

Vestry Report 2025

Reporting Decisions and Activity during 2024



On March 3, St. Margaret's said goodbye to The Very Reverend Roger Briggs when he moved to British Columbia to be near his daughter during his final illness. Roger was instrumental in bringing many of our Inuit members into the church, in the Arctic as well as here in Ottawa. He was much loved and is sorely missed.



St. Margaret's Anglican Church

ᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱ

PO Box 79048 Vanier Post Office, Ottawa, ON K1L 1A1
office@stmargaretsvanier.ca
613 746 8815

Contents

2	Parish Records, 2024
	Proposed Agenda, 2025 Vestry
3	Minutes, 2024 Vestry
6	Financial Report for 2024 and Budget 2025
9	Incumbent's Report
10	Associate Incumbent's Report
12	Churchwardens' Report
13	Synod Report
14	Activity Reports

Photos: Rev. Colin McFarland, Philip Owen, Jane Waterston

Parish Records, 2024

FUNERALS, BURIALS AND MEMORIALS: 14

Tommy Robert Angnetsiak

Paul Leonard Bowering

Carol Bradley

Roger Edward Briggs

Benden Crawford

Richard Alexander Eggleston

Patricia Anne Francis

André Ernest Giroux

Sadie Hill

Mary Ineak

Teemotee Ipeelie

Morty Iqqaqsuiq

Jonathan Solomon Kilabuk

Warren Leonard Nelson



**May they rest in
peace and
light perpetual shine
on them**

Proposed Agenda, 2025 Vestry

1. Welcome
 - Lighting of the qulliq
 - Land acknowledgement
 - Opening prayers
2. Appointment of Vestry Clerk
3. Procedures for the meeting
4. Acceptance of minutes from 2024 Vestry meeting
5. Incumbent and Associate Incumbent reports
6. Presentation of 2024 financial report and auditor's financial review
7. Adoption of the 2025 operating budget
8. Nominations, appointments and election
 - Appointment of a Churchwarden by the Incumbent
 - Nomination for offices of the parish
 1. Churchwarden and Deputy Churchwarden(s)
 2. Lay Members of Synod and Alternates
 3. Parish Councillors
 4. Head Sidesperson
 - Adoption of auditor
9. Receive reports in the 2025 Vestry Report
10. General business
11. Adjournment



People settling in at the meeting of St. Margaret’s Parish vestry on February 25, 2024. Our treasurer Aisha Ghaffar (front row, right) came from Cornwall to meet us and hear the discussion of parish finances.

Minutes, 2024 Vestry

*St. Margaret’s Hall and via Zoom
February 25, 2024*

*Chair: The Rev. Colin McFarland
Associate Chair: The Rev. Canon Aigah Attagutsiak
Zoom host: Malcolm McEwen
Vestry clerk: Jane Waterston*

The Rev. Canon Aigah Attagutsiak started the meeting with a demonstration and account of how a quill, like the one on our altar, is used by Inuit families. It is the centre of family life, requiring care, foresight and shared responsibility to keep burning and heating and comforting the people around it.

The Reverend Colin McFarland opened the business section of the meeting with an acknowledgement that it was taking place on unceded territory of the Algonquin people. There was a prayer for the meeting, in Inuktitut and English.

Housekeeping

Rev. Colin explained that to participate in the votes at the meeting, one must be a member of St. Margaret’s congregation, at least 16 years of age, a regular worshipper and not voting in any other Vestry meeting in the diocese.

These conditions were affirmed by 29 persons in attendance at the outset of the meeting in the hall (none online.)

Appointment of the Vestry Clerk

Motion: It is moved that Jane Waterston be appointed Vestry Clerk for this St Margaret’s Vanier parish Vestry 2024. The Vestry Clerk shall be responsible for recording the Minutes of this

meeting and submitting them to St Margaret’s Vanier Corporation for approval and inclusion in the St Margaret’s Vanier parish Vestry Report for 2024.

*Moved by: Donna Mah; seconded by: Jennie Kanayuk
Passed (all in favour)*

Acceptance of Minutes and Agenda

The chair asked if any omissions were noted or changes needed in the 2023 minutes included in the annual Vestry Report, which has been circulating for a week. None were raised.

Motion: That the minutes of the 2023 vestry meeting and proposed agenda for the 2024 meeting be approved as presented in the Vestry Report.

*Moved by: Edward Logan; seconded by: Bernie Delmaire
Passed (all in favour)*

Incumbent’s Report

The Rev. Colin McFarland noted that his report for 2023 was in the printed document circulated before the meeting and asked if any explanations were needed. No questions were raised. He noted that he is routinely in the church building on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as Sundays.

Financial Report 2023 and Budget 2024

The Chair drew the meeting’s attention to the financial section of the Vestry Report, including a report of income and expenses for 2023 and a proposed budget for 2024.

