

St George's Anglican Parish Transcona

Annual Reports for the Year 2024

Prepared for the Annual General Meeting
on February 9, 2025



The Anglican Church of Canada

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1. Agenda for the 2025 Annual General Meeting of St George's Transcona

- Territorial Acknowledgement and Opening Prayer
- Welcome
- Minutes of 2024 AGM
- Adoption of Reports
 - Bishop letter
 - Rectors Report
 - Corporation Report
 - Summary of Parish Reports
- Finance
 - 2024 Year End Statements
 - 2025 Budget
 - Signing Authority
 - Appointing Website Administrator
- Elections
- New Business
 - Fund-raising events for 2025
- Closing Prayer

2. Minutes from AGM 2024

St George's Anglican Church Transcona
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Sunday February 11, 2024

Present: 39 people attended the meeting and signed the Declaration of Church Membership.

- Rev Wilson Akinwale asked Deb to chair this meeting.
- Deb Buxton – warden- called the meeting to order at 11:55am. She welcomed those present, and Rev Wilson Akinwale opened the meeting with a prayer.
- Adoption of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM:
 - Motion to adopt: Dorian Sherman Seconded: Dan Thagard Carried.
- Adoption of Written Reports:
 - Bishop Letter
 - Rector's Report
 - Corporation Report
 - Summary of Parish reports
 - Motion to adopt: Rowena Slater Seconded: Beverley Markwart **Carried**
- **Finance Reports:**
 - 2023 Year End Statements
 - 2024 Budget
 - Susan Snyder explained the content of both reports. General discussion with explanations as we have a new Accounting System and some of the category names are different.
 - Susan reviewed our current investments and associated interest. Susan explained known decreases in future contributions and resulting in a deficit for 2023 and 2024 budget.
 - Deb Buxton pointed out that we needed to increase the payroll expense by \$1000.
 - Deb noted we just received a legal bill from the Diocese associated with their legal representation in our parking lot property sale. This was not the expense that we were expecting- note \$3000.00. The bishop was acting as our incumbent and part of our legal corporation as we did not have a permanent incumbent at the time.
 - Motion to adopt the Finance Reports and the 2024 budget with the amendments: Dan Thagard, Second by Randy Rentz. Carried.
- **Elections:**
 - **People's Warden:** Sharon Cortvriendt
 - **Rectors Warden:** Deb Buxton
 - **Treasurer:** Susan Snyder

- **Vestry:**
 - Peggy Rentz
 - Penny Single
 - David Cortvriendt
 - Gail Cadigan
 - Beverley Smadella
 - Liz Beazley
 - Jennifer McDowell
 - Audrey Fardoe
 - Rowena Slater
- **Synod Delegates**
 - Deb Buxton
 - Dorian Sherman
- **Synod Alternate:**
 - Penny Single
- Motion to appoint and accept the positions as listed: Dan Thagard Seconded: Derrick Slater **Carried**
- **St. Georges Signing Authority:**
 - Warden: Sharon Cortvriendt
 - Warden: Deb Buxton
 - Treasurer: Susan Snyder
 - Envelope Secretary: Penny Single
- Motion to accept the following people with signing authority on our Bank accounts. Note: one signature must be a warden- Motion: Dan Thagard. Second: Randy Rentz. **Carried**

New Business

Lighting: Discussion around the replacement or repair of the lighting fixture in the church. Main floor has 4 fixtures that are no longer working. The fixtures are quite old and it's difficult to find the bulbs needed and to physically replace them with the high ceilings. Etc. One quote has come in and to replace all fixtures in the building- main floor, basement and exterior- the estimate is \$14616.29. With a possible Manitoba Hydro rebate of \$2252.00 leaving a balance of \$12,364.29. We need 3 quotes. We will look at getting the quotes to differentiate between the 3 areas- main floor, basement, exterior. Once we have more information, we will bring this info back to the congregation for discussion and decisions on how to proceed and fundraising efforts to offset some of the costs. If anyone has a connection to electrician companies, please let the vestry know.

