



ST. MATTHEW'S

The Anglican Church in the Glebe

Pulse of the Parish

DECEMBER 2021

A NEW SPIRITUAL JOURNEY AHEAD FOR FATHER FLYNN

NEVILLE NANKIVELL

After 14 years of innovative involvement in the life of St. Matthew's, the Reverend Canon Kevin Flynn is leaving Ottawa to live in Wakefield and become the pastor of two long-established Anglican congregations in the scenic Gatineau Hills area.

Father Flynn, as we came to know him, was appointed earlier this month by the Bishop of Ottawa as the new Incumbent of the Parish of Chelsea-Lascelles-Wakefield which includes the churches of the Good Shepherd (Wakefield), Holy Trinity (Lascelles) and St. Mary Magdalene (Chelsea). Now part of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, their roots go way back to the 1840s and 1860s. The Good Shepherd and St. Mary Magdalene have active congregations. Holy Trinity is now used only for special services and events.

Fr. Flynn is also ending his long term as Director of Anglican Studies in the Faculty of Theology at Ottawa's Saint Paul University – "with no regrets," he says, explaining that after 17 years of academia "I wanted to return to parish ministry before hanging up my collar."

At St. Matthew's he earned admiration as an energetic stalwart of our clerical team, not only as an honorary assistant but for leading Bible studies and meditation classes, giving yoga workshops, preaching thoughtful sermons, blessing pets, and with his mellifluous voice narrating at choral concerts such as the short-version family-friendly Handel's Messiah.

"His sermons always made us think," says Valerie Needham, our Rector's Warden. "And when celebrating communion or



leading Evensong, his beautiful voice brought peace and calm."

The churches he will shepherd in the Quebec parish have a fascinating history. The church of the Good Shepherd and Holy Trinity have been sister congregations since their inception in the 1860s and in 2000 were amalgamated into one congregation. Holy Trinity is now a chapel and used for services such as Christmas Eve and Easter morning and Evensong in the summer tourist season. The Good Shepherd is the parish "sponsoring" church. It and St. Mary Magdalene hold staggered services on Sunday mornings.

With small congregations, they have been operating with interim priests-in-charge and mostly function in English. "They have very good people to work with and quite a mix of people too with those working in top jobs in Gatineau and Ottawa and local farm families," says Fr. Flynn.

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A Message from Mary Glen and the Gardening Team:

After a blessedly warm October and early November and now with the onset of frosty nights and shorter daylight hours, the Gardening Team has put the pots and gardens surrounding St. Matthew's to bed for their winter's rest.

Perennials have been cut back, judicious shrub and tree pruning accomplished, bulbs planted, annuals removed, and containers cleared and prepped for some modest winter/holiday décor.

Many thanks to the dedicated and talented members of the team: Judy Billingsley, Robina Bulleid, Clarice Kramer, Joan Lawrence, Judy Maxwell, Lucianne Poole, Steve Reid, Catherine Seaborn and Ian Glen.

A Message from the Communications Team:

The Communications Team invites anyone who would like to share their social media skills to help St. Matthew's reach a broader and possibly younger audience.

We are currently a small but dynamic team of four and would love to have additional expertise and perspectives.

Please contact Jan O'Meara at janomeara7@yahoo.com for further details.



GOD LOVES US; ALL OF OUR BEING

THE REVEREND GEOFFREY CHAPMAN



On All Saint's Day, I preached about one of the great paradoxes of our faith: we are all bound within the infinite love of God, from which nothing can separate us. And yet, while love is timeless, every moment of every day is also filled with great meaning and purpose. The air we breathe, the food we eat, and the lives we live have deep and profound meaning not just to us, but to God. The mystery of the incarnation is bound up in this paradox: God loves not just the universe, and not just humanity, but *you*.

God loves everything about you in particular, and all your particularities have meaning. When you are joyful, God rejoices with you. When you are sick, God is near. When you die one day, God will weep. This is true while God is infinite, and while our lives and our love never dies. God does not just love creation, but through Jesus Christ, God has become infused creation itself and into us. Into you.

You are not just good in the eyes of God, your life is sacred and holy. Knit into God through Christ, your body and breath praise God along with all of creation. The challenge for us is not to somehow become holy or become Christ-like, for we are already those things in the eyes of God. The challenge is to remember that this is so, and to live accordingly.

To set aside time in your day to be still, and know that God is with you, and that God loves you. To be mindful as the world tells you what you lack, that you have (and you are!) everything that you need. To live every day knowing that nothing can separate you from the love of God.

If we can be reminded every week that God loves every part of you, even parts you are ashamed of and parts of you that hide from even yourself, then we have succeeded profoundly as a church and faith community.

This Advent and Christmas season, I hope you can prepare yourself to receive this news of love and joy in your heart more than ever. I feel I need to be reminded of this truth more than ever, and I suspect you may feel the same way.

In joy and gratitude, I wish you and your loved ones holy Advent and a joyful Christmastide.

Yours in Christ,

Geoff+

At my Induction Service on October 17, 2021, two members of the choir, Katie Rider and Richard Weeks, presented a leather-bound Book of Alternative Services to me on behalf of the Parish of St. Matthew's.

It has been beautifully inscribed by Frances Montgomery and I will treasure it for the rest of my ministry.

Thank you all very much!

*Presented to the
Reverend
Geoffrey S. W. Chapman
at his induction
as incumbent
St. Matthew's
Anglican Church
Ottawa
October 17, 2021*

THE SEASON OF GIVING

ASHLEY THORVALDSON

As Advent approaches, we enter the giving season when we think of those in need. This year, St. Matthew's Outreach Committee has identified several key ministries that do so much to support our community.

Personal Care items for St. Luke's, the Well, and Centre 454 (Julia Lipinska)

Until Sunday December 5, St. Matthew's Outreach will be collecting in-kind donations for the day programs at St. Luke's Table, The Well, and Centre 454. In support of the vulnerable populations these ministries serve, we ask that you bring in critically-needed personal care items: men and women's socks and underwear, deodorant, razors, tooth paste and toothbrushes, and toilet paper.

Food Drive for Centretown Emergency Food Centre (Elizabeth Kent)

Over three Sundays, we will be collecting canned goods and non-perishable food items at church for the Centretown Emergency Food Centre. On November 28, the food drive will kick off with a request for dried pasta and tomato sauce; December 5, we ask for small peanut butters and pre-packages cereals, and on December 12, we ask that you bring canned tuna or salmon.

Jesse Tree Gifts for the residents of Harmony House Women's Shelter (Catherine James-McGuinty)

The Jesse Tree is a beautiful Christmas tradition at St. Matthew's. Gift ideas are requested from each resident of

Harmony House women's shelter and their children. The gift tags are then hung from the Jesse Tree in the church for collection by the parishioners of St. Matthew's. The tree will be set up with gift tags; on Dec 5 and/or 12, please select a gift tag and return it attached to a wrapped gift on Sunday, December 19 so it can be delivered to the shelter.