He introduced Aisha Gaffar the parish’s new treasurer, who has been working with the parish since May 2023 and meets members of the parish corporation each month online (Zoom).

continued on page 4

Financial review for 2023

Churchwarden Malcolm McEwen explained that St. Margaret's is an operation that basically costs \$280,000 per year.

About half of that goes to salaries and contracted obligations to the Diocese, which handles our payroll and provides other services and support. The other half goes into maintenance, contract payments, internet and program costs.

Our revenue in 2023 came in at about \$260,000, from offerings, donations from other parishes and organizations, interest payments, and rental fees for midweek use of the building.

The deficit for 2023 was planned. As it turned out, we received more than expected, with offerings up by \$7,000; but our expenses came in higher too, by \$17,000.

As we emerge from the pandemic, the imbalance must be corrected. We could cut music expenses; we could insist that volunteers do all the work we currently pay for; we could put aside more time in the hall for renters. These seem at odds with our mission and traditions; our priority is to be welcoming and faith-based in programming and building use.

A question was raised about interest from the proceeds from the sale of 1 Blackburn Ave., a former rectory for All Saints Sandy Hill. Income from the sale is held in trust for St. Margaret's in the diocesan Consolidated Trust Fund. The interest is in our operating fund.

In 2024, Corporation intends to hire a part-time administrator to assist clergy with reception and communications. In addition, some upgrades are needed to the seal on windows and doors and to our security system. We expect to purchase some new Bibles in Inuktitut, and some songbooks.

Motion: That the financial "actuals" for 2023 and the budget for 2024 be approved as presented in the Vestry Report.

Moved by: Carolyn Malek; seconded by: Colin Ritchie
Passed (all in favour)

Vestry accepts the Financial Report for 2023 as presented, and asks Council to sign off and approve the audited statements for 2024 when they are received from Kelly Huibers McNeely.

Appointments and Nominations for 2024

Appointment by the Incumbent

Jane Waterston is appointed as Churchwarden

A slate of nominations was presented by Jane Waterston and Carolyn Malek

Churchwarden and Deputy Churchwardens

- Malcolm McEwen — Churchwarden
- Bernie Delmaire — Deputy Churchwarden

Lay Members of Synod

- Jeannie Manning
- Jane Waterston
- Catherine Keresztesi, Alternate

Parish Council Members (in addition to those named above)

- Jane Gibson
- Jennie Kanayuk (nominated from the floor)
- Carolyn Malek
- Joan Marshman
- Irene Tagoona

Motion: That this slate of nominees and appointments be accepted until the 2025 Vestry meeting.

Moved by: Charmaine Roy; seconded by: Philip Owen
Passed (all in favour)

Election of auditor for 2024

It is suggested that we continue with our current auditor, who does a general review of the parish accounts for the past year. Vestry heard that their reputation is sound and they respond well to requests from our treasurer. Charmaine Roy has worked with them through another organization. Malcolm McEwen suggests we review their performance and reputation every three or four years.

Motion: That Kelly Huibers McNeely chartered accountants review our finances in and for 2024.

Moved by: Bernie Delmaire; seconded by: Amy Lightfoot
Passed (all in favour)

Acceptance of reports in the 2024 Vestry Report

Motion: That the 2024 Vestry Report, reporting activity and decisions in 2023, be accepted.

Moved by: Jennie Kanayuk; seconded by: Bill Bradley.
Passed (all in favour)

The Reverend Colin McFarland noted that the parish now has seven contractors: Francine Brisebois and Maureen Hutchinson, musicians; Aisha Gaffer, treasurer, and Steffi Dmello, bookkeeper; Brie Shatraw and Kayla Spagnoli, Sunday hosts; Chris Wynn, snow removal.

Thanks

Churchwarden Malcolm McEwen thanked all who do the work of the parish, including: Leslie McGillvray and Mireille Desmarais in the Altar Guild, our organists Francine Brisebois and Maureen Hutchinson and other musicians, building manager Bernie Delmaire (who could use a deputy), Edward and Vera Logan-Etches in the church school, council co-chairs Joan Marshman and Jeannie Manning, community meal hosts and workers Brie Shatraw, Kayla Spagnoli, John Angnaluaq and Bernie Delmaire, and all those who helped make the Inuit Christmas feast, the Nunavut Day BBQ, the St. Margaret's Day and Shrove Tuesday parties and other events happen. They should pat each other on the back.

