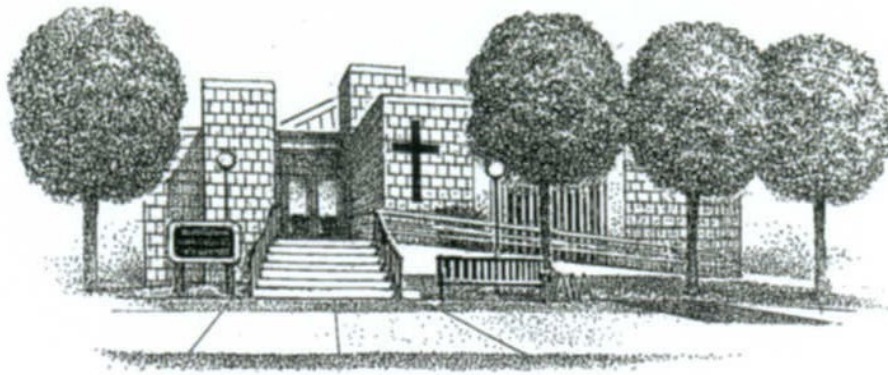


St. Martin's

ANGLICAN CHURCH

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING FEBRUARY 25, 2024



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AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Election of Vestry clerk
 - a. Signing In
3. Review Agenda
4. Adopt Minutes of 2023 Vestry Meeting
5. Incumbent's Report
6. Wardens' Report
7. Appointment/Election of Officers
8. Accept Reports of Church Committees and Groups
9. Financial Reports
10. 2024 Budget
11. Appointment of Auditor
12. General Business
13. Motion to adjourn
14. Closing Prayer

The College of Bishops Pastoral Letter to Vestries, 2024

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



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

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

Dear friends,

Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world God loves.

Simple and elegant. These few words capture the essence of a Vision that we have been pursuing and discerning throughout the Cast the Net process, a visioning exercise that began while we were still in pandemic mode. Over the course of several consultations, we listened to one another, and for the leading of the Holy Spirit. With time, sifting and testing, 20 Calls were revealed at Synod, which were supported with enthusiasm. A final version of the Calls will be received by Synod Council in February. We continue to be grateful to the Steering Committee and consultants, who have led our work together over the past 18 months. And now the work begins to incorporate these Calls into the life and ministry of the whole Diocese. This is the time for parishes large and small, missions, ministries, committees and Synod Council to animate the Calls in our own contexts. It is almost impossible for one community to embrace all twenty, but by serving together from Mississauga to Brighton, Midland to Minden, and all points in between, we can!

We begin this journey with a Season of Spiritual Renewal. We embrace the Call to deepen our walk together as communities by immersing ourselves in prayer, reading and reflection on scripture, worship and sharing our stories of faith with one another. As we promised in our baptism: we will “continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers”. This Season will be supported by the Rev. Canon Dr Judy Paulsen, members of a steering committee and the College of Bishops. We hope that you will be able to join us for Diocesan worship events, learning opportunities, programs and fellowship that entice us all to walk more closely in the footsteps of Jesus.

We are delighted to reach across our borders to deepen our friendship with the Diocese of Brasilia. Brasilia is a relatively new diocese, birthed in 1985, with a small number of parishes, missions and ministries. We were delighted to welcome their Bishop Mauricio Andrade and his wife Sandra to our Diocesan Synod in November. We will learn from, grow with, and support one another as we strive to serve Christ in our unique circumstances. And we look forward to opportunities for delegations of our clergy and laity to visit back and forth, both in-person and online, as we deepen our affection for one another.

We are proud of and amazed at the ministry taking place across our Diocese, especially in the areas of youth, ecumenism, creation care, diversity, and faith formation. We encourage you to consider this year’s Diocesan Social Justice motion on housing, and to prayerfully support our Church’s advocacy for every person’s right to adequate shelter. We are convinced that the Holy Spirit is leading and guiding us, and challenging us to bravely find new ways to work and worship together, to increase in courage, to share our passion for the Good News of Jesus, and to seek and find new meaning as followers of Christ in the 21st century, where we are confronted with emerging economic and social challenges. We want to express our heartfelt thanks to all who make up our dynamic community of faith – lay people, deacons, priests – all helping to give a glimpse of the Reign of God as it unfolds in our midst.

As your bishops, we know the joy and privilege of serving the Church in this Diocese. We thank all those who have joined us in giving leadership over the past year. We have recently celebrated one year of our new diocesan leadership model, and we are immensely grateful to our new Territorial Archdeacons and Canon Administrator for stepping into their roles so effectively and with such faithfulness. The five of them have helped to ease the bishops' administrative load, allowing us to focus on some of the other work to which we have been called and ordained.

Whether your work is changing this year, whether you are stepping out of your role at this Vestry meeting, or stepping into a new ministry, or continuing on in your good work, please know that we are here to support you in every way we can. We want to encourage you in Gospel ministry, in the initiatives and relationships that you are building, as you cast your nets ever wider in a world that is hungry for Christ - for meaning, connection and belonging.

Our mission statement is simple and elegant. And it invites us, like the dismissal at the close of the Eucharist, to action. We invite you to incorporate these words in your liturgies on Sunday morning:

Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world God loves.

Thanks be to God!