Bathroom: the sinks and taps will need to be replaced in our bathrooms. 2 sinks per bathroom. They are starting to rust, and taps are old and starting to leak. Based on preliminary research, we hope to be able to replace all for ~\$1000. David (our head of maintenance) will work with a few of the parish members to manage this issue. Another small fundraiser will be planned to offset these costs.

Fundraising: Susan noted our budget relies heavily on fund-raising as our expected donation offerings are down.

With the probability of running a deficit budget yearly, we sold our parking lot to provide us with the additional funds needed to carry on, we have now hired a half time priest and that will also work in our favor financially. But even with our lean budget, many people taking on the tasks to run our church- we still need to be budget conscious and frugal to allow ourselves to continue and to be able to support our neighborhood doing God's work in our community.

Ideas for future fund-raising:

Social: Tom offered his bank to play for free. Deb will contact the Transcona Legion to see if we can use the hall again.

Motion to Adjourn: Dorian Sherman

3. Reports

3.1 Letter from the Administrator and Executive Archdeacon

Letter to 2025 Annual General Meetings of Parishes
January 2025

To the saints who are in Rupert's Land and are faithful in Christ Jesus,

May our Lord continue to bless you and all whom you love.

Our journey together over the past year took an abrupt and painful turn when in October we learned of our Bishop's diagnosis of cancer. I am writing this letter having just returned from breakfast with +Geoff. Through the challenges that chemotherapy brings he continues to pray for the wellbeing of the parishes and disciples of the diocese. He is in good spirits, and we continue to enjoy our conversations about today's church, most recently appreciating the insights of Wendell Berry and Tomáš Halik. Halik's *The Afternoon of Christianity* has been particularly engaging.

As we pray for guidance in electing a new diocesan bishop, I encourage us to listen for God's still small voice in all the chaos and peace of our daily lives. The Annual General Meeting of each parish can be a good opportunity to discern God's will as we listen to each other...our common hopes, our fears and joys, as we journey together as followers of Jesus. This meeting can be a time of renewed commitment to the wellbeing of neighbours, to the marginalized and to those who are yet to experience the kindness that each of us are invited to extend; not out of a sense of obligation or duty but from the deep abiding presence of love that Jesus has for each and every person born into God's creation.

In addition to the ongoing responsibility of Lay Synod Delegates to serve as a means of communication between parishes and the diocese, this year's delegates will have an opportunity and responsibility to come to the Electoral Synod on May 31st, along with the Clerical Members of Synod, for the purpose of electing our next diocesan bishop. The election of Lay Synod Delegates therefore has particular importance at this year's Annual General Meeting. Please pray for the parish elections and once they are over, continue to pray for these delegates as we journey toward the election. Their responsibility is an important one and they need our prayers of support and wisdom. I have attached some "Key Messages" from our Diocesan Search Committee.

May you be blessed throughout this year with faith, hope and love.



The Ven. Simon Blaikie
Administrator and Executive Archdeacon
Diocese of Rupert's Land

KEY MESSAGES FOR PARISH AGMs 2025
From the Bishop Search Committee

May 31, 2025, is the Synod to elect our next Bishop
YOUR 2025 Synod Delegates are the ones who are eligible to vote for our new Bishop

All information about this Synod can be found on the Diocese of Rupert's Land Website:
<https://www.rupertland.ca/news/information-on-the-upcoming-episcopal-election>

- Who is on the Bishop Search Committee
- What they have been asked to do
- Details on the process
- How you can contribute to the diocesan profile and the process
- Timelines

What we need from you - the parishioners of the Diocese of Rupert's Land
Let your voice be heard:

- Participate in surveys
- Encourage your vestry to send a brief congregational biography listing your congregation's strengths and challenges

The Bishop Search Process

- Profile of the Diocese of Rupert's Land
 - The profile becomes the key document that prospective candidates will review to discern if they are called to be nominated
- The profile contains information about who we are, where we came from, what we are today and what we want to be in the future
 - Our current challenges and strengths
 - Describes our vision and hopes
- Identifies qualities, competencies and key gifts we see as important in our next bishop
- The Profile will be available to be read by all once posted in late March

Candidates will have until April 25 to be nominated, and their names will be made public in May.