Adjournment

Motion: That the 2024 Vestry meeting be adjourned

Moved by: Donna Mah (all in favour)

Signed in at the meeting:

Rev. Canon Aigah	Amy Lightfoot	Linda Perrier
Attagutsiak	Edward Logan	Peter Pitseolak
Bill Bradley	Donna Mah	Colin Ritchie
Bernie Delmaire	Carolyn Malek	Moses Robinson
Dora Delmaire	Joan Marshman	Cynthia Robinson
Vera Etches	Malcolm McEwen	Charmaine Roye
Jane Gibson	Rev. Colin McFarland	Irene Tagoona
Jackie Ittigituk	Leslie McGillvray	Jane Waterston
Christine Jannasch	David Mooney	
Poasie Joamie	Miracle Nwachukwu	
Allen Kabvitok	Rose Nwachukwu	
Eva Kigutaq	John N Nwachukwu	
Lily Kigutaq	Jeanie Okalik	
Jeanie Koonou	Philip Owen	
Sata Smartit Kootoo	Aisa Papiialuk	

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Feb. 13, 2024



Many folks pitched in to serve up delicious pancakes, sausages and fun as we got ready for the quiet of Lent. Five weeks later, there was dancing and feasting as we celebrated the Resurrection.

Easter Day Party, March 31, 2024



Financial Report for 2024 and 2025 Budget

Budget strategy

These are the principles underpinning the budget proposed to Vestry

- Repeat the approach of 2024 – we are in a well-managed, steady-state situation
- Pay for essential services – church administrator, book-keeper, treasurer, musician(s), snow-clearing around doorways
- Control expenditures on building maintenance – ensure building is fit for purpose but limit updates and enhancements
- Continue to build volunteer base for ministry activities
- Seek to increase donations from the congregations (grow both the congregations and their giving)
- Be open to other sources of revenue (grant applications, etc.)

Revenue		Budget 2024	Actuals 2024	Budget 2025
4000	Tax Received Gifts			
4010	English and Inuit Offerings Received	141,830	165,165	159,331
4011	Memorial Donations	0	2,250	250
4020	Other Donations Received	409	341	386
	TOTAL Tax Received Gifts	142,239	167,756	159,968
4100	Non-receipted Gifts			
4110	English non-receipted	1,577	2,794	2,186
4120	Inuit non-receipted	5,053	5,284	5,395
	TOTAL Non-receipted Gifts	6,630	8,078	7,581
4200	Gifts from Registered Charities	8,934	12,336	9,387
4300	Support to Inuit Ministry	11,359	1,130	4,855
4400	Other Income			
4410	CTF - Interest and Dividends	60,041	47,348	47,348
4411	Bank - Interest and Cashback	0	0	0
4420	Hall Rentals	21,275	18,750	20,778
4430	Parking Lot	4,813	5,622	5,622
4440	Sale of assets	0	0	0
	TOTAL Other Income	86,129	71,720	73,748
4500	Ministry Revenue			
4530	Celebrations of life/marriage/baptism	970	740	640
4540	Other ministry revenue	429	25	183
	TOTAL REVENUE	256,690	261,785	256,362

Expense		Budget 2024	Actuals 2024	Budget 2025
5000	The Church Building			
5010	Maintenance, Repairs Montreal Rd	11,000	13,965	11,709
5011	Maintenance - Wages	1,313	1,000	300
5012	Maintenance - Supplies	1,940	2,185	1,719
5020	Snow Removal	4,494	4,854	6,484
5030	Janitorial	11,609	10,134	12,234
5031	Janitorial - Wages	0	0	0
5032	Janitorial - Supplies	2,109	1,364	1,742
5040	Utilities	8,343	7,413	7,776
	TOTAL The Church Building	40,808	40,915	41,965
5100	Ministry Expenses paid through Diocese			
5110	Equalization payment (ECOPS)	118,026	118,026	117,299
5130	Insurance Premium	7,095	7,875	7,875
5140	Fair Share	29,440	29,440	28,761
5150	Parish Administrator	8,816	8,867	16,211
5155	Bookkeeper		2,531	4,334
	TOTAL Ministry Expenses paid through Diocese	163,377	166,739	174,480
5200	Ministry Expenses			
5210	Music Program (including organist)	20,140	13,371	14,466
5220	Sunday Community Meal Program	9,509	10,351	10,869
5230	Transportation	600	0	250
5240	Inuit ministry	10,700	7,887	7,887
5250	Community Outreach		81	100
5260	Education and training	1,191	292	741
5270	Other Ministry Expenses	2,438	5,885	2,438
	TOTAL Ministry Expenses	44,577	37,867	36,751
5300	Office Expenses			
5310	Telephone and internet	4,426	4,203	4,413
5320	Communications	1,820	574	1,114
5330	Admin/Bookkeeping	3,168	2,379	0
5340	Professional fees (auditor)	5,600	6,185	6,494
5350	Other office expenses	3,693	5,057	3,693
5360	Security	950	724	760
	TOTAL Office Expenses	19,657	19,122	16,475
5510	HST paid	2,939	1,938	2,141
5600	Interest and bank charges	890	836	878
	TOTAL EXPENSE	272,247	267,417	272,688

The surplus for 2024 will differ from the audited accounts as a late CTF payment, received in January 2024 has been assigned to 2023 to give a clearer picture of revenue.