Donate to the Respite Cot Day Program Campaign: (Elizabeth Kent)

Directly impact the lives of the unsheltered homeless by providing a warm safe place to rest. The Respite Cot Day Program (see page ..) began during the pandemic by providing respite cots at Centre 454 in the St. Alban's church sanctuary. By fundraising \$100,000, these community ministries hope, with your help, to continue and expand the Respite Cot Day Program to The Well and St. Luke's Table. Cheques may be made out to St Matthew's Anglican Church with a memo for the *Respite Cot Day Program*.

Donate to the Youth Services Bureau: (Ashley Thorvaldson)

This summer's fundraiser tea by mail raised \$1,386 to support the Youth Services Bureau. We would appreciate your continued support, in lieu of the Angels with Backpacks campaign, towards our \$6,000 goal to furnish a room for the YSB. Please donate at <https://www.ysb.ca/st-matthews/>.

A Note from the Finance and Stewardship Committee

Wow! Another year is quickly coming to an end. All of us have stories to tell, sharing our experiences managing our lives in an extremely challenging time. St. Matthew's financial story is a testimony to a church family that has demonstrated commitment despite the pandemic challenges.

In September, we reported that we have been very fortunate to have the financial resources to maintain and repair the church and to cover personnel costs with no layoffs. In many respects throughout the pandemic, we have been "ready to return."

At the end of October our Operating Fund deficit is over \$58,000. Receipts to the end of October showed a positive

result. However, there is a steep hill to climb if we are to balance our budget for 2021.

With known expenditures (and considering planned receipts), further funds needed to balance the budget amount to \$80,000.

We realize that this seems a very large amount. However, please do not be dismayed! The parish of St. Matthew's has a pattern of giving generously over the Christmas season and at year-end. In the past, we have been able to close the gap and finish the year with a balanced budget.

Our fervent prayers are that our 2021 story has the same happy ending that we have known in past years.

Walt Draper and Charles Nixon

WARDENS' WORDS

VALERIE NEEDHAM

Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

On the First Sunday of Advent, as we approach this season of preparation for the birth of Our Lord, we have so much for which to give thanks. The Covid-19 pandemic, which has consumed our thinking, planning, actions and lives for the past 22 months, is slowly abating.

In this affluent country, we have been blessed with vaccines, and vaccination passports which allow us to gather together in worship in safety and security. Soon, children between the ages of 5 and 12 will also be vaccinated. How fortunate we are.

And so, at St. Matthew's, we slowly, slowly, carefully, return to life together. Since the pandemic began, the Diocese of Ottawa has provided guidance and direction with weekly communiques. This week's communique will be #80!

The Bishop's diocesan pandemic committee, advised by the Rev. Dr. Michael Garner, an Anglican priest and an epidemiologist, devised a staged outline of Covid protocols that have guided every step of our path from complete closure of all churches in the diocese to the present gradual opening up. These protocols were adjusted as the situation changed.

This opening-up of the church has required nimble thinking on the part of Rev. Geoff and the Wardens, Kirkland Adsett and Catherine James-McGuinty in the office. We have constantly needed to be aware of and follow the guidelines provided by the diocese.

It has been a challenge to honour these protocols at times, especially for preachers as they continue to remain masked while giving the homily! Our pulpit is high .. the preacher is far away from parishioners .. but research has demonstrated that aerosol transmission of the Covid-19 virus is most effectively blocked by masking.

Your Wardens offer our profound thanks to everyone who contributed to maintaining us as a vibrant community of faith during these past months. To Reverend Geoff, whose competence with technology has afforded us an online presence from the beginning and whose faithfulness in preaching, Bible study and pastoral care has sustained us.

To our Honorary Clergy, Archbishop Barry Curtis, Canons Kevin Flynn, Jim Beall and Allen Box, who led services, Bible Study, and *Conversations*, and offered pastoral care.

To Catherine, who was faced with a myriad of problem-solving challenges. To the Altar Guild who devised ways to do their work while remaining safe. To the property and gardening teams, to the counters, to the welcome team, the sidespeople and greeters who have all found ways carry out their tasks in this difficult environment. To the live-streaming team who solved so many challenges!

The pandemic is not over. We must continue to remain vigilant. But now, at last, perhaps we can turn our thoughts to the future.

We want to express our thanks and appreciation to Peggy Nankivell and the Fundraising Committee for their extraordinary efforts in mounting the second Virtual Auction from Nov. 12 to 20. Peggy and many others spend hours and days gathering, researching and cataloguing items for the auction which are beautifully photographed by Pam MacKenzie and invitingly described by Peggy. The results were very rewarding and you can read all about it on page 17.

We draw your attention to the St. Matthew's Parish Profile on pages 10—11. All parishes in the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa are engaged in the Shape of Parish Ministry Consultation. The St. Matthew's SPM Team of Rick Trites, Randi Goddard, Charles Nixon, Tom Barnes, Valerie Needham and Rev. Geoff Chapman were interviewed by Rev. Tim Kehoe and Rev. Adam Brown on September 23, 2021. This is their report, building on responses to the five interview questions published in the September Issue of the *Pulse of the Parish*, the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan and other documents.

For more information regarding the SPM process, please consult 'Wardens' Words' in the June issue of the *Pulse*.

In closing, you will note many opportunities for making donations in this issue of the *Pulse* and we commend them to you for your consideration.

With gratitude, Valerie Needham and Tom Barnes

TAKING JESUS AT HIS WORD

THE REVEREND RHONDA WATERS

HOMILY PREACHED AT THE INDUCTION SERVICE OF THE REVEREND GEOFFREY CHAPMAN

OCTOBER 17, 2021

Before I begin, let me say how good it is to be with you this afternoon. I was absolutely delighted when Geoff invited me to preach at this service – not only because I love Geoff but because I also love St. Matthew's. As many of you, I hope, will remember, this was the community that first welcomed me to Ottawa and it feels good to be back for this celebration of your ministry, newly – or relatively newly, anyway - joined with Geoff's.

And what a day we have been given for that celebration – the memorial of St. Ignatius of Antioch, bishop and martyr.

Ignatius was only the 2nd bishop of Antioch in Syria. We don't really know much about his ministry until he was sentenced to death as part of the persecutions of the church, around the year 115. For context, scholars think the Gospel according to John likely reached its final form just slightly before the year 100.

For unknown reasons, Ignatius was not executed in Antioch but rather taken into custody and brought to Rome, following a long and rather indirect route. Ignatius took advantage of the time to write 7 letters, each to a different church through which he passed. In these letters, he emphasized the divine nature of Christ (though not to the exclusion of his human nature, you'll be glad to hear); the importance of the Eucharist; the need for loyalty to one's bishop in order to preserve the unity of the church; and – most unsettling for modern ears – the joy and privilege of martyrdom. Perhaps his most famous line is this: *"I am God's wheat: let me be ground by the teeth of wild beasts, that I may be found pure bread for Christ."*

A powerful metaphor – except that those wild beasts are not metaphorical. Ignatius was able to embrace his coming death as an expression of his faith and an experience of salvation – he was not afraid to die because he knew that life in Christ waited on the other side; he knew that his life was, first and foremost, an offering to God.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life."

Ignatius took Jesus at his word.

Do we? Can you?