YOUR 2025 Synod Delegates are the ones who are eligible to vote for our new Bishop

3.2 Rector's Report

Rector's Report for Annual General Meeting 2025.

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Guiding Light, I welcome you all to this year's Annual General Meeting. It has been a great pleasure to be among you and serve as your Rector over the last one year. Since my family and I arrived on December 11th; with my first service of Eucharist on December 17th, 2023, we feel so blessed with your warm welcome and show of gratitude for your reciprocative gesture. Like I mentioned last year, "working with every one of you with every little thing that matters," I do know for sure God is leading us all together in this 'journey' into the future of the years ahead.

This year, our Diocesan Administrator and Executive Archdeacon Ven. Simon Blaikie sent us a message, below is an excerpt of this message:

...As we pray for guidance in electing a new diocesan bishop, I encourage us to listen for God's still small voice in all the chaos and peace of our daily lives. The Annual General Meeting of each parish can be a good opportunity to discern God's will as we listen to each other...our common hopes, our fears and joys, as we journey together as followers of Jesus. This meeting can be a time of renewed commitment to the well being of neighbours, to the marginalized and to those who are yet to experience the kindness that each of us are invited to extend; not out of a sense of obligation or duty but from the deep abiding presence of love that Jesus has for each and every person born into God's creation...

Over the last one year, I have been richly blessed of witnessing what God is doing in our midst from our corporate commitment to stewardship in various ministries of our dearly beloved parish. From meeting you during Sunday worship greetings, pastoral visits, your timely stepping in to several phone calls in attending to emergency situations that need urgent pastoral presence, I have seen your faith at work in our community with absolute willingness to proclaim the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ in our spiritual mandate through our Five Marks of Mission, that is:

- Proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom
- Nurturing of new believers
- Responding to human need by loving service
- Seeking to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- Striving to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Our parish was full of activities/events this past year: from Celebration of Black History Month Service in February to Fresh Faith Expressions in our Bible Study structure, preparation of new candidates for confirmation this year by our new bishop, quarterly Anointing Services, and your

generous donations for keeping our financials afloat with creative ideas, amazing fundraisers and your kind giving. Thank you!

Our outreach network community connections are also thriving with volunteers from our parish available to meet the needs of the world: PHC services - Park Manor, Concordia Place, River East PCH; Plessis Resource Centre, Thelma Wynne and Wechetowin. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and energy of sharing the good news of God's kingdom by loving service to our community friends and neighbours.

Last year, our premises took a facelift with a new building next door, and very soon we shall have new neighbours. And as you already know, 2024 was a very challenging year for us as a parish. We lost a few of our loved ones. One of these was very heartbreaking, but we submit ourselves to the perfect will of God as we fix our eyes on Jesus whose ways are past finding out as the Author and Finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2 Cf. Romans 11:33). We will continue to remember this family in our prayers as we all grieve together.

And looking ahead into the new year, I will be grateful to work with every one of you in every department of our parish as we flourish together. Peace and blessings of our Guiding Light who has called us to witness His good work and stewardship keep us all. Thanks be to God.

In Christ's Service,


The Reverend Wilson Akinwale
Rector

3.3 Corporation Report

Here we are again- how does this happen so quickly- It's true that time flies faster each year. We have been blessed with Wilson's presence for a whole year now. We have continued to worship in our space despite construction next door. We have continued through rain, sleet, snow and a great deal of mud and confusion, often with a lot of frustration and a few choice words from time to time. But as we have seen the snow cover some of the dirt- we are also enjoying a paved parking area. There was some confusion and challenges with this but hopefully it's been worked through. We will have more work to do on our part when the snow leaves and our spring season starts. At this point, we are not completely sure what that looks like. Our area behind the building will need some grading, the fence will be removed and possibly a partial fence up on the east side. We continue to have a lovely flower garden gracing the front of the building and thank the volunteers Margaret and Joyce for their loving care.

