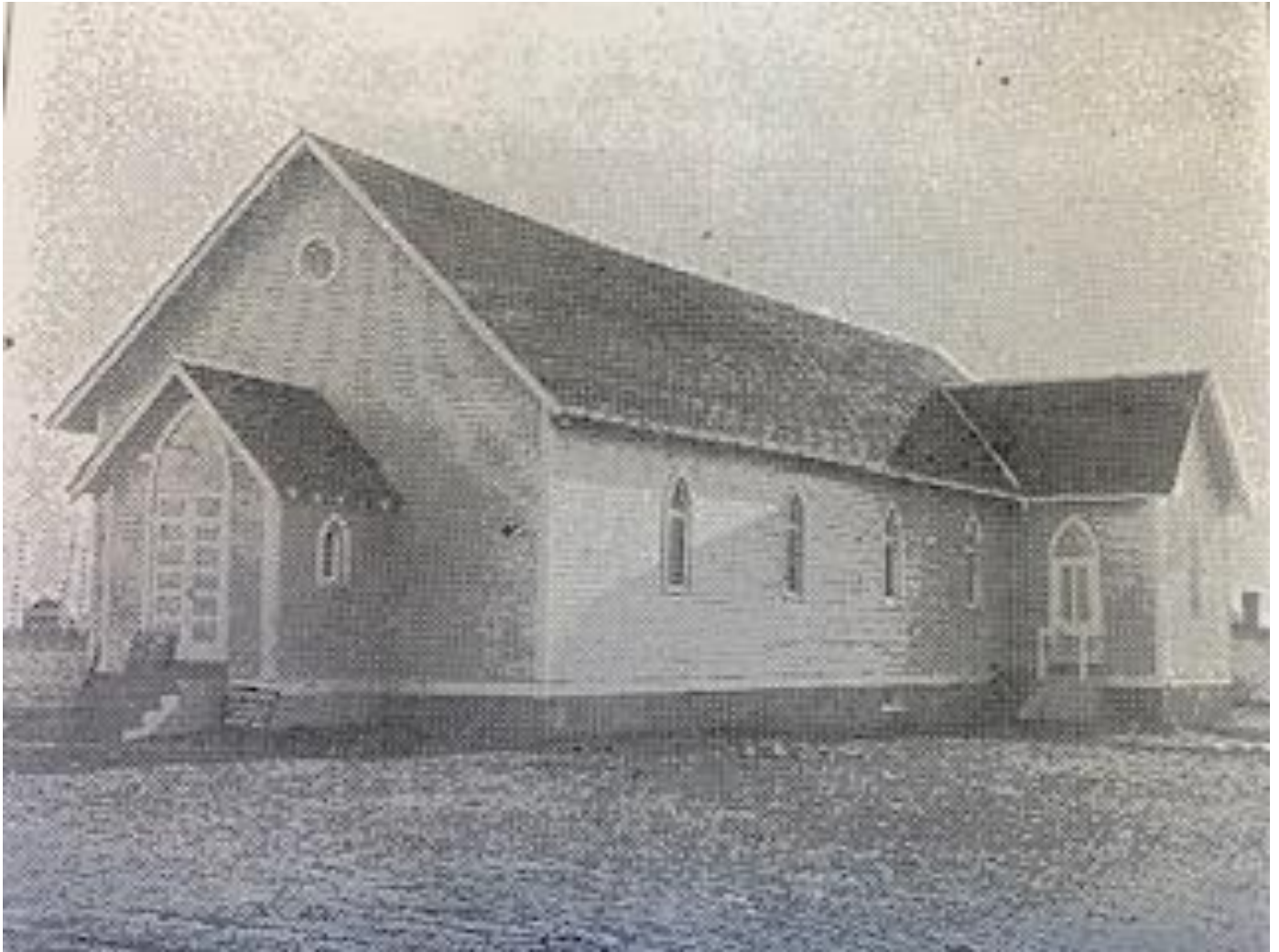


SAINT MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH



(110th anniversary of the first service which took place at St. Mary's on December 14th, 1913.)

REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING March 3, 2024

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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- Minutes from 2023 Annual Meeting

AGM LETTER 2024

Respectfully submitted by Bishop Helen Kennedy

“For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord.”
Jeremiah 29:11-13 NRSV

This scripture is my most favourite verse about finding hope in daily life. It reminds me is that God is to be found. All I have to do is look with my whole heart, and God is going to reveal God’s self, and not be hidden. Even in the midst of difficult circumstances, God is to be found. With some of our churches closing and being sold; bills are going up, as we experience reduced finances, sometimes, it is good to be reminded that God has a plan for our lives and desires to give us a future *with hope!*

Our world is full of uncertainties and challenges, finding hope and guidance is a powerful force that keeps us going. The timeless wisdom of the scriptures offer solace and inspiration for each day of our lives as we actively seek hope and God’s guidance. By anchoring ourselves in the promises of God, we can find strength, peace, and we open ourselves up to the transformative power of faith and the abundance of blessings that surround us. We become more attuned to the beauty of nature, the love of our relationships, and the miracles that unfold in our daily lives.

I want to thank you for all you do in your parish, and to know how much that contributes to the health and strength of the Diocese. As we enter into a new season, let us seek God with all our heart, let us ask for God’s direction, let us faithfully pray and be encouraged. I pray God’s blessing on your AGM, and your ministry in the coming year.

