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# Staff for the year 2022



Rev. Canon Dr. Penny Anderson Rector



Laurie Lambie Facilities Coordinator



Gloria Campbell Clothing Store Coordinator



Brie Langs Sound/Video Technician



Jenn Cook-Grigsby Open Doors Program Manager



Sarah Layman Director of Children's & Youth Ministry



Andy Elmhirst
Director of Music and
the Performing Arts



David Montgomery Pastoral Associate



Sam Gamage Custodian



Christina Mulder Director of Open Doors Programs and Partnerships



Joel Perez Bookkeeper/Accountant



Joy Thomson
Parish Administrator



Shannon Shuell Open Doors Good Food Coordinator



Manny Vazquez Open Doors Garden & Market Coordinator Sepember –

We bid farewell to these staff members during 2022

### Rev. Michael Coren

Pastoral Associate to February

# Alicja Jawiec

Vegetable Gardener - Canada Summer Student | June to September

### Dáire Kavanagh

Garden and Market Coordinator to September

# Laurie Lambie

Facilities Coordinator to December 31

# **Beth Martin**

Communication & Resource Coordinator February to August

# Pat Robinson

Comptroller to December 31

### Sandi Smith

Volunteer Coordinator to June

# Adam Szautner

Vegetable Gardener - Canada Summer Student | June to September



# The Rector's Charge to Vestry



Rev. Canon Dr. Penny Anderson - Rector

# st. christopher's

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written,

"One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." '  $\,$ 

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you",

and "On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." '

Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." '

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

"Worship the Lord your God,

and serve only him."

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him (Matthew 4.1-11).

By Matthew's account, the face of evil Jesus encounters in the wilderness is beguiling: food when he hasn't eaten in a very long time; a miraculous spectacle that will grab attention and make him famous; power over empires and principalities. All scenarios that would serve Jesus as an individual, but do nothing to improve life for the world of people who suffer with little reason to hope. Jesus' focus is on changing the world!

I am envious of Jesus' time in the wilderness in one sense: It had a defined end point! Not that Jesus' 40 days were a picnic. I don't want to take anything away from the darkness of Jesus' dark night—the privation, the loneliness, the struggle, the anxiety out there in the wilderness. It is important for our faith that Jesus shared all the vulnerabilities of our embodied existence. Vulnerability is very much on display in our gospel reading this morning. But the liminal

time, that between-time in the wilderness when Jesus was neither living a normal life in obscurity nor a public figure, did come to a clear ending. I sense we are ready as a congregation to put our in-between-time-experience with Covid-19 behind us.

### Lingering Effects of the Global Pandemic

Do you remember how we began 2022? By weathering, together, the fifth wave of the global Covid-19 pandemic. Back in January 2022, our building was basically closed, and we were live-streaming worship with a maximum of 10 people present in the church. Our congregation felt this interruption to our community life acutely. Yes, we did return to in-person worship again at the start of March, but restrictions continued through the sixth wave of Covid-19 in April and May, which cut into our ability to celebrate our 70th anniversary as a congregation on May 1st when Bishop Susan visited.

Restrictive Covid-19 measures were finally paused on June 16th.

St. Christopher's is resilient! We have been through so much together! When I speak about finances in a few minutes, you will see that the effects of the pandemic are lingering for our church, even now that energy is growing at St. Christopher's around our worship, our programs, and our community events. Our inbetween-time is not yet fully behind us.

One highlight for me that exemplifies the growing energy at St. Christopher's was my induction, and the accompanying 70th Anniversary party, on September 25th. It was such a good day for our church! I am still full of gratitude for musicians and dancers, event planners, decorators, bartenders, memory book makers, furniture setter-uppers, cooks, gift givers, cleaner-uppers, card writers, altar servers, communion ministers,

liturgy writers, and bulletin makers. Thank you! Thank you Jude, Levi, and Sebastian for being wonderfully vivacious participants in our worship – how good it was for your church family to celebrate your baptisms with you! How excellent for me to be able to see how my long-awaited induction as your Rector was a celebration of our shared ministry at St. Christopher's! How great that we finally got to have a party to celebrate our 70th anniversary as a congregation. Thank you, one and all!

This is the right place for me to continue with expressions of gratitude. I want to thank our staff, who have showed loyalty and commitment through years of unprecedented challenges - I am proud of all the ways you have delivered programs and vital care to our community. My deepest gratitude is reserved for all our volunteers. You make community happen at St. Christopher's. You are the reason our shared ministry is vibrant and hope-filled. You extend our compassion and care to many in our neighbourhood through our outreach ministries. I am moved and uplifted by your heart. I am grateful for all you do!

#### Mission Action Plan

Our Mission Action Plan is one of the success stories of 2022. We observed active participation across the four discernment sessions, and strong consensus around our priorities. Since we finalized the first version of our Mission Action Plan in May, teams have been working diligently on our priorities. Many, many events we enjoyed through the year – potlucks, parties, the labyrinth walk, the newcomer's wine and cheese – arose from our Mission Action Plan.

A full MAP report appears in your Vestry Book. For now I want to remind you that all the work we are doing in response to our Mission Action Plan is meant to help

us to get involved with what God is doing in the world. Sometimes missional things happen in church, but more often, its in the places we go every day – at the grocery store, at the park when we're out with our grandchildren, in the places we come alongside to listen to an acquaintance or a stranger. God is at work in the world, and we get in touch with what God is doing when we are attuned to issues of justice and inclusion and when we act with compassion. And we help to draw others into this work when we tell others about our experience of being loved and accepted by God, whether through our words or our actions.

There are no guarantees around how and when we move out of the in-between time we're in. Our Mission Action Plan is equipping us with the skills we need to live as our true and authentic selves in the in-between times.

#### **Our Finances**

I hope you noticed positive things happening at your church through the fall and winter. Energy is building around our worship and our programs. Attendance is gradually increasing, newcomers are finding us and deciding to stay for a while. St. Christopher's is a good place to be!

However, the financial picture at St. Christopher's is a bit out of step with the positive signs we are seeing around our church. 2022 was an extremely challenging year for St. Christopher's financially. All of us experienced the same turbulence and uncertainty in the financial markets. Knowing we are all impacted by rising inflation and volatile global markets, I am all the more grateful for your generosity. Even when we were surrounded by woeful news, I saw you giving generously to your church, supporting our refugee family, supporting our outreach ministries and supporting our stewardship campaign. Thank you. Your generosity is inspiring! You have made it possible for us to project our core values of community, compassion and hope into our neighbourhood and beyond.

Even so, you will hear in the financial report to our Annual Congregational Meeting that we ended 2022 with an operating deficit of \$76,357. And, after rounds of reductions in almost every budget line, we are projecting an operating deficit of \$83,899 for 2023. In recent years, the corporation has been able to draw funds from the foundation to reduce operating deficits. However, we have used these funds to a point where the corporation is reluctant to depend upon them to bring our budget into balance this year.

Faced with this reality, we will be returning to the congregation with a stewardship campaign in 2023. The Stewardship Committee is working on the details, and we will keep you informed.

Not everyone likes a stewardship campaign! We are doing this because we all share responsibility for this church. St. Christopher's is our spiritual home. We are doing this because we are committed to our shared ministry. I am excited about the vision that is emerging for our church and this is the right time to appeal to the congregation to make this vision a reality.

### **Next Steps**

Let's talk about the future! Our next steps will be true to our core identity as a congregation. We will invest in caring for members - our pastoral care teams will be there with you through major life transitions, illnesses, and celebrations. We will invest in the excellent worship and programs for all ages you have come to expect at St. Christopher's.

There are two big new things coming to St. Christopher's. I am excited to tell you about our future with community organizing and social enterprise:

# **Community Organizing**

Emerging from the work we have



# The Rector's Charge to Vestry continued



Rev. Canon Dr. Penny Anderson

been doing around our Mission Action Plan, I see St. Christopher's taking leadership in Burlington through community organizing. In a time when our society is increasingly divided and fragmented, in a time when conservative churches are doubling-down on division, our gift and our calling as a progressive congregation is to get involved in community organizing. I think St. Christopher's is in the right place to empower and assist our neighbours to organize for advocacy and action.

It is going to take some time. The focus for our mobilization will emerge from many, many conversations, but already we are seeing energy building around supporting queer and trans youth, providing access to emergency shelter and affordable housing, increasing mental health supports, climate justice, and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Community organizing will mean nurturing new, vital relationships with our neighbours, with partner organizations, and with civic leaders. It will mean getting outside our building, living for others, bringing people along, and making change in our city. Community organizing will enable St. Christopher's to embody our commitment to social justice and inclusion. Our efforts at community organizing will engage our neighbours in moving into the new society that God is creating. Community organizing will move St. Christopher's into the position where we have always been at our best: providing strong leadership in our community through compassion and service.

# **Social Enterprise**

Community organizing will complement the work we do in 2023 to launch a new social enterprise project through our outreach ministries. We are starting with a project that builds upon our strengths in food service. Our plan

will support and train guests and neighbours who are unemployed or underemployed. For participants, it will be a chance to get valuable work experience, and their work will generate income to support St. Christopher's and the training program.

Social enterprise goes beyond our existing ministry of offering free food and free clothing - important work that we will be continuing! In fact, social enterprise is a powerful tool to change unjust social structures that benefit the most privileged. Programs like ours equip people to advocate for themselves in an economic system that blocks them from flourishing. Over time, it changes the system, as we build partnerships with local business hungry for workers, businesses that see the value in talking with their customers about what social enterprise can do.

Over time, I see the possibility of real change in Burlington because of what we're doing. I see social enterprise using market forces to lift up people who haven't counted in the assessment of people who shape the markets. Over time, social enterprise at St. Christopher's will begin to change the conversation about employment and about inclusion in Burlington.

#### **Back to Jesus**

Back to Jesus, who dwelt in the in-between-space in the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights. How did he travel through this liminal time? By focusing on God's mission in the world, with his Bible in his hand, and his commitment to the new society God is creating firmly in view. We will model our steps similarly, staying true to our core identity as a congregation, as together we join God's work in the world. Amen.





# **Pastoral Care**



David Montgomery Pastoral Associate

# Pastoral Associates' Report

by David Montgomery

Pastoral care at St. Christopher's is definitely a team effort, and there is always room for more team members. I remain in awe of the dedication of so many people who assist in providing care to others in such a wide variety of ways, and I give them my unqualified gratitude.

We visit those who are living in retirement homes and long-term care homes, as well as those living in their own homes but not able to attend church as they used to. We visit as often as we can but acknowledge it's never enough. We also continue to maintain a group of over half a dozen volunteers who phone parishioners on a regular basis. Maintaining routine contact with our community is a vital part of pastoral care.

