

# VESTRY REPORT 2018

Reporting Decisions and Activity during 2017



**St. Margaret's Vanier, Anglican Diocese of Ottawa**



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## Minutes of 2017 Vestry Meeting

- 1) **Gathering:** The 129<sup>th</sup> annual gathering of St Margaret's Vestry was convened in the church hall on February 19, 2017. The Reverend Rhondda MacKay opened the meeting with a gathering hymn (CP 450) and with an Opening Prayer. A moment of silence was held for thanksgiving and for those no longer with us.
- 2) **Appointment:** The meeting was called to order. Wendy Hadwen was appointed Chair of Vestry. Catherine Keresztesi was appointed Vestry Clerk. The Vestry Declaration was read. Wendy reminded us that Vestry is an important business meeting as St Margaret's Church does nearly a quarter of a million dollars in business annually. She thanked us for our contributions to this work.
- 3) **Agenda:** The agenda was approved by acclaim.
- 4) **Minutes:** A motion to accept the minutes from the 2016 Annual Vestry meeting was put forward by Caryl Crichton and seconded by Robin Dunbar. The minutes were voted and accepted.
- 5) **Reports:** Vestry Report 2017 was approved by acclaim.
- 6) **Rector's Charge:**
  - 1) Rhondda acknowledged that we meet on unceded Algonquin land and that we owe our presence here to the Algonquin for their care of the land.
  - 2) Rhondda reminded us that we gather as a community of faith in a world where faith cannot be taken for granted. Our brothers and sisters in many parts of the world are being attacked. We stand in solidarity with them. We are called together so that Jesus' light may shine as collective witness beyond our church walls.
  - 3) Rhondda presented our new logo which portrays the light of Christ shining on an intergenerational, diverse group of people warmed by the light and warmth of the quilt. She thanked Rob Douglas and Jeannie Manning, and others, for their work in the development of the logo.
  - 4) Rhondda reminded us that at St Margaret's we are in a unique position as a Christian community to advance the work of reconciliation and to work in the surrounding community. She referred to Paul's writings to the Corinthians: that we the people are God's temple built on the foundation of Jesus Christ. The world teaches power and control, but Paul tells us that is foolishness. We have power only when we live as part of a community this is the living temple of God. Rhondda is thankful for the ways that God's temple is built in this room week by week as we come together. We appreciate the variety of gifts that we share. Together we are like a lighthouse – a beacon against storms and encouragement to weary travellers.
  - 5) In 2016 we supported ACORN, provided Ash Wednesday outreach on Montreal Road, provided the neighborhood with the blue piano over the spring and summer, supported community ministries and the Inuit Family Centre. Rhondda and many of us in the community learned a great deal working with Aigah and we launched IGLOO @206 to support Inuit in the city. Jesus is the foundation and motivation for our work and mission. We are lightbearers in the darkness.
  - 6) Rhondda reminded us of how we are to relate to each other and how we are to work. Not an eye for an eye, as in the Old Testament, but as in the Sermon on the Mount: the path of the spirit is active, non-violent resistance. "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." Here, perfect can be

translated as “complete”: the point at which we’ve completed our journey of the spirit. We can’t expect instant perfection. We are “perfect” or “complete” when we are in fellowship with each other. This is challenging. We disappoint each other. We fail. Loving your neighbour can be hard. But that is our call. With the spirit’s help this is possible: when we return to the foundation of Jesus and the gifts of the Spirit.

- 7) Rhondda expressed gratitude for the ministry of music and the ministry of the Altar Guild, both of which set the stage to inspire our worship. She also expressed gratitude for all those who set the stage for our hospitality and our giving.
- 8) Rhondda expressed a desire to build in more contemplative time in our church life such as noon prayers.
- 9) Rhondda introduced our new patron saint: Saint Margaret of Scotland who lived during the 11<sup>th</sup> century on the eve of the battle of Hastings. Margaret was an English aristocrat born in Hungary in exile. When her mother attempted to return the family to England, they landed in Scotland. Margaret was the wife of the widowed King of Scotland. She read to the illiterate King and soothed him, making him attentive to mercy, almsgiving, the poor, and justice. Margaret instituted observance of Lent, piety and devotion to the poor. She established religious orders in Scotland and restored the Iona Abbey. Three of her eight children became kings. Her feast day is November 16. Rhondda hopes that, as she is inspired by the spirit of Hildegard of Bingen, we will be inspired by the life of St Margaret of Scotland.
- 10) Rhondda thanked all those who assist her with pastoral care and outreach. She reminded us that our brochure profiles a parish that is hard at work and that we can be proud of. As we move forward, we will do even more over the coming year.
- 11) Rhondda thanked the hardworking Corporation; Jane Waterston, Wendy Hadwen, Malcolm McEwen, Caryl Crichton.
- 12) Rhondda ended her charge by reminding us that we have come a long way and that God is calling us forward still. She requested a round of applause for the new logo and the identity as a parish that it represents for us.

**7) Appointments (Rev. Rhondda MacKay):**

- 1) Rector’s Warden: Jane Waterston
- 2) Treasurer: Wendy Hadwen
- 3) Assistant Treasurer: Caryl Crichton
- 4) Envelope Secretary: Malcolm McEwen
- 5) Eucharistic Ministers: Douglas Ainslie, Nigel Bryan, Carol Clegg, John Cox, Caryl Crichton, Dora Delmaire, Marie D’lorio, Rob Douglas, Robin Dunbar, Neil Forsyth, Margaret Hilborn, Sareena Hopkins, Asenath Kannutaq, Mary-Linda Karam, Malachi Kigutaq, Eneasie Kadloo, Edward Logan Etches, Robin MacKay, Jacqueline Marriott, Leslie McGillvray, Judith Nelson, Moses Robinson, Jane Waterston

**8) Treasurer’s Report (Wendy Hadwen):**

- 1) Wendy presented the 2016 draft financial statements and the 2017 Budget to be voted, as well as a comparison of 2016 planned budget to actual spending.
- 2) In summary, the variance between income and expenses was lower than anticipated. We ended the year in a deficit position but a smaller than anticipated deficit.