Over the past year we have been able to complete some significant projects with our building space- new lighting throughout and our bathrooms were updated thanks to some of our members both donating fixtures and their time to install them.

We have lost a few dear friends and family members and welcomed a few new ones.

We have been able to host events both for the fundraising aspect and more importantly for the fellowship time that we all seem to really enjoy and appreciate. That's certainly one of the things that Covid taught us.

With Rev Wilson's gift of tending to pastoral care- He visited many of our members (shut ins) and their families many times. These opportunities were truly appreciated by those who were not able to join us Sunday mornings.

We have continued our commitment to our monthly services at Park Manor. We are now extending this ministry to Concordia Place and River East Care Homes in 2025. In the summer we hosted a Park Manor tea and provided wonderful entertainment from an Elvis Impersonator. This was enjoyed by everyone- including our members who assisted with the event. We also hosted a Christmas Sing Along with Tom that was also thoroughly enjoyed by the Park Manor Residents.

We continue to look for new opportunities to spread the good news and help in our community, living our lives as disciples.

3.4 Summary of Parish Reports

4.1 Communications

Keeping everyone informed and up to date is important. We all know and appreciate hearing or reading about what's happening with our church and the members.

We have a small group of faithful disciples that work at keeping us all informed by updating our website, creating and sending out the weekly newsletter, recording our Sunday services and uploading to YouTube, updating bulletin boards, making weekly announcements, checking phone messages and phone calls or checking and sending emails.

Phone/Email/Mail: Penny continues to check the phone messages; Deb monitors the email and Sharon checks the mailbox. As items/ requests come in, the group contacts whomever needs to follow up or does the following up themselves.

Website: We have been working with our new website for several years now. Deb is our website editor and Sharon assists. We work to keep this website updated with news, events, our video services, and general info about our parish. The website info feeds the weekly email newsletter. We will keep adding Diocese information as we learn about it and hope you will look at the Diocese website or Rupert's Land News for more information.

Newsletter: Using the information, we upload to the website; Deb creates a weekly newsletter that includes our video service that is sent out via the newsletter weekly.

Facebook: Deb manages the Facebook page.

YouTube: Tom manages the YouTube channel.

Transcona Views: We continue to keep a short message in the monthly edition of Transcona Views. Deb sends our monthly update for publishing.

Bulletin Boards: Sharon maintains the church bulletin boards, posting important parish information like Vestry minutes and upcoming events, schedules for serving, reading, etc.

Parish letters and other announcements: Sharon, Deb, and Penny all work together to make sure all the information in these various communications is up to date and accurate. They created several print communications for the parish this year that are available online and in print such as our AGM reports, financial update letters etc.

Liturgies and Bulletins: Sharon creates and prints all the print resources we use in worship – psalm sheets, bulletins, and our seasonal service booklets.

4.2 Parish Administration

Wardens: Your wardens, Deb, and Sharon, do an incredible amount of work on behalf of the parish, only some of which is reflected in this report. They work daily as volunteers – faithful disciples performing a range of tasks that require a wide range of knowledge and expertise.

Corporation Executive: This group includes the incumbent and both wardens. During the past year we have met regularly to manage the daily workings of our parish. Although we meet to worship once a week on Sunday mornings, there are many activities happening behind the scenes that allow us to continue as a church. Your corporation (Wilson, Sharon and Deb) often meet weekly to stay on top of keeping our parish running.