This is heavy stuff for a celebration of new ministry but, then again, your ministry together has already been through some heavy stuff as you have figured out how to navigate getting to know one another and work together in the context of a global pandemic, when death feels just a bit closer to the surface than usual every day; when so much of our regular lives has been curtailed; when so much of our church life has been wounded, some of it, perhaps, mortally so.

Whether we wanted it or not, we have been buried in the ground. The question now is whether we will let ourselves bear fruit or will we hold so tight to our old lives that we will choke off the new life that could come.

What have you, the people of St. Matthew's along with your new priest, already learned over these past months? What has fallen away? What have you discovered to be essential? What new hungers have been awoken? Where are green shoots of life breaking the surface?

Let the resurrection happen. Which means letting death come.

This will be hard for you, dear people of St. Matthew's. Remember – I do know you, at least a little bit. St. Matthew's Church in the Glebe is a take-charge kind of place.

You don't just "let" things happen. You *plan* for things to happen. Your resurrection will be thoughtful - strategic and overseen by a duly selected committee. Your resurrection will be beautiful – with marvellous music and, now, an excellent audio/visual production. Your resurrection will be responsible – with proper respect for tradition, concern for a sustainable future, and care for those in need now.

All of which sounds pretty good, really – thoughtful, beautiful, and responsible are wonderful qualities in a community and I am confident that they will describe this community for generations to come.

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The challenge is how to hold those qualities gently enough to allow for the transformation of resurrection: can you hate your life in order to save it? Can you embrace a new expression of these qualities; one that is faithful to who God created you to be but is also somehow a new creation? Can you allow God to clear away the extras; the no longer helpful; the fear and the resistance? Can you turn yourself over to God, in hope and trust and courage and faith?

I think you *can*, for the record.

And I think the Spirit has brought you the right partner for this time – You have in Geoff Chapman a true companion on this journey who will celebrate who you are now while also challenging you to embrace who God is calling you to be. He is a pastor formed by and for love; a teacher filled with curiosity and enthusiasm; a priest eager to lead you in making your whole lives an offering to God.

Ultimately, this is the lesson from St. Ignatius of Antioch,

who, even as he was being taken to his death, continued to live into his vocation as bishop, sending letters of instruction and encouragement to his churches. Who, even as he was being taken to his death, continued to live into his vocation as a Christian, proclaiming that nothing – not even death – could separate him from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ignatius shows us how to be fearless in the face of death not because death is glorious or life is worthless but because life is glorious and death is futile. Death, after all, leads only to resurrection.

I am excited for you, my friends. I am excited to see what God will do with you, in this next season of life at St. Matthew's in the Glebe. Take the example of Ignatius of Antioch to heart. Be brave. Be faithful. Be good to my friend, Geoff. Make your life an offering to God and be prepared to rejoice in the fruit you will bear.

The Reverend Rhonda Waters was Priest-in-Charge at St. Matthew's from March, 2016 to September, 2016 between the Incumbencies of Canon Pat Johnston and the Reverend Gregor Sneddon.



They're smiling under their masks! From L to R: Archdeacon Mark Whittal, Canon Allen Box, Rev. Geoffrey Chapman, Rev. Rhonda Waters, Canon Jim Beall, Canon Kevin Flynn



From L to R: Sarah Chapman, Rev. Geoff Chapman, Rt. Rev. John Chapman



Archdeacon Whittal reads the Mandate of Induction from Bishop Shane Parker





The Glebe Centre – Your Neighbour

Hello Neighbours!

The Glebe Centre Long Term Care Home and Abbotsford House are just five blocks away from St. Matthew's and, as your church neighbour, we wanted to tell you about two exciting projects that we have initiated and to ask for your help in supporting seniors in our community.

The history of care homes such as the Glebe Centre arose from ancient times when the question was posed in the Biblical story of Cain and Able when it was asked: "Am I my brother's keeper?"

While Monasteries initially provided such care, their dissolution in the 16th century led to different models of senior's support. Ultimately, "Charitable Homes" were created by community minded citizens imbued with a sense of responsibility, respect and compassion for the elderly.

In 1886, the Protestant House of Refuge was established, located on Sussex Drive in Ottawa. The name changed to the Protestant Home for the Aged in 1889 and then in 1970 the final change was made to The Glebe Centre.

Recognizing the need for seniors to gather for learning opportunities, cultural events, recreation and hobbies, Abbotsford House was created in 1975 as an integrated part of the Glebe Centre.

The Glebe Centre is a registered, not-for-profit Canadian charity. Funding comes from a variety of sources such as Federal and Municipal Governments, resident fees for care, Abbotsford House membership and program fees. In addition, fundraising for the Glebe Centre includes individual donations, bequests and contributions from Foundations as well as revenues from special events. As a charity, the Glebe Centre depends on the generosity of donors to support all the projects *not* funded by Governments.

Abbotsford House welcomes anyone over the age of 55 to become a member. Currently 520 members enjoy a variety of programs. An additional 500 clients benefit from services such as foot care, massage, Meals on Wheels, the



Day Away Program (for those with dementia) and drives to medical appointments.

The Glebe Centre Long-term Care Home has two major projects underway.

Of all the not-for profit long-term care homes in Ottawa, The Glebe Centre has the lowest number of electric beds (56%). Thanks to residents, families, friends and donations we have 142 electric beds but we still need 112.

New beds will not only benefit the residents who sleep in them, but also the Personal Support Workers (PSWs) who have to raise and lower the beds multiple times each day, by hand cranking up to 60 turns each time! Each bed costs \$2,500 and we must secure 40 new beds by December 31st, in order to comply with new Ministry of Health bed regulations.

Our second project is the Butterfly Model of Care, which moves care homes like ours away from the established institutional model of care for those with dementia to resident-centred care. This is the most exciting change in the approach to care in the last 50 years. We are just beginning this project and will share further information in the future.

As we prepare for the Christmas Season, please remember the frail elderly members of our community, those living in care. We invite you to contribute to this bed project.

For more information, please contact parishioners Ben Tsang (btsang@ohri.ca) or Janet Tsang (jtsang0847@hotmail.com).

Stay safe and enjoy the joy of the Holiday Season.

Yours in Partnership,

Bruce Hill, Ben Tsang & Donna Hicks,
Directors of Charitable Giving
Co-Chairs, Charitable Giving Committee
The Glebe Centre

(Continued from page 1)

One of his goals is to grow the congregations numerically, but growth isn't just about numbers, he says. Fluently bilingual, he says he can't think of a future for the two churches that doesn't involve greater care and participation of the Francophone population in the area. "People will find Anglicans sympathetic to moving ahead on that," he says.

He also sees opportunities for better use of digital platforms, such as improved websites, e-news communications and Zoom. He plans to continue his meditation and Bible study classes this way and open them up to his new congregations and to those outside the parish.

Father Flynn's meditation group at St. Matthew's via Zoom has grown enormously, he says, and includes non-parishioners. He also notes that the Gatineau Hills' churches have good facilities for yoga.

As a certified Hatha yoga teacher, Fr. Flynn has long supported the ancient practice of yoga for Christians as an "inclusivist" approach to religion – "God desires the salvation of all". His doctoral research focused on yoga spiritual experiences of Christian practitioners.