- 3) The Diocese is still assisting us financially and it seems likely we will need continued support beyond the 3 year timeline set by the Diocese, before we reach financial sustainability. Support from the Diocese is through a subsidy based on the sale of All Saints Sandy Hill. We will receive the interest from the sale in perpetuity.
  - 4) The parish is growing in talent and time, but not necessarily in treasure. Wendy believes we can make a case for a 5 year timeline to reach sustainability.
  - 5) For 2017, the Budget now reflects all of the Diocesan cost sharing and is projecting a \$26K deficit. Our forecast income is higher by \$10K than anticipated after Pledge Sunday and the generosity of this community.
  - 6) We will be moving to e-transfers wherever possible for cost-savings and efficiency.
  - 7) Wendy reminded us that when we donate items to the church, she can provide a charitable receipt for a “gift in kind” – for any item that leaves the church with some gain. This includes any food donations.
  - 8) Wendy included a Q&A section in her report to answer any common questions regarding things like Faith House income, bank fees, etc.
  - 9) Wendy gave a note of thanks to all those who help her with the finances. She could not provide clear information without their help. Thanks to Caryl Crichton who reconciles our books monthly and help the auditors. Thanks to John Cox, Neil Forsyth, and Rob Douglas for counting offertory and doing bank deposits.
  - 10) Financially, we are doing well. We could be doing better, but it’s not too bad.
  - 11) Roger put forward a motion for vote of thanks to Wendy for her work as Treasurer.
- 9) **Budget for 2017 (Wendy Hadwen):** A motion was put forward by Wendy Hadwen to approve the 2017 Budget, and was seconded by Caryl Crichton, Jeannie Manning, and Angell Salkey. The 2017 Budget was approved as presented.
- 10) **Auditor for 2017:** A motion was put forward by Wendy Hadwen to nominate Kelly Huibers McNeely Professional Corporation as our Auditor for 2016. The motion was seconded by Caryl Crichton. The nomination of the Auditor was approved.
- 11) **Elections:** Jane Waterston submitted a Nominating Committee Report for approval including all nominations for consideration.

A motion was put forward by Robin Dunbar to appoint the following roster of members. The motion was seconded by James Granskill and Jeannie Manning. Members were elected as nominated. Elected members not returning to Parish Council are offered sincere thanks and appreciation for their service.

- 1) Corporation:
  - i. Reverend Canon Rhondda MacKay
  - ii. Rector’s Warden: Jane Waterston (appointed)
  - iii. People’s Warden: Malcolm McEwen (nominated)
  - iv. Deputy Warden: Neil Forsyth (nominated)
- 2) Synod Representatives :
  - i. Catherine Keresztesi (nominated)
  - ii. Jeannie Manning (nominated)

- iii. Robin Dunbar - Alternate & Choir (nominated)
- 3) Councillors:
  - i. John Angnaluak – Hospitality (returning)
  - ii. Carol Clegg – Duty Roster (nominated)
  - iii. Dora Delmaire (nominated)
  - iv. Bernie Delmaire (nominated)
  - v. Marie D’lorio (nominated)
  - vi. Rob Douglas (nominated)
  - vii. Jane Gibson – Outreach (returning)
  - viii. Michelle Lavoie (returning)
  - ix. Leslie McGillvray – Altar Guild (nominated)
  - x. Moses Robinson (returning)
  - xi. Asina Kalluk (nominated)
  - xii. Akukilk Shappa (nominated)
  - xiii. Donn Hope (nominated)
  - xiv. Haiga Ashoona (nominated)
- 4) Ex Officio
  - i. Treasurer: Wendy Hadwen (appointed)
  - ii. Corporation: see above
  - iii. Assistant Curate Aigah Attagutsiak
  - iv. Stewardship Committee Chair: Catherine Keresztesi (reporting to PC through Jane Waterston)
  - v. Outreach Committee Chair: Vera Logan Etches (reporting to PC through Jane Gibson)

12) **Motions:** NIL

13) **Other business:**

- 1) BEER TRIVIA – ACORN – our trivia teams request donations of any size for the ACORN trivia fundraiser in which we are participating.
- 2) Inuit Choir – Asina would like to start an Inuit Choir but is requesting help to do that. Inuit women need their voices to come out in music and song. Nick Piper may be able to assist with this task.

14) **Vote of thanks:** Votes of thanks were offered to the following individuals for their service:

- 1) Thanks to all for being present at Vestry.
- 2) Gratitude and heartfelt thanks to:
  - i. Our Bishop John Chapman
  - ii. The Ven. Dr. PJ Hobbes
  - iii. The Diocese of Ottawa for administrative advice and support
  - iv. The Ven. Roger Briggs for his mentorship
  - v. The Rev. Jessica Worden-Bolling
  - vi. Deacon Judy Oatway for her leadership
  - vii. The wardens Jane and Malcolm for their thoughtful attention to detail
  - viii. The Treasurer and Bookkeeper for their cheerfulness

- ix. The counting teams for their precision and discretion
- x. Parish Council and the Synod Representatives for their continuous work
- xi. Nick and Francine and the Choir, and all who contribute to the worship
- xii. Carol Clegg and the worship duty volunteers
- xiii. Margaret Hilborn, the pastoral care team and all who volunteer
- xiv. Jackie Marriott for her work to celebrate all birthdays in the parish
- xv. The Altar Guild who tend our sacred space
- xvi. All who contribute food and helping hands for hospitality, especially John Angnaluak
- xvii. All who contribute to events
- xviii. Our kids and all who work with them
- xix. Our cleaners and snow removers
- xx. Our interpreters, decorators and shovellers
- xxi. All who contributed to the life of the parish this year.
- xxii. Our leaders, Rhondda and Aigah

15) **Adjournment:** The next Parish Council meeting will be March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7 p.m. Vestry was adjourned with the prayer of Saint Margaret of Scotland and the doxology: Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Catherine Keresztesi**  
Vestry Clerk



## Treasurer's Report for Vestry 2018

The financial picture at year-end 2017 looks stable, but it was not a typical year. Maybe there is no such thing.

The retirements of the Reverend Rhondda MacKay, and of Nicholas Piper our music director, both coming after Easter, gave way to six months of uncertainty until the appointment of the Reverend Jason Pollick. We made savings on salary costs, but we had high cash expenses for casual employees, and contractors. For the balance of the year we paid many staff on a weekly or monthly basis as the leadership of the church worked to establish a sustainable way forward. At the end of the year, against our budget projection of a \$26,000 deficit, we had a small surplus.

My assessment is that we are slowly making our way toward sustainability as a parish. We are active in key program areas to support the Inuit community, and the successful application for grants to support those programs will help the parish deliver more services.

### Income

Monthly contributions have increased very slightly and receipted income has grown 7 percent over two years since 2015. Thank God for your generosity! Non-receipted income is lower by 22 percent against 2015. Revenue from the parking lot has decreased due to vacancies in nearby businesses. Revenue from our rental property in Sandy Hill (the Rectory or Faith House) has been stable and represents a net increase over last year because maintenance costs were lower than in previous years.

An important consideration at this time is the end of the diocesan shared investment campaign Growing In Faith Together (GIFT). We could lose approximately \$20,000 in revenue from that campaign, and hope that some donors might use the savings to consider increasing their support for St. Margaret's.

This year, we have accounted for two years' worth of interest from All Saints investments that were transferred to the Diocese, but for which we continue to receive interest. The cheque comes in

December, and we did not delay in depositing it this year while last year, we did delay. This is a one-time increase in revenue.

Our assessed support to the Diocese is starting to even out as the calculation is based on the average of three years' net income. The diocesan subsidy of the Inuit congregation through the full time curate continues to be important to parish finances.

### Assets

The church has \$20,000 in savings; and the value of the Rectory on Blackburn Avenue (unestimated).