A deficit of ~ \$16,000 is forecast for 2025, similar to that forecast for 2024.

*—Submitted by Malcolm McEwen
on behalf of St. Margaret's Corporation*

Archbishop Harper's visit, April 21, 2024



On May 6, 2024 we were delighted to welcome Archbishop Chris Harper, National Indigenous Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Canada since 2022. He preached at both Sunday services and stayed for lunch. "My people are the tall ones with long hair," he said. "But one thing unites us as people of the land. We love to laugh. We love to smile and sing. And we understand what community is all about....We are one in the Creator's love."

Open Doors, June 1-2, 2024



Parish Council agreed in February to offer St. Margaret's as an official location in the province-wide Open Doors program. Steered by Joan Marshman and Carolyn Malek, the application was accepted and the work began. We hope to do it again! Many thanks to ALL who participated, you did a great thing.

Incumbent's Report

The Reverend Colin McFarland

I am pleased to report that the parish ministry of St. Margaret's is in healthy shape. Your governance by council and the corporation is collaborative and constructive; your parish gatherings are hospitable and fun; your worship sounds engaged and hopeful, and your pastoral care for one another is evident. I hear and see how you are making one another's needs known in prayer and responding with creative and compassionate action.

Your financial contributions continue to invest the parish with a talented staff who are developing your capacity to grow intelligently and with consistency over time (Mukeshimana Baguma, Sarah Halcro, Aisha Ghaffar), to host a respectful and welcoming place in our neighbourhood for physical nourishment and human care (Brie Shatraw, Kayla Spagnoli); and to worship with strong musical leadership and ecumenical hospitality (Francine Brisebois).

I was particularly impressed with the high-level of collaboration between parishioners to prepare and participate in Doors Open Ottawa. The two days of Doors Open not only demonstrated your pleasure in caring for the physical property entrusted to our care (the human stories of its stones and mortar, paintings and ornaments), but more wonderfully demonstrated to every visitor your desire to work together as one parish with two congregations to share the goodness and beauty of what God is doing among us today.

2024 included a variety of changes and transitions (i.e. retirements, new parishioners, a centennial birthday!) and the loss of numerous loved ones, including the late Very Reverend Roger Briggs, retired dean of the Diocese of the Arctic and a priest of our diocese. Roger's impact was profound in so many people's lives. His life models for us a strong example of how being a disciple of Jesus will change your life to share God's forgiveness of sins, to bless others with God's peace, and to nourish all people from riches of God's abundant grace. Roger's death marks the end of a founding era for St. Margaret's Inuit congregation and invites all of its members onto the path of discernment for renewal in its mission.

I look forward to 2025 at St. Margaret's for many reasons. Here are two. First, regular Sunday attendance is climbing. New people



The Rev. Colin McFarland

of various ages, languages, ethnicities, and histories are arriving and staying. You can take this as a sign that something about who you are is authentically embodying the respect, welcome, and hope of Jesus' ministry in a way that is recognizable and attractive to a truly global range of people. Second, although the parish continues to approve deficit budgets and needs a clear plan to finance these shortfalls, parishioners are renewing and developing their pledges of time, skills, and financial giving because we believe in what the Spirit of Jesus is doing here. Both the arrival of new members and the need to achieve financial sustainability are raising healthy questions at council about your mission and context, which bring me to my concluding encouragement.

Our Synod has gathered excellent prayer resources, facilitators, courses, step-by-step guides, grants, and evaluation tools for every parish to engage the following question: how is God calling us to proclaim the good news in our time and place? The way we respond to this question is what we call contextual mission. It's "mission" because we are participating in Jesus' mission to proclaim the good news. It is "contextual" because the way we do this must be shaped by the realities and concerns of our current context, our time and our place. Now is the time for you, with

me and Rev. Canon Aigah, to engage this question anew – to discern and decide for the ways Jesus is calling us to share God's love in a manner that is aware of the cultures and situations of people in Vanier. I look forward to presenting these resources to you at the Vestry meeting and in the months ahead.

With you in faith, hope, and love.

The Reverend Colin McFarland
Incumbent Priest, Parish of St. Margaret's Vanier



The Rev. Canon Aigah Attagutsiak

I am grateful that we have been doing well helping one another again in the last year, although it was hard for me going to three funerals: one for my sister, my mother, and for my brother in just half a year.