Yours in Christ

+ *Helen Kennedy*

Rt Rev Helen Kennedy

REPORT OF THE RECTOR

Respectfully submitted by Canon Reverend Claude Schroeder

In a recent article in *The Atlantic Monthly Magazine*, David Brooks, the American political and cultural commentator describes various shifts in the way in which people in America have defined themselves in recent decades. Prior to 1970 people tended to define themselves by the social roles they played. “I’m a farmer, teacher, house-wife, priest and so on.” Some of you here may remember those days and can relate. The problem with identity as social role should be obvious. Who am I when I retire and am no longer farming, teaching, married, and presiding at services? Keeping busy isn’t necessarily the answer.

The Gospel speaks powerfully to people who have spent their lives playing a role, and now no longer know who they are. Who am I? The Catechism in our Prayer Book ties our identity with the name we were given in baptism where we made “a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven.” (BCP, P. 544.) It’s why in his Letter to the Philippians St. Paul could say in regard of his former life and “career” before coming to Christ, “I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 3.8-10)

But then around 1970, a more individualistic culture took over which emphasized personal autonomy and freedom. Depending on your politics, this individualism meant, emphasizing economic freedom, for those on the right, and life style freedom for those on the left. But in both cases, we were CEO’s of our own companies, “Me Inc.” The results were predictable: a terrible isolation and loneliness and confused ethics. Again, perhaps some of you can relate.

How does the Gospel speak to these people? The Collect for Peace in *The Book of Common Prayer* declares that God’s service is “perfect freedom.” And as St. Paul wrote, “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians. 2.20)

According to Brooks, we now stand at the dawn of another cultural change. The cultural pendulum is swinging back in the direction of a more collective phase, towards a peculiar kind of communalism that is very socially conscious and political. This is where you define your identity by how you stand against what you perceive to be the dominant structures of society. Brooks writes, “Today’s communal culture is based on a shared belief that society is broken, systems are rotten, the game is rigged, injustice prevails, the venal elites are out to get us. We find solidarity and meaning in resisting their oppression together. Again, there is a right-wing version, and a left wing version, but what they have in common is an us vs them mentality. The culture wars give life shape and meaning. These communities are not friendly places.

Social scientists have come up with new phrases to capture this set of cultural attitudes and practices. “Vindictive protectiveness” is what happens when an online mob rallies together to punish a perceived threat from an oppressor. “Hostile solidarity” describes the ways retaliatory action binds people against their enemies. In this culture, people feel bonded not because they are cooperating but because they are indignant about the same things. We have come to this sad place where human relationships have come to be viewed through a prism of power and exploitation. With respect to the future, pessimism and negativity prevails. This is as true for those on the political right as well as the left.

How does the Gospel address *this* cultural moment? St. Paul, addressing the biblical division of all humanity into Jew and Gentile, wrote, “Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were

far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.” (Ephesians 2. 14-18).

In this destabilized, divided, fragmented, and hopelessly conflicted world in which we live, can you think of anything more important and relevant than coming to Church to join in the prayer of the Church, the proclamation of and the celebration of the Communion in His Body and Blood? For it is here in the Church where in company with others we discover who we are, forgiven sinners, and where we are schooled in another way of being human, after the pattern of Jesus Christ, and become His disciples. Here we find hope, which is not something we grasp for blindly, but something that is brought to birth in us through faithful practice.

All of which is to say, “we must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love.” (Ephesians 4. 14-16)

It is my principle calling, my duty and my joy as your priest and your pastor to hold you before this Gospel, to lead you in the worship of Christ our God, and administration of His sacraments, and through prayer, preaching, and teaching support you in your growth to spiritual maturity, for the building up of the Church.

Like many a parish priest, there are, of course, other hats that I end up wearing, that of administrator, recruiter, organizer, intercessor, confessor, spiritual advisor, overseer, and so on. This year it was given to me to wear the hat of general contractor in heading up the refurbishment of our Lower Hall and kitchen, which is now happily drawing to a close. Order has been restored in what had become a chaotic space, and now the task before us consists in figuring out how to fill this space with life! We have a marvelous opportunity before us to beautify and reclaim our own mission and ministry, and to share it with the community. We have been blessed by our partnership with St. Mary’s Ethiopian Orthodox Church and the Anglican Foundation with their financial support for this project, and for the furnishings we received from St. Matthew’s on Winnipeg St.

2023 saw a number of new initiatives in parish life including the establishment of SMART, (St. Mary’s Anglican Roto-Tilling), the Lenten Mission, the Saskatoon Berry Festival, the New Horizons for Seniors Community kitchen, the Harvest Ceilidh, a summer student hire, and the community Lessons and Carols Service. Following on from the call to Mission and Evangelism from the gathering of Anglican Bishops at the Lambeth Conference in 2022, I have been seeking to encourage us to develop an outward looking evangelistic culture here at St. Mary’s and to find our evangelistic voice. This I think is best expressed in the answer St. Philip gave to Nathaniel, who cynically wondered, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Phillip said, “Come and see!” ([John 2. 45,46](#)) Because this is John’s Gospel, the invitation to come and see is an invitation to come and see the glory that is the Divine Beauty revealed in the face of Jesus Christ, and to believe, and in believing, to have life in His Name.