### Expenses

Expenses are projected to continue exceeding income, because the building needs maintenance. For the next few years major investments in roof and plumbing infrastructure are required for the church, these could total \$50,000. To stimulate a full discussion, I've projected \$40,000 this year in repairs for the building (remaining expenses could follow next year).

For the year ahead, the following assumptions have informed the proposed budget:

- We will invest in IT/mobile infrastructure to support the rector and curate in communicating and working remotely.
- Growth will continue in Inuit programming with support of grants.
- Savings should begin for roof/soffit/eaves repair for the entire building.
- Parking income will remain low, for the third year in a row.
- Major investment will not be required for Faith House (the rectory).
- High cleaning costs will continue due to increased rental activity.



## Trends in Revenue and Expenses

TRENDS IN REVENUE AND EXPENSES				
	Actual 2015	Actual 2016	Actual 2017	Budget 2018
REVENUE				
Tax receipted	114,822	109,740	122,975	126,500
Non-receipted	8,304	7,153	6,795	7,000
Charities	21,496	18,106	21,506	3,000
Rentals	43,062	37,350	41,847	38,000
Ministry		7,222	13,080	11,000
Interest	4,402	13,810	29,029	14,000
Total revenue	<b>192,086</b>	<b>193,378</b>	<b>235,232.00</b>	<b>199,500</b>
EXPENSES				
Occupancy costs	55,568	48,856	55,165	52,000
Compensation	41,142	11,934	13,768	12,000
Office	5,718	11,018	18,093	14,600
Interest/charges	701	614	589	600
General Property	152,140	147,463	137,989	187,569
Total expenses	<b>256,883</b>	<b>203,716</b>	<b>225,604</b>	<b>266,769</b>
Difference	(64,797)	(10,339)	9,628	(67,269)

Respectfully submitted

**Wendy Hadwen**



*Scenes from  
Pentecost  
Sunday, 2017 –  
an All Together  
service led by the  
Rev. Canon  
Rhondda MacKay  
and the Rev.  
Aigah Attagutsiak*



## Rector's Report

It is hard to believe that I have only been the Rector of St. Margaret's for less than six months! I feel like I have been here forever, and this is a very good thing. The openness and hospitality that has been shown to me since I first walked in the door has been nothing short of astounding, and to know that that welcome is extended to anyone and everyone who walks in the door, regardless of race, creed, colour, gender, sexual orientation, religion or circumstance makes me proud (if you will forgive that sin) to be part of the ministry and outreach here at St. Margaret's. This welcoming and hospitable atmosphere, well in keeping with the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Church of Canada, and with our Mission Statement: *A diverse Christian community, caring for each other, the wider community, and God's Creation.*

Amen and amen.

Part of this *diversity* comes of course from the fact that we are a blended family composed of two very different congregations. Even within each of those individual congregations, diversity abounds. Far from being something that divides us, that diversity and the willingness to know one another as individuals and to find a way to do God's will together has been something that has united us, and continues to do so.

Our Mission Statement says that *we care for each other*. In my short time in the Parish, I have also seen this to be true. Sometimes we disagree. Sometimes we get angry. Sometimes we get frustrated. Sometimes we hurt each other. But this does not mean that we do not care for each other. Caring is something that sometimes happens imperfectly, but I have seen in my short time here people who are angry or hurt sit down together, express how they feel, apologize when necessary, and commit to finding a way forward. And Christ is surely in these conversations!

Our Mission Statement also says that we care for *the wider community and God's Creation*. Once again, I have found this to be true. St. Margaret's truly is a hive of activity, both in terms of our own mission and ministry, and in terms of outreach that we do in the wider community. It is such a hive, in fact, that I

have often found myself overwhelmed as my logistical and administrative skills have been put to the test. But once again, this is a very good thing. All too often, the ministry of a church revolves around the care and upkeep of a physical building *in* which very little happens in terms of ministry and discipleship, and *from* which very little proceeds in terms of outreach and mission. Not so at Maggie's. In fact, never have I seen a church that is so outward-focused, so tireless in their efforts to minister to the wider community, and so willing to accept people many churches might turn away because they don't fit the mold of the "ideal parishioner". St. Margaret's is a place that is keenly aware that those very people are the ones for whom Christ came, and this is proof positive to me that the Holy Spirit is at work.

Put quite simply, it is a joy, an honour and a privilege for me to be at St. Margaret's. To be able to work with my sister in Christ, the Reverend Aigah to be able to work with such a dedicated Council and volunteers is refreshing for my spirit. Even though I go home every day exhausted, it is the sort of exhaustion that only comes from putting in an honest day's work in the Kingdom. It is the kind of exhaustion that leaves me eager to start a new day, and to see what God has in store for St. Margaret's.

Yours in Christ,



The Reverend Jason Pollick



## Wardens' Report

The church is not bricks and mortar but the people who come together each week in worship, community, service and prayer. This last year there was a major rebuilding of that structure!

Incumbent, Music Director, Parish Administrator, Janitor, Building Manager — these positions all changed during the course of 2017. The Corporation has been preoccupied with discernment, hiring notices, interviews, contracts, training, performance reviews, farewells and welcomes.

### *Incumbent (Rector)*

The Rev. Rhondda MacKay's final service was held on July 2. A farewell dinner was hosted in the hall earlier in the month, attended by people from all of her previous parishes. We gave Rhondda and Robin a voucher for NAC tickets, knowing how much they enjoy live performances. Many thanks to Marie D'Iorio, Vera Etches, Leslie McGillvray and others who made the party such a great success.

Through the summer, the 9:30 service was led by the Rev. Roger Briggs, Rev. Laurette Glasgow, and Rev. Rick Gariépy. We wrote and translated (to Inuktitut) a 2-page parish profile to circulate through the search process, and met with other members of the hiring committee. In September, we had the pleasure of announcing the name of our next Incumbent, the Rev. Jason Pollick.

Jason has quickly got up to speed on the busy life of St Margaret's and we are very grateful that he provides the lead not only on a Sunday but during the rest of the week. His energy and enthusiastic approach to everything that makes up this community is inspiring.

### *Music Director*

Nick Piper, who came to St. Margaret's from All Saints Sandy Hill in 2014, decided to move on at the end of the winter season. We said a formal, and musical, farewell on June 11. We are still in discernment about our music ministry and in the meantime thank Francine Brisebois and Maureen Hutchinson for continuing to share their great talents and experience with us. They have ensured that music remains a central part of our Sunday

services, with regular soloists and choral anthems. It is amazing how much beautiful music comes to our little sanctuary week after week!

### *Parish Administrator*

A new administrator, Kelly MacKay started in May as our person in the office. She held the fort during the summer, keeping the lines of communication open while there was no rector, and the wardens were sometimes scarce. We thank Caryl Crichton for keeping the office going during the first quarter of the year and helping Kelly to settle in. Caryl continues to carry out her role on the financial side, aiding our treasurer, Wendy Hadwen.