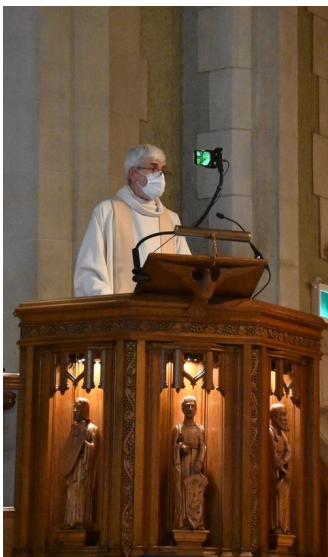
Describing himself as an old-fashioned Anglican, he studied at York University and the University of Toronto's Trinity College (divinity), then served in three Toronto-area parishes before moving to Ottawa in 2004. He recalls he came to a service at St. Matthew's a year after Pat Johnston became rector in 2006.

They had been classmates in theology at Trinity College. "The service was straightforward and done with dignity and care," he says. "I found the congregation was a good community to be with and had an extraordinary pool of talent." Pat, who is now Archdeacon and Honorary Assistant at Christ Church Cathedral, invited him to fill in for her from time to time. They remain steadfast friends.

He has also stayed in touch with Anish Joy, the theology student from the state of Kerala, India, who a few winters ago was a member of our church while in the Anglican Studies Program at Saint Paul University. Both were recipients of the Anglican Foundation's St. Basil Scholarship which enables exchanges between Canadian Anglicans and members of Oriental Orthodox Churches. The scholarship took Fr. Flynn to Kerala in 2003 and Anish to Canada in 2018. Anish and his wife now run a school in Kerala and he also teaches at a seminary.

Fr. Flynn says his experience in Kerala with the Syriac Orthodox Christians "opened up for me the distinctive way life in Christ is lived by people whose faith grows out of eastern Christian roots and how their theological and liturgical traditions could be lived in a clearly Indian way."

As he now embarks on a new spiritual journey, Fr. Flynn is renting a house in Wakefield with views of the picturesque covered bridge over the Gatineau River. He would like to visit St. Matthew's from time to time – "if invited," he says. And perhaps he may get around to re-reading *The Vicar of Wakefield*, the famous 1770s 'gentle-comedy' novel by Irish writer Oliver Goldsmith.



Canon Kevin Flynn's

Farewell Service

November 21, 2021

*Presentation of a gift by
Warden Valerie Needham
on behalf of the Parish*



ST. MATTHEW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH IN THE GLEBE:

PARISH PROFILE

THE REV. TIM KEHOE AND THE REV. ADAM BROWN

1. What is the single most important thing you would like our diocese to know about your parish/congregation?

Saint Matthew's is a vibrant Christian community that welcomes everyone, embraces inspiring worship and learning, and is committed to hospitality and social justice. We learned during the Covid-19 pandemic that we are flexible, adaptable and open to change.

2. What are your ministry priorities, and how are these priorities lived out in your decisions, activities and use of your resources?

- *Worship*: Traditional Anglican liturgy lived out especially through excellence in preaching and the quality of the parish's music program (choir, pipe organ).
- *Learning and Formation*: The Sunday School uses the SPARK Curriculum, youth are engaged in outreach and fundraising activities and joining the Servers Guild, adults participate in *Conversations* on Sunday mornings, weekly Bible study and Christian Meditation, and Chapel Chats.
- *Outreach and Community Involvement*: (see details in #3 below)
- *Welcome/fellowship/pastoral care*: welcoming initiatives include identifying newcomers, with follow up/integration into parish life; hospitality is a key aspect of worship, outreach and parish events; prayer chain team offers daily prayers as requested by individuals, the community, and parish leadership; at the 10:30 am Eucharist, members of the prayer support team pray with members of the congregation in the transept; pastoral care team reaches out through phone calls, cards, emails, and visits, at times offering the Eucharist.
- *Building*: The building is a sacred space, a place of welcome, and a source of comfort for parishioners and visitors, although it is expensive to care for. The exceptional acoustics are a resource for the music program, concerts, and recording. The building

itself seems to play a role in shaping ministry opportunities and inspiring action and participation.

- *Fundraising*: The live and virtual annual auctions and the Great Glebe Garage Sale donate a significant portion of their revenues to outreach activities such as the Centretown Emergency Foodbank and the First Avenue Churches and Community Embracing Sponsorship (FACES) for the support of refugees. There is a view that fundraising is a form of outreach since it raises awareness and fosters community involvement.

3. In what way does your parish/congregation serve the wider community; how are you engaged with the local community beyond your walls – outreach, events, partnerships?

- *Diverse Outreach Opportunities*: Known in the area for being committed to, and engaged in, outreach, St. Matthew's offers a diverse range of opportunities; parishioners are encouraged to initiate or contribute their time, talent or treasure to a project they feel passionate about.
- *Harmony House*: Established Harmony House, Ottawa's only 2nd stage (transitional) shelter, and have always participated on the board of directors. Harmony House bridges the gap between crisis living in an emergency shelter and working through trauma to live independently in the community.
- *Other Outreach Activities*:
 - *Great Glebe Garage Sale* (GGGS)
 - *FACES* – A group composed of St. Matthew's, St. James United, St. Giles Presbyterian churches and a community group that supports refugee sponsorship. Since it began, nearly \$300,000 has been raised and more than 26 families (75 newcomers) supported, with a large and committed team of volunteers.

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- o *Indigenous community*: established a relationship with the Moose Cree in the Saint Thomas parish at Moose Factory, including mutual visits involving youth, experiencing drumming, cultural and social events, a winter trip on their land, and sharing liturgy and prayer ministry.
- o *Food Basket* – a Sunday collection with food and special drive items for distribution.
- o Other activities, events, and projects: Jesse Tree (Harmony House), Angels with Backpacks (Youth Services Bureau), CCSAC Walk-a-Thon, Centre 454, Black Canadian Scholarship Fund, Cornerstone Meal-a-Month, Out of the Cold Suppers, Open Doors, Pride Parade, Marmalade Project, Newcomers Dinner, and Pancake Supper.
- o *Music Ministry*: St. Matthew's offers special musical events throughout the year which are very popular and draw visitors from beyond our community. A freewill offering is accepted in lieu of ticket sales.
- o *Fundraising and Social Events*: Great Glebe Garage Sale, Auctions, Jazz concerts, Treasures Boutique and Tapas, etc.
- o *Building Rentals to community groups*: e.g., Monkey Rock Music for kids, GNAG (Glebe Neighbourhood Activities Group), a daycare program, the Nepean All-City Jazz Programs.
- o *Special Worship Services*: The Advent Lessons and Carols, Nine Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve Children's Pageant and Candlelight services are known in the community and are well attended, as are the Blessing of the Animals, and special Lent, Easter, and Pentecost services.

4. What are the challenges to accomplish the work you've described, in terms of finances, building status, and human resources?