Yours, as ever,

Claude +

REPORT OF THE VESTRY AND WARDENS

Respectfully submitted by Andrew Davis Rector's Warden and John McGregor People's Warden

2023 had many events and opportunities for us as a congregation to see the Hand of God touch our parish. It was evident that the Lord was leading us to renovate the lower hall and step by step we watched as things have been wonderfully upgraded. The project will soon be complete, and we will have a tremendous working space in that part of our building to host all kinds of meetings. We are blessed to have Rev. Claude provide vision and spiritual help to strengthen us in every endeavor. It has been wonderful to serve with Alanna Schemenauer as an executive to provide continued momentum in every area.

During the year we provided leadership in many areas to help with church events and fundraising, the Saskatoon Berry Festival, and the St. Nicholas Celebration were the most attended. Thank you to all the wonderful members of the parish who assisted in these events which helped us to raise funds and also gave us meaningful outreach into our community. Our church is embedded in the community and continues to minister in so many ways.

It was so good to work with our Vestry and leaders as various challenges came along and to see the spirit of grace displayed as we worked through everything from budgeting to assignments to enhance our overall ministry.

The Lessons in Carols proved a good opportunity to invite some of our friends to church and experience very positive comments from them about the congregation being very friendly.

In dealing with various requests and items from congregational needs we were thankful for the maintenance work of Terry Page and the special efforts made by Simon Elkin and others to bring about changes which enhance our property and community.

We spent many hours seeking to find a better situation for insurance of the property and continue to work on that currently. Prayers are appreciated for this area.

In conclusion we want to say thank you for your trust in us and for your help in accomplishing so much for the glory of God. Together we can move ahead knowing that God continues to grant strength and provision in every area of our lives.

ENVELOPE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Respectfully submitted by Blair Laforge

The envelope secretary issued tax receipts for a total of \$156,882 contributed in 2023. This is virtually unchanged from 2022. Of the 76 envelope holders and other identifiable givers, the frequency distribution of 2023 annual contributions are as follows:

Amount of Annual Donation	Number of Donors
\$1-\$99	11
\$100-\$499	18
\$500-\$999	4
\$1000-\$1999	14
\$2000-\$2999	9
\$3000-\$3999	3
\$4000-\$4999	11
\$5000-\$5999	4
\$6000 or greater	2

Total Donors: 76

Total donors were unchanged from the previous year. At year-end, 13 parish families were participating in the direct deposit program and 25 donors have moved to e-transfer for donations. \$90 was contributed to the Memorial Fund. Thank you all for your patience and co-operation. Thanks to Norma, Bill, Brenda, Len, Alanna, and Yvonne for all their help.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Respectfully submitted by Alana Schemenauer, Treasurer

Attachments include the December 31, 2023, year-end financial statements and the 2024 budget. In 2023, St. Mary's had a net loss of \$9,690 compared to a budgeted loss of \$8,670. This higher than budgeted loss was primarily due to increased insurance expenses, which were partially offset by fundraising revenue and reduced caretaker expenses.

Please note that the following revenues and related expenses and were not included in the budget:

- an Anglican Foundation grant of \$9,000 was received for lower hall renovation expenses;
- a Government of Canada grant of \$2,888 was received to pay for a summer student;
- Rectory Trust Fund revenue of \$14,572 was recognized to offset additional lower hall renovation expenses;
- Rectory Trust Fund revenue of \$13,681 is recognized annually to offset to roof amortization expense;
- Memorial Fund revenue of \$3,016 is recognized annually to offset to the organ repair amortization expense; and,
- Memorial Fund revenue of \$3,940 was recognized to offset additional maintenance and repair expenses.

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 2023. I also thank you in advance for your support in 2024.

REPORT OF THE SEXTON

Respectfully submitted by Terry Page

The sexton takes responsibility for the maintenance and repair of the Parish buildings as well as the outside property.

General Facility Maintenance. Routinely maintain lighting, door adjustments, window repairs, recording boiler operational data, lawn mowing, back lane garbage control along with arranging contract services such as snow clearing, elevator maintenance, hot water heating services, hot water heater inspections, electrical issues, fire protection checks and testing, sewer line unplugging, back water check valve tests including lawn fertilizing & sprinkler care.

One of activities in 2023 included:

- Repair and decorate damaged craft room walls
- Report on high natural gas consumption
- Report on operation of the upper hall hot water heater
- Preparation of fire protection plan following an application to partake in Mosaic events
- Remounted upper hall exit doors to swing out
- Salvaged four door closures, piano, book shelves, chairs and four pews from St Mathews for use in lower hall renovations & redevelopment
- Assisted with removal of lower hall kitchen cupboards
- Recontoured court yard to drain away from lower hall walls to catch basin
- Created concrete dyke in boiler room so sewer back up and leaks stay within the boiler room floor drain area and away from kitchen and craft room
- Arranged for replacement boiler quotes following boiler leak.
- Report on boiler failure
- Report on heating system capacity
- Arranged for boiler room fire stop sealing
- Arranged for light bulb replacement in sanctuary

Each of these activities involved various parishioners who were instrumental in giving the congregation a comfortable and safe facility in which to worship and conduct Ministry.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Burials: Jean Mountain, Norma Trim, Dorothy Brodland, Derek Brown, Min Ring

ST. MARY'S SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Respectfully submitted by Terrance Williamson

The Facebook page has seen minimal growth, but our advertising reach has been substantial. The advertising campaigns have proved successful for the Berry Festival, St. Nicholas Celebration, and our upcoming (Feb 24) Public Lecture.