### *Building Supervisor*

In early August, Richard Gauvreau joined our team as part-time (as needed) building manager. He brings a lifetime of experience with managing building maintenance and, as Francine's spouse, a solid connection with our community. Richard is responsible for our HVAC, snow, parking and carpentry contracts; monitoring the condition of the rectory, seeking estimates and undertaking repairs in the building. He has worked closely this fall with Donn Hope, our carpenter. Building maintenance is one of those things that is often noticed only when it is absent, we really appreciate the efforts put in by these committed men so that the church continues to be a welcoming (and warm and dry) space for all.

### *Janitor*

Wanting to offer employment when possible to members of our community, we did not renew the JannPro cleaning contract when it expired in September. Instead, we have negotiated contracts with two cleaners, John Angnaluak and Jamie Haas. The flip-flop weather this winter has certainly made it a challenge to keep the floors clean!

### **Activity Report**

- St. Margaret's trivia team competes again at ACORN's City Hall benefit, Feb. 24 at 6 pm. Organized by Richard and Carol Clegg with help from Jane Gibson
- Browne and Woods jazz concert on Feb. 25 at 4:30 in the church hall. A beautiful event, with wonderful hospitality organized by Wendy Hadwen and Angell Salkey.

- Pancake Supper, Feb. 28 5-7 pm organized by Angell Salkey with Cynthia and Moses Robinson. One of our great traditions.
- A service of Prayers for Healing and Forgiveness, led by Rhondda MacKay and Aigah Attagutsiak with music by Leslie Worden and Jane Derrick, on March 29 at 7 pm in the church.
- Reel Faith movie supper and movies on Wednesday evenings in Lent, organized by Deacon Judy Oatway with help from Jane Gibson, the Cleggs and others. We saw *Chocolat*, *The Railway Man* and more.
- Holy Week, including a Walk of Prayer in the neighbourhood on Good Friday and an Easter Vigil with a potluck supper and the baptism of Annabelle Owen the next day. A service to remember!
- Earth Day liturgy on April 23
- An introduction to the Diocese's Today4Tomorrow stewardship campaign, by Elizabeth Reicher from St. Martin's parish.
- Aboriginal Day celebration, June 21, with a program of films, music, food, fellowship. Organized by a team of parish members, with support from All My Relations.
- Farewell celebrations for Nick Piper and then Rhondda MacKay.
- Open House and opportunity to meet Rev. Jason on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2-5 pm. We invited the congregation but few came along.
- Advent candle making fun in the hall after service the week before Advent, organized by Leslie McGillvray and Jane Waterston

#### Administrative changes and events include:

- Spring clean-up Saturday with excellent volunteers working in the kitchen, stairwells and church.
- Writing of a parish profile, translated by Jeannie Manning
- Parish list entered into Excel
- Card ministry relinquished by Jackie Marriott, after many years of devoted service
- Naloxone kit acquired. We are now prepared to administer injections while awaiting paramedics, should someone be having a serious reaction to opioid drugs. The Rector and Rob Douglas know how to use it.
- Igloo grant reports compiled

- Congregational Resource Day at St. Helen's attended
- New manager for the parish Facebook page, Donna Mah
- New PWRDF coordinator, Donna Mah
- Regular hospitality volunteers: Candace Kirkham (9:30) and John Angnaluak (11:30)
- Regular Saturday evening set up for Sunday receptions: Jamie Haas (janitor)
- IT support (help with network, website, accounts) from Phil Owen

And on the property side, there are more highlights to note:

- New signs installed on east and west faces of building, coordinated by Rob Douglas
- New lights installed in the sanctuary, in memory of Derek Hamilton, coordinated by his great friend Margaret Hilborn, with help from Richard Clegg and Jane Waterston
- Great lawn clean up and reseeded, by Donn Hope
- Drainage emergency valiantly averted by Donn Hope and Richard Gauvreau
- Faith House inspected, small repairs done and the exterior of most windows painted, by Donn and Richard
- Three trees removed from the perimeter of our parking lot by the property owner. Greatly missed.
- City roadwork on Cody Ave. caused some inconvenience (occasional halt in water service, and tricky access to the front door) but no damage. City did due diligence in advance, and we had a good set of foundation photos taken too.

It has been an exhausting and exciting year all around. As with so many volunteer activities, being a warden wouldn't be so hard if the day job didn't keep getting in the way! We thank everyone who volunteers for service, cheers Corporation on, and takes an active interest in the life and affairs of dear St. Margaret's.

Respectfully submitted

**Jane Waterston**  
Rector's Warden

**Malcolm McEwen**  
People's Warden



*Jackie Marriott (above) retired from many years of sending birthday and anniversary cards from the parish to our members. A new set of lights (above, right) were installed in the church in memory of Derek Hamilton, who was a pastoral visitor and a council member at the time of his death in 2016.*



*Three parish members—  
Georges, Carolyn and Phil—were  
confirmed in 2017, in a  
ceremony at Christ Church  
Cathedral.*

## Altar Guild Report

Gracious God, bless your Church and all who minister at the altars and care for sacred vessels and linens. Give us an awareness of beauty and mindfulness in holy places that we may handle Holy things with reverence. I humbly ask you to fill Altar Guild members with your bountiful Spirit and bless the work of our hands and thoughts of our hearts, that we may serve you in holiness as we prepare your Altar for worship; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Altar Guild is a worship-related ministry for lay men and women who desire to help create and maintain an atmosphere of beauty and reverence, a sacred space, for worship. We look after the linens, hangings, banners, brass, silver, candles and other items associated with worship in the church. In addition, we ensure that the church looks its best for all services including special services such as weddings, funerals, baptism, Christmas, Easter, etc.

In December 2016 as a result of a theft, we lost our treasured silver cups, plate, ciborium, host box, purificators, the Advent burse and Gospel book. The cathedral very generously loaned us a set of silver to use for our Christmas service and until such time as we are able to replace what we lost. The Altar Guild began looking to replace these items and in the meantime, prior to her retirement, Rhondda commissioned a lovely pair of pottery cups and a bread box.

Special thanks to Mireille Desmaris and Georgina Christopher for discussing our loss at the Altar Guild Annual General Meeting last spring. Their comments led to lists of items available from churches that had closed and others with surplus items available. The lovely silver communion cups we are using today originally came from St. Matthias. The ciborium, candle snuffer and crystal host box came from All Saints Westboro. St. Margaret's Altar Guild is immensely grateful for their generous donations.

Leslie McGillvray, Georgina Christopher, Mireille Desmaris, Karen Hope and Dora Delmaire were

regular members of the Altar Guild in 2017. Nicole Bourque also helped out at the beginning of the year, but unfortunately had to resign due to ill health. However, when she is able to come to church she often tidies up the pews for us. On special occasions, notably Christmas, Myles McGarry and Ian Flowers have come to help put up the tree and sort out any lighting problem.

Some of the Altar Guild highlights of the past year...

