Vestry Report

February 27th, 2022



Church of the Ascension

Port Perry, Ontario

Anglican Church of Canada

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# Vestry Committee Chairpersons

**Wardens**

Anne Paré - People’s Warden (elected)

Glynnice Avery - Rector’s Warden (appointed)

Gillian Daly - Deputy Rector’s Warden (appointed)

Occo van Tijn - Deputy People’s Warden (elected)

**Treasurer -** Susan Tremayne-Moon

**Lay Delegate to Synod** - Susan van Tijn (elected)

**Alternate Delegate to Synod** -Kathy Sweet(elected)

**Advisory Board and Committee Chairs**

Advisory Board Chairperson - Bev Brown

Advisory Board Secretary –

Music Leadership - Elizabeth Lambert

Choir Liaison - Marion Falconer

Envelope Secretary -

Chancel - Jan Thompson

Bookkeeping – Susan Tremayne-Moon

Property - Cliff Moon

Anointing & Pastoral Visits - Anne Lane

Outreach & Mission - Anne Paré & Susan van Tijn

Church Historian - Ross Etherington

Servers -

Sidespeople -

Intercessors and Lectors - Rev. Ruthanne

St. John’s Blackstock Cemetery – Lawrence McLaughlin & Anne Paré

# Annual Vestry February 28, 2021

**Church of the Ascension, Port Perry**

 **Zoom Meeting**

**Present:**

Rev. Canon Ruthanne Ward Rev. Canon Don Anderson Glynnice Avery

Karen Barney Lucy Black Mary Blight

Jim Blight Bev Brown Dan Cappellani

Catherine Corden George Daly Gillian Daly

Sallyanne Etherington Ross Etherington Marion Falconer

Elaine Flowers Susan Gower John Gower

Aeneas Lane Anne Lane Elizabeth Lambert

Linda McLaughlin Lawrence McLaughlin Catherine Midgley

Ann Miles Susan Tremayne-Moon Cliff Moon

Jean Mouland Wayne Mouland Bev Muir

Connie Newmarch Lorraine Ormesher Bill Ormesher

Anne Pare Susan Parkin Gord Parkin

Dee Redpath Rev. Canon Dr.Jack Roberts Denis Schmiegelow

Lynne Skillen Roy Skillen Kathy Sweet

Nora Symington Jan Thompson Susan vanTijn

Occo vanTijn Angela Wakeford Mary-Margaret Walters

Wynn Walters Hendrik Weiler Katherine Shanks

Ruth Wyman Ron Wyman

Rev. Ruthanne called the zoom meeting to order at 2:10 pm. and led everyone in Prayer.

**Introduction**

Rev. Ruthanne read a declaration for those who are entitled to vote at this vestry meeting and reviewed information on how votes would be taken for this meeting ie: by raising hands, and by an electronic poll when voting on the motions.

**1.** **Acceptance of Minutes**

**Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting of the Church of the Ascension held February 23rd, 2020**

**Minutes of the Special Vestry Meeting of the Church of the Ascension held on November 16th, 2020.**

MOVED by Elaine Flowers, SECONDED by Cliff Moon

“THAT the minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting of the Church of the Ascension held on February 23rd, 2020 and the minutes of the Special Vestry Meeting of the Church of the Ascension be approved.”

 CARRIED

**2. Vestry Committee and Chairpersons**

**The following list was received and tabled.**

**Wardens**

Anne Paré - People’s Warden (elected)

Glynnice Avery - Rector’s Warden (appointed)

Gillian Daly - Deputy Rector’s Warden (appointed)

Occo van Tijn - Deputy People’s Warden (elected)

**Treasurer -** Susan Tremayne-Moon

**Lay Delegate to Synod** - Susan van Tijn (elected)

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Bookkeeping - Bev Muir

Property - Cliff Moon

Anointing & Pastoral Visits - Anne Lane & Elaine Flowers

Outreach & Mission - Anne Paré & Susan van Tijn

Church Historian - Ross Etherington

Servers - Elaine Flowers

Sidespeople - Nora Symington

Intercessors and Lectors - Rev. Ruthanne

St. John’s Blackstock Cemetery -Anne Pare

**3. Letter from the Rt. Reverend Andrew Asbil, Bishop of Toronto was received and tabled.**

**4. Letter from the Rt. Reverend Riscylla Shaw, Area Bishop of Trent-Durham was received and tabled.**

**5. Report of Rev. Ruthanne Ward, Incumbent**

Rev. Ruthanne presented her report reflecting on the past year during Covid-19. She gave an overview of the ways in which we have learned to connect and to gather as a church community during these difficult times, such as the Buddy System, the use of live streaming our services, our website and newsletter.