I really appreciate all the parishiners, family and friends from all over, who have been so supportful to me in every way: praying, sending cards, phone calls, and by talking.

Big changes happened for the Inuktitut congregation. Maureen Hutchinson retired from our 11:30 Inuktitut service organist position. Roger Briggs's farewell and death impacted the community, but there were always great moments in between the hard times. Archbishop Chris Harper visited our Church and Rev. Colin and I met with him and the AMR group, and later, Bishop Annie Ittoshat visited our church too!

In February and March Colin and I led three teaching Inuktitut Eucharists (Holy Communions). It was good to explain the meanings of our shared actions in worship as a community.

In March through August me and Colin met with Bishop Shane, held two congregational meetings, created prayers, and hosted a consultation on Inuit ministry with the Bishop in June. We are starting to see the outcome of our prayers in increased participations and leadership within the 11:30 congregation. Examples include Jukepa Hainnu leading the readers and greeters meeting, more people involved in reading, greeting, communion assistance, prayers etc. Sharing the work together is a lot lighter for me to carry and frees my time to be present to other things.

In 2024 the parish purchased new Inuktitut bibles (revised translation); much easier to read because of the translation and because the letters are bigger! Parishioners and neighbours had fun celebrating Easter Monday, Nunavut Day BBQ, and Christmas Day Celebrations.

The Sunday Community Meal is more and more shared with our Vanier community people and is well known. The meal is hosed by the 11:30 congregation, but is open to participation by all parishioners - very healthy food and generous hospitality.

I would like to thank everyone - from both congregations of the parish - that they have been very supportive to me. I would not have done a lot of things without so much support. Keep up the great work everyone!

With you in prayer and loving service.

Aigah +

The Rev. Canon Aigah Attagutsiak
Associate Incumbent Priest, Parish of St. Margaret's Vanier

Farewell, Roger Briggs, Honorary and beloved priest of the parish – March 3, 2024



Tributes from Jeanie Okalik and Deborah Tagornak; a hug from Ann Fairley, whose husband Bill was Incumbent here until 2014; many attended the farewell event.



Roger died a few months later, on June 27, and his funeral at St. Stephens on September 14 was attended by many from St. Margaret's.

We said goodbye to Maureen Hutchison, Musician for the 11:30 services—April 7, 2024



Maureen said working with Inuit and the Inuktitut language has been a very welcome experience; Irene Tagoona and Jane Gibson spoke of her talent and professionalism.

Churchwardens' Report

Malcolm McEwen, People's Warden and Jane Waterston, Rector's Warden

It was our privilege in 2024 to work closely with the Rev. Colin McFarland as the parish corporation, holding responsibility for and being involved in all aspects of life, property and prospects for St. Margaret's Vanier. This includes, of course, parish finances.

Corporation and Council

We attend two key Wednesday night meetings each month: Corporation and Parish Council. The Rev. Canon Aigah Attagutsiak and Deputy Warden Bernie Delmaire join us at both, providing invaluable insight and support.

Both congregations were ably represented at Parish Council in 2024, with Jeannie Manning and Joan Marshman serving collaboratively again as co-chairs. We appreciate and thank all those who served on council in 2024; your views, concerns and offers to help were always welcome and helpful.

Finance and Administration

The tightening up of financial and administrative control continued through 2024, due detailed and constant attention from our treasurer Aisha, new bookkeeper Sarah, volunteer counters, property manager Bernie and, especially, Rev. Colin who is as dutiful at managing staff and procedures as he is at preparing homilies and responding to pastoral calls.

We managed, nearly, to get our revenue and expenses balanced in 2024. This continues to be something for the entire parish community to deal with and we made good progress in 2024. It is time to start looking farther down the road and considering a strategy for improving the building envelope with an efficient HVAC system and better climate protection, both upstairs and down.

Property and Program

While it was a relatively quiet year on the property management side, we took a big step forward by installing a security fence that works well at the north east fire exit. At last, our needs are being met and risks avoided.

Edward Logan stepped forward as our new waste manager, supported by Douglas Ainslie and Corporation. A new yellow bag program from the City is being integrated into our procedures.

As for the garden, Carolyn Malek planted flowers in all our pots in the spring, Amy Lightfoot established an eco-friendly butterfly garden, Malcolm McEwen donated a number of boxwood shrubs, Francis Caza and Sunday School families helped with mowing and litter pickups, and the altar guild took care of mid-week watering. This is invaluable support and more helpers are welcome, just let us know. Unfortunately, all our flower pots (except one) and tree shrubs were stolen later in the summer and our Christmas tree also disappeared from the street. Undaunted, we continue to love and tend our garden.

Malcolm McEwen, Jane Waterston



Some lovely containers graced the church property through the spring and summer.