- ☐ January 1 All Together brunch eucharist in hall
- ☐ Healing Service on March 29
- ☐ Making palm crosses for Palm Sunday
- ☐ Foot washing on Maundy Thursday and stripping of the altar
- ☐ April 15 First Light Celebration with Baptism of Annabella Owens using our new Paschal Candle
- ☐ All Together service at Pentecost
- ☐ July 2 dedication of pottery cups and bread box
- ☐ August 19 wedding of our own Georgie Cote to Brian Christopher
- ☐ Altar Guild Annual General Meeting at the Cathedral
- ☐ Advent and Christmas services
- ☐ Bindings on all prayer books and hymnals repaired

We also recognize members of the congregation whose donations for memorial flowers make possible the purchases of fresh altar flowers during the year, notably at Easter and Christmas.

Altar Guild welcomes new members, either men or women. In 2018 we are looking for at least two people to join us. Most of our work is done in teams. We are flexible about scheduling to accommodate vacations, family, school etc. If you would like to explore this opportunity for ministry and perhaps exercise your special interests or talents, please contact the Reverend Jason or Leslie McGillvray.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Leslie McGillvray**

## Pastoral Care Report

The 2017 pastoral care team at St. Margaret's consisted of the Rev. Canon Rhondda MacKay, the Rev. Jason Pollick, Margaret Hilborn, Linda Karam and Carol Clegg.

Linda left our team in the fall to assist Syrian refugees in learning English. We wish Linda all the best in her new endeavours and thank her for her contributions to the Pastoral team. We also lost Rhondda when she retired from ministry in July, and wish her well in this next stage of her life.

Rev. Jason became a welcome new member to our team after Thanksgiving. In addition, Rob Douglas completed the Pastoral Care training program and joined St. Margaret's team in January 2018.

Our mandate is to minister to those in need in our parish, to provide comfort, encouragement and spiritual strength. We visit parishioners in hospitals, in long term care homes, retirement residences and/or their own homes.

A number of our visits to parishioners include the bringing them the Eucharist on a monthly basis. At present, we administer the Eucharist to seven parishioners.

Pastoral visits can also include taking people to appointments, running errands for groceries etc. or providing encouragement and spiritual guidance through telephone conversations.

In the past the Pastoral Care team has provided pastoral care when and where it was needed without documenting this information. In 2017 a procedure was established to document all visits including the type of visit and time spent.

The documented results for 2017 show that, in total, 18 parishioners were either visited or contacted by the pastoral team 182 times for a total of 147.5 hours (excluding commuting time and brief casual phone calls).

In addition, the Pastoral Care team makes bi-weekly visits to the Ottawa Hospital (General Campus), on behalf of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, to minister to Anglican and Lutheran patients.

The number of patients visited bi-weekly at the Ottawa Hospital varies from five to twenty and takes approximately three hours for the two Pastoral team members that attend.

We are always looking for new members to join our Pastoral team, which is a very fulfilling way to give back to our St. Margaret's community.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Margaret Hilborn**





## Sunday School Report

St. Margaret's offered a children's program right through the year, with classes convened at both 9:30 and 11:30. We follow the Seasons of the Spirit (Whole People of God) curriculum, focusing on the primary age (Grades 2-3) lessons and adapting activities to the range of ages present at our round red table each week.

Although we were sad to say goodbye to Ruby Cousins and her parents Alison and Rick in June, and to Frida Symons-Swann at the end of the year, our numbers continue to grow. By year end, we were frequently welcoming 8-10 children at both 9:30 and 11:30. The age range continues to be wide and we must soon start to think of programs for youth!

Something new this year is "painting Sunday" on the first week of each month, when we put out the plastic cloths, brushes and paint containers and start into a painting exercise inspired by Jesus' life and the call to follow him, such as trying to copy each other, or to paint something our feet regularly walk on.

I am grateful to Amy, Malcolm, Donna and others who take over when I am away for a few weeks at a time; to Rhondda MacKay who was always presenting new ideas and supplying good advice, and to Rosemary Scragg and Leslie McGillvray who are my advisors with tricky craft projects.

To everyone who prays for and shows kindness to our wonderful group of parish children, I say thanks!

Respectfully submitted,  
**Jane Waterston**





*Advent started off on a bright note when Leslie McGillvray, with help from friends and family, organized wreath and candle display making for anyone who cared to try their hand. The 11:30 Sunday School children were enthusiastic participants.*

## Outreach Report

### **Outreach Aspirational Goals at St. Margaret's**

In previous years, the Outreach Committee has concentrated its efforts on activities to bring together members of our three founding congregations—"Old" St. Margaret's (English), "Old" All Saints Sandy Hill, and St. Margaret's Inuit. This is an on-going project, but much has been achieved through joint activities and liturgies.

Our outreach focus today is on making our building and services attractive, open and available to all congregants and the secular population in our midst. As well, we want to be present and to make a contribution to good things that are happening in our immediate community, the city, the country, and the world.

### **Parish outreach activities during 2017**

#### *Aboriginal Day, 2017*

On June 21, St. Margaret's sponsored the only Aboriginal Day program dedicated to Inuit in Ottawa. We had a large crowd, country food, guitar singing, drum dancing and various Inuit cultural activities. A highlight was the film *Martha of the North*, about the severe hardships caused in the 1950s when the Government of Canada relocated Inuit families to the unfamiliar and inhospitable High Arctic, to claim sovereignty of the far North. The film was followed by a discussion led by Martha Flaherty herself, a member of St. Margaret's Inuit congregation. There were many comments from the audience about their feelings of shame and remorse. Then again, some comments were balanced by a grateful realization that Martha, who was relocated at age 6, has now become a shining example of resilience and a powerful witness to our need for reconciliation!

#### *ACORN*

St. Margaret's sponsored two tables at the 2017 Trivia Night at City Hall to help with funding for ACORN's social/political activism in support of low-income individuals and families. These include projects against Pay Day loan sharks (especially on Montreal Road), and in favour of the Living Wage campaign, better and more affordable housing, tenants' rights, etc. Thanks to Richard Clegg for organizing our great showing at trivia!

#### *Ashes to Go*

Midday, March 1, 2017, noon to 1:30 PM. Good response from the community. Fun comment: "Thanks so much for being here. I had forgotten it is Ash Wednesday!" Thanks to Rev. Rhondda, Deacon Judy, Rob Douglas, Ken Lyons, Edmund Barrick and Jane Gibson.

#### *Blessing of the Animals, October 1, 2017*

The service, on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, was held in our parking lot. It celebrated creatures great and small from our congregations, and welcomed dog-walkers from the street.

#### *Bread Sunday*

St. Margaret's continues to support Partage Vanier with monthly contributions.

#### *Good Friday Prayer Walk (Ecumenical)*

This event was well attended by members of at least six different congregations. Prayers were offered in three languages.

#### *Hot Chocolate on the street*

Thanks to Rob Douglas for initiating this campaign during the twelve days of Christmas. Good turnout on Montreal Road!