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 2024. City Kidz were happy to use our space and Open Mic nights brought in a lot of talent from in and around Regina, both groups continue to use our space in 2024.

The renovation of our lower hall is nearing completion. I think a lot of people are looking for something smaller and cozier like the coffee house style that they'll soon find in the lower hall.

Keep an eye on our Community Calendar here at the Montague Street entrance hallway and do not forget to check our website for updates and parish life notes: www.stmarysregina.ca.

Estimated rental income from returning renters 2024	
AA One way group	\$700
Cathedral Village Arts Festival	\$400
Hibiki Taiko	\$2,620
Karate Club	\$240
Regina Ladies Choir	\$1,800
Regina Photo Club	\$1,620
St.Marys Ethiopian	\$4,800
Open Mic nights	\$900
City Kidz	\$900
Total	\$13,980

WORSHIP

ORGANIST

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Klippenstein

I continue to enjoy playing the pipe organ and grand piano at St. Mary's. The organ was tuned in 2023. The choir continues to sing Anglican Morning Prayer liturgy in four part harmony at 10:00 am Sundays prior to the morning service. All are welcome to attend. The choir leads the congregation in song during the Eucharist every Sunday, and I encourage parishioners to sing along during the Communion hymns. On Dec. 3 (the first Sunday of Advent), the choir sang "The First Song of Isaiah" together with the children of St. Mary's, under the direction of Starr Davis. The choir also sang the "Advent Alleluia" during the Advent season. Also, they lead the congregation in singing the Introit Psalm each Sunday. The choir has been a most dedicated, faithful, and pleasant group to work with. Thank you to each member for their participation.

Thank you also to Zelda Faulkes who played the violin at the December Service of Lessons and Carols.

God bless St. Mary's as they worship and praise Him in song.

SERVER GUILD

Respectfully submitted by Gwyn Crozier-Smith

The two loyal Servers Lyndon and Gwyn continue to take their place at the Lord's 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 tree and to all that came out to help decorate for Christmas it was very much appreciated.

COUNTING AND DEPOSITING OUR OFFERINGS

Respectfully submitted by Len Gendall

A team of four people – Bill and Norma Trim, and Len and Brenda Gendall – meet each week to count the offering from the previous Sunday, prepare the summary sheet for the Envelope Secretary, and make up the deposit and take it to the bank. We also counted the receipts from any special events such as the Berry Festival, and the St. Nicholas Festival – amounts that would run into thousands of dollars.

We lost our "team leader" and dear friend when Norma passed away in September 2023. But Bill, Brenda and Len carry on with these duties with Norma "watching" over us.

PASTORAL CARE

HOME COMMUNION

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Klemke and Lois Martin

Lois and I are licenced by Bishop Helen to take Home Communion to St. Mary's parishioners, under the direction of Claude.

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of this Home Communion Ministry at St. Mary's. For a few years we had 3 people on our team, when there were 30+ folks in need of this ministry.

We continue to find it both important to the people and rewarding to us. People can be homebound for 20 years but still feel a strong attachment to their home church.

Lois took Home Communion to two ladies until one passed away. She continues to take the Paratransit bus from North Regina to Wintergreen Estates in the South to visit a lady about once a month. They also often share phone calls initiated by the lady. Bless you Lois.

Most people are so happy with a pastoral care visit, then with communion of course. They like phone calls, cards, church calendars, sometimes food and appreciate any news of the parish. Those without access to computers enjoy the mail out of the bulletin, sermon, life notes and any other reports or special letters about the life at the church. They phone us as well which is appreciated.

This year I was able to provide comfort and prayers for a family until Claude returned.

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 private homes, care homes and hospitals.

We would like to thank John McGregor for donating his Home Communion Set to our team.

COFFEE MINISTRY

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Cross

This year has been a joy and a challenge. The joy is seeing more people coming down after the service and visiting over coffee and cookies. Newcomers are welcomed and many become friends and part of our family.

The challenge is having only 4 teams. Each team works one Sunday a month and we have done well but it would be helpful to have a couple more teams. Volunteers are welcome. A sincere thank you to the present teams. They have been wonderfully supportive and helpful in making coffee time a happy and friendly experience for all.

THE GRAPEVINE: TELLING OUR STORIES SHARING OUR FAITH

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Cross and Shelley Baron

Telling my story sharing my faith

The Grape Vine continues to be a blessing for the readers as well those who have shared their stories. One reader told me after she had read the last Grape Vine that it was the best one ever, she appreciated every story. Sharing your experience be it an answer to prayer, a desperate call for help or when your feeling to old to be useful. In this last story The Lord said make 3 Quilts give them away.

Another story tells us that the Lord will bring peace and guidance before you've even asked.

Some tell of how God sees to their physical and social need by sending friends to help them. The stories give us a glimpse of the many facets of God's love for us.