Currently, we lead regular worship in two homes where there is excellent and consistent attendance by the residents. Through the recruitment of additional volunteers, we are hoping to expand the number of homes we visit on a regular basis. Frequent

visits are also made at Joseph Brant Hospital.

At Easter and Christmas, volunteers bring communion to parishioners who otherwise might not be able to attend worship in person. Receiving communion is always important, but particularly at these significant times in the church calendar.

We host two regular support groups that each have an average monthly attendance of about seven to ten people. In 2022, we began offering a flexible hybrid approach to these gatherings, inviting people to participate in person in the Family Room or on Zoom. Also, one does not need to be a member of St. Christopher's to attend, and the participation of people from outside our immediate community enhances the experience for everyone.

You Are Not Alone, our grief support group, provides an opportunity to those who have lost loved ones – either recently or long ago – to express their grief and describe their journey in a safe and supportive environment. People listen and learn from each other and come to appreciate that everyone grieves differently and that there is no wrong way to grieve. Our gatherings include some prayer, some scripture, and a whole lot of love

Our Mental Health Care Partners' Support Group includes membership with rich experience in supporting those with mental health concerns. We share our experiences as well as our ideas regarding effective strategies for how best to be supportive to our loved ones, to each other, and to ourselves. As with the grief support group, these gatherings are completely confidential.

I am grateful for all those volunteers who engage so meaningfully in providing pastoral care. If you are aware of someone who might be in need of additional support, or if you wish to become involved, please let me know.



Hilary Barber

# Prayer Shawl Ministries

by Hilary Barber

I am pleased to report that the ladies of the Prayer Shawl Group have again knitted and crocheted dozens of shawls, blankets and baby blankets to keep our cupboard well stocked in order to meet the needs of our congregation and the wider community. We are very excited that we were able to welcome three more ladies to our group.

This past year we have been able to provide over 75 adult shawls and blankets, and 25 baby/children's blankets to those experiencing sickness and loss or marking significant milestones in their lives.

As many of you know, we also support Shifra Homes for single moms to be. This year they expanded to a second home and so, as the girls can stay at least six months and there are two homes, with six moms in each, we anticipate that we may provide about 20 bundles a year. Each bundle has a baby blanket, a blanket for mom, a receiving blanket, and a baby hat.

To the members of the group who support this Prayer Shawl Ministry, thank you ladies for your dedication, diligence and generosity over the past years. Thank you Donna, Dot, Maggie, and Debbie, the members

of the leadership team, for taking on extra responsibility when I had to take a few months off. Finally thank you to Penny and David for supporting us, blessing shawls and attending our meetings.

We are always eager to welcome new members. We meet on the last Thursday of the month (1pm) at the church for a group meeting but understand that not everyone is able to attend. We can supply new members with needles, yarn, patterns, and support. Please call the church office for contact information.



# Funeral Hospitality

During 2022 pandemic restrictions eased to the point where we were once again able to offer receptions to the families who celebrated funeral services at St. Christopher's. Food and beverages have been arranged by the family and provided by outside

caterers. While there has not been a formal Funeral Hospitality Committee, many parishioners have assisted in these occasions with table set-up and decor, serving, and extra help in the kitchen. Many thanks to those who have provided their personal warmth

and compassion and represented the parish with such caring. Please let the office know if you would be willing to participate in this ministry from time to time. It is an important offering of hospitality that is very much appreciated by bereaved families.





# **Corporate Reports**



Amy Collard

# Wardens and Parish Council Report

by Amy Collard - Rector's Warden & Chair of Parish Council

2022 felt a lot more "normal" than the first two years of the pandemic. The Diocese lifted Covid-19 restrictions during the summer, and by September St. Christopher's was back to offering three Sunday services. It was good to be back in our worship space, seeing familiar faces and receiving communion. While it might feel like the pandemic is behind us, we are still vigilant in ensuring everyone self-screens before entering the church, and providing masks to those who request them.

#### **Mission Action Plan**

The Diocese of Niagara initiated a project called Mission Action Plan (MAP) in 2022. The process guided our parish through four gatherings to a mission action plan that will serve the parish and God's mission for the next one to two years. The first three meetings were brainstorming sessions that fleshed out our parish's strengths, gifts and passions.

The fourth meeting guided us through a prioritizing process that produced goals for three focus areas:

- Faith Formation
- Reshaping Parish Culture to Enable Ministry, and
- Fullness of Life in Our Neighbourhood.

During the remainder of the year dozens of volunteers gathered to implement the goals in each of the three areas.

#### Vestry

Our 70th Annual Vestry Meeting was once again held online via Zoom. The meeting was well attended and voting was enabled through the Zoom application. This year there were no power outages at the Rector's house, so everything moved forward without any surprises! We thanked Erick Nettel for his exemplary service as Rector's Warden and welcomed Paul Shelton as the new Deputy People's Warden. We also held one

of our Mission Action Plan sessions on Vestry Sunday which worked out very well with so many members in attendance.

#### **Parish Council**

Throughout 2022, Parish Council continued to meet online via Zoom. Our annual retreat was an opportunity to welcome our new members and dive into the Mission Action Plan for St. Christopher's. We discussed a variety of themes that had been developed during our Mission Action Plan meetings.

As the year unfolded, we began reading articles provided by Penny ahead of our meetings, and had in depth discussions about how they might be applied to St. Christopher's. There has been a lot of rich conversation about how to move forward now that the pandemic is waning, and what new skills we have developed because of the restrictions that were in place during the height of Covid-19.

### Worship

St. Christopher's is back to our pre-pandemic schedule, offering a full slate of worship styles including traditional, contemporary, modern, and jazz vespers. Attendance is steadily increasing and we have attracted several new families to our ministry. We continue to live-stream our 9.30 Sunday morning worship service, and upload it to YouTube so people can watch it as they're able. For the first time since 2019 we were open for in-person worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Everyone in attendance was full of joy at being able to celebrate the birth of Jesus together again!

#### Music

As always Andy Elmhirst provided beautiful music through the church's seasons of the year. He was quick to adjust as the pandemic rules ebbed and flowed, and always managed to make these changes appear seamless. The choir and the band are back in full swing now, and sounding better than ever!

Daniel Cunningham resigned as our Digital Production Coordinator in March and led Jazz Vespers for the last time in 2022 on March 20th. We miss you Dan, and we wish you all the very best in your education and your future career. We welcomed Brie Langs into the role of Digital Production Coordinator at the start of April.

#### **Pastoral Care**

Michael Coren took on a new role in the Diocese following our Vestry Meeting last year, which meant we had to find another person to take on pastoral care. Michael, thank you for your work on behalf of St. Christopher's.

We were extremely fortunate to quickly add David Montgomery to our roster. His work in pastoral care since joining St. Christopher's has been widely praised. David has also led two groups through the Revive Program which equips lay leaders to become spiritual leaders.

#### Outreach

As always, our outreach ministry, Open Doors, supported our community throughout 2022. The Coldest Night Walk was once again the major fundraiser. Spearheaded by Christina Mulder, Open Doors is now embarking on Social Enterprise as a way of providing job skills and income to those most in need. Christina has also recently joined the Burlington Chamber of Commerce, which will provide many opportunities for our outreach ministry to thrive.

We celebrated Sandi Smith's retirement from her role as Volunteer Coordinator at the end of June. Sandi held more than one role during her tenure on the St. Christopher's staff team. We are grateful for your many contributions to St. Christopher's,

Sandi, and we hope retirement is a time of flourishing for you! The Open Doors report will say more about welcoming Jenn Cook-Grigsby to a new role that includes volunteer management.

#### **GIFT**

January saw the formal addition of Sarah Layman as our Director of Children's & Youth Ministry. As we started 2022 in a lockdown, Sarah was quickly providing opportunities for children and youth to participate in online activities. She has continued to offer a blend of in-person and online gatherings throughout the year, and has restarted the Youth Group as well.

#### **Christmas Market**

Trudy Johnson led a group

of 98 volunteers - a miracle in organizational skills to say the least - as we embarked on our in-person Christmas Market! The Market was very well attended and I heard many visitors comment on how well everything was done. This year's Market drew in over \$10,000, and we anticipate it will continue to grow as the pandemic fades. Thanks so much to Trudy and all 98 volunteers!

#### **Financial**

Pat Robinson retired at the end of 2022. We thank Pat Robinson for her many years serving as the Comptroller for St. Christopher's and wish her all the best in her retirement. Joel Perez has been hired as our new Comptroller - welcome Joel!

#### **Property**

Property was an ongoing theme in 2022. Many thanks to Winston Tinglin in his final year as Property Chair as he oversaw several projects that hadn't been anticipated. Staying on top of all the work, and getting things repaired or replaced pushed our budget more than a little. Winston worked hard to keep our expenses low while getting high quality work done. Kevin Turpin generously agreed to take on the role of Property Chair in 2023. Thank you, Kevin!

Laurie Lambie resigned as Facilities Coordinator at the end of 2022, and we have just recently hired her replacement, Chris Jones, who will be starting in February.

Corporate actions authorized in 2022 on behalf of St. Christopher's congregation In addition to authorizing regular expenditures, the Corporation took the following actions in 2022 on behalf of the congregation of St. Christopher's:

- 1 Entered into a site use agreement with St. Christopher's Cooperative Pre-School.
- 2 Contracted with Heritage Green Landscape Contractors to provide summer maintenance of the property with weekly cutting, trimming, border maintenance, periodic shrub pruning, fertilizer applications, removal of winter debris, raking and removal of leaves, pick up of incidental garbage from April 15-November 14, 2022.
- 3 Contracted with Heritage Green Landscape Contractors to provide winter maintenance of the property including snow clearing of parking lots, driveways and sidewalks, salt applications, snow removal from November 15, 2022 April 14, 2023.
- 4 Signed new lease with Pitney Bowes to lease a new DM125 w1kg scale and moistener postage machine for a 5-year term beginning March 18, 2022.
- 5 Replaced the air conditioning and heating unit in the Community Market with 1 Comfortaire VMH36-SD low ambient high efficiency heat pump. 36,000 Btuh cooling 36,800 Btuh heating. (This cost was shared with Open Doors.)
- 6 Replaced the accessible stall toilet tank of the women's washroom with a new Kohler tank.
- 7 Contracted the services of Style Services (Jana Copeland) to paint the Pre-School rooms, at their request.
- 8 Agreed to pay the requested portion of a new fence erected between our property and that of neighbour, Stephen Cryne.
- 9 Contracted the bookkeeping services of Joel Perez to attend to the St. Christopher's books and records. (Pat Robinson left our employ on January 4, 2023.)
- 10 Hired the biannual services of SaniCare for deep cleaning the kitchen.