#### *IGLOO@206*

Thanks to the Diocese of Ottawa Healing and Reconciliation Working Group, St. Margaret's was awarded two grants in 2017. IGLOO@206 Phase 1 featured four Inuit social events held between September and December. Earlier in the year, we sponsored three pilot events to sort out any wrinkles. All these were open to all, but specialized in outreach to members of the Inuit population of Vanier who normally were not coming into our building. Rob Douglas, Jeannie Manning and Joan Marshman prepared posters that were distributed to local Inuit organizations by Jane Gibson, and we gradually attracted a large following. Many participants came early and stayed late. Many expressed their gratitude for country food, computer stations, our telephone landline, as well as the warmth of the building and friendships that developed. Thanks to all those, from both our congregations, who helped with the shopping, cooking, serving, cleaning up etc. That service was brilliant.



*A preview of outreach activity in 2018—Rev. Jason and Jane Gibson had two programs happening at St. Marg's on Ash Wednesday — Ashes to Go and Igloo@206.*

### *Montreal Road annual spring street party*

Donn Hope organized St. Margaret's table, featuring Inuit crafts, at the party. Donn also had some input on the prominent new four-story mural near Wabano Centre on Montreal Rd., at the site of the party. The mural now celebrates the fact that Ottawa is home to the largest Inuit population outside of Nunavut.

### *REEL FAITH film series*

On a monthly basis, Deacon Judy Oatway introduced a challenging film accompanied by a light supper and discussion. Watch for the new series.

### *Rideau High School support*

In 2017, St. Margaret's members attended some school board meetings, sponsored a visit to the church by our local trustee, erected signs and wrote letters in support of saving the school from closure. The vote was lost, but the "Save Rideau" local organization continued to work and eventually the Province of Ontario agreed the building could continue to be used as a local "hub" for social and educational services. The hope is that, in time, Rideau High might again be used as a high school, with specialized services of relevance to our Vanier and Overbrook population.

### *Shrove Tuesday ("Mardi Gras") dinner*

Thanks to members of the "old" St. Margaret's congregation for a great feast and fun.

### *Signage on the church*

At last we have a very attractive and welcoming set of signs identifying our building in English and Inuktitut.

### *Tungasuvvingat Inuit (TI)*

In the course of conversations with program staff at TI, we began to mitigate entrenched negative feelings relating to memories of residential schools and other attitudinal histories that link the churches to Canada's policies of colonization, control and assimilation of Inuit peoples. In our conversations with TI, we were able to initiate a cultural sensitivity course that became part of our IGLOO@206 Phase 1 program, to be offered in 2018. As well, TI started holding some of their monthly feasts at St. Margaret's. This worked well until their crowds outgrew our space. Conversations re IGLOO@206

with staff and participants at nearby TI-related service organizations has led to some positive comments on what we are trying to do as a church and as a diocese.

### *Vanier committees*

Members of St. Margaret's have established contact with and participated in the Vanier Community Association, Vanier BIA, Vanier Beautification, and the Montreal Road Complete Street Project and other community-based organizations.

### *Wednesday lunch*

Starting in early 2017, as an experiment, some members of the Cursillo movement, led by Rob Douglas, started attending Wednesday noon prayers at St. Margaret's and then presenting a simple lunch, with conversation, in the hall. With no publicity, and little fanfare, the number of regular and incidental participants grew weekly. This unintentionally served as a pilot project for our 2018 IGLOO@206 Phase 2.

### *World Day of Prayer, March 2017*

The focus in 2017 was on the Philippines, and the service held at our neighbour, Our Lady of Assumption Church, where there are many Filipino congregants. Jane Gibson represented St. Margaret's in the liturgy. The 2018 World Day of Prayer, which will feature a liturgy from Suriname. Unfortunately, we had to refuse the event proposed for St. Margaret's for lack of available volunteers to host the event at our site.

### *Faith House*

This is a community of young adults committed to justice and social action from a faith perspective. Founded in 2011 as an offshoot of the Student Christian Movement and the Open Table program (an ecumenical effort to offer monthly "radical hospitality" to students and young people), they initially developed their intentional community in partnership with a committee of All Saints members.

Donna Mah and Jane Gibson attended their Open House in September.

Here is a message from Erin, who lives there.

*Hello from Faith House!*

*Our house is alive and well this year. We have been opening our home recently to beings in transition and in need of a safe and warm space. Currently we*

*are six permanent members, two friends in passing, three cats, and one sweet dog. We share meals nearly every night together, and set up the projector to watch movies. Going to the kitchen to get a glass of water can often turn into an hour conversation on self-management in Rojava, and when you cook dinner it often feels like a sitcom with a revolving door of people coming to help chop, chat, or decompress from their day. We also have been hosting a Sad Boys club where male-identifying people have the opportunity to openly talk about their feelings. We host documentary and discussion nights on issues like unions and how to make change. We have teach-ins with community leaders, host community advocacy meetings, and have welcomed the Student Christian Movement for their general meeting and get togethers. Our calendar in the kitchen with upcoming events is often full. A full house is a busy house, and can be challenging at times, but it has made for a warm house this winter.*

Erin and the other five permanent members live in the former All Saints rectory (now an asset of St. Margaret's). House decisions are made in common, including budgets and activities.

The evenings and workshops they organize have included teach-ins on Islamophobia, film/discussions on theology and violence, regular Interfaith meetings of the Ottawa Network of Spiritual Progressives, refugee assistance, retreats on subjects such as "The Sixties Scoop": bringing together children and other indigenous adoptees towards healing and re-learning culture and heritage. Some discussion evenings have been open to the wider community. For more information, take a look at their website [faithhouseottawa.wordpress.com](http://faithhouseottawa.wordpress.com).

### **Looking forward**

Here are some suggestions for future efforts to enhance our parish outreach.

- Install a wall TV monitor in the hall for screening of films and projection of funerals and other events when the church is full
- Upgrade our public-use computers to provide word processing capability
- Make a new St. Margaret's banner to carry at demos and marches (as we did with the Truth and Reconciliation walk, Climate Justice demo, and Pride parade)

- Upgrade our stove, dishwasher and freezer in kitchen to help us host larger events
- Host, again, visitors to Doors Open Ottawa and people on the Jane's Walk.

St. Margaret's Outreach Committee is exploring ways to become more actively involved with social services, residential programs and Inuit support groups on our doorstep, including:

- Vanier community service centres (Dupuis and Marier streets)
- Partage Vanier (Marier)
- Salvation Army Thrift Shop (Montreal Road)
- ACORN (Vanier Headquarters)
- Laundry Co-op and Heartwood House
- Onyx (Freedom Centre), Montreal Rd.
- John Howard Society (Gardner St.)
- Inuit Family Ctr & Food Bank (Savard)
- OICC Inuit preschool (McArthur)
- Inuit Youth Organisation (Queen Mary)
- Inuit Medical Centre (Selkirk)
- Tungasuvvingat Inuit (Ottawa). This is the overall co-ordinating body for a myriad of social services in Ottawa, with headquarters on Richmond Rd. St. Margaret's has been able to make useful contacts with various staff members and we have partnered in a variety of program.
- Nunavut Sivuniksavut (NS) College (Rideau at Chapel) and current residence on Blake Blvd.
- New residence to be established in Sandy Hill in September, 2018
- Odawa Native Friendship Centre, 510 Rideau. Drop-in Centre with meals and other services for Indigenous people.