Shelley and I have enjoyed working on the Grape Vine this past year

and are very thankful for the many testimonies we have received. We are hoping and praying to have another edition ready by Pentecost. We look forward to your faith stories.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SPIRITUAL FORMATION

NURSERY

Respectfully submitted by Hilary Schroeder

The Good Shepherd Nursery provides a quiet, welcoming place for children under 3 years of age. Staffed by parents and one grandparent, there are currently 2 or 3 children each Sunday. Thank you to those who joyfully collaborated on a deep clean of the Nursery, to Office Administrator, Yvonne, for the roster and to Terry Page for repairs and maintenance.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP CENTRE (GODLY PLAY)

Respectfully submitted by Shelley Baron

In the fall of 2023, I joined the Worship Centre team. At that time, the process of reviewing our current program and considering possible changes for the future began. Our class size is small at this point and our leadership team is somewhat reduced as well.

As we move forward, consideration will be given to: curriculum changes, looking at the possibility of blending Nursery and Worship Centre groups and leaders, refreshing the classroom, and seeking additional classroom support.

FAITH QUEST

Respectfully submitted by Starr Davis

Our Faith Quest program runs for school aged children on Sunday mornings during the service. It has been full of activity! Since the fall, the children have gone through lesson rotations on the Feeding of the 5000, the Good Samaritan, the Song of Isaiah, Psalm 100, Shepherds and Angels (during advent), Moses and the Burning Bush and Jonah! So the kids are getting a great opportunity to absorb and ponder some of the important stories and learn about who God is. We have been blessed with an increase in attendance from last year and even since the beginning of this year. Attendance varies from week to week but we often have at least 8 children and sometimes as many as 12. Our leaders have graciously met the challenge of adjusting the lessons to meet the needs of the day, and it has been a joy seeing the kids learn, have fun and develop friendships.

Most weeks the children engage with the Bible story through a workshop - either Art, Theatre, Video, Baking, Games, Science or Music. We have also mixed things up a bit this year with a service project- collecting for and packing shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child outreach- and by joining the adult choir upstairs in the service in singing the First Song of Isaiah. We are looking forward to the completion of the lower hall renovations as this will allow us a better space for many of our activities.

We are still looking for additional help in our program. It is my goal for leaders and shepherds to be on the schedule no more than once per month - this allows them to regularly attend the upstairs service and also gives the children a variety of styles and perspectives. We need shepherds/helpers, leaders and people who are able to do some lesson prep. If you are willing to help in any of these areas, even occasionally, please come and speak with me or call or text me at 306-737-1849!



Faith Quest cleanup



Joy like a fountain



Advent games



Puppet Show



Inside the whale

SUMMER PROGRAM- GOSPEL IN THE GARDEN

Respectfully submitted by Katie Faulkes

We had such a great time last summer! Using Biblical scholar Peter Enns' book, "Telling God's Story" we explored various parables, miracles, and teachings of Jesus. Each week we enjoyed fun themed snacks (Jesus walking on the Jello water!), games and crafts. We learned to pray the Jesus prayer and made a prayer bead bracelet. The activity that seemed to engage the children the most, and became the anchor for the whole summer, was centred on Psalm 23. The verses were printed out on little cardboard sheep that were hidden all over the worship centre, nursery, and hall. The kids had to find them all and arrange them in order. Then we would play a round of hide and go seek where one person was the "shepherd" and the other children were the lost sheep needing to be rounded up. While this activity had only been planned to be used on one of the Sundays it was so popular that we played it every week and that resulted in the children becoming very familiar with this beautiful Psalm.



SPECIAL EVENTS

ST. NICHOLAS

Respectfully submitted by John McGregor, People's Warden, co-ordinator for the event.

The committee for the St. Nicholas Day event worked hard to make sure all the arrangements were made in advance. The event once again had around 200 people who attended and many expressed thanks for the live entertainment and the effort to have something for all ages. We raised over \$3600 and also raised some funds for Sophia House. A big thank you goes to all who worked in preparation and those who volunteered at the event.

The area community continues to see us reach out and open the doors for discovering the love of God through our congregation. My recommendation is that we use the first Saturday of December in future events as this past time we went one week later and had many competitive events taking place in the city. Next year we will need more people to be involved in the set up to help make the hall look attractive for our visitors.

Many thanks to all who participated and volunteered. To all who prayed for the Lord to be present we certainly saw Him at work in every part of the event. The children were blessed with treats and the gospel was shared.

SASKATOON BERRY FESTIVAL

Respectfully submitted John McGregor, Vestry member and organizing committee chair

Our first attempt at a fundraiser by selling Saskatoon berries went extremely well. We purchased the berries from a local supplier and had a system in place to pre-order. We also sold the berries and pies on a walk-in basis. The attendance was overwhelming with around 600 coming. We sold out the 5 lb. bags and pies within an hour of opening. We had a cafe and live entertainment which both went well and a market for local produce, especially from indigenous vendors in the north. Overall, we made approximately \$3900. Many volunteers and helpers made the event so special, and we want to thank all involved and the St. Mary's family for their prayers. Several people who attended took the church tours and some returned to services after the event. God uses such times to build bridges into the community so that the church is seen as a vital part of life.