- *Financial Obligations*: St. Matthew's, like other churches, is challenged to meet its financial obligations in the context of growing costs and an aging congregation.
- *Building*: The aging building, although structurally sound, (including a new roof, repointing of the tower stone façade, and a repair to the organ in the past 25 years) is expensive and challenging to maintain. The parish does not have the financial resources to stay current with all the needed maintenance and renewal projects. Among the renewal pri-

orities are the stained-glass windows, heating and ventilation, the foundation and the organ which needs replacement.

- *Human Resources*: There are still a sufficient number of parishioners available for individual events, but the pool of leaders is shrinking with time, especially for tasks with a longer timeline. There is a desire to hire an Assistant Curate, Children/Youth co-ordinator, or support with technology, but there are no funds available to invest in human resources. There is also a need to recruit new volunteers for leadership positions.

5. Are there ministry opportunities you are aware of and what would you need to engage in them?

- *Revitalizing the parish community*: Make sure all are included – in particular, explore how to make parish activities and meetings more accessible to those who work, have families, etc.; encourage ministry to children, youth, and families (Sunday School, youth groups); take care of one another through pastoral care; and ensure that leadership is developed.
- *Outreach/Social Justice/Growing the Church*: Develop new and vital outreach ministry; support and awareness for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour), LGBTQ+, and other communities, especially locally, and deepen relationships already built. Identify seeker communities to connect with.
- *Online Presence*: There is a desire to maintain and grow the online presence of the church past the end of the pandemic – virtual church, Zoom gatherings, incl. Bible study, etc.
- *Ecumenical*: Explore sharing worship spaces, Sunday School, and youth groups with other local churches and faith communities.

During August, Charles Nixon and his team telephoned many households in the parish to gather demographic information and update the coordinates of parishioners. Many thanks to everyone for the many hours spent gathering this information.

The table below shows the age-range (in decades) composition of our parish which totals 398 parishioners.

0—9:	24	10—19:	44	20—29:	4
30—39:	19	40—49:	44	50—59:	50
60—69:	59	70—79:	90	80+:	64

IN SURE AND CERTAIN HOPE...

ARCHBISHOP BARRY CURTIS

How many times have we read in obituaries recently; "Due to the pandemic there will be no service", or, "There will be a private service", which of course means "please do not come". Even before the pandemic, the Church's burial services were increasingly being replaced by non-religious *Celebrations* or we would read in the obituary "There will be no service". Frankly, I think this is a major loss, both for those who are left to mourn and for friends and indeed the wider community.

The term *Celebration of Life* has several different meanings; it could be the name of a traditional Christian burial service or it could mean a kind of spiritually-lite (or even a spiritually vacant) observance at the time of death. Celebrating the life of a loved one now deceased is surely appropriate. But we human beings, experiencing the loss of someone with whom we have shared a bed, with whom we have shared meals for the past fifty years, with whom we have shared the ups and downs, the triumphs and tragedies of human life, need something more.

The happy telling of stories from the past (what a great golfer, a great cook, or an ardent sports fan the deceased was) doesn't offer what we need in the face of deep loss. At the death of a loved one we experience a whole spectrum of powerful feelings in the depth of our being; pain, grief, sometimes guilt, sometimes despair, sometimes remorse, always the sense of loss. These may stay with us long after the celebration is over and friends have left.

The Church's burial service, more than just celebrating the life of the deceased, offers profound thanksgiving for this person, created in the image of God, known and loved by her Creator, a human being of infinite value. Even in the midst of many tears and immense sorrow it offers comfort, hope, and love to give courage and strength in the facing of difficult days ahead. It does this through the rich and beautiful prayers, the psalms, the hymns and songs of faith, the sharing of faith and the living of life.

During the service we pray;

*God of all consolation
In your unending love and mercy
You turn the darkness of death
Into the dawn of new life.*

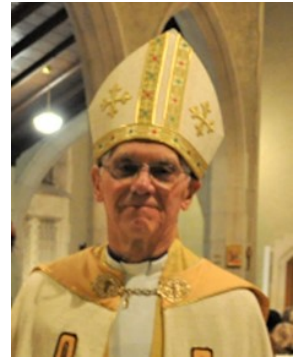
*Show compassion to your people in their sorrow
Be our refuge and our strength
To lift us from the darkness of grief
To the peace and light of your presence.*

My family were part of a rural, farming folk (largely of Irish or Scottish background) community in the Ottawa Valley. As a child I remember that when a member of the community died the whole community responded, whether of faith or of no faith. We human beings find life and love in relationships. We live in company with others.

The Church's burial liturgy calls for the community to offer our sympathy, our caring, the gift of our time, the gift of a listening ear or of a helping hand. In doing so, the community, our friends and neighbours are saying; "We are with you. You are not alone. We are here for you". Sadly, in pandemic times a private service may be our only option, but such a service is not what the Church wants to offer people. It seeks to provide a fuller, richer, more life-giving experience at the time of loss and sorrow.

Our life is a gift and the giver of this gift calls us to respond by living, not to ourselves alone, but in a loving, ever deepening relationship with our Creator and in a caring relationship with our neighbours. When a loved one's life has come to an end, we gather together and with profound gratitude, hope, song and prayer and without judgement, commend the deceased to God's keeping.

At our birth we are gifted with wondrous, hugely varied, vastly complex bodies and minds which carry us through the twists and turns and the opportunities and experiences of our life. At the time of death, when the body has completed its life task, we don't cast it aside or casually dispose of it. Rather, with gratitude for this marvellous



(Continued next page)

(Continued from the preceding page)

gift, and with all the respect and dignity we can muster during the burial liturgy we gently return the body to the earth or to the fire.

More than just a celebration of a person's life, the Church's burial practice seeks to provide comfort to those left to mourn and it both celebrates and gives thanks to God for the life lived. It also provides an opportunity for friends and neighbours to share in the sense of loss and to offer loving care, both at the time and into the future.

Of equal importance, it commends the loved one to God's care and with dignity commits the body to the earth.

The Church, Christians gathered together, prays;

*In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life
Through our Lord Jesus Christ,
We commend to Almighty God our brother/sister and we
commit his/her body to the ground (or to be consumed
by fire) earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.*

*The Lord bless him and keep him
The Lord makes his face to shine upon her
and be gracious to her
The Lord lift up his countenance upon him
and give him peace.*

Clearly, the Church's burial practice is a rich resource as we face our life and our dying.

A Message from the Green Team: Marg Terrett

When we began our St. Matthew's Green Stewardship Campaign we wanted to raise the awareness of our parish family members to the crisis of global warming which is facing everyone in the world. As Christians, we are committed to caring for the gift of the Earth that God has given to us.

Yes, we could go on and on about our past failures but that is discouraging. We could point fingers at others who, we believe, are not doing their part to help reduce pollution and green house gas emissions. But how does that help? As *individuals* we can make a difference. We have seen evidence of cleaner air in large cities as a result of fewer vehicles on the roads during the pandemic. What can do to we keep the air cleaner? How do we do our part individually and as part of the St. Matthew's Family?

Claire Bramma, a former parishioner who is now a Postulant in the Diocese of Toronto, has sent us *Restoring God's Earth, A year of Personal Action*. We propose that we implement this program in 2022.