# **Corporate Reports**



Christyn Perkons

Parish Mission Action Plan Report (MAP)

by Christyn P	erkons
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Adult Faith Formation	Reshaping Parish Culture to Enhance Ministry	Fullness of Life in the Neighbourhood
Highlight a phrase of the week/ month that people can reflect on	Host social events to renew our feeling of community	Train volunteers/parishioners in missional listening skills
Offer opportunities to engage spiritually with making art or reflecting on the art of others	Attend to our front door; new ways to welcome & integrate newcomers	Environmental scan of building & property to highlight core values to passersby
Gather groups to hike or do prayer walks	Monitor our back door; follow up with people we haven't see in a while	Research demographics of neighbourhood & discern ways to use what we learn to connect with & hear stories of others

Thanks to the leadership of the three MAP teams with the support of the staff, St. Christopher's has been moving ahead with the parish MAP initiatives chosen this past spring. The teams began with an initial meeting in June and early July, and have been working away ever since.

Adult Faith Formation jumped right in and offered a labyrinth walk at the Central Park labyrinth on August Approximately 35 eager parishioners joined facilitator Belinda Beers for an evening that included an introduction to the spirituality of the labyrinth and guidance for maximizing one's individual experience. This very successful labyrinth walk is being repeated on March 4 at the Central Park labyrinth or in the Great Hall, depending on the weather. The experience is open to all with no experience required. In addition, Revive was offered as a small group faith experience led by our Pastoral Associate, David Montgomery, in the autumn. Revive is a discipleship program to help active lay leaders deepen their spiritual practices and grow in confidence as spiritual leaders with participants different practicing styles

praying, understanding scripture, and developing their sense of call. Our All Consuming Advent study and liturgy was designed to support parishioners as they pondered how our identities as consumers influences our faith practices and life priorities. Planning for the Lent study and liturgy promises to be just as impactful as we will be exploring the things that block us from embodied living, from fully choosing life.

The Reshaping Parish Culture to Enhance Ministry team has made quite an impact on our parish life by focusing on re-engaging us in parish events that built community and reconnected us with one another after the isolation of the pandemic years. The team was heavily involved in our Welcome Back Sunday, the Induction of our rector, and the 70th Anniversary celebration, all of which were well attended and provided lots of opportunity for different ways to connect, have fun, and reconnect with one another. A fall coffeehouse with familiar and new talent, and an international potluck followed by an engaging Robbie Burns coffeehouse gave St. Christopher's folks and their friends additional ways to reconnect with our multigenerational family and enjoy the talents amongst us. The team was also instrumental in hosting the recent Newcomers gathering which brought together folks who have joined St. Christopher's over the past two years with some longterm members. And if you missed these events, there's a Mardi Gras Jazz Vespers on Feb 19 featuring John Stephen & The Dixieland Plus. Finally, members of this team have been working with the rector to identify beloved community members we haven't seen over the pandemic years with the intention of inviting them to re-engage at an upcoming Reconnect event.

The Fullness of Life in the Neighbourhood team made an early decision to focus first on missional listening. After much discussion about what "missional listening" is and what it would mean for our parish, a Missional Listening training workshop is taking place on February 21. The intention of this pilot training is to help participants heighten their active listening skills to enhance our ability to engage with our neighbours...to hear their stories, to invite sharing that allows us to deeply know one another.

Missional listening skills will be of use to table hosts at our community lunches and dinners but are also skills that help all of us connect more deeply with our neighbours and the people we casually encounter in day-to-day life. In addition, a small group has been exploring ways to share who we are with folks in the

neighbourhood and online, and invite them to participate in risk-free ways with St. Christopher's.

Work on our missional initiatives continues and each of the teams would welcome new participants. If one of these areas or initiatives piques your interest, please contact me and I'll connect you with the

group lead. You're welcome to participate at whatever level of commitment you can make.

Thanks to Gary Fisher, Gail Grant, and Fred Grigsby for their leadership of the three teams and thanks to all the team members and the staff who have been working on these initiatives!



Robert Taylor

# Stewardship

by Robert Taylor - Stewardship Committee Chair

The last activity of the committee was a campaign in the spring of 2021 to raise funds for the perceived needs in 2021, 2022 and into the spring of 2023. Subsequently, we warmly welcomed Rick Goldring, who led

a planned giving workshop at the church in the fall. As we approach this spring, those funds have been allocated or spent. Additional shortfalls have been addressed by some significant gifts from

individuals. We will have a deficit in 2022 and this, and the budget challenge of 2023, will have to be addressed by Penny, the Corporation and the Stewardship Committee in the coming weeks.





# Ministry Support



Joy Thomson

# Administration

by Joy Thomson - Parish Administrator

It is time once again to pause and look back over 2022. After a disappointing December 2021 with Christmas Eve service closures, we returned to Church & Chat for January and February. On March 2 we were again able to worship in-person. It truly has been an unprecedented time in history for the church, with "closed" doors and computer-only services. Now, as we emerge from that quiet time of reflection and isolation, there is a renewed excitement and interest to gather and be energized by being a part of that together-ness. Can you feel this excitement? It is our job as a church staff and volunteer leaders to make sure we provide every opportunity for this renewal and "plug-in". Whatever your interest, passion or skill set, there is a place for you here. Most of the ministries, groups, outreach activities and social connections are listed in these pages from the past year but we are starting at ground zero, with the possibility of a complete rebirth. If you can imagine it, then it may be done! What would you like to be involved in on a weekly or monthly basis here at St. Christopher's? What would you like to see happen here in the years ahead? "Church" is definitely not limited to what we have done in the past. How may we be influenced by what we now know? What are the wishes and needs of our children and how may we be transformed to create something brand new and meet those needs? Could St. Christopher's lead the way for Burlington and southern Ontario in trailblazing fresh footsteps and creative definitions for the church in 2023 and beyond?

Celebrating our 70th year together gave us reason to plan some special events. A May 1 visit from Bishop Susan was amazing, complete with visiting clergy, liturgical dancers,

special music and people, many of whom had not been here for more than two years. On Sunday, September 25 we were able to celebrate with the Ford-Jones family as Sebastian, Jude and Levi were baptized. The food and music afterward gave us the first chance in years to celebrate who we are! We have also been able to open our doors for space use this year. We currently have licencing agreements with the St. Christopher's PreSchool, two Al-Anon groups, one AA group and the Burlington Civic Chorale. One interesting group that used our space in 2022 was a local Catholic high school; they wanted to find a venue within the community for their graduates' annual retreat - they chose St. Christopher's. What a wonderful networking opportunity! Whenever the students were in the building, there was lots of volume and fun going on, as they did problemsolving activities, held sharing circles and enjoyed a pizza lunch. Perhaps we will see some of these young people volunteering in our Open Doors programs in future months?

Throughout 2022 the administrative team, both staff and volunteers, have been adapting to changing circumstances to maintain our building and be sure it is ready to accommodate the return of our various activities as well as new and exciting events and initiatives. We've worked hard to keep people connected and informed about how they can participate. Here are some of the highlights.

Our office volunteers answer telephones, speak with members of the public who grace our doors, assist staff with tasks and are ready to provide information and connect people! We currently have a very dedicated crew, mostly performing half-day coverage. Tricia Clarke, Gloria Campbell, Judy Jupp,

Marva Worrell, Pat Haines, Carol Henley, Sharon Hearn-Lloyd, Gloria Maddox, and Fran MacLean are all multi-talented, loyal and dedicated to their role. I appreciate each one and the wonderful work that they do. Liz Baldwin, Bonnie Grant, and Wendy McCowan have also offered their support on days of illness or vacation. It has been so good to spend this special time with you, working side by side and learning more of your own stories. If you have some time available, we would love to have you come and join us. Just call or email me at 905.634.1809 or jthomson@stcb.ca.

Our reception desk in the front foyer is often the first glimpse people have of our faith community. Our volunteers greet visitors, provide information, assist with donations, and help to connect folks further as needed. If you want to chat with people, enjoy some social time away from home, we have many openings at our reception desk in the front foyer. It is a wonderful way to spend a few hours! Thank you to Lynda Clarke, Bonnie Grant, Liz Baldwin, Gloria Maddox and Cathy Stokes for your weekly gift of a shift - it is truly awesome to have you there, being that first friendly face of St. Christopher's.

Our church office includes some other very dedicated staff and volunteers. Our financial team includes our treasurer, bookkeeper and envelope secretaries. Tom Nicol has been an invaluable wealth of knowledge throughout the past year. He is always willing to provide answers to our questions, to search for details, to offer his time in looking for documents or contacting organizations. We mostly appreciate his humour, caring, thoughtfulness and humble leadership, every day. Pat Robinson left our employment in the early days of 2023, after many years as bookkeeper here. She was a dedicated and loyal employee throughout her time at St. Christopher's and we are thankful for her willingness to keep our books and records in order. Joel Perez began a contract with us as bookkeeper in mid December. Joel is keen to learn and attentive to instruction. He has come to us in the middle of a year-end preparation (which is a real challenge) but he is up to it and we are pleased that he is now part of our team. Deidre Conway and Laurie Boyes are our very faithful envelope secretaries. They work away in the evenings and on weekends when others have gone home. They are dedicated to this work, offer much knowledge, give wonderful attention to detail and are a real pleasure to work with.

Our marketing and design department has a volunteer of one person: Ken Beeby! He is the mastermind behind our monthly Messenger, all graphics for the weekly eblast, special letter layouts and the intricate and enticing graphic support for Open Doors' signage and communications. Ken loves to create, design, problem-solve - he is a very valuable asset on our team. We particularly love his willingness to take on new projects, his loyalty, patience, humour and his renowned entertaining and interesting stories.

Our maintenance team has also changed faces at the end of 2022. Laurie Lambie, our Facilities Coordinator left our employment after 18 months of support and generosity for our building and staff. We have recently filled this position with a very capable candidate ... but more about that in next year's report! Our custodian, Sam Gamage is dedicated to caring for our church building. It has been a very solitary job during the covid years but though Sam has more

company now, he also has much more to do to keep everything at its best. This is particularly true as our regular activities resume but also as outside user groups begin to request use of our space for meetings and events once again. Sam loves to share his humour with us and we are thankful for his humble, caring and thoughtful nature. I have really enjoyed working with Winston Tinglin, Chair of Property, and Michael Peroune, Property Committee. What dedicated workers these two men have been, working in the shadows, installing Christmas lights on the front lawn, solving water issues, painting front steps and doing a myriad of other tasks. You two are amazing!