OUTREACH/CITY MINSITRIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

NEW HORIZONS SENIORS COOKING GROUP

Respectfully submitted by John McGregor on behalf of the New Horizons Seniors Cooking group

The Cooking group meets every third Monday of the month and we have had an average of 18 attend. There are 25 on the register, which is very encouraging. We have seen the Lord touch the lives of many through these events. Everyone who comes looks forward to visiting and sharing the preparation and eating of the meal. God has opened the hearts of some who have no church background or affiliation, and some have even attended services. We are grateful to the St. Mary's family for their prayers for this outreach. During our times together we always share the upcoming events in the church.

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN ROTO-TILLING

Respectfully submitted by Angèle Poirier

Facts and figures

Man-hours	193
Plots tilled (10x10)	272
Days tilled	9
Money received	\$3680
Money outstanding	\$190
Dollars per hour earned	\$18.52

Bookings

We printed a poster and asked Grow Regina to send an email to their membership. Both these communications had two ways to book tilling: smart@stmarysregina.ca and a cell phone number. We do NOT recommend providing a cell phone number next year. It would be far better to have all bookings going to one central location to avoid miscommunications. It was extra work to transfer information received by text, over to the spreadsheet.

Many gardeners confused the tilling fee with the plot rental fee. This became a real problem when combined with language barriers. If someone contacts SMART wanting to rent a plot, redirect them to Donna with Grow Regina: growregina.contact@gmail.com.

Tilling fees

We feel that the tilling fees should be increased in 2024 to better reflect the amount of work that is required. The above table (\$18.52/hr) only considers the time of two people and does not include the office administration at the church (where many people dropped off cheques) or the accounting work (depositing cheques and recording transactions). That said, the figure does include 20 hours which went into branding, reports for the vestry in winter 2023, and the takeover from Plowing for People, which theoretically would not have to be done in future years.

Assets

Plowing for People bequeathed the following assets to St. Mary's: a wooden shed, two tillers, spare parts, two jerry cans, and other incidentals located in the shed. The table below gives more information about the existence and state of the assets. Notably, we recommend selling the small tiller, repairing the big tiller, and – when finances permit – purchasing another big tiller.

Item	Quantity	Remarks
Big tiller	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honda FRC800 engine • Includes a small bag of tools which attaches to the handle of the tiller. • Far superior to the small tiller. • Has depth adjustment; we tilled everything at the depth it is currently set. • Needs repair. The handle is like a lawn mower: the transmission engages when you depress the handle. The connection from the handle to the cable is broken, and a new (clutch) cable is needed. The handle part is also wearing and will break in a matter of time, even with a new cable. You could begin with Alsport Sales Ltd. in Regina (they have a parts request page).
Small tiller	1	Recommend selling it because it only tickles the soil. One gardener told us he tried to get his plots tilled by the guy with the big tiller last year because it did a better job. We heard from many gardeners that they were happy with the service this year because the tilling was deeper than last year.
Ramps	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One large green ramp • One small, wooded ramp for jumping over the plot delineators
Jerry cans	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have unusual nozzles which allow air to enter the jerry can even as fuel is running out, but they leak awfully. • Cost \$60.00 to fill both cans in May 2023. • Both empty.
Wooden shed	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow Regina has a key to the shed. They store their wheelbarrows in there for the winter. We were dismayed in spring 2023 to find that the wheelbarrows had been placed on top of the tillers; we had to take them all out to access the tillers. • We warn of potential liberties taken by Grow Regina with this shed. They have asked us at least twice about the ownership of the shed. We have had to be firm and repetitive with our messaging to them: the shed belongs to St. Mary's Church because it was bequeathed to the Church by Plowing for People. No, Grow Regina may not buy it. • We recommend not selling this shed and retaining as much control over it as possible, as Grow Regina seems keen on claiming it for their own. It might

		benefit from a new paint job, displaying St. Mary's logo and the SMARTilling logo.
Fuel stabilizer		
Laminated maps	Several	Created by Simon
Spreadsheet		Created by Angèle and sent to Alanna

Workflow

We found that it worked well to have one person in charge of bookings, although the sheer volume of calls and emails in the same day was overwhelming. This could be curbed by contacting customers early in 2024 and eliciting bookings before May. Grow Regina does not give the contact information of their membership for this purpose, but the SMART spreadsheet has a lot of email addresses.

It worked well to have one person go ahead of the tiller with a flag to mark the plots needing tilling and prepare the site. This means: removing markers like metal caging and strings; using the Garden Claw (borrowed from Grow Regina) to hand-till areas where the tiller cannot reach, such as corners, edges, and near annuals like garlic or rhubarb; and placing the ramp so the tiller can jump over the plot curbs. Once the plot is tilled, the helper replaces the markers and rakes the area so it's nice and level with no big holes or wheel tracks.

Growth

This enterprise has a lot of potential. A fall tilling program could be launched. SMART could also offer additional services at the garden and charge for them: stone removal, soil testing (NPK), adding soil amendments. Many gardeners coordinated with us so we would till in their soil amendments (manure, compost, et cetera). SMART should only offer soil amendments if it has access to them in bulk (like manure from a farmer), a way to transport them, the manpower to wheel it to each plot with a wheelbarrow, and a good idea of what fee schedule would be adequate to compensate for all the extra outlay.

