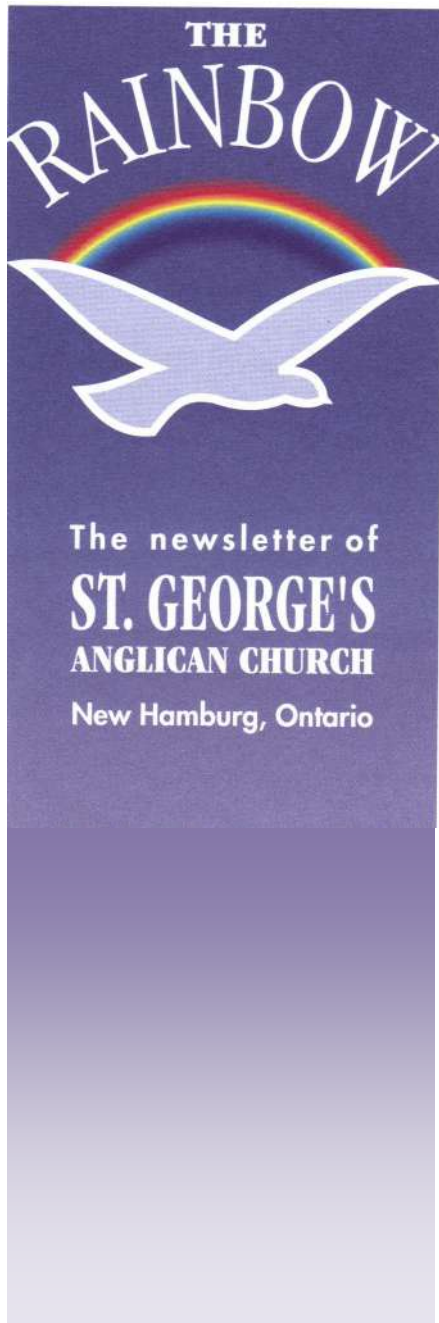




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The Journey Continues

Well, it's been quite a year at St George's, New Hamburg! When my wife, Karen and I arrived last September, you gave us a warm welcome and it's been a real delight for us to get to know you and your ministry here in Wilmot Township. As Interim Priest it's been exciting to see your faith and ministry in action.

For example, your involvement with the Deanery Refugee Committee and Sleeping Children Around the World shows a real compassion for those of God's children who are in great need. As a parish you remember how Jesus said, "that which you do for the least of these little ones, you do for me..."

Another example of your faith in action is your great energy for working together with other Christian churches in your community. Your ongoing teamwork with Trinity Lutheran and Zion United is wonderful Christian witness.

And then there's your steadfast desire to make new members feel welcome and included. You talk to new folk and invite them to coffee and goodies after the service. You make the parents and children feel comfortable and part of the regular worship.

You're also very aware of how important it is for the church and hall to be accessible for all ages regardless of mobility issues. And so, in spite of many hurdles, you have steadily moved closer and closer to the dream of a church and hall that is accessible to all.

These are all signs of a Christian community that is full of hope for the future and ready to spread the good news of God's love. You are excellent examples of what it is to be disciples of Jesus. and so the Kingdom of God will continue to grow.

As my time as Interim Priest comes to an end, I send my blessings upon you as your Christian ministry continues. Karen and I feel very blessed to have walked with you on this part of your journey. May the Kingdom of God continue to unfold in your hearts and your community!

The Rev Canon Dr Lorne Mitchell

Wardens' Update

What an exciting time we have had at St George's since Easter! Welcoming new parishioners, exploring innovative ideas, and working on several new projects has been rewarding.

In May, we had a very successful parish council retreat during which we reflected on our goals for the next two years as we approach our 190th anniversary in 2028. We spent a great deal of time defining goals and projects. Since then, progress toward completing these projects is happening: the parish house was listed for sale. We were presented with an offer that we felt was good and the closing date is July 27th.



We have also purchased and installed a new shed from Old Hickory Sheds in Shakespeare. Many thanks to Paul for his coordination on this

project. Renovations on the vestry office, by Major Decorating of Kitchener, are nearly complete, and we are aiming to set up the new office by July 27.

As a result of all these projects, we have experienced significant pressure on

our operating budget. To avoid cash flow difficulties, a special vestry was held on July 5 to authorize moving some funds from an unrestricted endowment fund into our regular operating account.

With the assistance of our territorial archdeacon, the Venerable Rob Lemon, we are also moving forward in our search for a new priest. He has proposed that we explore a partnership with Holy Trinity, Kitchener to engage a full-time priest who would serve half-time in each parish.

Another innovation this spring has been the creation of a team of volunteers to cut the lawn and tend our flower beds. This has saved over \$3,000. Many thanks to those that came forward to volunteer their time.

What fun we had at the church picnic with the kids enjoying the bouncy castle and bubbles! The BBQ food prepared by the men was enjoyed by all.