Our staff team is full of support, encouragement, wisdom and guidance. Penny is always ready to "lift us up" and also to be a strong and authentic leader. There is much to learn at her feet and we are all thankful for her presence with us. Humour is a strong suit for her and in the darkest corners she charms and inspires our best selves. David joined us this year and he has shared invaluable knowledge and a lived compassion with us. Sarah has encountered many hurdles through covid and continues to build programming, from the ground up. She is interested to learn and has inspired and imaginative ideas, which continue to emerge. Andy always brings passion and creativity to the table! We are thankful for his intuitive care for parishioners, his motivational abilities and his talent and interest in continually finding fresh ways of presenting the musical arts. Christina and the Open Doors team of Jenn Cook-Grigsby, Shannon Shuell, Manny Vasquez, and Deb Peroune are a cohesive team who share their passions for their work with us daily. Together, this team can accomplish big things!

Each of YOU enrich my life in so many ways, of which you may not even be aware. Every day is different but may include handwritten notes of encouragement, very funny computer jokes, book title suggestions, words of wisdom, a hall chat (when everything around me is tumbling), offered sweets, telephone stories, requests to help and so much more. I love your shared stories and remembered past days. What a treat it is to come to work everyday! This is a very special place ... with the very best people in the midst. Thank you!





# **Property Report**



Winston Tinglin



# Property Committee

by Winston Tinglin - Property Committee Chair

Overall, 2022 was quite a busy year, in which programs returned to full operation and the building was well utilized from day to day. It was great to see signs of this renewed energy everywhere.

In the earlier months, things followed a fairly routine and uneventful path, as we carried out our regular monthly inspections and made minor repairs, as needed. Thanks to work done by members of our property team, we were able to stay on top of relatively minor repairs that came up from time to time – e.g. fixing broken garden benches, repairs to a damaged delivery ramp, painting, fence repairs and dry-walling.

However, as the year progressed, more challenges surfaced: repair needs and equipment replacements, in fact, exceeded expectations. Among the bigger expense items were - air conditioner repairs, the purchase of HEPA Filters for enclosed gathering spaces, replacement of a furnace in the main building, installation of a new heating and a/c unit in the Community Market portable, and repairs to a major leak in the kitchen. With these repairs and facility investments now behind us, we are anticipating a reasonably stable situation in 2023.

It was really good to note the great support we had last November, on Fall Clean-up Day. Volunteers gave up their Saturday morning and in short order got the grounds around the building cleaned up, and trimmed away the overgrowth by the fences. It was great teamwork. Thanks to everyone who came out to help – Winston Campbell, David Evans, Fred Grigsby, Bob Loree, Basil Masri and his son Aboudy, Mounir, Tom Nicol, Don

Osbourne, Bill Tannyan, Bob Taylor, Paul Tomlinson, and Kevin Turpin.

Our thanks would be incomplete without acknowledging the core team of volunteers who pitch in from time to time and work with Michael Peroune and myself to get things done – David Evans, Tom Nicol, Don Osbourne, Stan Pearce, Paul Smith, Bill Tannyan, and Paul Tomlinson. Thank you one and all. I'm especially grateful to Michael for his innumerable contributions, week by week, to this important ministry. His dedication, generosity and thoughtful advice are greatly appreciated.

Finally, thanks to staff who have worked alongside with us throughout the year – Joy Thomson, our Parish Administrator, Facilities Coordinator Laurie Lambie and Custodian Sam Gamage. It has been a pleasure working with you all.



# Children's and Youth Ministry



Sarah Layman

# Children's and Youth Ministry

by Sarah Layman - Director of Children's & Youth Ministry

We started off the year exclusively online, but that didn't prevent Children's and Youth Ministry from happening. A small group of dedicated volunteers helped me to plan and lead a once-a-month Zoom meeting for young children in place of GIFT, and helped me to get to know some of the families at St. Christopher's. I also made weekly video recordings that were uploaded to YouTube as a way to reach out to families and start to make connections.

We had a group of older youth participate in the Coldest Night of the Year walk and raise funds for Open Doors. There were DIY Pancake Kits for families to take home for Shrove Tuesday, along with a Lenten Devotional. We held a Resurrection Car Party in the parking lot for families to come and decorate their cars in Easter-themed décor before driving around the neighbourhood

in a little parade, and we did a "pop-up" Easter play that got the congregation involved with some actions.

Once the pandemic restrictions allowed us to return to regular inperson gatherings, GIFT returned on a weekly basis at the 9.30am service. Eight young people participated in a five-week preparation course and were Confirmed at Christ's Church Cathedral in Hamilton. We also started up both a junior and senior Youth Group.

For Advent I put together a daily devotional for families, and was happy to meet so many new families during the Family Service at 4.00pm on Christmas Eve.

We also held some special events such as a Pentecost Party, Holy Hike at Bronte Creek Provincial Park, a Pumpkin Carving Party, Games Day, Bowling for the Sr. Youth, and cooking and sharing a meal together with the Jr. Youth.

Grannie's Place was able to resume in September allowing us to provide a safe and caring space for the youngest members of our congregation.

I would like to extend a most sincere thank you to all of our volunteers - those who help with GIFT, those who volunteer as my second adult for Confirmation Class and Youth Groups, and for our special events, and those who volunteer in Grannie's Place. These ministries couldn't exist without your continued support, and because of your time and talent the children and youth of St. Christopher's are able to participate in the life of their church, and grow in their faith in a safe and supportive community.

I look forward to the exciting things to come in 2023 and encourage you to consider volunteering your time for Children's and Youth Ministry.





# Liturgy & Learning



Diane Peters

# Altar Guild

by Diane Peters - Altar Guild Chair

The Altar Guild has returned with dedicated volunteers to our duties for all services. Many long-time members have returned and we have welcomed new volunteers who will also assist in our work with the clergy. The Altar Guild is responsible

for taking care of the preparations for all three services, along with special services, funerals and weddings. We are divided into teams so duties are equally shared. Our responsibilities also include decorating for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is a pleasure for us and we are often assisted by talented members of the congregation.

This ministry is rewarding and meaningful team work for everyone. It is an honour and a privilege to work with Penny and David each week.



Maryann Lennox

# Memorial Flowers

by Carol Henley - Interim Memorial Flower Coordinator

With the return to in-person worship, this ministry has been renewed. Thank you to the many folks in our parish who have supported the memorial flower program in our church. It is an opportunity to share the love we hold in our hearts for loved ones no longer with us.

After each Sunday's services, the flowers are delivered to those marking significant year anniversaries or birthdays, families with new babies, recent illnesses or losses, and other similar kinds of reasons.

In the fall of 2022 Maryann Lennox stepped aside as leader of this ministry after many years of service. We owe a debt of gratitude to Maryann for her dedication to this ministry. Beyond the administrative tasks of coordinating the flowers, Maryann has maintained compassionate contact with those marking the loss of loved ones and supporting them on their grieving journey. Thank you Maryann!

Carol Henley has stepped in to assist the Altar Guild team in coordinating the memorials.



Carol Henley

# **Eucharist Assistants**

celebration of the Eucharist. My

sincere thanks to all members.

by Gloria Campbell - Eucharist Assistant Coordinator



Gloria Campbell

By assisting the clergy, Eucharist
Assistants enjoy a satisfying,
rewarding experience in the

Your commitment and support are
heart-warming.

If you are interested in sharing in

If you are interested in sharing in this ministry, please contact me or Canon Penny.



# **Altar Servers**

The pandemic enforced a prolonged dry spell for altar servers. How wonderful it was in the summer of 2022 to be able to schedule servers for our worship services again, and to begin training two new servers. Thank you to Ewa Jacobs for your constant support and assistance as

our server at the 8 o'clock service. Thank you to Heather Rudge for your support and assistance at the 9:30am, and for your help in training servers for this service. We are delighted to welcome Carys and Dylan to the team! Thank you also to Judi McNairn for assisting with

scheduling servers for our 9:30am worship. Servers get to see all that is happening around the altar, and provide leadership in liturgical processions. If you think you might like to try out this important ministry, please speak to one of the servers or to one of the clergy!



Gerry Anthony

# Prayers of the People

by Gerry Anthony - Intercessor Coordinator

This past year, as with 2021, has been a challenge on many fronts as we continued to battle COVID-19 for a good part of the year. Intercessors have taken up the challenge of preparing prayers for delivery at our in-house services. Some intercessors were not comfortable with in-church prayers while others prefer in-church rather than virtual. At the end of the day we have a core of dedicated intercessors who have been amazingly dedicated to intercessory prayer and have been an integral part of our worship

service every Sunday. On behalf of the clergy and on behalf of you, the congregation, I want to thank them for a job extremely well done under less than ideal circumstances.

Each intercessor brings their own particular style to the prayers. It is wonderful how they always reflect the theme of the worship that day. I cannot speak highly enough, or often enough, to thank them for their dedication and faithfulness; they are truly beyond measure.

Now as we enter 2023 it appears

that we are finally able to manage living with COVID and the other viruses that have appeared on the horizon. They will not disappear but will become a manageable part of our lives.

We are always looking for intercessors to add to our ministry. If you think this is a ministry that 'calls' to you, please speak to myself, David or to Penny. It would be nice to have a couple of extra folks. Please, do give this request your prayerful consideration.



John Reszitnyk

# Readers' Guild

by John Reszitnyk - Reader Coordinator

Proclaiming the Word within our liturgies is part of our identity as people of faith. The lay readers are a group of twelve readers and two alternates who read a lesson at either the 8.00am or 9.30am services and additional services at Christmas, Holy Week and other

special times. This typically works out to reading once every six weeks at 8.00am or once every eight weeks at 9.30am. We welcome additional readers. A special mention to Jane Swackhammer and the late Jane Brady for their past service. For more information contact John Reszitnyk.



Jane Wyse

# Weddings

by Jane Wyse - Wedding Coordinator

There were no weddings at St. Christopher's in 2022. There are no dates booked for 2023 either. If you know someone considering places of worship for their marriage, please share our information.

This ministry is a lovely opportunity

to meet and get to know families in our community. If you love weddings, have an attention to detail and enjoy meeting new people - this could be a perfect place of ministry for you! If so, please let me know or contact Penny.



# **Music and the Performing Arts**



Andy Elmhirst
Director of Music
& the Performing Arts

Writing Vestry Reports is starting to feel a bit like being Phil, the weatherman, in Groundhog Day. For three years in a row, the prevailing theme within music and the performing arts has been adjusting our programs in order to continue ministry within a shifting regulatory landscape - transitioning, pivoting, adapting and all that. While this is still true for 2022, it only applies to the first half of the year. This diocese paused all of it's COVID restrictions in June and our entire fall term proceeded as it would in a 'normal' year. Within both regulatory frameworks, music and the performing arts at St. Christopher's built partnerships, created community and consistently elevated our prayer life with engaging, creative, and authentic performances.