We also received a lot (a LOT) of requests for residential tilling, demonstrating a need for it in the city. However, we caution that this would require significant investment and resources: a vehicle for transporting the tiller, administration to organize blocks of tilling in the city to avoid unnecessary mileage, and fee collection. The fee would have to be far higher than the rates for tilling at the community garden.

Finally, the tilling service could be expanded to other community gardens in Regina. Reconnaissance work would need to be done to find out what, if any, tilling needs exist in those gardens, as some provide spring and fall tilling as part of the plot rental.

Recommendations

- (1) Create a SMARTilling page on St. Mary's website and post the email address (smart@stmarysregina.ca), rates and payment methods, and a disclaimer: "Tilling is only one of many factors that affect soil health. Other factors include type of soil, existence of organic matter, moisture, nutrients, and the presence of beneficial insects and bacteria."
- (2) Sell the small tiller
- (3) Buy another big tiller: Honda FRC800 K1C1 Rear-tine 20" Pro, \$3549 (?)
- (4) Have a volunteer and helper who are available during the day, not just evenings and weekends
- (5) Pay attention to which customers did not pay for 2023 tilling (there are a few) and refuse service until they have paid.
- (6) Use the shed to advertise other goings-on at St. Mary's. Take extra effort to differentiate St. Mary's from the Lutheran church in the parking lot beside the gardens.

CATHEDRAL VILLAGE ARTS FESTIVAL OUTREACH

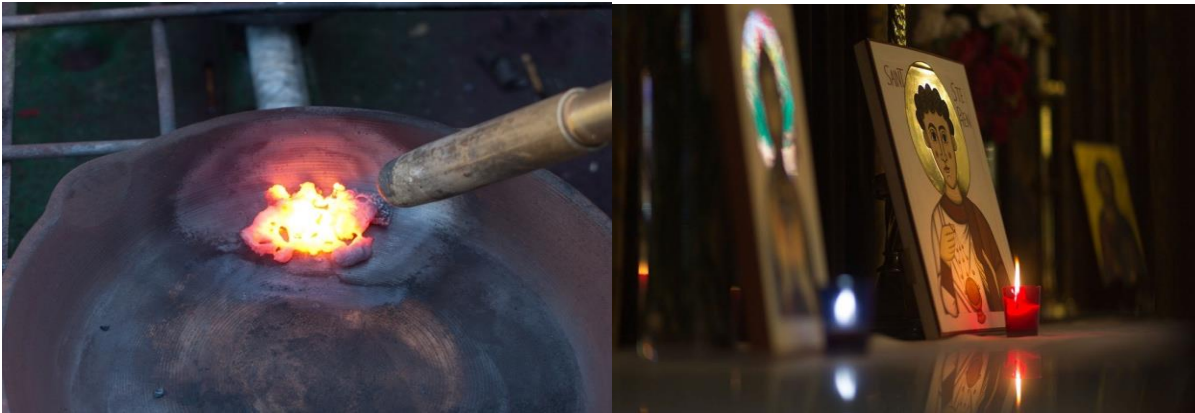
Respectfully submitted by Canon Claude Schroeder

The Cathedral Village Arts Festival is one of Regina's largest festivals that, over the course of a week beginning on the Victoria Day Long Weekend, attracts upwards of 40,000 people to attend a variety of events in music, dance, theatre, film, visual and literary arts, ending in a street fair on the Saturday. The theme of this year's festival was "Home", inviting festival goers to see home not just as a physical place - but as a sanctuary for the soul.

If ever we were looking for an opportunity to invite people to St. Mary's to "come and see" the place that we call home, our "sanctuary of the soul," this had to be it!

This year we were pleased to have Symeon van Donkelaar offer a series of three illustrated lectures entitled "Art as Vision: In Life, Worship and the Studio", which explored the theme of art through concentric circles centered on the artist's perception of reality. The first lecture on the Tuesday night sought to address the question, "What is good art?" The second lecture focused on what happens when art moves into the Church and exercises a liturgical function, showing forth the truth of Christ's Incarnation. The third lecture focused on the unique Canadian school and style of iconography which Symeon has founded in his studio at Red Earth Icons. (<https://www.symeonvandonkelaar.com>)

To say that the lectures and slides were illuminating would be an understatement! Each lecture was followed by a contemplative sung candlelit Compline service from The Book of Common Prayer, in which we showed forth something of the beauty of the Church's liturgical prayer and chant.



During the street fair on the Saturday, we set up a candle – dipping station underneath the Lych Gate where upwards of 40 people came to make something of beauty for themselves, a hand dipped beeswax candle. We also opened the doors to St. Mary's where people were invited to join in the "Signs and Wonders Church Tour" where they had opportunity to see how the symbolic furnishings of our church mediate the presence of Christ.

On one of the tours were joined by a man and his three young sons who, not surprisingly, were a little bored by the tour. It's why at the end of the final station and the Processional Cross where I explained the symbolism of the seraphim, I asked the boys if they wanted to have a peek in the organ chamber to see the pipes. Their eyes lit up and they said "yes!" After explaining the pipes, I asked if there were any questions. The youngest of the boys looked up at me and said, "When we become ghosts, will we see Jesus?"