 Rev. Ruthanne gave thanks for the Reverend Phil Gearing and for his ministry at Ascension such as the implementation of the Buddy System, his “One Thousand Mile Walk” for Faithworks and his Pastoral Care to our congregation.

 She also gave a special thank you to Shirley Andrechuk, Office Administrator, and announced that it was the decision of the Corporation to retire that position due to financial reasons. Shirley served as the office administrator at Ascension as well for many years at St. John Blackstock and ran both offices with precision and efficiency.

 Rev. Ruthanne also acknowledged our Music Director, Liz Lambert and noted that Liz had to learn how to record for our online services, first as audio recordings and now live on YouTube.

 Rev. Ruthanne thanked the Wardens (including John Moon, who had to step down due to health reasons) and Treasurer, for their contribution and support they have given her during the past year.

She also thanked the many volunteers and cleaners who made it possible, even for a short time, for us to gather in the church.

Looking ahead Rev. Ruthanne hopes to continue developing the Volunteer program in the church which would include:

* Expanding the pastoral care team
* Enhance our online presence
* Office Help - 2 or 3 people to take on administrative tasks and help out in the office
* Cultivate relationships with community groups using our space, such as music events, theater groups and the Durham District School Board, who currently use the Perry Room for continuing education programs.
* Develop relationships that offer some financial benefit and take us into a more sustainable economy.
* Expanding what we offer to the Port Perry Community for worship and community building, in particular with families.
* Rev. Ruthanne also noted that it is a priority of hers to conduct a family relaxed service perhaps on Sunday afternoons, as soon as it is possible to do so.

**6. Wardens’ Reports**

 The Report of Wardens, Glynnice Avery, Anne Paré, Gillian Daly and Occo vanTijn was received and tabled.

Glynnice Avery, Rector’s Warden gave a brief overview on behalf of all of the Wardens. She reviewed the challenges they faced in the past year due to COVID-19 19 and elaborated on their plans for a ‘Safe Return’ to church as soon as it is possible to do so.

**7. Ministry Reports**

The following Ministry Reports were received and tabled:

 Outreach

Chancel Guild

Envelope Secretary

Choir

Property

Fundraising

St. John’s Anglican Cemetery

Report on the Buddy System

**8. Financial Report for the year ending December 31st, 2020**

Susan Tremayne-Moon, Treasurer reviewed the Financial Statements for the year ending December 31st, 2020. Susan noted that due to Covid, the finance committee did not formally meet this year; however, more time was spent working with the Diocese on monthly reporting of receipt information.

Actual results for 2020 reflect the following difference due to COVID:

* The Diocese offset lower receipts from parish offerings, fundraising and hall rentals with grants totalling $30,667 that included payment forgiveness in April, May and June of 1) the clergy stipend and benefits and 2) the allotment expense; $1,950 toward rectory costs and $5,000 for virtual recording technology.
* Payments of $2,680 for CEWS (emergency wage supplement) for July, August and September.
* Reduced costs primarily for music and administration.
* The net income of $19,407 is due to COVID, without COVID we had budgeted for a loss. If the Diocese receives CEWS for October, November and December the net income for 2020 will be revised to reflect these payments.

**9. Presentation and Adoption of the 2021 Budget**

Susan Tremayne-Moon, Treasurer presented the 2021 Budget for the Church of Ascension.

The budget assumes that lock down will continue throughout 2021. Fixed expenses will continue; however, we do have some control over variable expenses.

We are budgeting for a loss; receipts are lower due to COVID and I recommend that dividends at 4.25% in the Ascension fund be reinvested this year which reduces investment income. Secretarial assumed a volunteer position and organist’s salary temporarily reduced until choir resumes. Repairs to the church higher due to unforeseen maintenance.

Susan reviewed the following slide on the 2021 Budget.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **2020 Actual** |  | **2021 Budget** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Receipts |  | 189,986 |  | 108,400 |
| Receipts - ex Diocese funding |  | 113,233 |  | 108,400 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Expenses |  | 170,579 |  | 116,267 |
| Expenses - ex curate |  | 119,837 |  | 116,267 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Net income (loss) |  | 19,407 |  | 7,867 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Cash |  | 37,404 |  | 29,000 |

Susan thanked Bev Muir and Allan Sweet for their continued support.

Questions arose with regard to the tuning of the organ and piano in the Sanctuary. Susan noted that the expense for tuning would be covered under the Worship Fund and that both the organ and piano would maintained.

MOVED by Denis Schmiegelow, SECONDED by Connie Newmarch

 “THAT the 2021 Budget as presented be approved.”