New Bibles, hymn and prayer books purchase, 2024



New security fence, installed in 2024

Special Community Event: Doors Open Ottawa

On June 1 and 2, 2024 St Margaret's participated in Doors Open Ottawa, opening our church to a total of approximately 300 visitors. In addition to viewing the church itself, and engaging with parishioner "hosts" who explained its architectural features, visitors were invited to visit the Parish Hall where members of our 11:30 congregation displayed and explained a wide range of photos, crafts, clothing and other items reflecting the Inuit culture, and were offered bannock, cookies and beverages. They were also offered a copy of a new brochure, created for the occasion by Carolyn Malek, that explained some aspects of the church's history.

Joan Marshman

Synod Report, 2024

144th Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa

November 7-9 at the St. Elias Centre

All parishes and community ministries in the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa sent representatives to its 144th Synod, a two-day annual meeting. St. Margaret's was represented by our clergy and elected lay representatives, Jeannie Manning and Jane Waterston.

At the opening Eucharist, Bishop Shane Parker described the three-year journey of discernment and collaboration that the diocese's people and clergy are on with him. He reminded us of the priorities of the diocese over this three-year period:

1. less reliance on parish revenues to fund the operating budget;
2. increased support to parish leaders as they manage parish finances, properties, stewardship, communications, human resources, and administration;
3. episcopal guidance to parishes facing major changes, promoting innovation and collaboration;
4. more learning opportunities for parish leaders so there will be a clear understanding of how parishes operate;
5. resources, knowledge, and practical instruction on all essential aspects of parish ministry;
6. learning how to practice contextual mission as we engage with the world and establish new worshipping communities.

Telling our parish ministry story

Synod members were led in a collaborative exercise to help tell the stories of parish ministries across the diocese. Each parish was asked to consider five different aspects of their ministries and describe what their parish had done recently in each one—worship, building care, formation and learning, pastoral care, and engaging with the broader community.

Update on the priorities

Parish Proportional Share (PPS) was reduced by \$460,000 from the 2023 to 2024 diocesan budget, which translates to a 20.5% reduction in PPS. Dividends from central/diocesan trust funds were used to compensate for the reduction.

Parishes are being encouraged to do preventative maintenance rather than reactive work. Slightly more than \$5 million in excess properties were liquidated this year.

Annual leases, whether that be parking or residential, have been worth \$200,000.

The Anglican Diocese of Ottawa website (with total visits of more than 75,000) connects people in our Anglican faith community and beyond. In addition, social media reaches nearly 40,000 people on Facebook alone. More than 171 stories were published in Crosstalk newspaper (all parishioners at St Margaret's should receive it in the mail with the Anglican Journal ten times a year) and Perspective, the online paper. Communications staff at Ascension House on Bronson help parishes with media inquiries and various consultations. Work is underway to create a secure gated portal on the diocesan website, which will provide clergy and parish leaders private access to resources, including upcoming resource hubs.



This display of notes on the pastoral work each congregation had undertaken in the previous month was a highlight of Synod. So much care and attention!

Ascension House staff have offered valuable support to parishes like ours with personnel changes. In the last year, 72 new employees were hired across parishes and community ministries and 59 employees left, resulting in an increase of about 6% over the diocese as a whole. Ascension House now supports 247 employees across the diocese, managing payroll and contracts.

As for helping to guide major change, 15 years ago the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa had 74 parishes, but 45% of them were in some way vulnerable. Today, the diocese has 49 parishes but only 6% of them might be considered vulnerable in some way.

A new episcopal panel on hospital ministry and a new youth ministry (ADOy, for 12-18 year olds) have been established in the past year.

A diocesan program called the Learning Commons hosted workshops for parish officers, several anti-racism training events and other meetings. Jane Waterston attended a workshop on governance, employment issues and safe church in May, 2024. Resource hubs are being planned for family and child ministry and parish stewardship programs. Videos on parish development are coming to the diocesan website, as well as some resources for contextual mission and prayer. St. Margaret's prayer leaders may want to check out the Time of Prayer section at the diocesan website.

Bishop's Panel on Housing Justice

A new panel has been created in the diocese to encourage every parish to be engaged in housing justice in some way, using the four pillars of prayer, learning, advocacy, and action as educators. Panel members are in touch with officials about housing policies and are prepared to provide resources for parishes looking to assess their readiness to engage in housing initiatives.

Archbishop Hosam Naoum of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem sent a greeting in a recorded video message. Bishop Shane asked us to pray, donate and reach out to individuals and agencies who are either struggling or serving to alleviate the effects of obscene violence in the land of the Holy One. He mentioned PWRDF (now called Alongside Hope) UNICEF and Canadian Red Cross as agencies that are seeking to bring relief to those who are suffering.