The answer of course is "yes", but it's better than that. Here at St. Mary's, we "hear and see" him sacramentally in the opening of the Scriptures and the breaking of the bread, and when we die, and become "ghosts," resurrection of body and the life of the world to come!

Plans are beginning to take shape for this year's festival, and we look forward to another opportunity to share with our community the something of the richness of God's grace in creation and in the Church.

WORLD VISION

Respectfully submitted by Yvonne Schmidt-Sobek

If you would like to send Jonathan a message or gift, please contact Yvonne in the office or email stmarysanglican@sasktel.net so Yvonne can set you up with the World Vision website login.

Here is a message from Jonathan, written with the help of a community member.

I live with my parents. I have one sister. I am too young to help at home with chores. I like to play with toy cars. I am in good health. I like Mangos they grow in our community, and I love to play soccer with my friends.



Our World Vision child Jonathan Matias 2 years old

NEWCOMER/REFUGEE COMMITTEE

Respectfully submitted by Nathaniel Athian Deng Mayen

1. Introduction

The Refugee and Newcomer Support Committee held our last meeting on December 10, 2023, to review the employment and integration status of the refugee family of Mapiou Deng Arok who joined us in Regina on January 18, 2023, from a Ugandan refugee came. Mapiou is currently working part-time hours. Children have nicely adapted to school and church life. Elizabeth (Ahou) is still searching for an employment and additional support to practice the driving lessons in Regina.

2. End of the refugee sponsorship

The refugee sponsorship formally ended in December 2023. We transitioned the family by approving \$2,129.04 to pay part of the rent for January 2024 to top up the money saved from the part-time job.

3. Taxi and transport to church on Sundays

The refugee family needs transport to come to church on Sundays. We have approved the family to continue to use the Coop Tax on Sundays until the arrangement is reviewed by the Vestry.

4. Money in the refugee account

St. Mary's refugee account has a balance of \$9,000. A total of \$37,620 was used out of the total amount \$48,749.04 that St. Mary's had raised for the refugee sponsorship. After we approved \$2129.04 to pay for rent in January 2024, only \$9,000 has remained in the account. The amount is deposited in St. Mary's refugee fund account where it will be invested for future refugee sponsorship plans.

5. Future Plans for refugee sponsorship

The Committee has proposed to initiate refugee sponsorship of another refugee family starting with the balance of \$9,000 in the refugee account. We have forwarded recommendations for our second refugee sponsorship to the Vestry for approval and coordination with the Diocese for a spot of about eight members of the family of Ayen Deng Mabiior, sister to Yar Chol Mayen Thieel. Ayen currently lives in a refugee camp in Uganda.

6. Special Requests: How can you help?

We will appreciate volunteers to support Elizabeth (Ahou) with learner's driving lessons. Since we pay for the Coop Taxi for transport on Sundays, please consider to donate to the church to help cover the expenses for transportation on Sundays. We request for your prayers and donation for the upcoming refugee sponsorship for the family of Ayen Deng Mabiior.

We pray that the Lord God will guide our plans throughout the life of the parish: *Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans* (Proverbs 16:3).

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Nathaniel Deng Mayen

Members of the Refugee and Newcomer Support Committee:

Nathaniel Deng Mayen — Chair.

John McGregor

Kate Berringer

Janice Kerr

Mary Ross

ABORIGINAL, NON-ABORIGINAL SHARING CIRCLE

Respectfully submitted by on behalf of ANARC Sr ReAnne Letourneau

Hello, my name is Sr ReAnne and I have been asked to write something for the Parish Annual Report which has always been done by Norma Trim. The loss of this beloved friend of ours has left a huge whole in our potluck community so we began our year grieving her loss. Ever since we started coming out to St. Mary's Anglican, on the last Wednesday of the month for our potluck and sharing circle, she was always the heart and soul of our gatherings. Our first month back in September we had a special honouring of Norma with healing traditional songs with the drum, led by Littletent family. We felt her presence in so many different ways especially with Bills presence each month, and the joy of connecting with her daughter as well when she has been in town. Yvonne has been an incredible bridge for us. A huge thanks to Henry Friesen, who took the role of teaching some members of our group how to use the dishwasher, which was often Norma's job! We continue to have a very great turn out every month between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people who come to share food, build friendships, listen and share in the stories of our lives, rooted in truth and reconciliation. We have anywhere from 30 to 60 people who come regularly, and new people who often join. At our Christmas party we had close to 100 people. It was an incredible time, with a Christmas potluck with all the trimmings, enthusiastic Christmas Carol singing, and then a wonderful program put on by the Littletent family. The following picture is the young boys dressed as Santa and elves singing some traditional round dance songs.

We are filled with gratitude and thanksgiving for the way St. Mary's parish, under the leadership of Fr Claude, has always opened up their doors and hearts to our group. It is reconciliation in action. The spirit of Norma lives on through community members like you. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for providing this space for us every month, to build bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, and to grow in our respect and love for one another.

Indigenous Relations for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina

“Living and working on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional lands of the Nêhiyawak, Nahkawé, and Nakota, and homeland of the Dakota, Lakota, and Métis peoples.”



Young boys from the Littletent family singing traditional hand drum songs (as Santa and elves!)

FOREVER IN MOTION SENIOR EXERCISE

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 or the church office stmarysanglican@sasktel.net.



Forever...