Throughout the year we've enjoyed renewed partnerships with local choirs, charities, churches and musicians. The first such partnership was with the Burlington Civic Chorale at the memorial service for Janet Gadeski in April. The back of the church was four rows deep with choristers, the music was beautiful and meaningful as befits the life of a loving and wise person. It was a musical tribute that I won't soon forget and I hope that there will be more opportunities to work with the BCC in the future, hopefully under happier circumstances. Musical partnerships in 2022 also led to the presentation of "Considering Matthew Shephard", the hosting of a benefit concert for Ukrainian newcomers and a relationship with the Yuan Yin Group. An immediate partnership goal for 2023 is to spearhead the formation of an ecumenical funeral choir.

A musical partnership of particular note from this past year is the renewed involvement of Jim Sandilands in Jazz Vespers at St. Christopher's. Since June, Jim has been responsible for selecting music, booking musicians and leading Jazz Vespers

services. In terms of atmosphere and attendance numbers, this has produced something of a Jazz Vespers renaissance. This is partly due to easing of COVID regulations and partly due to the relaxed and free-flowing mood which Jim brings to the music and prayers.

Prior to Jim's recent involvement, we were fortunate to have Daniel Cunningham, a child of the parish, leading the music for Jazz Vespers. Daniel began this ministry in June of 2020 and sustained the service through the worst periods of COVID. The last service he led was in March 2022. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Daniel for his many contributions to St. Christopher's, not only with Jazz Vespers but also with the 11.30am band, parish events, sound systems and more.

Reaching out and forming partnerships is important but the heart of music and the performing arts at St. Christopher's is our own programs. The dancers, band, choir, guitar group, singers and instrumentalists of this parish are the talented people who enliven and deepen our worship. They are core to our mission statement. Their contributions to the life of this community cannot be overstated.

Liturgical Dance was back in person in 2022. Dancers were there for our first Easter Vigil service in two years. They danced to The Lord's Prayer, a hymn and anthems including "The Power of the Cross" which featured a duet by Claire and Allison Christoff. Some of these older dancers could no longer participate in the December Lessons and Carols service and so this performance was done by a comparatively younger group. Some of these younger dancers are no longer dancing in 2023 and so one of the goals for the coming year will be to reach out to neighbouring parishes and offer this unique opportunity more broadly.

2022 was a turning point for the 11.30am band. Of the six members

who comprised the band at the end of that year, only two remain. There are a variety of reasons why people felt that the time was right for a change. Phil Jones, Katie Cunningham and Shanna Napier-Andrews have been involved with the band for over twelve years. Their generosity, commitment and talent deserve a round of applause (which they received on many occasions). Jim Wright joined the band in the last year and I appreciate the dedication, good rhythm and good energy that he brings to the group. He is joined by Raeanne Venne on vocals and myself on keyboard. John Stephen generously fills in on bass when needed. We have a good chemistry and I maintain that, despite the smaller forces, the band sounds as good as ever. Our repertoire is creative, unique, thought-provoking, energetic and beautiful. It is always well received by the gracious 11.30am congregation. Still, we could really use a guitar player or two. The search continues in 2023.

Music at our other two Sunday services is provided by the choir, guitar group, soloists and instrumentalists of St. Christopher's. We are fortunate to be the beneficiaries of so much talent. Music at the 8.00 am is led by Peggy Cardwell who is deeply familiar with our congregational music and sings these songs not only with great technical ability but with care and love also. Music at 9.30am is provided by the guitar group and choir while I play piano or organ. At both 8.00am and 9.30am, we regularly benefit from the talents of instrumentalists, especially Paul Smith (trumpet), Audrey Chan (violin), Bev Wilson (flute) and John Stephen (guitar).

The choir was doing the adapting dance for most of the spring, whereas the fall term was more predictable. The year began with limited numbers of singers. By Easter, masking and spacing were the only rules and by June there were no restrictions on

choral singing. We had plenty of opportunity to get accustomed to new ways of doing things. The choir is a large commitment, with weekly rehearsals and Sunday obligations, four services in Holy Week, funeral singing, evening services, parties and special performances. Socially and liturgically, the choir is a core component of this church. I am grateful to each member for their talent and enthusiasm. One goal for the coming year is to reactivate special performances. It's been a long time since we've put on a cabaret or sang at a retirement home.

The same goals apply for miscellaneous musical ventures

in 2023. We're finally able to have social functions again and we haven't wasted time in doing them. We've already had a couple of coffee houses which were very well received and the intention is to do more. My last in-person recital was in December 2019 and the next is planned for October 20th 2023. It will feature a collection of works by Tchaikovsky called "The Seasons".

Many of these goals for 2023 may seem unimaginative: more band members, more dancers, more choir functions, more music. But this is a reflection of the times. Two and a half years of restricted activity was destructive. It's time to rebuild and to restart the things we used to do. I have no intentions of merely recreating the past nor any delusions that numbers of participants will be on par with pre-pandemic levels; the goal is to wholeheartedly enjoy the activities to which we are called: singing, performing, worshipping and caring for others.

I hope it's not wrong to refer to the pandemic in the past tense. The odds seem to be that it is in the rear-view mirror. Certainly, that's how many of us have been living for the past many months and it's necessary that future planning assumes this. Even Bill Murray got out of Punxsutawney eventually!



Paula Ramsay

Allison Wright

# Liturgical Dancers

by Allison Wright and Paula Ramsay - Coordinators

The liturgical dance group at St. Christopher's was once again fully engaged in 2022, with much joy and adulation!

Allison and Paula are the directors and choreographers of the troupe, with a passion and vision for the art. Paula is our resident seamstress and costume designer.

As we look back through 2022, we acknowledge that it has been a very busy year, with only a fraction of the preparation time as in previous presentations. Our schedule of dances in 2022 included:

Apr	16	Easter Vigil
May	1	Bishop Susan's Visit
Sep	25	70th Celebration
Dec	11	Lessons & Carols

We were extremely blessed to have a group of eight young dancers who dedicated approximately 100 hours to prepare eight pieces for presentation. Even though the schedules were tight, everyone rose to the challenge and beautiful performances were enjoyed by all, present and virtual.

(If you missed these services, you may still view them at stcb.ca/ YouTube and then choose the name or date, from the collection of taped services there.)

The dance program provides a wonderful experience for anyone to learn dance movements and steps as they express the word of God through movement to music with the choir, the band, or the

spoken word. The program normally runs in two sessions, September to December and January to April. Each session consists of a 12-week commitment and dancers can participate in one or both sessions. Dance experience is not required. The group is made up of youth drawn from the parish and other outreach programs offered at St. Christopher's.

Please consider this opportunity for your children, now or in the future. Liturgical dance is a beautiful expression of worship through movement and adds texture and elemental expression to our celebratory services. Thank you to all who offer their time and efforts here.



# **Ministry Development & Community Life**

opportunities for parishioners to engage with each other in meaningful ways.



John Reszitnyk

# **Encountering the Bible** started in February 2022 on Mondays at 7.00pm as part of the "Journeying Together" initiative. This Zoom

Journeying Together

Together" initiative. This Zoom meeting is a group of five to ten people who look at the readings

**Soul Food** started in February 2022 with anyone interested gathering via Zoom for a casual dinner and some great conversation. The gettogethers were coordinated by Shannon MacKenzie and Carol Henley and we met every other

Pondering the Imponderable started in February 2022 on Fridays at 10.00am. Our weekly Zoom chat provides an opportunity to discuss items and questions of interest to

selected for the upcoming Sunday. Readings are provided to participants in advance of meeting. None of us are clergy or trained in Biblical scholarship and so we bring our personal experiences to

Journeying Together was an initiative begun through Parish Council in February 2022 with the objective of providing

Friday evening. It kept us connected and feeling less isolated through the dark days of winter when covid was really keeping us locked down. We had hoped to convene for some outdoor meals as the warmer weather arrived but rain seemed to

the participants We have covered a variety of questions and topics both large and small ranging from comfort food through the wonders of modern astronomy to how we each discussion where we share our reactions and reflections on the texts. All parishioners and friends are welcome. For more information contact John Reszitnyk or Gill Jones.

thwart our plans. As spring really got underway we agreed that we were feeling less alone as we were able to socialize more outside and so we discontinued the gatherings. It was indeed Food for the Soul as much as for our bodies over those months!

find God in the events of the day. All parishioners and friends are welcome. For more information contact John Reszitnyk or Fred Grigsby.



Gill Jones



Carol Henley



Fred Grigsby



Trudy Johnson

# Christmas Market

by Trudy Johnson - Christmas Market Convenor

What a delight it was to have the Market open for shopping once again. The decor, the delicious baking and preserves, skilled crafts of all kinds - and all the people! Happy volunteers helping customers, and customers seeing, touching, tasting, everything. Although the traffic flow of customers was smaller and slower than other years, it was very consistent for the entire Market. This was good because it prevented crowding. No surprise the beautiful array of baked goods (most donated by parishioners) was sold out by mid-morning. And the preserves were also duly decimated. We had some good sales on the next two Sundays as well. The original plan had been to put some items online after the Market. Unfortunately, after waiting weeks due to challenges beyond our control with the website developer, we did not do this, as by the time it was fixed, it was mid-December.

It is impossible to thank everyone individually who helped because there were more than 100! But I do want to single out a few

people. Many thanks to Diane Peters and her team for getting a fantastic Penny Sale organized on a much shorter time-line. This is always a very popular part of the Market. Hopefully next year we can anticipate more visitors and we can bring back the Raffle. And a huge thank you to Sherri McGurk who can create and print spreadsheets (this is how I know there were more than 100 helpers), keep track of who volunteered when and where, what areas needed more help, who had too much help, and so on.

Now, on top of the 100+ volunteer names on our lists, which included friends and family members of parishioners, we had people just show up to help. Then, there is everyone who worked at home: preserves, baked goods, crafts, decor, yarn and textile goods, and brought in items for All Things Christmas. Whew! And I am not done yet. There was the decorating crew, the office staff, people who donated cash because they could not shop on Market day. And two of our in-house artisans - 9 Acres

Farm, and Craft Wagon by Roxane.

Our Christmas Market is definitely a unifying, joyful, and fun-filled event. It would be hard to find someone who did not participate in some aspect. Our wonderful Penny set the tone by being there the whole time!