 CARRIED

**10. Motions**

**a. Social Justice Motion**

Rev. Ruthanne read the following motion by the Bishop’s Committee on Intercultural Ministry with the full support of the Social Justice & Advocacy Committee:

 MOVED by Rev. Canon Dr. Jack Roberts, SECONDED by Susan van Tijn

“THAT We the parish of Church of the Ascension, Port Perry, acknowledges that Anti-Black racism exists in our society and in our Church, and that it and all forms of racism against Black, Indigenous, and other racialized people are a sin against God and against our neighbour. We commit ourselves to the recognition, dismantling, and elimination of Anti-Black and other forms of racism in our secular institutions, in our Church, and in ourselves, and to work for the full inclusion, participation and belongingness of Black, Indigenous and other racialized people in all sectors of our common life.

In light of this acknowledgment, and in keeping with this commitment, our parish undertakes to do the following:

* To pray for healing for racialized communities, for awareness amongst ourselves for how we perpetuate, often unknowingly, systems that oppress others.
* At least one event in the coming year that provides our community with education about these issues in our own community and church.
* To think creatively for ways we can make our own church feel safe and inclusive for those who may not find it so presently.”

CARRIED AS AMENDED

(later in the meeting, see following motion)

 MOVED by Aeneas Lane, SECONDED by Hendrik Weiler

“THAT the word “Asian” be added following the words Indigenous in the first paragraph of the foregoing motion.”

 CARRIED

The following motion with regard to Intercultural Ministry, as amended, was then put to a vote and **CARRIED** by a show of hands.

“THAT We the parish of Church of the Ascension, Port Perry, acknowledges that Anti-Black racism exists in our society and in our Church, and that it and all forms of racism against Black, Indigenous, ***Asian,*** and other racialized people are a sin against God and against our neighbour. We commit ourselves to the recognition, dismantling, and elimination of Anti-Black and other forms of racism in our secular institutions, in our Church, and in ourselves, and to work for the full inclusion, participation and belongingness of Black, Indigenous, ***Asian,*** and other racialized people in all sectors of our common life.

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* To pray for healing for racialized communities, for awareness amongst ourselves for how we perpetuate, often unknowingly, systems that oppress others.
* At least one event in the coming year that provides our community with education about these issues in our own community and church.
* To think creatively for ways we can make our own church feel safe and inclusive for those who may not find it so presently.”

 **b. Motion regarding the removal of pews from the sanctuary to be replaced by chairs.**

MOVED by Wynn Walters, SECONDED by Dan Cappellani

“THAT, We the Vestry of The Church of the Ascension approve the allocation of $70,000 to be withdrawn from the funds made available to the church from the proceeds of the sale of St. John’s Blackstock. This money will be used to pay for the removal of pews and installation of moveable sanctuary chairs as per the proposal presented by the Corporation of Ascension. These monies will also cover the cost of refinishing the hardwood floor, painting the sanctuary and re-carpeting the aisle.”

CARRIED (later in the meeting, by a vote by poll)

(See following notes)

A discussion ensued with regard to the motion regarding the removal of the pews and the following questions arose:

* Leave the last three rows of pews. Just a suggestion.
* Timing, whether this was a good time? *Answer: It is the best time as the church is empty and we cannot return until it is safe to do so. No. Removing the pews, refinishing the floor, painting the sanctuary and recarpeting the aisle is the least disruptive now. Also, the chairs will take a long period of time to be made after the order has been placed.*
* Would cleaning be more costly due to having chairs. *Answer: No. The seats on the chairs will be scotch guarded and we will only have to wipe the legs and backs of the chairs. Expenses for cleaning will not go up.*
* Cost of the chairs during a pandemic. Should we not do something else with the money, like donate to the community? *Answer: The monies cannot go out into the community; it has to be spent on Ministry related items to enhance our church.*
* Does the money have to be spent within a timeframe? *Answer: We have been granted an extension. Original timeframe was 3 years.*
* Cost of the chairs, does this include duty and taxes? *Answer: Yes*
* Will the pews be sold? *Answer: A number of pews have already been spoken for. The rest will be sold or returned to the Diocese for storage.*

The foregoing motion was then put to a vote and **CARRIED** by the following vote by poll:

 **Yea 33**

 **Nay 15**

 **Abstentions 5**

**Adjournment**

MOVED by Susan vanTijn, SECONDED by Cliff Moon

“THAT the Vestry Meeting of the Church of the Ascension be adjourned.”

 CARRIED

**The Reverend Ruthanne Ward closed the meeting at 4:15 pm. with the Doxology and Blessing.**



# The College of Bishops Pastoral Letter to Vestries, 2022

 *to be read or circulated on the Sunday of the parish’s annual vestry meeting*

To the clergy, churchwardens, and parishioners of the Diocese of Toronto,

**Beloved Siblings in Christ,**

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

As you gather today for the annual vestry meeting, we as your bishops wanted to write to you united as a College, to assure you of our prayers, gratitude and love for you in the face of the challenges facing our Church at this time. We want to encourage you and to assure you of our support, as we look back on the past year and anticipate the one that lies before us.