Signing Authority for our Financial Institutions:

Warden: Sharon Cortvriendt

Warden Deb Buxton

Envelope Secretary: Penny Single

Treasurer: Susan Snyder

Vestry: Vestry meets every month on the 3rd Tuesday. They are responsible for tasks like reviewing our financial records and ensuring everything is accurate and in keeping with Diocesan and CRA guidelines. They also review the overall management of the parish, including visioning and future planning, building maintenance, and social events.

Treasurer: Susan Snyder continues in the role. She is using an accounting system that tracks all our finances. Susan has also advised us to make financial investments for our parish that have provided significant investment interest over the past year. Susan completes forms for the diocese and CRA. This role takes a lot of time and expertise, and we are so very blessed to have Susan continue managing this important part of our parish life.

With the changes when Casera Credit Union merged with Access Credit Union, we went through several challenges with the changeover in operating systems. Some of the changes have impacted processes for how we do business, track deposits etc. This required almost daily checks with Susan and Penny to ensure deposits and payments were made correctly. After many, many phone calls, in person visits and follow-ups- we have most of the kinks worked out.

Collection Counting: The offering we receive is an extremely important part of our church and allows us to continue operating. The offering is counted after every service, forms are completed for the treasurer and envelope secretary and funds are deposited at the credit union. Randy and Peggy continue to coordinate this ministry with a team of volunteers.

Financial Record Keeping and Receipts: Penny is our envelope secretary, who tracks our donations and issues the annual CRA receipts. Penny is using a separate computer program to track and receipt donations. We had hoped to move this activity to our Tithely system over the past year and that has not happened yet, and it is still on our to-do list.

Church processes, procedures, and guidelines: We continue to work towards having written documentation to describe the many different aspects of our church life. One of the issues we are facing is where we can electronically store these policies and procedures that allow multiple people to access them. We will work through some of these tasks over the next year. Examples of this are: collection counting, offering tracking, creating newsletters, managing email, checking on the phone voice mail, many treasurer tasks, insurance, church use contracts and 3rd party liability.

Parish Record Keeping: our diocese requires several forms to be completed and submitted yearly. Information on the number of services, number of people attending, our parish statistics, number of baptisms, confirmation, and funerals. Records are kept throughout the year. David completes a statistics form for each service and updates the parish books. Vestry meetings and other church-related business meetings are also tracked. Penny completes and submits all the statistical forms required by the diocese and maintains the parish list.

Other Admin: All other parish admin including reading and distributing information from the diocese, filing reports to the diocese, ordering office supplies etc. are currently being completed by Deb, Sharon, and Penny.

4.3 Liturgy

2024 was another year of change. This was our first full year with a half-time incumbent. We are now on a rotation of alternating weeks of Holy Eucharist services (with Wilson) and morning prayer services. We are blessed with 2 deacons and 3 licensed lay readers who take turns presiding at and assisting at every service. We have added the sacrament of anointing to a service every 3 months and this has had a very positive response from our parishioners. Anointing is always available on a personal basis by speaking with Rev. Wilson.

Services continue to be recorded and posted on our website for people who are not able to attend. Thanks to Tom for recording, editing, and uploading the services every week.

Liturgy Planning: We meet a few times per year to plan services. We are looking at 3-4 months at a time to schedule Wilson's time with us, to incorporate special services and events and coordinate special holidays like Christmas and Holy Week. These meetings confirm readings to allow Deb to plan music and Penny to resource the readers and prayers for each service. We align readings from the Anglican Church of Canada Lectionary. With the new style of sharing a priest we must work through the schedule to allow even time spent with both parishes. We may also have to change the service times for special events. We will announce any time changes once confirmed.

Readers, Prayers, and Servers: Penny has been the coordinator of this portion of liturgy for quite a while. Penny updates her scripture list from the liturgy plan (Wilson approved) and

seeks out volunteers to read the lessons, prepare the Prayers of the People and schedule servers. She posts the schedule and checks every Sunday. We are fortunate to have a few people who will pitch in for last-minute changes. We need help with the role of server and Prayers of the People. Please consider helping in these roles. Training and support provided.