Jane Waterston (with notes from diocesan staff)

Altar Care

Prosper O Lord, the work of your hand upon us.
O prosper our handywork. Amen — *Psalm 90:17*

Altar Guild is a 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 linens, hangings, banners, brass, silver, candles, wine and other items associated with worship in the church. We ensure that the church looks its best for all services including special services such as weddings, funerals, baptism, Christmas and Easter.

Could this be your ministry as well? If you have questions or want to explore this, please speak with Rev. Colin or Leslie McGillvray.

Periodically Altar Guild needs help in handling some of its duties. This year a special thank you is extended to Vera Etches and Carolyn Malek who very graciously took on the task of organizing and choosing the memorial Christmas flowers this year.

Thank you as well to members of the congregation for their continuing support and generous donations which allow us to purchase memorial flowers at Christmas and Easter.

In the past year the members of Altar Guild consisted of Mireille Desmarais and Leslie McGillvray. However, we had the support of a number of people who were available at various times to pull out boxes from storage, carry candlesticks up and downstairs, hang banners, polish and set up the Christmas tree. Thank you,

Rev. Colin, Bernie Delmaire and Ed Logan. Also thank you to Lori Guibord and Lynne Manion who came in to help put the church back together for Easter Day; to Ellen Desmarais and Lori Guibord who donated their time to decorate the church for Christmas. I appreciate the time, help and support you were all able to provide.

I am pleased that a number of times during the past year that Ellen Desmarais was able to help Altar Guild and also use her expert skills as book binder to repair the Gospel Book so it looks brand new and to save a number of hymn books by repairing the binding. We welcome anyone willing to share their talents and skills to help us out periodically.

Leslie McGillvray

Holy Week, one of our busiest times of the year, is approaching. Help will be needed on the evening of Maundy Thursday and on the Saturday afternoon before Easter Day. If you have time available on either and wish to help, please let me know.

Counters

We are responsible for the collection, counting, recording and depositing the Sunday offerings. This weekly task usually happens on Tuesdays, when we are able to consult with the bookkeeper, if necessary. Donations are tax deductible and if required, envelopes can be found on the back table of the church. Thank you for your generosity.

Carolyn Malek, Neil Forsyth and Colin Ritchie

Music

The English music ministry at SMV has been very busy in 2024, offering singing during Lent/Easter/Ascension/Trinity season, as well as All Saints/All Souls/Advent and Christmas season.

While I provide music accompaniment for the English services (9:30 am), I am not alone. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Catherine Keresztesi and Jane McIntosh for their help as cantor, psalm and communion soloist on many Sundays, which so much enhances the celebrations.

In addition to singing during the spring and fall seasons, St. Margaret's choir managed to learn all required selections and sing along with the Immaculate Heart of Mary choir—and some 130 other choristers and instrumentalists—in the 33rd edition of the IHM Benefit Christmas Concert, a fundraising activity organized for the benefit of the Heron Emergency Food Centre (HEFC). It proved to be a real success, as this year, we managed to give over \$19 000 to a well-worthy cause!

Special thanks for their time and efforts for the sake of the concert to: Catherine Keresztesi, Amy Lightfoot, Edward Logan, James Logan-Etches, Luke Logan-Etches, Malcolm McEwen, Rev. Colin McFarland, David Mooney, Bright Nwachukwu, Destiny Nwachukwu, Humble Nwachukwu, Miracle Nwachukwu, John Nwachukwu, Linda Perrier, Elaine Richards-Forsyth and Jane Waterston.



On Easter morning at 9:30, we were delighted to have Heather Holmes and her trumpet help us sing Alleluia.

A special word of thanks to Malcolm McEwen for sharing his talent as cello accompanist. And additional thanks go to our incumbent priest and musician, the Rev. Colin McFarland, for his continued support to the music ministry at SMV and his excellent instrumental violin performances!

Finally a big thank you to all parishoners for their great support and lovely singing! What a pleasure to be working with such engaged and committed individuals.

Francine Brisebois

Pastoral Care

Our pastoral care team's mandate is to minister to those in need in our parish, to provide comfort, encouragement and spiritual strength. The pastoral care team consisted of the Rev. Colin McFarland, Rev. Canon Aigah Attagutsiak and Margaret Hilborn.

During 2024, seven parishioners (five living in Long Term Care and two in a retirement residence) were visited in-person monthly, or with a bi-weekly phone call. In total, 62 visits were made in 2024. These visits and phone calls were to provide support and check on their wellbeing, and to administer the Eucharist. Six of these visits involved accompanying a parishioner to medical appointments. All these visits were greatly appreciated.



Margaret Hilborn

Weekly visits to the General Campus of the Ottawa Hospital were continued and are now part of the hospital's Volunteer Pastoral Care/Spiritual Care Program.