Our life together continues to be shaped by a little virus called COVID-19. Most of us had hoped that we would be back to our pre-pandemic ways by now. Yet we seem to be entering into the third year of this pandemic, and we are in the midst of an incredible fifth wave. We have learned to adapt, shift, change, open, close, move online, Zoom, sing through a mask, and much more. None of us could have imagined that we were capable of doing all of this, for as long as we have, when we closed our church buildings for the first time in March 2020.

To say that we are tired – worn out, fed up – would be an understatement. We wonder: how much longer? Unfortunately, while we may be finished with this pandemic, this pandemic is not quite finished with us.

*“Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)*

Just as the Lord commissioned Joshua to take on leadership from Moses and to lead the people forward into the land that had been promised, so God commissions us to be faithful even in the midst of this anxiety. As with Joshua, God promises to be with us wherever we go. And God’s faithfulness to Israel on the cusp of new life in a new land, renews our hope for our own deliverance.

In the crucible of this pandemic, there are signs of God’s light and life all around us, and we have been so moved by the ways that strength and courage have been shown by the people of our Diocese this year. The movement to virtual worship, the leaving behind of our buildings for a time, the reliance on community that has been formed and nurtured online – these are all signs of the resilience born of our faith in Jesus Christ. They are reminders that the Lord our God is with us wherever we go – even through this season of deep challenge – and that God has not abandoned us.

God’s accompaniment has been made known in other ways too. In the midst of this pandemic, we as a Church have been coming to terms with issues of systemic racism and bias. The rollout of anti-bias and anti-racism training in 2021 – and the participation of almost all our active clergy – is a sign of God’s transformative work in us as a Church. We still have much to do to combat racism and bias, but these steps bring us closer to the Church we are called to be. The ABAR workshops will be rolled out at the parish level in the coming year, and we strongly encourage your support and participation. The apology to the LGBTQ+ community in June was a further step in the Gospel work of justice, dignity and inclusion. May Christ continue to be with us as we seek to be transformed in His likeness.

The Gospel of Christ has good news and hard news. The good news is that we have hope in Jesus, who is our unchanging rock and our constant salvation in the midst of the storms and tribulations of this life. The hard news is that we are called to serve others in Christ’s name. Service is sacrificial. Service is rewarding. Service is at the heart of our faith. Thank you so very much for your service to the Church and to the glory of God this past year. We are speaking here to all the baptised: our hardworking churchwardens, treasurers, musicians, administrators, Sunday School teachers, ACWs, outreach workers, altar guilds, sextons, our now-indispensable tech volunteers, and so many more. To our beloved clergy, both priests and deacons: you pour your heart and soul into your God-given vocation, and we see you. We are grateful beyond words for the super-human effort you have tirelessly made to build up the People of God during this pandemic.

At such a time as this, when we are deeply unsettled, when we would prefer the comfortable to the challenging, Christ is calling us to look for the opportunities that are being presented anew: how can we partner with a neighbouring church to do more effective and robust ministry? Do we need to have all the answers before we set out on the journey of missional exploring and engagement? What are we afraid of, and how can the good news of Christ allay our fears and embolden our hearts to venture into the unknown? How can we put “the movement of the Spirit” into words, phrases and invitations to which new disciples can respond?

Without a doubt, we are all tired; yet recently, we your bishops are also hearing something new. You are beginning to dream again. And we know that when the Church dreams…things change.

*“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.*

*Your children will prophesy, your young will see visions, your elderly will dream dreams.” (Joel 2:28)*

May you have a creative, hopeful and inspiring vestry meeting today, as we enter this new year with the strength and courage of the One who accompanies us on our journey. We are praying for you all.

Yours faithfully in Christ Jesus,

**+Andrew Toronto**

The Right Rev. Andrew J. Asbil

Bishop of Toronto

**+Riscylla Shaw**

The Right Rev. Riscylla Shaw

Suffragan Bishop of Toronto

**+Kevin Robertson**

The Right Rev. Kevin Robertson

Suffragan Bishop of Toronto

# Incumbent’s Report

Traditionally a Vestry Report from the incumbent would reflect on the past year, noting the joys and the challenges, generally focusing on what the parish did together. As you all know, the past two years have been far from traditional. In fact, we spent more time in lockdown in 2021 than we did in 2020! The temptation is to bemoan what we were unable to do together. The thing is, even in years that take the familiar from us, God’s Spirit lives and moves and thrives amongst us, doing more than we could have asked or imagined.