Sides persons / Greeters: Coordinated by David. The sides person greets everyone coming into church, hands out the bulletins or service folders, counts the attendance by completing the attendance sheets. This role also includes carrying up the bread, wine and offering plates during the Offertory Hymn. We have a few unofficial sides-people but are always looking for more assistance with this important weekly task.

Altar Guild: The Altar Guild ministry is important as the work must be done to prepare the altar for each service. Setting up communion, ensuring the correct colors are in place and linens are clean and ready. Special seasons add additional set up like the creche for Christmas. Sharon and David have led this ministry. Rumor has it that David is the person in charge of the altar set up. Sharon focuses on the beautiful liturgical displays found throughout the sanctuary and the bulletin boards. There is a small group of volunteers that are assisting with this ministry.

Music: All our service music is planned by Deb. Once the liturgy and readings are confirmed then Deb searches for hymns and songs that support the messages. The music portion of our services is important. It supports the messages found in the liturgy each week and are selected with intention. We hope to evoke a personal emotional response to the hymns. Although this is an optimistic goal, any time a song or lyrics resonates with you, we have accomplished our goal. Our objective is to find additional ways to connect you to The Word.

Audio / Visual: We are blessed to have Tom lead us in music with voice and guitar. Along with playing and singing, Tom manages the sound board, all microphones and recording equipment. When he leaves the church, he heads home to review the recording, edit as required and then starts the upload to You tube which takes a few hours.

4.4 Parish Education

Over the past year, we have been able to offer bible study events with Lent and Advent and Confirmation classes using Zoom. With the recent news that our Bishop is on medical leave, we have completed the confirmation classes for 4 members, but the actual service has been postponed for now. Rev Wilson and Rev Deacon Beverley were able to lead these sessions. Rev Deacon Dan attended sessions as well and several parishioners attended the in-person studies.

With positive feedback on these education sessions, we will be offering more in the new year. These will be offered both in person and online monthly. Look for more information on our 'Fresh Faith Expressions' on our website.

4.5 Building

Maintenance Report 2024

- September, we had our furnace and air conditioner annual maintenance inspection done by Van Dale Mechanical. Everything was great and working properly.
- New lighting was installed, thanks to Allco Electrical, we got a very nice rebate thanks to Energy Manitoba. Great improvement and money saver.
- New bathroom sinks and taps were installed in both washrooms and two new toilets installed in ladies. Thanks to the St. George's Crew.
- Roy's Roto Rooter was called, due to a blockage in the main sewer line, caused by roots. Will be calling every two years for regular cleaning.
- Ongoing general maintenance is assessed and completed by David (and friends)
- Shoveling of the ramp and steps kept up by David, Dorian and others
- Regular checks on the fire extinguisher

Future maintenance concerns to be addressed in 2025:

- Removing the fence on the back lane area to provide additional parking.
- Regrading the back lane approach
- General upkeep like painting and staining
- Regular checking and replacement of emergency light batteries

Rentals: Hall Rentals are an important part of our parish ministry. Although they do generate some income, they also generate goodwill and help the community by providing a space for special events at an affordable price.

The rental process is managed by Sharon and David. The process includes communicating with interested renters, completing the necessary contracts and insurance forms, setting up, cleaning up, and supervising when the church is being rented.

4.5 Parking Lot:

We have been living through construction on the parking lot area throughout the past year. There were many challenges including no access to our building at times, a sea of mud and inaccessible parking lot from the construction equipment and crews. We needed to consult with our lawyer a few times. In the end we ended up with a paved parking area for our church, with parking stalls identified properly. We expect more issues to come up as the construction continues and perhaps some situations to work through once residents begin to move in. Regardless, this sale has allowed us to continue to worship in our space, update our heating and cooling system, have bright lighting to see what we are doing and to provide us with some financial security for the future. Thanks Be to God!