Poverty Reduction (and elimination) organizations that have drawn our attention:

- Canada Without Poverty (Bank Street HQ)
- ACORN (McArthur)
- Ottawa Poverty Reduction Network (Linda Lalonde & City Council)
- Citizens for Public Justice (Joe Gunn from St. Joe's: HQ Cooper St)
- ISARC (Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition), focus on Ontario ODSP and OW.
- See book: *Persistent Poverty*

Respectfully submitted,  
**Jane Gibson**

## Synod Report

Synod is the annual meeting of the people and clergy of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, which has 110 congregations in 90 parishes. It happens each fall—a Thursday night service and reception at the cathedral, and a weekend meeting in a conference centre. Jeannie Manning and Cat Keresztesi represented the congregations of St Margaret's Vanier in 2017, along with our clergy representatives Rev. Aigah and Rev. Jason.

### **Report from St. Margaret's delegate** **9:30 congregation**

The theme of Synod 2017 was "The Church of Christ in Every Age", highlighted in the keynote address of Archbishop Fred Hiltz (Primate of our national church), as well as in the Bishop's charge delivered by our Bishop John Chapman.

The keynote address used the lyrics of the hymn "The Church of God in Every Age" to highlight our call.

We have no mission but to serve: as a church that is continually reforming itself in the love of Christ, we are mission-oriented, inclusive, open, and in fidelity with Christ. Archbishop Fred called us to be a "servant church" in the world, not set apart. As the hymn says, "the victims of injustice cry...so let the servant church arise."

In the context of a servant church that is "bruised, hurting, and a bit dirty because it has been out on the streets" (the words of Pope Francis), the existing programs of our Diocese and the priorities for the coming years were described throughout the rest of Synod presentations.

Details on the following (and other) areas of mission and ministry of the Diocese are available at the diocesan website at [ottawa.anglican.ca/synod-2017](http://ottawa.anglican.ca/synod-2017).

### **Community Ministries**

Cornerstone  
Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre  
St Luke's Table  
The Well/La Source  
Centre 454

### **PWRDF projects**

Maternal, Newborn & Child Health Program in Africa  
Pikangikum Water Project  
Refugee Working Group

### **Embracing God's Future** (strategic direction of the Diocese)

All My Relations Working Group (to advance Reconciliation)  
Hospital Ministries  
Trinity-Cornwall Drop-in Centre  
Youth Internship Program

In addition to these new and existing programs, a strategic priority of the Diocese moving forward is the work of the *Homelessness and Affordable Housing Working Group*. In this priority area, the Diocese is committed to developing 125 new affordable housing units in the region by 2021. Parishes are encouraged to support this goal through prayer, by hosting learning events on the issues and realities of homelessness and insecure housing, through advocacy, and with action. Bishop John emphasized that affordable housing is not just about charity, but gets into the question of human dignity and justice.

Other business presented at Synod concerned the Diocese's property and finances, stewardship program, real estate, parish ministry support, and the various ways that all our resources and gifts are oriented towards our mission.

In closing, the focus and discussion at Synod encouraged us to continuously reflect on our mission as a servant-minded church, which I believe we are doing in our own parish of St Margaret's Vanier.

Since Synod 2017, Parish Council has been considering how we are called and aligned with the priorities of the Diocese. Under Rev. Jason's leadership, we are exploring potential partnerships and opportunities to advance our own parish mission in support of those in need, and in particular in support of our Inuit brothers and sisters in the parish, in Ottawa, and in the North.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Cat Keresztesi**

## **Report from St. Margaret's delegate**

### **11:30 congregation**

At the 2017 Synod conference, Aigah, Cat, and I were honored to dine with Primate Fred Hiltz, who leads the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF). He spoke of PWRDF programs set up to assist the struggling and suffering people in the world.

As Mr. Hiltz spoke of all the wonderful programs that the Anglican Church delivers, I noticed that very little, if any, support was given to my people, the Inuit. The Inuit continue to struggle to survive in a remote part of the world where the cost of living is extremely high and suicide, alcohol and drug addictions run rampant along with violence in many homes.

As I spoke on behalf of my people, both here in Ottawa and other regions populated by Inuit in Canada, Mr. Hiltz courteously listened and reassured me that although the wheels of process are slow, PWRDF has been following the plights of the Inuit. He agreed there needs to be a greater awareness and attention given to the Indigenous people here in Canada.

Although I was reassured by Mr. Hiltz's words, I was still not totally convinced that any support will be seen in the near future. Because of this, I believe that we should do our part here in Ottawa as a church congregation comprised of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to be the initiators of programs such as food banks, clothing donations, and other efforts to ensure that our precious members of God's family are looked after. It is all good that relief is given to those suffering from oppression in war-torn countries, but we also need to take care of those struggling and suffering in our own backyard here in Canada. How else can we give hope to those in need? We need to extend God's love to ALL peoples in the world, not just to those who are oppressed by dictators and terrorists.

I mentioned the *Igloo@206* program that was launched last year in March. *Igloo@206* is a social program that was set up to help the Ottawa Inuit who struggle with alcohol & drug addictions; those who are living on low income; and the homeless—all who have suffered in residential schools and from sexual abuse by people with authority in the churches. Through this program, lunches are provided to those who come, and not exclusively to

Inuit because *Igloo@206* is also an effort to reconcile trust and healing for First Nations and the Inuit. It is designed to strike up a positive relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous where we can all work together, and help each other without oppression. This all falls under our Father's, God's, plan. We are tasked by the most high from heaven to show love and support to those in need.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Jeannie Manning**





### **The Bishop's "Charge" 2017**

In his opening message to Synod, Bishop John Chapman described the Epiphany story in a new light.

The three wise men came to Bethlehem to find a king that they assumed would be like them: rich, wise, sophisticated, powerful. Instead they found a helpless baby born into poverty. This twist in the story changed them so profoundly that they were compelled to take a different path home.

Bishop John also gave a different perspective on John the Baptist, whom he described as an arrogant, dishevelled, seemingly crazy figure standing in the dirty, polluted waters of the Jordan River, offering a new path to those who came to the river to be baptized. Jesus calls us as a church to stand with him in the same dirty, polluted water of the river; to draw close to him and to live with him in those waters as everything around us changes. The church is no longer a place of safety and power, but it has been returned to us in these times as a refuge of love and service. We are called to go home a different way, to tell a new story that changes people, to stand in the waters of our baptism with Christ, ready to serve. Only then can we bring about justice for all God's people.