Though, even in lockdown, we were a busy church, it was WHO WE WERE last year that I believe needs to be recorded for the history books. We were (and we are!) a parish that cares. Through the Pastoral Care Team and Buddy System we did our best to keep in touch with one another. Some of us gathered weekly - even in person for a few weeks - to study the bible and pray together, to remind ourselves that we are not alone. When the weather cooperated, we gathered on the front lawn for Priest on the Lawn. The choir came out with joy to record for our services. And when we could gather in person, the allotted 30 seats were full.

It may not seem like much when we remember being so much more active and together. The important thing though is the dance that our spirits do with God’s Spirit in whatever circumstance we find ourselves. With prayerful attention to the needs and concerns around us, we offered what we could. Some of you continued your faithful contributions with food, volunteer hours and money for Operation Scugog. Other’s bought bedding to support the initiative in the late fall to supply Matthew House with enough to welcome 11 refugees with comfortable places to rest. When someone was unwell or undergoing treatment calls were made, food dropped off, a steady supply of prayer lifted up. In these ways, as I look back on 2021, I feel profound gratitude for the community I am a part of.

Church is changing, and not simply because of the pandemic. It is a relief to be in a place where we can produce a live stream feed each week with capable and dedicated volunteers (Thanks Susan, Jim and now Cliff). We are aware that moving forward, more and more people will engage our church online, even as we find ways to facilitate and nourish our in person time together.

Our sanctuary became a place of community gathering as Lynn MacDonald rented the space for Jazz Evenings and Theatre 3X60 rehearsed and performed to sold out “half capacity” audiences. We discovered new ways of sharing our space, using it for private family gatherings that could allow for “safe social distancing” when their home space didn’t. These opportunities have led to others and to a richer network between our church community and the broader Port Perry community. These are critical ways in which we share the love we know in Christ and also develop a sustainable economy for the future of the church.

Vestry is also a time to look forward, into the new year. I can’t tell you how much I am looking forward to writing in next year’s report that we spent more time in the church than in lockdown!!

As we look into 2022, we cautiously anticipate more time together in person. Plans are underway for community gatherings that will allow us to reconnect, not only with each other, but with our neighbours and broader community.

We became aware this past year that we need someone to helps us administer the many technological demands of running a parish - hosting a website, writing a weekly newsletter, maintaining a YouTube channel, managing a Zoom account. We hope to be able to hire someone to do this work on our behalf, freeing up time for more ministry engagement. This is new territory for us and for many churches. More people reach out to us and engage us online than knock on our door. We need to find ways to make those connections meaningful. I have to honestly say that I am feeling a curious and hopeful anticipation for what this next year will bring. I’ve met a number of new people who are thinking about joining our parish, I’ve had conversations with four families looking for an Anglican Church to baptize and welcome their children. Hopefully, as we open up to more and more people being allowed in and find it safer to gather, we will together welcome some new faces as we joyfully encounter familiar one’s we’ve not seen in a long time. The coming year will no doubt present us with challenges we weren’t necessarily expecting, but it will also bring us gifts we hadn’t imagined.

This report is also a time to mark passages and to offer words of gratitude. As with the passage of time, pandemic or not, we did experience losses. We said good-bye to our long time and faithful parishioner, Tom Greenwood and commended him into God’s care and keeping. Some moved away from Port Perry (and some of those still pop into gatherings virtually which is so wonderful!). Many in our parish this past year had challenging health issues, made more complicated by navigating a health system pummelled by Covid

I want to offer a word of thanks to all of you, for the many ways you loved your community in 2021. Thank you for your prayers, for filling in when I was away, for playing the organ so well, for singing in masks, for watering gardens and changing light bulbs, for putting the recycling out and checking office emails. Thank you for collecting food for the food bank. Thank you for creating a small but powerfully significant memorial to the tragedy of graves found at residential schools. Thank you for walking for Out of the Cold and for opening your hearts to journey with another refugee family hoping to come to Port Perry. Thank you for tending the altar and wiping down the pews. Thank you for signing up on Eventbrite to come to church and for contributing to the ongoing ministry of this church.

Many people serve the church for many years. Regardless of how long they serve, we are so grateful for the thousands of volunteer hours and for the skills, patience and dedication that these volunteers give to Ascension. We have a few “retirements” this year, and I heartily encourage you to share your gratitude with each of these people for their service. Thank you Alan Sweet for your many years serving as our envelope secretary and coordinator of the counters. Thank you Nora Symington for organizing and training our sidespeople. And thank you Gillian Daly, for serving these past two years as deputy rector’s warden.

Despite the twists and turns, despite the new normal being that nothing is normal, let us enter into this next year full of the hope that God shares with us when we open our hearts. Let us be full of anticipation that God will work through us and with us to do more than we could ever ask or imagine. Thanks be to God.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruthanne

The Reverend Canon Ruthanne Ward

# Warden’s Report

This year proved to be a year of adjusting to and accommodating changes. A vote of approval to use a portion of St. John’s Blackstock funds resulted in replacing the pews with new chairs. Two thousand dollars from the sale of the pews was donated to Port Perry Lakeridge Hospital CT Scanner Fund. The Sanctuary walls were painted, and the hardwood floors were refinished.