In keeping with our commitment to truth and reconciliation and learning more about Ontario's indigenous peoples, we are organizing a bus tour to Midland on Saturday September 12th (see back page for details).

St. George's, of course, will be open for worship each Sunday this summer, in our air-conditioned, beautiful worship space.

Carol Massel and Gail Cuthbert Brandt

ACW Update

The ACW group continued to meet monthly this spring, with a change of meeting times to Sunday mornings before service to make it easier for employed women to attend. The meetings now begin at 8:45 am with a light breakfast and usually include a speaker.



**Anglican
Church
Women**

In April, our guest presenter Sherry Ulmer of Tavistock, led us in a sequence of chair yoga exercises. They looked easy to complete, but we

quickly realized how many parts of our bodies benefited from the various movements. Even ten minutes of chair yoga a day can greatly

improve strength, agility, balance, and flexibility.

Our May speaker was Trish Robinson, Executive Director of the Wilmot Wellesley Resource Centre. Trish provided us with an excellent overview of the many services that WWRC provides (food bank, counselling, free income tax preparation, parenting & family support, child & youth programs, family violence prevention, employment & resume assistance.) She expressed both her gratitude to St George's for our ongoing support of WWRC, and her interest in exploring new ways with us to support those in need of services in our community. We are looking forward to discussing those opportunities with her and her staff in the coming months.



In June, our meeting was a luncheon at the Schmidtsville Restaurant in Wellesley. A good portion of our conversation was dedicated to remembering our beloved member, Marcie Barkley, who passed away on May 29th. Members shared several lovely stories about her, and they helped ease our great sense of loss.

There are no meetings in July and August, but they will resume in the fall on every third Sunday of the month. Our first meeting will be on Sunday, September 20th at 8:45 am in the parish hall. Please join us and bring a friend!

*Join us for the St James Annual Harvest Service:
Sunday October 4th at 3:00pm*

St James Chapel of Ease and Cemetery Update

After the winter, spring was on our minds, especially the St James Anniversary service held on June 14th. This year Rev Lorne led the service of Holy Communion and Rev Canon Neil Carver presented the homily. Rodney Yantzi once again filled the church with wonderful music. At the conclusion of the service, we presented a beautiful oil painting by a local New Hamburg artist, Barb McLeod. In September, when I attended the art show, I decided St James should have her beautiful oil painting on our walls. We have had it framed and it will be hung for our fall service. There also have been prints made of this painting in two sizes – these will be available for those who wish them.



The other exciting project that is in the works is the cleaning of the old monuments in the cemetery adjoining the church. This will be taking place over the next couple of years. It is an arduous job and completed by a lot of work by hand. Angie, whose company's

name is Eternal Care Stone Services, will be recording before and after photos as she works.

We look forward to meeting with you at our annual harvest service being held Sunday October 4th at 3:00pm.

Carol Massel, Curator

Financial Update

<u>Second Quarter</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u> <u>2025</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u> <u>2026</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u> <u>2026</u>	<u>YTD Variance</u> <u>2026</u>
General Donations	\$ 30,036	\$ 26,214	\$ 27,548	\$ (1,334)
Building & Capital Fund	\$ 2,330	\$ 1,250	\$ 2,250	\$ (1,000)
Total Expenses	\$ 72,605	\$ 76,729	\$ 77,353	\$ (624)

Comments

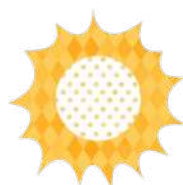
Sincere thanks to our church members for your continued and generous financial support of St. George's. It is most appreciated and helps to manage increased costs this year.

General Donations are 4.8% less than 2026 YTD budget, and \$3,822 less than 2025.

Building and Capital Fund donations are 44% less than budget.

Total expenses are within 1% of 2026 YTD budget, but 5.7% greater than 2025.

John Collings, Treasurer



Have a Safe and Happy Summer!

Welcome!

A warm welcome to new parishioners Emily & Brendan and Hailey and Liam, Sandy & Kevin, Betty Jean, and welcome back for the summer to Faith! We are so glad to have you with us!

We Remember ...

With heavy hearts we remember Fran Taylor and Marie Barkley, who passed earlier this year. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Bus Trip!

Join us on a day trip to two stunning National Historic Sites: Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons and the Martyrs' Shrine in Midland, Ontario. Take a step forward in the journey toward truth and reconciliation. **Reservation Deadline: August 24, 2026.** For more information and to reserve your spot, please contact Gail at gcbbrandt26@gmail.com

WHEN: Saturday Sep 12th, 2026 from 8am - 5pm

PICKUP POINT: 7:45am New Hamburg No Frills parking lot

TICKETS: \$80 / Adult, \$50 / Youth under 18yrs. Ticket cost covers bus and admission fees. Bring your own lunch or purchase on site.



*Many thanks to all
of our volunteers!
We are blessed to
have you.*



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