During the year, three parishioners passed away. Memorial services were held at St. Margaret's in the spring for Patricia Francis and in the fall for Warren Nelson. A service for Richard Kelley will be held in the spring of 2025.

Margaret Hilborn

Cookies for Christmas

Continuing what has become a tradition, a team of talented St Margaret's bakers and their family helpers came together in December to bake all manner of cookies for distribution to about 30 members who live alone or in congregate settings, and as a "thank you" to some of the staff and volunteers of St. Margaret's. The bags of cookies were exquisitely packaged, and tagged with a personalized card, under the supervision of Leslie McGillvray. The cookie parcels were then delivered to the recipients' homes by members of the team.

Joan Marshman



Joan Marshman worked with Margaret on the Christmas cards that accompanied the cookie packages.



Calypso outing, July 20, 2024

Young People

In 2024, the young parishioners continued to meet in person with Vera and Edward from 11-11:25 to discuss the material from the Illustrated Ministry curriculum. Outcomes of activities related to a Bible reading from the same selection as in the church service have been featured as photos in the weekly email, such as a prayer tree, nametags for spiritual gifts, and clay models of transformations.

Occasionally, youth are busy with school or soccer on Sunday mornings, though most often there are three to six and up to eight people between the ages of 9 -18 from the 9:30 service participating. Two toddlers might benefit from supports during the 9:30 service.

One social outing occurred in the summer with a larger group visiting the Calypso water park. Skating and a potluck dinner with St Bartholomew's at the beginning of February involved youth. Other ideas are welcome.



In spring 2025, there is an opportunity to have a series of teaching about Inuit culture and history.

Thanks to Jane Waterston and Rev Colin for ongoing support and leadership and the youth for sharing their ideas.

Vera Etches & Edward Logan

Sunday Community Meal

The Sunday Community meal continues to be an important part of our Sunday worship at St. Margaret's. We see and value the connection between gathering around the table (Altar) in the church proper and then repeating that hospitality around the tables in the parish hall. There, we not only connect and enjoy one another but welcome those in the neighbourhood with the same food and warmth.

The attendees include a large portion of our Inuit congregation, people from our neighbourhood, occasional visitors from other parishes and the Arctic, and a few from our English congregation. Everyone is welcome to attend.

We must celebrate and thank the two great Community Hosts that are a part of this each Sunday: Kayla Spagnoli, and Brie Shatraw. As well, some volunteers from the Inuit congregation have offered their help with cleanup, clearing of tables, and dishwashing. A special thank you to Mireille Desmarais who has been helping prepare the after English service trays of fruit, veggies, and cheese/Deli platters. Volunteers are always needed, and all are very welcome to join the team.

Foods that are served each Sunday include some of the following....

- pork, beef, ham or chicken vegetable soup or stew
- trays of fresh fruit, veggies, deli/cheese
- pasta salad
- cookies and cake

Thanks to all who donate sweet goodies or any other food items, we do appreciate all donations.

When available "Country Food" such as Seal, Muktuk, Cariboo, Muskox, or Arctic char is served as well. We thank Tungasuvvingat Inuit org. and others who donated country food this year.

A highlight this year was the parking lot BBQ event we held to celebrate "Nunavut Day" on July 7, which was well attended by our church and the local community. We thank all the volunteers

Scenes from Nunavut Day BBQ



At the end of June, we applauded the talent, commitment and generosity of Brie Shatraw, Bernie Delmaire and John Angaluak as they host, manage and prepare our weekly community meals. This is mission in action and we are all welcome to be part of it.

from our church, and from the local community who helped with this event, especially the youth from our church. Thanks to Perpetual and her daughters Lily and Happy; Rose and her daughters Miracle, Bright, Destiny, and Humble Nwachukwu. Thanks to Kayla Spagnoli for arranging the use of tenting covers for the serving tables and a BBQ for cooking the hot dogs, and as well arranging for a few community volunteers to help us during the event.

The Clothing Donation rack that is in our church hall is constantly well used during our Sunday Community Meal and a great addition. Thanks to everyone who has donated to this rack, and volunteers who ensure it is well organized.

We held 37 events this past year, these were fully funded by St. Margaret's church this year.

John Angaluak & Bernie Delmaire



Photo Album: Christmas Eve and Day at St. Margaret's



Bright and Miracle warm up for the evening service.



Mireille readies the tapers.



Children return for the festive service: Ella from Halifax with Sareena and Nigel; Hamish and Maisie in the pew while Amy sings in the choir.



After lunch, the fun continues.

Photo Album: Some prize winners, and St. Margaret's potluck fun



Parish events feature prizes! Francis shows his, at the Nunavut Day BBQ; Rosine and Willie, on St. Margaret's Day.