Occo implemented a Church & Hall Rental policy and procedures program. Rentals have included Yoga, Jazz Concerts (Lynn MacDonald), Theatre 360, small gatherings, etc. We believe rental usages will continue to grow once restrictions are lifted.

Live streaming is operating successfully. Thank you to Susan Tremayne -Moon, Jim Blight, Ben Cutmore and Rob Paré. Jim and Susan have volunteered to alternate streaming on a regular basis.

Currently, we have found the best methods of keeping “Church connected” is through our newsletters, Buddy Program, and live stream services. Thank you to Rev. Canon Ruthanne who sends out weekly newsletters. If you believe someone feels disconnected, please let us know; send us an email, phone us directly or leave a message on the Church phone. We have set up an office schedule to check both email and phone messages. Also, if you wish to become actively involved, we always welcome extra hands albeit office work, sides person, counter, chancel, envelope secretary, etc. Just get in touch with one of us.

Deputy Rector’s Warden, Gillian Daly, has decided to resign from this position. As you know, Gillian is a very hard-working individual who wears many hats. She has decided to prioritize her time and energy. We have appreciated her commitment as warden, and we know Gillian will continue to be an active member at Ascension sharing her words of wisdom and inspiration and most of all her humour. Thank you, Gillian.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Paré, People’s Warden

Occo VanTijn, Deputy Warden

Glynnice Avery, Rector’s Warden

Gillian Daly, Deputy Warden

# Committee Reports

## Outreach Committee Report

### Operation Scugog Food Bank 2021

Throughout the year, parishioners have been encouraged to donate to the Food Bank by buying extra items when grocery shopping and to either place them in the Food Bank collection bins at the local grocery stores, place in the box at church, or drop off at the Food Bank itself. Monetary donations were also encouraged by drop off or through the Canada Helps website.

Due to the Covid pandemic, the Christmas hampers campaign was adapted for safety. Operation Scugog decided to again give their clients gift cards along with food hampers. Gift cards were distributed starting in November for clients to purchase their own gifts. Supporters were encouraged to donate food, gift cards, or monetary donations. Donations could be dropped off at Operation Scugog (school portable next to Victory Christian Centre 593 Alma St.) Monetary donations could be made either by cheque/cash drop off in person or online through the **Canada Helps** website and selecting Operation Scugog.

Through the sales of Canadian Church Calendars, $120 was able to be donated to Operation Scugog.

Thank you for your continuing support of Operation Scugog and the Food Bank.

Operation Scugog can be contacted at operationscugog@gmail.com or leave a message at 905 985 3087.

Submitted by Anne Lane

### Syrian Refugee Sponsorship

This spring the Church of Ascension was approached by a small group of people called the Port Perry Reunification Group to ask if we could help in their wish to sponsor a Syrian family, related to another family already living here in Port Perry. They had already raised $41,000 but wanted the help that AURA (Anglican United Refugee Alliance) could provide. We were able to provide the supporting link as an Anglican Church. Our joint application has been subsequently accepted and we now are in waiting mode to see if this particular refugee family will win the sponsorship lottery. We have been warned that it might be three or four years before we hear the results.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan van Tijn

Treasurer’s note: The funds are invested in a 1 year GIC at the CIBC. When funds are needed a separate bank account will be opened.

### Additional Outreach Initiatives



## Worship Report

### World Day of Prayer 2021 – Anne Lane

March 5, 2021 was to be the Church of the Ascension’s turn to host the local version of the annual World Day of Prayer. Our previous hosting was in 2013 when the service writing and focus country was France. The country of focus for 2021 was Vanuatu and the service was written by women of Vanuatu. Of course, due to COVID, it was decided not to plan for an in-person service. Several options were prepared by the Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada - World Day of Prayer team.

As Ascension’s rep and local co-ordinator, my job was attending WDP Zoom meetings and sharing the information locally.  Rev. Ruthanne shared information with the local Ministerial. The WDP recorded service ended up being provided online and there were 2 showings on cable TV. It is unknown how many people were able to join the service online or on TV. People were encouraged to donate to the World Day of Prayer, but it is unknown how many did.

It was well worthwhile for me, and I learned a lot. It truly was a WORLD Day of Prayer as in many ways, the virtual meetings and service spread further and allowed many more people to participate than when most meetings and services were in person. The gathering in person with other churches’ representatives to plan, and the worship day itself, was certainly missed though.

