlucks this year. Our Christmas Dinner was followed by entertainment led by the Youth Drummers. We closed out our year with a Round Dance.

## **FOREVER IN MOTION SENIOR EXERSICE**

Respectfully submitted by Yvonne Schmidt-Sobek

The group is going strong. You are welcome to join us every Tuesday morning from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. It is free! The program includes endurance, strength, balance, and flexibility activities which may be performed either in sitting or standing positions. For more information, please email Yvonne Schmidt-Sobek: [yvonne.sobek@web.de](mailto:yvonne.sobek@web.de) or the church office [stmarysanglican@sasktel.net](mailto:stmarysanglican@sasktel.net).