Here is the plan. Each month has a focus which we will try to follow and make changes to our usual customs and habits. The Bulletin will have ideas to help us with the monthly challenge. Parishioners are invited to send their ideas, which will be shared in the Bulletin, to: greeneststmatts@gmail.com.

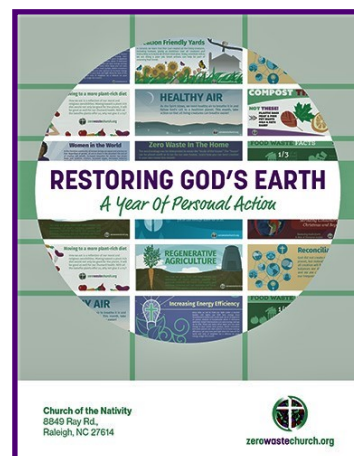
The plan for the year is as follows:

- **January:** Increasing Energy Efficiency
- **February:** Moving to a Plant Rich Diet

- **March :** Women in the World
- **April:** Healthy Soil, Healthy Garden, Healthy Soul
- **May:** Creation Friendly Yards
- **June:** Healthy Air
- **July :** Zero Waste in the Home:
- **August:** Conserving Water
- **September :** Reconciliation
- **October:** Compost
- **November:** Reducing Food Waste,
- **December:** Shrinking Consumerism for Christmas and Beyond

More information can be found at [Zero Waste Church](https://zerowastechurch.org). The program was initiated by The Church of the Nativity in Raleigh, North Carolina, with grants from the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church USA.

This program will be a good way for us to start on a year of healing God's Earth.



THE STEPHEN G. WILSON SCHOLARSHIP IN RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE

JENNIFER WILSON



Many of you will remember Steve Wilson as a long-time member of the Men and Boys Choir. But you may not know that he spent his entire career as a faculty member in Carleton University's Department of Religion, initially teaching courses in New Testament and later moving into the study of early Jewish-Christian relations.

To honour Steve's memory and the considerable contribution he made to Carleton's Religion program over the years, the family and I have decided to establish an endowment fund that will eventually provide in perpetuity an annual scholarship to a graduate student in Religion and Public Life.

You can find a description of the scholarship on the university's giving site, where our fund has been added for family and friends to donate to if they wish.

For anyone who would like to contribute to the fund,

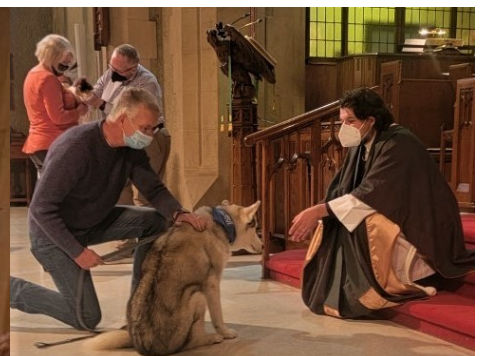
here is the link: <https://futurefunder.carleton.ca/giving-fund/stephen-g-wilson-scholarship-in-religion-and-public-life/>.

You can, of course, donate at any time, but donations made on Giving Tuesday (November 30) will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the university on a first-come, first-served basis starting at midnight (EST); the earlier in the day a donation is made, the better the chances it will be matched. Since Carleton is registered as a charity, all donations are tax-deductible.

Steve was a lifelong scholar, intellectually curious, a teacher who found great joy in interacting and engaging with students. He would be delighted, I think, that each year a student will be financially supported by a scholarship in his name. And, as one of his former colleagues in the Department of Religion said, "It's just another way that Steve's memory will live on in our department."



Baby Luke is baptized



Blessing of the animals, October 3'21



*Anthem: Go Forth Into the World
St. Matthew's Choir*



Parish Council, September '21

WELCOMING AT ST. MATTHEW'S: A TEAM APPROACH

RANDI GODDARD, NEWCOMERS COORDINATOR

It's no secret that since March 2020, St. Matthew's—like the rest of society—has experienced a great deal of upheaval. Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have had to adjust to changes in how we meet, worship and support each other. Throughout this challenging time, a team of dedicated volunteers has worked steadily to ensure St. Matthew's is a caring community and a welcoming church.

The St. Matthew's welcoming team was busy during the summer preparing materials targeted to newcomers and visitors, including a new welcome postcard, an updated brochure and a welcome letter signed by Rev. Geoff. The St. Matthew's postcard is mailed to newcomers immediately following their first visit.

The brochure provides a concise, visually appealing overview of St. Matthew's for those who are new to the parish. The brochures are placed in the pews and inserted in welcome kits which include the Rector's letter, a contact form for newcomers to fill out, a short history of St. Matthew's and a copy of our parish newsletter.

In early September, Rev. Geoff and the Wardens met with greeters and sidespersons to review processes and protocols for a smooth reopening of the church. Detailed guidelines were circulated to team members to ensure everyone was clear about their roles and responsibilities. When proof of full vaccination and ID was required in November, guidelines were once again updated and provided to the team.

The St. Matthew's welcoming team includes "front line" greeters, sidespersons and Welcome Table volunteers, all of whom assist at Sunday and special services. When our worship services went virtual, a new welcoming role was created: "digital" greeter. On Sunday mornings, a digital greeter welcomes worshippers who are participating in live-streamed services.

The welcoming team also includes approximately 40 individuals who volunteer with the St. Matthew's telephone tree. The telephone tree was created at the start of the pandemic to keep parishioners informed and connected.

Callers check in periodically with parishioners, confirm contact information and follow up on any needs, such as a pastoral call from our clergy.

Special thanks go to our entire welcoming team for their enthusiasm and dedication. New recruits are always welcome! If you're interested in participating, please speak with someone on the welcoming team.

Welcoming is a critical aspect of our parish life, especially given the turbulence of the past two years. I urge us all to keep growth and revitalization of St. Matthew's at the forefront of our decisions and actions. I hope every parishioner will think of themselves as part of our broader welcoming team that reaches out to newcomers and visitors on Sunday morning.

In surveys, parishioners have often commented that they appreciated the warm welcome that they received as newcomers to the parish.

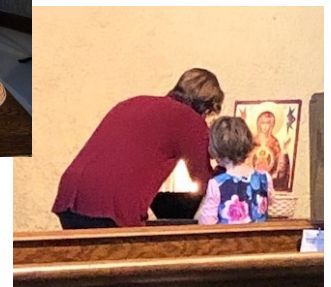
And so, let us all consider prayerfully:

How can we make St. Matthew's an even more welcoming parish?

What can we do, individually and collectively, to renew and strengthen St. Matthew's

During the upcoming Christmas season, let's do all we can to extend a very warm welcome to everyone who enters our beloved worship space.

All Souls Day, November 3'21



REPORT FROM SYNOD, 2021

RICK TRITES

WITH LAY MEMBERS OF SYNOD RANDI GODDARD, CHARLES NIXON AND JOHN MCBRIDE

The 141st Session of the Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa was held via Zoom on Saturday October 30th. In his charge to Synod, Bishop Shane stated “We are in a moment where the past we have known is giving way to a future we must give shape to.”

In his opening remarks to Synod Bishop Shane Parker reminded us that the Covid-19 pandemic has shown our capacity to be resilient. This strength, he said, will carry us through the difficult work of reshaping the structures within which we do our work, and how we engage with the broader community. He then reviewed the four strategic priorities that were identified at last year’s Synod.