4.6 Parish Care

Parish Care describes all the different ways the members of our parish care for one another. Anyone who feels a pull to care for someone should be free to do so. It is important to be aware of what we can offer so that we can offer it freely and with joy while also offering a compassionate “no” when a request is beyond what we are able to provide. We value everyone who participates in and supports the life of our parish and view them as members.

Parish care activities include:

- 1) Communication
- 2) Prayer
- 3) Visitation (including providing reserved sacrament)
- 4) Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals
- 5) Other: anointing, house blessings, meals for people who are sick, showers, managing requests for financial support etc.

There is always parish care and work to do, and we will continue to support our members and friends and families.

Formally, we have documented some of these processes and will update as we move forward. We have liturgies available for baptisms and funerals and in 2024 we had the following:

- Weddings: 0
- Baptisms: 1
- Funerals: 3

4.7 Outreach

At St George's we place a high value on celebrating the strengths of our parishioners and our community. We are proud to be in Transcona and love supporting the good things that are already happening in our neighborhood.

We also support national and international projects through our apportionment payments and membership in the Diocese of Rupert's Land and the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund.

Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF): Sharon is our parish contact. The PWRDF focuses on areas of Preventive Health, Food Security, Empowering Women, Indigenous Programs, Humanitarian Response and Accompanying Refugees. We do have a fair amount of information about PWRDF in the Church.

Community Ministries at 321 Pandora: Our Church user groups have changed. The TOPS group have moved to a new location with better accessibility for their members. We continue to have

3 AA Discussion groups meeting Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings and our Knitting group meeting Monday in the daytime. These groups must continue with 3rd party liability insurance every 6 months. This is coordinated through Deb.

Thanks to these partnerships:

- AA was able to host approximately 160 meetings in 2024.
- The knitting group provided many, many donations of knitted clothing, scarves, mitts hats blankets etc. for several groups like the Plessis Resource Center.
- TOPS has offered monetary donations.

Benevolence: As we learn about needs within our parish or community, we have raised funds through donations to support the identified situations.

Park Manor: We have continued to support Park Manor Personal Care Home with a monthly Anglican Service. We continue to offer 2 thirty-minute services- one per floor. We have been using recorded hymns from Tom's collection created during lockdown. With the recorded music of familiar hymns and the screen showing the words, most of the residents sing along and seem to enjoy the service. We usually see 7-12 residents per floor, and we create a service, sing several hymns, offer communion and worship together. Deb coordinates events with Park manor and we have a small group of volunteers: Susan Altomare, Deacon Dan, Deacon Beverley, and Rev Wilson.

We also hosted our Park Manor Tea. Dates were changing related to outbreaks at Park Manor and our event was held in the summer. This year we had an Elvis Impersonator (friend of Debs) who entertained the residents and staff. St. Georges provided the treats, the entertainment and several volunteers to serve and visit with the residents.

In December we hosted a Christmas Sing Along event where Tom led the singing along with a few St. Georges volunteers. The Park Manor residents enjoyed the Christmas songs that ranged from Jingle Bells to Silent Night.

Food Security Network: Deb has been attending meetings of the Food Security Network to learn about what is already happening in Transcona and how we can best become involved.

Plessis Family Resource Centre: We continue to support this community group in several ways. We collect groceries weekly for their meal programs, community kitchen and food banks. We have a group of ladies who volunteer every Tuesday morning cooking, baking, and doing several jobs needed by the resource Center. Penny is the contact, and the group of volunteers includes Penny, Beverley M. Peggy, Joyce, and Susan A.

Christmas Memorial Tree is organized by Gail and provides an opportunity to decorate the tree with memories. Donations raised are sent to the Transcona Food Bank.