According to the rotation list that has been kept for many years, the 2022 WDP on Friday March 4, is the turn of Scugog Island United Church to host.  However, this year’s service will be the same as 2021 – online, cable TV, or left to individual churches to use the programing as they see fit for their congregation.

### Worship Fund



## Pastoral Care Team Report

This past year we had the blessing of being able to expand our Pastoral Care Team and bring the Buddy Program into it’s sphere. Currently we have The Reverend Canon Dr. Jack Roberts, Mary Margaret Walters, Susan Gower, Anne Lane and Marian Falconer and myself on the team. Elaine Flowers was a part of our team for a long while prior to her move in the summer of 2021 - we miss you Elaine! A big thank you to each and every member of our team for the various ways in which they enable us to provide pastoral care to our parish.

When not in lockdown, we did our best to visit with those who requested visits. In particular, those who are most isolated, that is living by themselves. Visits were difficult though, during another year of pandemic, and so we made use of the phone as much as possible.

Susan Gower looks after sending cards to people and I know, personally as one who received a card, what a gift it is to be told you are held in prayer and being thought of. I know others in our parish appreciated this blessing too. The buddy system, coordinated by Marian Falconer, went through a bit of a transformation. Marian reports:

*As fall approached in 2021, and church reopened, it was decided that the leaders no longer needed to be in constant contact with their groups. However, with omicron wreaking havoc in the province, church was once again closed so we thought it would be a good idea to revise the lists and reinstate the calls or emails to our fellow parishioners. We have had a number of changes in both the leaders and the lists but we hope everyone has been included. Hopefully, monthly contacts will keep everyone feeling connected to the church and not feeling alone. I am sure we all long for the day we can meet freely as a congregation again and can see each other in person instead of relying on calls and emails.*

We meet about once a quarter or more to catch up with each other, the happenings in the parish and to pray for those most in need. We try to take some time during these meetings to also learn more about pastoral care and offer support and guidance for the issues that arise.

Our hope for the coming year is to build our growing team with one or two more visitors. We anticipate, as most churches do, more need for visiting as people who are more vulnerable, the elderly especially, will continue to wait to return to church for a while. Please let us know if you are interested - we just need people who are available at least once a month for about an hour.

Respectfully submitted:

The Reverend Canon Ruthanne Ward

## Chancel Guild

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the dedicated Chancel Members who have navigated through yet another year of ups, downs and change. Let us pray that this is the year we can return to a full Eucharistic celebration and set up.

I have some very creative folks in the Guild who did a fabulous job decorating for Harvest Thanksgiving and Christmas this year. As I write this, Easter is 12 weeks away so I am very hopeful we can celebrate Palm Sunday and Easter to it’s fullest glory!

Karen Barney has left Chancel and I would like to thank her for dedicated service over the years. I am so pleased to welcome new members Mary Blight, who returns after many years and Carol Moon who served on Chancel in her previous parish. Welcome ladies!

Many thanks to John Gower who looks after all things regarding the new oil candles. They are always filled and the wicks looked after properly.

It is a privilege and a pleasure to serve the Ascension family in my role as Coordinator for Chancel Guild.

Respectfully Submitted

Jan Thompson

## Choir Report

Because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, there was no choir singing allowed until the last week in October of 2021 when we were permitted to hold in-person choir practices and pre-record anthems which were played during the Sunday services. With the technical help of Rob Paré, we were able to record several anthems for a modified Advent Lessons and Carols service, the first one at Ascension since 2019!

Starting in the Fall, we were allowed to have a quartet of singers sing the hymns in person at the Sunday services.

Since choral singing was not allowed for most of the year, we were very blessed to have Ankelly Armstrong and Anne Lane sing and play several solos which were pre-recorded and played at services from time to time.

For the Remembrance Day service, the trumpeter, Paul Otway played in person.

The choir, and indeed the whole Parish, was very saddened to lose Thomas Greenwood, a beloved member of our Bass section. We had an opportunity to sing some of Tom’s favourite hymns for him on the front lawn of his daughter Lynette’s home in Whitby on a beautiful day in September.

The Choir and I were very happy to be able to gather and sing together this past year. We are all looking forward to the day when we, and the whole congregation, can once again sing together the beautiful hymns of the Church. I am sure that first Processional Hymn will be glorious! Until then, we live in great anticipation and steadfast hope.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Lambert

## Property Report

First of all, I would like to thank all members of the congregation and property committee who have helped with the many property issues that occur on an ongoing basis throughout the year. I would like the single out, Occo vanTijn, for as well as being a Warden; he has also taken on the task of overseeing the maintenance and repair of the Rectory.

On an annual basis, the Church, Hall and Rectory heating/cooling and security systems are inspected and repaired as needed. This past fall the furnace in the Rectory had a major repair completed and will eventually need replacement in the near future. A water leak was also repaired in the hall basement outside the Perry Room with no major damage.