If seeing our facility bustling with festive glee, greeting old friends, new friends, strangers, and visitors, are not enough blessings, we also made some profit. Our gross sales were over \$10,000, and our net was just shy of \$9,000. This was excellent, and consistent with previous years for those areas. The Raffle, tourtieres, and some other areas will return in the future. For shopping convenience, we had payment stations for cash, credit and debit, and cash could also be taken in the individual areas.

Again, I thank each and every one of you who help to make the Market the success it is, in so many ways. And to all the convenors who worked diligently on their areas and recruited so many volunteers - you are amazing!



Judy Jupp

# Hospitality & Welcoming

by Judy Jupp - Hospitality Coordinator

These ministries are crucial to the ongoing success of St. Christopher's church. Parishioners and newcomers must feel welcomed within our midst to enable them to have a fulfilling experience at each of our services and at our special events.

To that end, we have greeting teams in place. The 9.30am service has six teams of five people. The 8.00am service has six teams of two people, and the 11.30am has members who are in welcoming mode each Sunday. Shout-out to

Ken Beeby who is instrumental at the 11.30am in this department (and many others!!). Our aim is to create more teams.

Luckily, as the pandemic has allowed, we are now able to worship in person and we can get back to our routines. Wearing name tags is certainly a big help in our ability to know and greet each other.

The hospitality in the kitchen is thriving with six teams in action at 9.30, and many sets of twos at 8.00 under the expertise of Ellenor Winslow, Cip Bibby, and Jan Pearce. And thanks to Ellenor who keeps track of the coffee to make sure we are always well stocked.

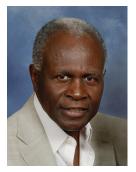
Special mention to Ellenor who has been doing this coffee job for 25???? Years!!! And who is steadfast in this forever job!

Lastly, these are ministries that can always use new people. Do consider this as you read these vestry reports and wonder how you can be happily involved! This could be the place!!



# Ministry Development & Community Life

# continued



Winston Campbell

# Retirees Fellowship Group (aka The Ginger Group)

by Winston Campbell and John Reszitnyk - Retirees Fellowship Group Co-coordinators

The group restarted October 17th after an absence of almost two and a half years due to COVID. This in-person event typically attracts 40 or more to the Great Hall. We are open to all men of the parish, their friends, and members of neighbouring churches who are able to spend an extended

lunch hour (or two) on a Monday every six weeks or so. We continue through the end of May. We have a proven model of providing an appetizing lunch over a glass of sherry, followed by an interesting speaker, conversation and camaraderie. Unfortunately, well over a dozen of former colleagues

died prior to restart. Our sympathies and condolences go out to their families. To encourage additional attendees, we have started an email blast supplemented by reminder phone calls to past participants. For more information contact John Reszitnyk or Winston Campbell.



John Reszitnyk



Pat Haines

# Bridge Group

by Pat Haines - Bridge Group Coordinator

Once again, we are playing bridge here at the Church! These gatherings are always in-person.

The group is open to anyone who would like to join us.

We meet every other Monday from 2.00pm - 4.00pm in the

Preschool Room.

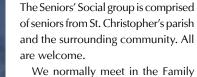
There are light refreshments offered at each session.

Enjoy the company of old friends and have the opportunity to meet and acquaint yourself with new folk. Beginners, seasoned experts and everyone in between are welcome.

If you would be interested in joining us, please contact Pat Haines at 905-634-1809.

We look forward to hearing from you!

# Seniors' Social Group



We normally meet in the Family Room on Tuesdays from 2.00 to 4.00 pm with a summer break during which we switch to picnic style gatherings for all available. We each contribute \$1.00/meeting

which goes towards our monthly birthday remembrances or our special excursions.

During the 1st hour we share hospitality, chitchat, and a reading or two from the very popular "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books. We then move to the Narthex to play games. Our favourites at this time are Scrabble and War (a popular and

simple card game). We don't keep score for either so it's a very friendly competition.

Once a month we venture off-site to a restaurant or other place of interest.

We look forward to meeting you. Bring a friend... the more the merrier... especially if you still drive (needed for our off-site meetings).





Gerry Anthony

# Men's Cooking Group #1

by Gerry Anthony - Men's Cooking Group Coordinator

This group of men enjoy getting together, and food is secondary to the reason for gathering! However, much care and planning goes into choosing recipes and menus, the shopping, and the organizing of the

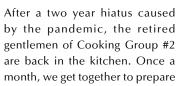
kitchen. There are 12 members of the group and they are faithful attenders. Once the meal is prepared, everyone sits together to eat and share stories. Due to health reasons in 2022, I needed to step back from leadership

of the group for a time. We are thankful to Fred Grigsby who was able to step in and lead for the interim. We look forward to the year ahead with consistent inperson monthly meetings once again.



Fred Grigsby

# Men's Cooking Group #2 by Bob Goodwin - Men's Cooking Group Coordinator After a two year highly caused a delicious



a delicious meal, complemented by the finest wines (under \$10) that money can buy. The food is terrific, but the fun, fellowship and camaraderie is what makes our get-togethers so special. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Joy Thomson at the church, or Bob Goodwin at 905 631 1318.



Bob Goodwin

# Book Club

by Jillian Stewart - Book Club Coordinator

Iillian Stewart

We have enjoyed another wonderful year of gathering, exchange of ideas, and fellowship with Book Club. This past fall, we entered the 3rd year of St. Christopher's Virtual Book Club, meeting every 3rd Monday of the month for roughly an hour. Over

the last several months, we have enjoyed titles such as The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See, What We Lost by Tawfiq Rangwala, and Greenwood by Michael Christie. We are currently in the stages of a creative re-imagining and refining of this group

at St. Christopher's, determining how this club will best serve its members in a post (sort of!) pandemic world. Please stay tuned and look for updates in The Messenger for information regarding future meetings and book title choices. Hope to see you there!



# **Ministry Development & Community Life**

# continued



Paula Ramsay

# Fit for Service

by Paula Ramsay - Fit for Service Coordinator

What a joy it was to have classes in person at the start of January 2022. For a time we conducted the classes both in person and on Zoom. Once participants were comfortable in coming, we stopped the Zoom offering.

On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9.30 to 10.30am a group of enthusiastic participants come to work out. Paula Stewart (Monday), Melida O'Keefe (Wednesday) and Florence Czok (Friday) are our able instructors.

Monday's session with Paula Stewart begins with cardio exercises for a half hour and ends with weights and an overall stretch on the mats. Paula's expertise is in kick boxing and she incorporates some of the moves into the cardio portion.

Wednesday's session with Melida O'Keefe again begins with cardio exercises transitioning to small balls, weights or bands which foster balance and core development. We then end with a mat stretch.

Friday's session is a yoga class. Florence Czok takes us through several yoga positions to develop core strength and balance of mind, body, and spirit.

This varied program provides an all-around approach to exercise and allows participants to attend sessions geared to their needs. Each person is encouraged to work at his or her own potential and the group varies in age from 40 to seniors with a goal of keeping physically healthy.

The cost of each class is \$4.00 as you come. We have a fee schedule for the month (if you are a regular participant) which is e-transfered directly to the Fit for Service account or a cheque made out to Fit For Service. 1 class a week is \$15.00 a month; 2 classes a week is \$30.00

a month and 3 classes a week is \$45.00 a month. Where can you find a better deal than that?

In addition to paying our instructors, we have made significant contributions to St. Christopher's and to various outreach programs within the community, as we are able.

Following a full body workout, anyone is free to join us after the exercise program for coffee/tea and social time.

Most days we have 15 to 30 participants (male and female) – many of whom are from outside the St. Christopher's community, and we are delighted.

We will be able to enjoy a social event in the form of a luncheon or coffee party this year.

For questions regarding the program, please feel free to contact Paula Ramsay at 905-681-8109 or Judy Jank at 905-639-1257.



John Reszitnyk

# Wednesday Breakfast Group

Wednesday Breakfast for the men of the parish was conducted in two forms during the past year. For much of the year, a weekly Zoom session was hosted by Gerry Anthony and our dear departed Dave Ernst. This format carried a dozen or more of us through the weary weeks of the pandemic

and gave an opportunity to meet, have lively conversation and see each others faces. This group was able to attract participation from those unable to join in person either because of distance or circumstances. We are looking to re-invigorate this group going forward. In addition, throughout 2022, a somewhat smaller, but just as lively, group has been able to meet in person for the early bird special at 7.30am on Wednesdays at Cora's and this group continues. For more information contact John Reszitnyk or Gerry Anthony.



Gerry Anthony



# Outreach/Social Justice



Christina Mulder
Open Doors
Director of Programs
and Partnerships

In 2022 Open Doors began the path back to serving the community in ways more familiar to pre-pandemic times. Our Tuesday community dinners moved indoors, we restarted Thursday Seniors luncheons and opened Saturday mornings for the Community Market and Clothing Store programming. We welcomed partners from the Yoga Outreach Program back to offer chair yoga, our Community Garden hosted a Seniors Gardening Club, Hospitality Hour resumed and we welcomed parents inside for the first time in over two years, to choose their child's back-to-school needs and their Christmas gifts. The new normal has begun to feel familiar.

These efforts are to be celebrated and we have many volunteers to thank for the progress we have made together. Over 4,600 hours were spent making ministry happen! With the addition of Better Impact, our online software for volunteer opportunities, we are able to store important volunteer information, track hours spent, and efficiently communicate opportunities to interested volunteers. The future of Better Impact will also help us with updating certifications and offering online training and information sessions! A big thanks to all those who helped build this process, Shannon MacKenzie, Carol Rice, Sandi Smith, and Jenn Cook-Grigsby. Their dedication has ensured the success of this change and we are grateful to them.

Last year brought quite a few staff changes. Sandi Smith retired from Open Doors at St. Christopher's in June after 20 years of dedicated and heartfelt service. We threw her a grand luncheon to celebrate all the wonderful ways she made ministry happen and shared some fond and funny memories with each other. We said good-bye to Beth Martin who was on a short contract with us to build new connections and communications, and said a fond

farewell to Dáire Kavanagh, our Garden and Market Coordinator, as she accepted a position with Hamilton Health Sciences as an ER social worker. I'm proud to have known and worked with all three of these incredible women. Somehow I know it isn't a final good-bye and we may see their faces in and around St. Christopher's in the future.

All staffing changes were not losses however as we hired Manny Vazquez as the new Garden and Market Coordinator. He was previously the summer student for our partner, Halton Environmental Network, so he came with a familiarity of our programs and community. He is also a wonderful wealth of information and has a passion for environmental literacy and education.

Jenn Cook-Grigsby, former Respite Coordinator for Open Doors, accepted an offer for full time employment with Open Doors as the new Program Manager. Jenn's new role will have her supporting the coordinators with her energetic personality and her dedication to recruiting volunteers to help make all the good things happen here.