### **The Church of Christ in Every Age**

The Church of Christ in every age  
Beset by change but Spirit led,  
Must claim and test its heritage  
And keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street,  
The victims of injustice cry  
For shelter and for bread to eat,  
And never live until they die.

Then let the servant Church arise,  
A caring Church that longs to be  
A partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
And clothed in Christ's humanity.

For he alone, whose blood was shed,  
Can cure the fever in our blood,  
And teach us how to share our bread  
And feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve  
In full obedience to our Lord:  
To care for all, without reserve,  
And to spread his liberating Word.

(Theme of Synod 2017)

## Music Ministry Reports

### Organist, 9:30 service

The year 2017 has proved to be very challenging at St Margaret's with the departure of Rev. Rhondda MacKay and Music Director Nick Piper at the beginning of the summer. However, we can confirm that the parish has grown musically with added talents. More specifically, the English 9:30 service on alternate Sundays has enjoyed the presence of a long-time organist (myself), along with soloist Jane McIntosh.

With the arrival of our new priest, the Rev. Jason Pollick, a formal music liturgy committee now meets on a regular basis to establish and implement a music vision for the parish that conforms with past music, and to establish/review administrative procedures.

Music is an integral part of liturgy and celebrations at St Margaret's, and we are glad to be part of it!

Respectfully submitted,  
**Francine Brisebois**

### Organist, 11:30 service and Choir Director (part-year), 9:30 service

I was introduced to the 11:30 am service at St. Margaret's in May, while Nick Piper was in British Columbia premiering his commissioned composition. I provided accompaniment during his absence, and since August of 2017, I have been doing so on a weekly basis. Initially, I found it a challenge to follow the hymns in Inuktitut since the lyrics under my music notes were in English. So I used a free internet music software program called Muscore to prepare versions of the hymns with the Inuktitut lyrics. I was unsure if I would be able to sing along using my scores, but to my surprise and delight I find I am indeed able to sing with some accuracy, and have been doing so continuously since August.

My efforts have been met with overwhelming appreciation from the Inuit congregation and clergy. Each week the congregation sings the hymns with a great deal of love and enthusiasm, and I am pleased to be able to assist them in their musical praise and prayer. With well known hymns, I am frequently able to add a harmony part. Shannon Klatt sings harmony with me as well when she is

there, and I have enjoyed her contribution and look forward to continuing our collaboration. She is willing to add a ukulele accompaniment at some point in the future, and I am sure that will also be warmly received. From time to time, I have been able to teach a new hymn.

A few of the highlights of the past six months spent serving this congregation include:

**Christmas Eve 2017.** I integrated some Inuktitut language into a children's hymn, the *Huron Carol*, and was pleased to include Martha Flaherty and the Reverend Aigah in the arrangement as throat singers.

**Inuktitut Christmas service, December 26, 2017.** I was able to help a "Christmas choir" get ready for the service. We sang in two parts.

**All-together service, December 31, 2017.** I prepared song sheets for this service with verses alternating between the two languages. The singing was very successful, by both English and Inuit congregants!

I am now (as of February, 2018) accompanying the Inuktitut service every second week, alternating with the English 9:30 am service. I look forward to working with Rev. Aigah, Rev. Roger, Rev. Jason and the congregation on alternating weeks for the next few months, and to providing weekly accompaniment again at 11:30 once the 9:30 choir's season is over in June.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Maureen Hutchinson**

### Choir, 9:30 service

In May we said goodbye to our Music Director Nick Piper. As Music Director, Nick had directed the choir at All Saints Sandy Hill, and with the amalgamation of the two parishes, we were fortunate to have him continue the role. This year, Nick continued to encourage people new to choral singing, even offering support outside regular practice time. As part of the worship committee, Nick was instrumental in choosing hymns, psalm settings and choir anthems as required for both the 9:30 and the 11:30 services. We thank Nick for his gift of music, his talent and his patience as he led the choir through and beyond the time of transition and amalgamation. Under Nick's direction, our small four-part choir sang on Holy Days and second Sundays.

Maureen Hutchinson filled in when Nick was away and through the period of discernment of our music needs and wants. She was invited to assume the position of choir director—again, we have been blessed with an amazingly talented and creative director, who also has a great sense of humour.

Under Maureen, the choir has begun to move from the foundation that Nick slowly built at St. Margaret's to learning and singing more complicated and challenging pieces. Maureen has prepared practice tracks, accessible on the internet for personal practice during the week.

The choir continues singing on second Sundays and Holy Days.

Although we have become used to singing only every second Sunday (which gives us the chance to sleep in, listen to *Choral Concert* on CBC, and sit in the pews with our friends), most of us would prefer to see an end to this "temporary" arrangement and to revert back to the choir singing every week. Failing that, we would like at least to see a fuller participation of and use of more choir members on "non-choir" Sundays.

The choir members are a small but amazingly dedicated group.

**Richard Clegg**, on his own, has held down the bass

section. He greatly misses **Edward Logan**, who sang lustily for a short time but found in his busy life that something had to go! Both men, when they joined the choir, had not sung since they were trebles in boy choirs. Kudos to them for taking the leap and learning how to sing harmony with their man voices!

**Kelly Symons** has been our star tenor, and often helped the bass section find their pitches. The alto section has been rock solid with **Jane Gibson** at its core. **Donna Mah** has recently joined the section and her musicianship is an asset. **Cat Keresztesi** sings in the alto section...or tenor, or soprano. Cat's musical talent, flexibility and love of performing have contributed greatly to the success of the choir. In the soprano section, **Michelle Lavoie** joined the choir a few years ago. Like the men, Michelle was new to singing and worked very hard to learn all the (at least 27) different things one has to remember during choral singing. **Jane McIntosh** is a veteran of church, cathedral, solo and choral singing. It is a rarity for a director to pull out a piece of music that is new to her. And me (**Robin Dunbar**), well I just love to sing.

Thanks to all members of the choir for your dedication to one another, the choir and to the church. Thanks to those who have come in to the

choir for a short time, and to those who continue.

Finally, on behalf of us all, thank you for the opportunity to sing. We hope we enhance the service, and your worship experience. Whether or not we accomplish that, it is always from our heart and soul to the Glory of God that we sing!

Respectfully  
submitted,  
**Robin Dunbar**





## **Other Ministries**

### **Volunteer Roster, 9:30 service**

As the volunteer coordinator, I truly have the best volunteers ever. They are so easy to deal with and they accommodate me, and others, when required. They are a great team of people and we as a church would be lost without them all. I am always looking for new faces to help and would be more than happy to explain what the various positions entail.

— Carol Clegg

### **Primate's World Relief and Development Fund**

For the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWDRF) information and updates, please check the PWDRF website, or the bulletin board and table next to the Rector's office. If you would like to receive the monthly newsletter from the diocesan PWDRF representative or would be interested in helping to organize PWDRF parish events, please let the parish representative, Donna Mah know. Thanks!