

## **Growing Ministry at St. Matthew's**

Corporation is proposing that St. Matthew's hire an assistant curate to contribute to the growth of ministry in the parish. For many years the Diocese has had a program of providing curates to parishes after their ordination. This offers newly ordained priests and deacons the opportunity to start their ordained life working in ministry and being mentored by vibrant and growing parishes and by experienced parish priests.

In preparing the parish profile, Corporation included the objective of hiring an assistant curate for a period of 24 months. There are many possible areas of focus for a curate, including youth ministry, reaching out to newcomers, enhanced pastoral care, educational programming and community engagement. St. Matthew's is a busy and demanding parish from a workload and life-balance standpoint.

A curacy would be considered highly desirable by any candidate hoping to be our new incumbent. Discussion of this opportunity will feature in our interview process as the new incumbent would be responsible for the assistant curate's mentoring and oversight. There is always the possibility that St. Matthew's would not be able to hire a suitable newly ordained priest or deacon. In that case we would consider other options such as hiring an ordained priest part-time to help us grow the ministry in our parish.

Canon Jim Beall has reminded us that curacies were once quite common in the Diocese but recently there have been far fewer -- largely because the positions must be funded in part by the parish. As curacy positions benefit both the Diocese and participating parishes, the Diocese shares the cost of curates with the receiving parishes. If an assistant curate is found for St. Matthew's, the expectation is that they will be with the parish for a period of 24 months. The annual cost of a curacy is \$74,000 which includes a \$14,000 housing allowance. As their share of funding, the Diocese will contribute \$30,000 in each of the two 12-month periods which will span three calendar years (2020-2022). St. Matthew's is responsible for raising the remainder. This will total approximately \$88,000, with \$44,000 to be raised in 2021.

At the recent Parish Council meeting it was agreed that we would move the remaining \$12,000 in the GIFT fund to help fund the position in 2020. The fundraising committee will arrange fundraisers to support additional operating costs.

At Vestry there will be a discussion of the curacy opportunity. We need to ensure that the parish fully supports this initiative, including the necessary fundraising, if we are to proceed. We are conscious of the annual challenge of meeting our yearly budget and cash flow needs. Nonetheless, Corporation believes this may be our best chance to invest in growing ministry here at St. Matthew's.

We ask for your prayerful consideration and support of this motion for the future of the parish March 1 at Vestry.

Corporation of St. Matthew's Parish