We also spent a lot of time researching what Social Enterprise may look like here at St. Christopher's. The Steering Committee, along with a third party consulting agency, Sheridan Edge, is creating a Social Enterprise Action Plan with volunteers, staff and community members. While it is still evolving, we are well on our way to making things happen in 2023 that will help people move further away from poverty. Open Doors' mission of "building a diverse and inclusive community that supports shared dignity and well-being", will be at the forefront of this project. The first couple of action items in our work is to align ourselves with like-minded and resourceful partners as well as to connect with the Burlington business community. To mobilize the dream of a future where we are able to support underemployed or unemployed people in getting back into meaningful and fulfilling work spaces, we need many hands. If you have read this far, and this sparks fire in you, please come see me and let's talk about how you can be involved.

# Steering Committee Members - 2022

Penny Anderson
Gerry Anthony
Jaimi Bannon
Heather Bonser
Allison Christoff
Sarah Christoff
Lisa Fielding
Fred Grigsby
Shannon MacKenzie
Christina Mulder
Al Nicolls





every person. every table.

Mission: Together, building a diverse and inclusive community that supports our shared dignity and well-being.

Vision: Every Person. Every Table.

### **Good Food Moves Us**

Food is a basic human right, and yet it is one that is often sacrificed when struggling financially. The food support we provide in our outreach programs, from the garden, market and meals, helps to alleviate the burden folks face when deciding between nutrition and paying a bill. We work hard to provide foods that are fresh, diverse, and that might otherwise be inaccessible due to rising costs. According to Stats Canada, the Consumer Price Index increased 6.8% in 2022, following a 3.4% increase in 2021. This is a 40 year high! What we have noticed in 2022 is a dramatic increase in visits to our Market as more and more families are needing to turn to food bank programs like Open Doors in order to make ends meet.

This is our clear call to action!



### Meals

over 5.300 meals prepared and served at Tuesday Dinners and Thursday Senior lunches.

### Market

- 302 households served from the Community Market (175 in 2021)
- over 16,000 lbs of donated food shared through 2,882 visits

#### Garden

- successfully grew more varieties of foods on our living fence (several varieties of tomatoes, beans, and summer squash)
- inside the garden we harvested 1,125 lbs of food, 116 lbs over 2021!



# **Donations Warm Us**

The Clothing Store enables us to share gently loved items with our neighbours. This program does more than keep people clothed, it also alleviates some of the financial burden folks are facing. The Clothing Store saw 2,400 visits from families and shared an estimated 12.000 pieces of clothing and 600 pairs of footwear!!



# **Back to School**

This can be a very expensive time of year for families with school aged (rapidly growing), children. Open Doors backpack program works alongside local businesses to help reduce the costs parents have when getting school-ready for September. This year we would like to thank SAIL, Powerhouse Reality Group, Costco, Mabels Labels, Urban Traveller, Spin Marketing, Rocca Sisters and many parishioners and neighbours, for all your efforts in making the program a success! Together we supplied backpacks, water bottles, lunch bags and supplies to over 350 children in Burlington!!





# **Christmas Families**

This Open Doors program has been evolving through the last five years and we believe we have landed in a place that shows compassion to our neighbours during the holiday season, while keeping true to our Advent teachings of reducing the consumerism that surrounds Christmas.

Less is more is reflected in our offerings to community as the intentions are: new pajamas to offer warmth; a new book to unlock imagination and adventure; gift cards and hygiene to give dignity and choice; and special treats to offer shared sweet memories.

Thank you to all those who contributed from the Gifting Tree, through monetary donations and of their time in making the program run smoothly and with cheer.

Special thanks to PetSmart, who gifted each child a new stuffy from their PetSmart Charities program!

Together we shared gifts with 225 children.

### **Coldest Night of the Year 2022**

- **\$69,068** raised, marking our biggest year yet!
- 23 teams
- 173 registered walkers
- **870** donors
- 1 fantastic evening of advocacy, connection and a little bit of friendly competition!

Shout out to team "Buddy's Buddies" for raising over \$15,000!



### **Good Volunteers Fuel Us!**

In 2022 we experienced many changes to the landscape of our volunteer programming. We launched a new software system that digitized volunteer opportunities and volunteer records. The system, Better Impact, could not be more aptly named. It will assist us in better record keeping, training and tracking and above all help widen the reach to our volunteer network. A giant feat for the team who designed the new system. Special thanks to volunteers Carol Rice and Shannon MacKenzie for guiding us through the building process and assisting us in the implementation and training for this platform. And a special thank you to all of the volunteers who have embraced this change and continue to support us as we learn this tool together. Over the past six months we have grown from 67 volunteers online in June to over 140 volunteers currently registered in our new software system.



# **Join the Team**

Follow the QR code to our webpage to read all about the many programs we offer and see where you would like to spend your time and talent. Continue to the volunteer application and get started today!

Many thanks to everyone who made 2022 happen in meaningful and impactful ways at Open Doors. The community is stronger for it.



## **Good Partnerships Enable Us!**

Much of what is accomplished at Open Doors is made possible through community partnerships. This model of services ensures we are providing for our neighbours and addressing their needs as fully as possible.

If we have learned anything over the last two years, it is that we are better together! Aligning ourselves with like-minded agencies to accomplish similar goals is a smart way to operate, and one that exemplifies our shared dignity and well-being.

We are also fortunate to be recipients of generous community donors, foundational giving and funding through grantors. While we strive towards sustainability, we are grateful to have these connections to agencies and to be trusted by all of our funders.









Ministry for Seniors' and Accessibility





















Halton Environmental Network introduced us to the folks at SiteOne Landscape Supply in July of 2021. After a garden tour they offered to provide the supplies, time, and labour to install a drip irrigation system for our community garden!! This generous project took place in October and it will conserve consumption as it is targeted watering at soil level. It will also reduce time spent in scheduling and watering! SiteOne Lanscape Supply has promised to return in the spring to build additions to this system to further bolster our crops! We are so grateful for the connection and thankful to the team!





# Minutes of the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Vestry Meeting February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

# **Getting Started**

# **Review of Procedures for a Virtual Meeting**

Canon Penny Anderson

**Call to Order** - the 70th Annual Congregation Meeting of St. Christopher's Church was called to order by Canon Penny Anderson, Rector, at 11.17 am.

Opening Prayer - Led by the Rector

**Appointment of Vestry Clerk** - Joy Thomson was appointed as Vestry Clerk to record the minutes of the proceedings by Canon Penny. 83 people registered and attended this virtual meeting.

# Approve minutes of the February 28, 2021 Vestry meeting

see pp. 40-44 (Ministry)

THAT the minutes of the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Vestry Meeting held February 28, 2021 be approved as circulated.

Moved by Al Nicolls, Seconded by Carol Henley

**CARRIED** 

#### **Receive all reports**

It was noted that the servers were omitted from the reports; this was acknowledged. THAT the reports and financial statements printed and (electronically) distributed be received.

### Moved by Erick Nettel, Seconded by Tom Nicol

**CARRIED** 

#### **Expressions of Gratitude**

- Canon Penny thanked everyone whose ministry is reflected in the reports received. Penny expressed pride for all that the team of volunteers and staff have accomplished through uncertainty and varying levels of pandemic restrictions.
- Penny expressed gratitude for the work of the finance team throughout 2021 of Tom Nicol, Debra Bishop-Peroune, Laurie Boyes, Deirdre Conway, Winston Tinglin, Pat Robinson and Joy Thomson.
- Penny thanked Carol Henley, Ken Beeby and Joy Thomson as well as Erick Nettel, Amy Collard, Al Nicolls and Carolyn Henderson, for their work in preparing for this Vestry meeting.

# **Finances**

#### Highlights

(pp. 16-17 of Financial Report)

- success of the stewardship campaign raised \$203,400 in gifts and pledges
- although the rate of the CEWS (Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy) was reduced in 2021, compared to 2020, we continued to receive payments from the government that helped to fund salaries until the end of October (budget \$28,142; actual \$54,870)
- 2021 was a good year in the financial markets, and our investments performed very well, which allowed us to draw income from the foundation to support our operating expenses
- with the generosity of our congregation through the year, we were able to conclude the year in a balanced position

#### Details - Income

- pandemic has been challenging for everyone, including our finance team
- we saw a steady decline in income from Mission and Maintenance giving
- this was in line with what almost every faith community experiences and, for us, was due partly to being shut down for 7 months, and I'm sad to say, partly due to the deaths of some faithful and generous donors
- if you look at the "total income" line (bottom of p. 16), you'll see that we were almost exactly on plan stewardship funds helped us to accomplish this
- we used \$88,500, leaving \$20,000 in cash with \$50,000 pledged in 2022 and \$50,000 pledged in 2023.

#### **Details - Expenses**

- operating expenses were well controlled, and come in under plan
- thank you to staff who have sought inexpensive ways in which to proceed
- the place where expenses went over plan was in Administration and Maintenance
- this variance was largely COVID related: we sent a lot of paper mail to help us maintain contact with people who were unable to connect electronically to our streamed services or to Church & Chat; and we contracted our landscaping work that in previous times was done by volunteers
- as seen at the bottom line on page 17, we ended the year in balance

## **Approve 2021 financial statements**

see pp. 4-15 and Treasurer's report pp. 16-19 (Financial)

THAT the financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2021 be approved.

### Moved by Tom Nicol, Seconded by Erick Nettel

**CARRIED** 

# **Proposed 2022 Budget**

# Highlights

- a small deficit is projected for 2022. That number is \$19,314, or approximately 2.5%.
- our plan is conservative on the income side, as we don't know what impact the global pandemic will have on operations. We now know that we will be re-opening for in-person activities on March 1. Our hope is that pandemic restrictions will be lifted gradually and steadily. If this happens, we foresee moving into balanced territory by year end.

### Details - Income

- note the second line on p. 16 entitled "other" for \$112,500 this is a bequest designated for the salary of our DCYM (\$32,500+5,000+5,000) plus money identified by the Corporation from the stewardship campaign.
- "donations from other groups" and "special events" will be positively affected by a gradual lifting of pandemic restrictions.
- if the income doesn't come in, we will not spend it!
- we are dependent upon income from the investments to work for us in 2022.

#### **Details - Expenses**

- 2022 is the first year in three in which St. Christopher's is fully staffed.
- a new pastoral associate is expected in spring 2022.
- diocesan assessment is down by \$17,000 over last year.
- in administration and maintenance, a new photocopier contract will lower copy cost.
- we continue with our plan to install VoIP phones that will allow us to cancel our contract with Bell multi-year project that will lead to cost reduction.
- having installed LED lighting throughout the building, we expect electricity costs to drop noticeably year-overvear.
- insurance costs are up 12%; we have no control over this expense
- the bottom line is a small deficit of about 2.5%.