Communications

The first priority is communications. The Communications Panel developed a strategic plan, and the supporting contractor briefed Synod on the new brand strategy. The new diocesan logo is on the official summary of Synod which will be posted to the St. Matthew’s website shortly. The plan includes improvements to navigation on the diocesan website and a style guide which hopefully parishes can access, although parishes are not being asked to change their branding to follow the diocese.

Shape of Parish Ministry

The second priority is a diocesan-wide review and assessment of ministry and buildings. The first phase involved the development of profiles for each of the 78 parishes and congregations in the diocese. This phase is now complete, and soon all of the profiles will be shared across the diocese. The next phase will involve reviewing a compendium of descriptive, demographic and financial information, and then seeking out parishes for discussions about how we might look and operate in the future. These discussions will hopefully lead to proposals on ministry and buildings for decisions at next year’s Synod.

Engagement with the World and Life Long Learning

Work has begun on the next two priorities, engagement with the world and lifelong learning. The diocesan governance structure is being changed to facilitate the work of building partnerships with other groups and increasing our capacity for education to “be better equipped to serve as a minority in a diverse and plural world.” An example

given is Project Anti-Racism, a mandatory awareness and capacity building program for clergy, managers in community ministries and senior staff to ensure this learning is then infused in every ministry.

The keynote speaker at Synod was Rev. Canon Dr. John Gibaut, the diocese’s canon theologian, who spoke about the evolution of diocesan churches. He concluded his talk by referring to the importance of a shared diocesan culture: “*Our* diocese, not *the* diocese. *We*, not *they*. *Our* bishop, not *the* bishop. Every parish is *ours*. Every community ministry is *ours*. We are in communion with one another, deeply and inextricably. And it all belongs to God in Christ Jesus.”

Chancellor Henry Schultz introduced a series of motions changing details of some diocesan canons and various administrative by-laws. All passed.

Sanjay Grover, the Director of Financial Ministries briefed Synod on the 2020 financials. Mr. Grover said a difficult year was improved thanks to the federal government’s pandemic relief programs. As a result, the overall drop in diocesan revenue has been kept below 20 per cent, which is better than the experience of many Anglican dioceses across the country.

Brian Cameron, the chair of the Diocesan Communications Panel outlined plans for commemorating the 125th anniversary of our diocese. There will be a four-part lecture series: the first lecture on Indigenous issues in December will be given by Michelle Good, the author of *Five Little Indians* (reviewed in our last *Pulse*), which won the Governor-General’s Award for English fiction in 2020. Liturgically, we’ll celebrate with a special service on New Year’s Day, with our Primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls.

Diocesan elections were held and John McBride was elected delegate to the 2022 General Synod.

This year’s Zoom Synod was run efficiently. The financials and the proposed canon and by-law changes were addressed in pre-meetings so Synod members could take time to review them. Once again, due to the pandemic, members of Synod did not have the opportunity for chapter meetings, communal prayer and liturgy, conversation, socializing and learning. Hopefully, these will return in Synod 2022.

ST. MATTHEW'S ONLINE TREASURES AUCTION A FABULOUS SUCCESS

PEGGY NANKIVELL



St. Matthew's second online auction, which closed on Saturday, November 20, had an exhilarating finish. With net revenues of more than \$42,000, the eight-day auction received bids in excess of \$10,000 on the closing day alone -- with a mad flurry of bidding in the final hours.

Promotion of the auction through a combination of word-of-mouth, social media, print ads and articles drove registrations up to 800, compared with last year's total of 500. Only a handful of the 360 auction lots remain.

The single most valuable item was the use of a Québec cottage for a week in 2022. Revenues for this item will be split between St. Matthew's and the auction's outreach partner, the FACES refugee group.

Because of this and some donations directed solely to FACES, and the church's commitment to provide at least 20% of the profits to the refugee group, FACES will receive more than \$10,000. The group is in the process of arranging the sponsorship of an Iraqi couple now in Turkey.

"The contribution from the online auction is amazing," says Tom Martin, FACES treasurer. "It represents a substantial portion of the funding for the sponsorship of Noor and Omar. Thank you to all involved and congratulations on such a successful event."

This year's addition of the fashion category proved popular. There were some truly beautiful items on offer. And art, books and furniture generated some notable bidding battles and virtual bruises.

But once again, the offerings of baking and home-cooked meals out-performed other categories. Indeed, St. Matthew's cooks and bakers, building on the church's reputation for great hospitality, generated sales of double the catalogue valuations.

Most, if not all, expenses were covered by sponsorships, including those of Amica, Capital Home Hardware, McKeen Metro Glebe, Tracy Arnett Realty and a private donor.



FACES UPDATE: APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED FOR NOOR AND OMAR

TOM MARTIN



As the parish is aware and as we reported in the *Pulse of the Parish* in June, FACES has agreed to sponsor another refugee family. This will be Noor and Omar, a young Iraqi couple who are beginning their married life together as refugees in Turkey. We are happy to report that the applications for Noor and Omar are complete! We hope to have the sponsorship processed within the next two years.

Given the expected surge in refugee claims from Afghanistan and the continued displacement of people around the world, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has been exceptionally busy and application processing takes longer and the projected arrival time may be pushed out.

Big thanks to Don Greenfield of the FACES steering committee for spearheading and coordinating the applications. Even though this is our ninth sponsorship, the IRCC application process continues to be a significant undertaking. The e-forms are a very difficult to complete. With the help of Refugee Ministry at the Diocese we were able to navigate through but not before multiple revisions and submissions.

The information needs to be very precise and in a particular format. Each change required us to communicate back and forth with Noor and Omar in Turkey. Sometimes documentation was requested from the couple. Luckily Mustafa, Noor's brother here in Ottawa who was previously sponsored by FACES, was able to help relay all the requirements to the couple. It takes a very patient person like Don to get this done.

A new requirement of the IRCC is for sponsorships to be pre-funded. Our estimated cost of the sponsorship of Noor and Omar is \$30,000. Because of the pandemic, the FACES team has not been able to fundraise. In the past, FACES has hosted events such as a wine and cheese, pub nights and other social events to raise funds and awareness.

This has not been possible under Covid-19 restrictions. Through our established supporters we have been able to raise a significant part of the pre-funding requirement on short notice. To date we have \$10,000 before taking into account a significant contribution likely from the St. Matthew's On-Line Auction. With support from the Diocese, we have been able to submit the application without the full funding with a commitment to raise the full amount in the short term.

FACES is extremely grateful to the entire parish community for the funding and support we have received over the past five years which has enabled us to sponsor and support numerous newcomers. The On-Line auction was a huge success again. A contribution of \$10,000 from the On-Line Auction to FACES surpassed all expectations. Thank you to Peggy, the fundraising team, donors, and bidders for all your work and spending!

With support from our donor base and as a beneficiary of the auction we are well on our way to meet our target of \$30,000. But unfortunately, we still need more. So, we ask you to consider a donation, big or small – it all helps. Any additional funds raised over what we need for this project will be channeled to other refugee claims.