Thelma Wynne: Sharon is our coordinator. The Thelma Wynne Project is a community resource group that supports new moms and infants and provides them with essential baby items. The layettes include a crib blanket, receiving or cuddle blanket, at least one sleeper, outfit with an

additional onesie, a sweater or hoodie, hat, bib, socks or booties, Ivory soap, baby wipes, a small toy or stuffy and a small gift of toiletries for the mother. Each layette is assembled with items for babies from 3 to 12 months old and 10 diapers are included. Toddler items and newborn items, as available, are distributed to agencies to further support parents. Our primary contact is with the workers who directly assist the moms and babies. Baby is wrapped in the kindness of others and Mom is provided a letter of support and encouragement. Presently, the group assembles and distributes between 250 and 300 layettes annually.

Wechetowin: There was a request through vestry for our parish to become involved with the Wechetowin ministry for our diocese. Wechetowin is a Cree word for “People Helping People” a grassroots organization, formed in 2006 by the Rupert’s Land Aboriginal Circle of Elders. All of Rupert’s Land Wechetowin efforts are intended to address Healing, Wellness and Reconciliation. This is done holistically by ‘people helping people, connecting in a variety of ways, giving people hope in times of transition. The ministry is operating out of the Epiphany Indigenous Parish under the guidance of Rev Deacon Tanis Kolisnyk. The people of Rupert’s Land, gather supplies, fill the homemade blessing bags, smudge and bless the bags and then distribute them to children who are going through a new transition, as well as women who use the shelter programs in our community.

For St. Georges: Rev Deacon Beverley Markwart will lead this effort. More details will be coming about dates, meetings and what supplies we will be gathering.

Other Connections: We also support and have parishioners who volunteer with L’Arche, and the Transcona Food Bank at Transcona Memorial United.

4.8 Social Activities & Fellowship

Fellowship Time: We have coffee and treats after most services and sometimes serve lunch as well. Thank you to Penny for ensuring the coffee is on and Gail for her most delicious cookies and everyone else who helps set up and clean up and bring treats. This time is well attended and an important part of our fellowship.

Men’s Breakfast: The men’s group has been meeting on the first Saturday of the month. Dorian with his sidekick Derrick have been cooking breakfast for the group of 5-10 men where they try to solve the world’s problems over food and coffee. At Christmas – the event was opened to all members of the parish where a delicious breakfast was served and enjoyed by many.

Fundraising: Our fundraisers also include a social component. This year we hosted our annual Christmas Bazaar, and the annual Christmas Bake sale. We hosted a Harvest social event in collaboration with the Transcona Legion. Tom’s band Night Train entertained everyone. We are grateful for the volunteers and donations for the food, tickets, and social prizes.

4.9 Diocesan Involvement

Communications: The clergy, wardens, treasurer, and synod delegates all receive regular email communications from the diocese. Communications and events are shared via the website and newsletter and announcements at service.

Diocesan Council: Deb and Dorian served on Diocesan council until October 2024. At Synod 24- Deb was re-elected to Diocesan Council. Dorian was elected as an alternate. Deb was also elected to Executive Diocesan Council and the Bishop Search Committee.

Synod 2024: Synod was held in October 2024 in Winnipeg. Synod is the Annual General Meeting of the Diocese of Rupert's Land. Rev Wilson, Deacon Beverley, Dorian and Deb attended. In November, Deb did a parish presentation during worship summarizing the activities of Synod and all the motions presented.

Training: When there is training or other opportunities for parish involvement at the diocesan level, we post these things on the website. Additionally, all clergy were required to get new criminal records checks, attend mandatory anti-racism training, and strongly encouraged to come to the clergy conference. All these things are paid for by the parish.

4. 2023 Financial Reports

See attachments.

5. 2024 Budget Proposal

See attachments.

6. Nominations

Priest's Warden –(appointed) Deb

Treasurer – (appointed) Susan.

People's Warden -Sharon

Vestry:

- Peggy
- Penny
- David
- Gail
- Bev S
- Jennifer M
- Audrey F
- Liz
- Rowena

Synod Delegates (2)

- Deb B
- Dorian

Synod Alternate – (1)

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