**Open Doors** 

(pp. 18-19 of Financial Report)

- there are four sources of income for Open Doors: (1) grants, (2) fundraising, (3) transfer from the foundation for salaries, (4) donations
- the team of staff and volunteers work really hard to maintain stable revenue. Our Open Doors programs serve hundreds of people we are making a difference!
- salaries make up the largest part of our expenses at Open Doors
- program costs were well controlled in 2021 and the year ended with a small surplus.
- the plan for 2022 forecasts a modest increase in income based upon money in-hand from a multi-year Trillium Foundation grant.
- expenses planned for 2022 are in line with projected income if we don't receive the revenue, we will not spend the money!

# **Approve 2022 Operating Budget**

see pp. 16-19 (Financial)

THAT the 2021 Operating Budget be approved as presented.

Moved by Tom Nicol, Seconded by Al Nicolls

CARRIED

### **Authorize Withdrawal from Foundation Funds for Ministry Expenditures**

see p. 16 (Financial)

THAT the Corporation be authorized to spend up to a total of \$56,574 in interest and principal from St. Christopher's Foundation to support Open Doors and innovative worship in 2022.

Moved by Tom Nicol, Seconded by Carolyn Henderson

CARRIED

### **Authorize Withdrawal from Rectory Fund**

see p. 16 (Financial)

THAT the Corporation be authorized to spend up to a total of \$44,750 in interest and capital gains from the St. Christopher's Rectory Fund in 2022 to partially offset Housing Allowances paid to ordained clergy and licensed lay workers.

Moved by Tom Nicol, Seconded by Amy Collard

CARRIED

# **Authorize Withdrawal from Capital Fund**

see p. 21 (Financial)

THAT the Corporation be authorized to spend, if necessary, up to a total of \$14,300 in interest and principal from the Capital Fund in 2022 for Capital Expenditures, as outlined in the Proposed Capital Projects, provided that capital expenditures will not be incurred unless funds to cover them have been received, and that a contingency of \$10,000 remains in the Capital Fund at all times.

Moved by Tom Nicol, Seconded by Winston Tinglin

CARRIED

# **Appointment of Auditor**

THAT Glenn Graydon Wright LLP be appointed auditor for 2022.

Moved by Tom Nicol, Seconded by Al Nicolls

**CARRIED** 

# **Organization**

# Ratify actions of Corporation in 2021

see p. 14 (Ministry)

THAT those joint and several acts carried out in the name of and on behalf of St. Christopher's Anglican Church, Burlington, by its Wardens and Rector during the year 2021, are hereby confirmed and ratified.

Moved by Erick Nettel, Seconded by Amy Collard

**CARRIED** 

# **Business Arising from Vestry 2021**

That, on the advice of the Secretary of Synod, the clause amended by members of Vestry meeting on 28 February 2021 to read, "The lessee or licensee agrees to sign a statement that they will not discriminate against participation in events and meetings in our building on the basis of sexuality or gender identity," be changed by this Vestry to read: "The lessee or licensee agrees to sign an affirmation that acknowledges the right of people to be free from discrimination on the grounds articulated in the Ontario Human Rights Code and agrees that its activities will uphold the dignity of every human being."

Moved by Winston Tinglin, Seconded by Rob Pawson

**CARRIED** 

### **Authorize Site Use Agreements**

THAT this Vestry authorizes the Incumbent and Churchwardens to consider and, if they deem it advisable, to approve leases, licenses, or space agreements of less than three years inclusive of all renewals AND THAT this authorization shall extend only to agreements that include the following provisions:

- The agreement may be terminated by St. Christopher's Church upon sixty days' notice
- The lessee or licensee shall provide proof of liability insurance
- The lessee or licensee agrees to hold harmless St. Christopher's Church, the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara, the Bishop or Niagara, and the Anglican Church of Canada
- The lessee or licensee agrees to abide by the Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment policy of the Diocese of Niagara
- The lessee or licensee agrees to sign an affirmation that acknowledges the right of people to be free from discrimination on the grounds articulated in the Ontario Human Rights Code and agrees that its activities will uphold the dignity of every human being.
- The lessee or licensee agrees to sign a statement that they will not provide or sell single-use plastic bottled beverages at any events hosted at St. Christopher's Anglican Church

AND THAT if there is any conflict between this resolution and any authorization or approval resulting from it, and the Canons of the Diocese of Niagara, it is understood that the Canons shall prevail.

Moved by Carolyn Henderson, Seconded by Amy Collard

CARRIED

### **Elections & Appointments**

The Rector identified the candidates seeking election as outlined in the slate below and called for any other nominations.

THAT the following people be elected to the positions indicated for 2022:

Moved by Erick Nettel, Seconded by Carol Henley

CARRIED

People's Warden	Al Nicolls
Deputy People's Warden	Paul Shelton
Lay Representative to Synod	Shannon Mac
Lay Representative to Synod	Giova Gallagher
Lay Representative to Synod	Winston Tinglin
1 <sup>st</sup> Alternate Lay Representative to Synod	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Alternate Lay Representative to Synod	
Youth Representative to Synod	
Alternate Youth Representative to Synod	
Parish Council Member at Large	Carrie Ford-Jones
Parish Council Member at Large	Souren Dermentjian
Parish Council Member at Large	Simone Griffiths
Parish Council Member at Large	John Reszitnyk
Parish Council Member at Large	Jillian Stewart
Parish Council Member at Large	Judi McNairn
Parish Council Member at Large	Ewa Jacobs
Parish Council Member at Large	Fred Grigsby
Parish Council Member at Large	
Parish Council Member at Large	
Parish Council Member at Large	

# Penny expressed congratulations to the newly elected officers.

On behalf of the Corporation, the staff and everyone at St. Christopher's, Penny stated how grateful she was to Erick Nettel for his service as Warden. Penny noted that Erick's poise as a leader, his wisdom, heart, energy, and love for God and this congregation have been great gifts. Penny thanked Erick for the lasting impact he has made on our church and expressed gratitude on behalf of all present.

# **Rector's Appointments**

The Rector outlined the appointments she has made, as follows:

Rector's Warden	Amy Collard
Deputy Rector's Warden	Carolyn Henderson
A Coordinator from / for each ministry cluster (if not already represented):	
Liturgy & Learning	Penny Anderson
Compassion & Care	TBD
Children, Youth, Young Adult, & Family Ministry	Sarah Layman
Open Doors	Christina Mulder
Music and the Performing Arts	Andy Elmhirst
Chair of Property Committee	Winston Tinglin
Chair of Stewardship Committee	Bob Taylor
Climate Justice Niagara Facilitator	Jane Stephen
Treasurer	Tom Nicol

### **Further Expressions of Gratitude**

Canon Penny

- thanked Winston Tinglin for his work as Property Chair.
- thanked Mike Peroune for his continued good work in maintenance and the monitoring of our alarm systems.
- thanked Trudy Johnson and the whole team of creators and volunteers leading another virtual Christmas Market in 2021. Thank you too to the drive-through Bistro cooks for your beloved breakfasts and lunches.
- thanked those who have made phone calls, contributed to committees (like the COVID Transition Team) and parish groups like the Prayer Shawl ministry, the Mens' Breakfast Group and the Book Club.
- thanked Diane Peters and her Altar Guild team for the unique ways in which they support worship.
- thanked the office volunteers, who came into the building to support our staff and who cared for our parish.
- thanked the many musicians who have filled our hearts with joy.
- thanked the dancers who express feelings in our worship that we can't express in words.
- recognized the many volunteers in Open Doors and St. Christopher's who are so faithful, energetic and dedicated to the programming in which they participate. Your creativity and love is SO appreciated.
- thanked the wardens for their time, humour and commitment to the congregation it is inspiring.
- thanked the staff team:
- Christina and the Open Doors team of Sandi Smith, Gloria Campbell, Shannon Shuell, Joan LaSalle, Dáire Kavanagh, Heather Bonser and Jenn Cook-Grigsby who have all adapted and served the community through another year of pandemic.
- Andy, for musicianship and the way in which you create community around music and the performing arts but also for your leadership around equipment and technical matters allowing us to stream our services in the world.
- Joy, for your coordination, work of welcoming, holding stories and getting the details right.
- Michael Coren tomorrow is your last day with our St. Christopher's team. Thank you for all the ways you shared yourself with us for your listening ear, your care, your humour, and for your presence at tender moments for members of our congregation.

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Paul Shelton, Seconded by Erick Nettel

**CARRIED** 

**Summary: Membership of Parish Council for 2022** 

Membership Category			Serves through
Members as defined by Canon			
Rector		Penny Anderson	term
Rector's Warden (appointed by Rector)		Amy Collard	2023
People's Warden (elected by Vestry)		Al Nicolls	2024
Deputy Rector's Warden (appointed by Rector)		Carolyn Henderson	2025
Deputy People's Warden (elected by Vestry)		Paul Shelton	2026
Lay Representative to Synod		Shannon Mac	2023
Lay Representative to Synod		Giova Gallagher	2022
Lay Representative to Synod		Winston Tinglin	2023
Alternative Lay Representative to Synod			2024
Youth Representative to Synod			2024
Alternate Youth Representative to Synod			2024
Up to 10 Members (to be appointed by the Rector)			•
Parish Council Chair		Amy Collard	2023
A Coordinator from/for each ministry cluster (if not already represented):			
Liturgy & Learning		Penny Anderson	term
Compassion & Care		TBA	term
Children, Youth, Young Adult, & Family Ministry		Sarah Layman	
Open Doors		Christina Mulder	tern
Music and the Performing Arts		Andy Elmhirst	tern
Chair of Property Committee		Winston Tinglin	tern
Chair of Stewardship Committee		Bob Taylor	tern
Climate Justice Niagara Facilitator		Jane Stephen	tern
Parish Treasurer		Tom Nicol	tern
Up to 10 Members-at-Large (to be elected by Vestry) to ensure balance in age and gender, the inclusion of newcom		<u> </u>	
	1	Carrie Ford-Jones	2023
	2	Souren Dermentjian	2023
	3	Simone Griffiths	2024
	4	John Reszitnyk	2023
	5	Jillian Stewart	2023
	6	Judi McNairn	2023
	7	Ewa Jacobs	2024
	8	Fred Grigsby	202
	9	Available	202
1	0	Available	2024

# Notes



# Notes

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We are a dynamic, inclusive, diverse community rooted in the life-giving, life-affirming, life-changing love of God reaching beyond ourselves caring for creation making a difference with others.