Please submit donations to St. Mathew's and designate it in the Note section as FACES – Refugee Support.

The combined influence of Covid-19 restrictions, the climate crisis and the reduced coverage of refugee stories has taken the issue of people displaced from their homes by war off the front page. Nevertheless, the suffering of these people and their need for support has not changed. Our work continues.

“RAINY DAY” SUCCESS IN CENTRETOWN

ELIZABETH KENT, ST. MATTHEW’S PARISH WALK ORGANIZER

Our Virtual (and actual) Walk for the Centre was a “rainy day” success! Umbrellas in hand, under grey skies and through drizzling rain, three of the St. Matthew’s Team walkers, Elizabeth Kent, Randi Goddard and Judith Maxwell, walked for the Centretown Emergency Food Centre (CEFC), raising \$2,040. The rain did not dampen our spirits!

We give a warm thank you to all our benefactors who inspired us. The atmosphere was joyful and the rain made colours wet and vivid. We walked in celebration of our solidarity, feeding the hungry in Centretown. The total proceeds for the Walk exceeded our goal of \$40,000. by raising \$43,000.

This generous fund raiser will provide much needed food resources for our Centretown neighbours who have lost jobs or have had their hours of employment cut back and who live with rising food costs due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Food Centre relies on donations and volunteers to survive and to serve.

With our mandate to alleviate poverty in our community, we create social justice through the CEFC. The Centre is open three days a week and served 6,105 people bags of prepackaged food in 2020. The Centretown Churches Social Action Committee (CCSAC) has fiduciary responsibility for CEFC and raises the awareness of poverty in our community.



Through CCSAC’s Outreach committee we fund other initiatives on behalf of our poor, such as funding for sleeping bags, hygiene products and warm winter jackets for local shelters and drop-in Centres (see below).

In 1967, when CCSAC was formed, it was a group of nine churches with a vision for social action in our community. Our mission is to unite Christians of all denominations through joint participation in social projects and prayer. Here we are, 54 years later and 22 churches strong, uniting Christian denominations in prayer and service in Centretown.

Thank you for your support! We need your help and collaboration.

The Day Program Respite Beds Campaign directly impacts the lives of unsheltered homeless people, providing a warm safe place to rest at Centre 454 in St. Alban's church sanctuary.

This day program began with the pandemic for poor souls who were weary and cold and yet did not feel comfortable going to shelters.

Make your cheque out to St. Matthew's and designate the memo line to *Centre 454 Beds Campaign*.

Thank you for your support!

Elizabeth Kent



BUILDING IS KEYSTONE TO ST. MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY

BILL NUTTLE

On Sunday, November 14, in the first Chapel Chat held since the beginning of the pandemic, about 30 parishioners gathered in the Main Hall to discuss the future of our 90-year-old building. The Building Renewal Team, chaired by Bill Nuttle, asked the following questions:

What do you value about our building?

What changes would you like to see?

There was great interest and engaged conversation. Bill reminded the group about the work that had gone before to assess the state of the building and the investment that would be needed to maintain it. The Strategic Plan of 2018 called us to identify priority areas where repairs are needed for the building structure and essential functions, such as heating and ventilation.

Engineers conducted a comprehensive assessment of the condition of the building and advised us about what we will need to do to sustain the building, without making major changes, for the next 30-years. Over this period, we can reasonably expect to replace or renew every part of the building (the furnace, the plumbing, windows) as everyone who owns an older home will know from experience.

The reality is that the amount set aside for building maintenance in the annual budget, at Vestry, falls far short of what is required. The total costs estimated in the

2018 assessment divided by 30 years amounts to several hundreds of thousands of dollars per year. Consequently, maintaining the building for the long-term commits us to undertake major repairs via special campaigns outside of the normal, business-as-usual, day-to-day operation of church administration.

What will it take for us to carry on? That is the key question for the Building Renewal Team that emerged from the discussion last Sunday. Over the next couple of months, the team will be talking with experts to identify what needs to be done now and determine what that will cost.

However, there is a second question for the entire St. Matthews community to consider – Are we ready to invest, once again, in the future of this building that houses our faith community?

We only ask that the building continue to function as it is now and always has, not to develop new configurations or uses. But we face new challenges as a community - in our role within the larger community of the Diocese, in how to respond to the Covid-19 virus as we gather together, in how we respond to the call to address climate change.

We will meet again to continue the discussion. All are welcome to join us.



Building Renewal Team Chapel Chat, November 14, 2021



L. to R.

*Bill Cornfield and Bill Nuttle
Co-Chairs, the Property Committee*

St. Matthew's

The Anglican Church in the Glebe

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

In-person worship,
streamed on YouTube

[Sunday Morning Worship](#)

*St. Matthew's is a vibrant Christian community that
welcomes everyone, embraces inspiring worship and
learning, and is committed to hospitality and loving service.*

Clergy

RectorThe Reverend Geoffrey Chapman
Honorary AssistantsThe Reverend Canon Allen Box
The Most Reverend Barry Curtis
The Reverend Canon Jim Beall

Leadership and Administration

Rector's WardenValerie Needham
People's WardenTom Barnes
Parish AdministratorCatherine James-McGuinty
Communications Chair.....Jan O'Meara
Nominating ChairHelen Griffin
Property Co-ChairsBill Nuttle
Bill Cornfield
Stewardship OfficerCharles Nixon
Members of Synod.....Randi Goddard
John McBride
Rick Trites
Charles Nixon

Finance and Accounting

Finance ChairWalt Draper
Fundraising ChairPeggy Nankivell
TreasurerAmy Lockwood
CountersMichael Goddard
Contributions Coordinator.....Brian Effer

Worship and Music

Director of Music and OrganistKirkland Adsett
Altar GuildElizabeth MacMillan
Robina Bulleid
Servers GuildCathy Simons
SidespersonsPeter Frayne
Worship CommitteeThe Reverend Geoffrey Chapman

Nurturing and Fellowship

Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministryseeking
Christian Education and Formation.....Helen Griffin
Community ChairMarg Terrett
Coffee HourJane and Peter Rider
Prayer Support TeamCatherine Thurlow
Prayer ChainJanice Sonnen
Open DoorsJane Oulton
Pastoral CareMollie Stokes

Outreach

Outreach Co-ChairsAshley Thorvaldson
Christine Vidt
CCSAC Emergency Food Centre.....Elizabeth Kent
Cornerstone Meal-A-Month ProgramAshley Thorvaldson
Harmony HouseCatherine James-McGuinty
Marmalade Team.....Peter Rider
Out of the Cold SupperAnita Biguzs
FACES Refugee CommitteeTom Martin

Pulse of the Parish, the community newsletter of St. Matthew's Anglican Church, is published four times a year. The dates for publication in 2022 are as follows: March 25 (submissions by March 18), June 10 (submissions by June 3), September 16 (submissions by September 9) and November 25 (submissions by November 18).

Please forward contributions of up to 600 words and photographs by these due dates to Val Needham, Editor:
needhav@algonquincollege.com.

Together, we celebrate all that we do at St. Matthew's to the glory of God and in loving service of our neighbours.



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