I am pleased to announce that our church neighbours, Al and Helen Brownrigg, have taken on the task of our grounds upkeep and are looking after lawns, landscaping and snow control.

As for major projects that have been completed over this past year, the list below highlights these. These were funded by the GIC held at the Diocese.

1. Pews were sold and replaced with chairs to make the Sanctuary space friendlier, more comfortable and versatile to accommodate various uses.
2. The interior of the Sanctuary was completely painted; floor to ceiling and the floor was sanded and refinished with a new center runner carpet installed.
3. The Rectory had repairs made to exterior brick work and railings installed at the west entrance and basement stairs. The deck floor was repaired and will be fully upgraded in the spring along with improved landscaping in the back yard.

There are a number of outstanding items that need to be addressed and these will be dealt with as the year progresses.

Respectfully Submitted, Cliff Moon, Property Chair



## St. John`s Cemetery Report

2020 was a year to forget and 2021 has been another one. The 1918 pandemic eventually ended, as will this one.

At St. John`s Cemetery we have had an active year. Our annual meeting in March was held at Cedardale Farms in their large machine shed; it was warm and we could socially distance easily. We decided that night to develop the area we bought in 1997, and to buy another columbarium. The wheels were set in motion that night and by the time of our decoration Memorial Service, both projects were completed. We now have 24 niches in the new columbarium.

As we look around our cemetery and we see the names of small children on the monuments; someone loved these children enough to place a permanent marker in a place they knew would be there forever. It is with great sadness that I see how so many of our indigenous children were placed in the residential schools, died and were buried, with no marker of any kind.

One of the parishioners of St John`s Church,Tommy Hodge died last January and was buried in the family plot. That same lot is the final resting place of Tommy`s mother and father, his grand parents and his great grandparents. We also had 2 cremation interments, one in ground (Robert Hamilton) and one in the columbarium(Neil Bailey).

Our annual decoration Memorial Service on Sept.12 was a great success, and people were impressed with the condition of the cemetery. Rev. Ruthanne Ward officiated at the service. Many people placed flowers on their ancestors' graves. We thank people for their generous donations to help with the care and maintenance of the cemetery.

We welcome the people of the Ascension to come and see St. John`s and if you would like to use any of our services call the number on the sign at the entrance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lawrence McLaughlin



# Financial Information

Due to COVID the finance committee did not formally meet again this year.

# Envelope Secretary Report

This past year we have seen several changes here at the Ascension, along with the rest of the world. As you will see in my report there are a significant number of envelopes/PAG that were not used for various reasons. There were 75 issued giving numbers in 2021 and for 2022 there are 62. Some have moved on and others are using other giving options such as PAG and Canada Helps. For 2022 we have adjusted the number of box sets purchased to better reflect the reality of today.

Pre-Authorized Gifts (PAG) continues to be strong and should be considered as an alternative to the traditional box set of envelopes. They are recorded and receipted the same way as envelopes but by using this method of contributing to the Ascension family you ensure your gift is received every month even when you are unable to attend. This allows the Wardens and Treasure to better budget plan as they will know exactly how much money will be available to them each month.

Setting up a PAG account is simple. Once completed there is nothing more to do until you increase your offering next year. You will be provided with a giving number should you wish to make additional contributions through the year for specific seasons or events. Simply place your contribution into an envelope with your name, giving number or both marked on the outside.

I have had the honor of being the envelope secretary here at the Ascension for far too many years. I have told the Corporation that after prayerful consideration, it is time for me to pass this position on to someone who can take it to the next level. I am not going anywhere, so I will be available to assist, if necessary, the next person to take on this responsibility.

Thank you to everyone for the trust you have shown me in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted

Alan Sweet



# Treasurer’s Report

Please note that when comparing 2020 to last year’s Vestry report that the following adjustments have been made:

1. The CEWS relief amount increased $1,673. The Diocese credited these funds in March 2021; however, because the relief was for October – December 2020, the statements needed to reflect this adjustment in 2020 not in the year received. Proper accounting would reflect the relief as a credit against the stipend; however, I have chosen to include it in receipts to highlight.
2. The market value of the Consolidated Trust Funds held at the Diocese on December 31, 2020 was incorrect and parishes were notified of this error in April 2021. The impact of this change is a cumulative reduction in the opening balances of $7,868.

COVID has been very difficult on parish finances, and we continue to seek ways of reducing costs; however, the majority costs are fixed and as a result the only way the Church can present a balanced budget is to increase receipts.

The budget in 2022 shows an increase in dividend revenue of $4,050 as the plan to reinvest dividends will be reversed and $6,000 will be transferred from the Worship fund to the Operating fund.

Please review the following pages for the financial statement details.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Tremayne-Moon