Yours faithfully in Christ Jesus,

The Right Rev. Andrew J. Asbil
Bishop of Toronto

The Right Rev. Riscylla Shaw
Suffragan Bishop of Toronto

The Right Rev. Kevin Robertson
Suffragan Bishop of Toronto

ST. MARTIN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023

Arnold, M.	Bourner, E.	Bowen, D.	Collier, F.
Collier, T.	Cuciurean, D.	Davidson, A.	Davidson, P.
Dunnill, P.	Farrugia, D.	Ferrara, A.	Hall, J.
Hammond, J.	Henderson, D.	Henderson, G.	Jones, D.
Jones, S.	Loftus, J.	Loftus, M.	Lynn, L.
Lynn, M.	Mackay, R.	Mackay, T.	Martin, F.
May, D.	Miller, D.	Moore, J.	Moore, S.
Morgan, M.	Moroney, E.	Pieterse, A.	Pollard, S.
Powell, B.	Powell, P.	Rowlands, A.	Scanlon, A.
Slade, A.	Suckling, G.	Sutton, M.	Sutton, R.
Tataryn, W.	Taylor, Q.	Vasey, S.	Watters, E.
Watters, K.	Wyllie, M.		

Rev. Shelly Pollard opened the meeting at 11:32 am with prayer and appointed Shelley Moore as Vestry Clerk.

It was moved by Debbie Cuciurean and Andrea Ferrara to accept the agenda. Carried.

It was moved by Lee Lynn and John Loftus to accept the minutes of February 6, 2022. Carried.

It was moved by Felicity Martin and Debbie May to accept the Incumbent's Report. Carried.

It was moved by Rob Mackay and Mark Lynn to accept the Wardens' Report. Carried.

Appointments and Nominations –

The appointments and nominations slate for 2023 was presented with the following changes from last year:

Rob Mackay was appointed as Rector's Warden.

Art Slade was acclaimed as Lay Member of Synod.

Marilyn Dunnill was acclaimed as Alternate Lay Member of Synod.

It was moved by Tami Mackay and Gail Henderson to accept the appointments and nominations as presented. Carried.

It was moved by Debbie May and John Loftus to accept all the reports of the church committees. Carried.

Joe Moore presented the financial statements.

It was moved by Joe Moore and Gail Suckling to accept the financial statements. Carried.

Joe Moore presented the proposed budget for 2023.

It was moved by Joe Moore and Peter Davidson to accept the budget. Carried.

It was moved by Joe Moore and Art Slade to reappoint Dawn Flett and Associates as auditors for the coming year. Carried.

General Business

Rob Mackay read the Social Justice Vestry Motion.

Motion: We, the parish of St. Martin's, Pickering call on the Province of Ontario to double social assistance rates for both Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program, and therefore to index these rates to inflation, so as to provide a safety net that enables people to meet their most basic needs.

It was moved by Rob Mackay and Patrick Dunnill to accept the Vestry motion to be a goal for the year 2023. Carried.

Rob Mackay gave gratitude to Rev. Shelly for her continued leadership.

Rev. Shelly thanked everyone for their continued efforts during this time and to Michelle Loftus for her work as a Rector's Warden.

Rob Mackay, on behalf of David Bowen, thanked Peter Davidson for his continued hard work at St. Martin's and to Joe Moore as Treasurer.

Marie Arnold gave her thanks to the Prayer Chain group and to Anne Davidson for taking over the leadership of this group.

At 12:00 noon it was moved by Peter Davidson to adjourn the meeting. Carried.

INCUMBENT'S REPORT

Dear Friends in Christ,

This past year offered a return to a “new normal”, as we have shed many pandemic related restrictions, offering us a new rhythm of being in our church community. During our Vestry meetings and through reviewing our Vestry reports, we can set aside time to reflect on where we have been, but I would also encourage us to look ahead to ponder new initiatives we can engage in as a community.

On careful reflection, we can see how much has changed in the past few years. We have adapted in how we have interacted with one another. Yet, this past year we were able to reintroduce the passing of our collection plate at the offertory and having people at the altar rail to receive Holy Communion. Even though we have reintroduced traditional practices, we have done so with adaptations and compromises. We continue to leave offertory plates at the rear of the church prior to each service, to accommodate those who wish to make their contributions in that way and during communion, we have left the altar rail opened, to allow a clear space in the middle for those who prefer it. This will be our method as we go forward as a community. We will adapt and find a balance for creating practices and traditions that suit our community going forward. We have emerged from the pandemic as a different community with some who were here before, and some we have welcomed along the way. God is at work in our midst, and we will do our best to continue to reflect and discern the way forward.

There is much that we can reflect on with fondness. We have celebrated four baptisms last year, each one offering us moments of joy and celebration. We have had many great events, many we will read about in the various ministry reports, with each event providing connection and joy in the community. The Christmas in Advent Tea saw many different people from our wider community attend and share in food, worship, and fellowship.

This past year, St. Martin's was also invited to share in events in the wider local community, those who share the same geographical space as us. We participated in the Community Advocacy Networking Conference this past summer and interacted with over two hundred youth from Durham Region, sharing who we are with the wider community.

We continued the year of sharing ourselves, through meeting with Mayor Kevin Ashe, including having him host a Town Hall at St. Martin's. Again, sharing with others who we are is part of what I believe is our call to be out in the world. How we engage with our community will evolve and going out to where our community is will play a part in how we continue to build connections.

Likewise, the Caribbean Cultural Event, held with St. Paul's-on-the-Hill Anglican Church, saw over 250 people attend, including our Suffragan Bishop Rycilla Shaw and her husband Jay Shaw. This event was one of collaboration and teamwork and the incredible team at St. Martin worked tirelessly to help ensure the success of the event. My sincere thanks to the Steering Committee: Moyah, Denise, Lee, Debbie, and everyone else who helped to source Silent Auction items, helped with decorating, setting up, cleaning up, and with all the very many tasks. This was a huge undertaking by our community, yet we more than succeeded in this community collaboration.

As we look forward, we give thanks to so many who have served so faithfully in our community. Truly, the work each of you do is so incredible and I remain so thankful to each of you. Each year I remain

amazed to see how many people sign up to serve in all of the various ministries. Likewise, if you are reading this report and would like to sign up to help in any ministry, please speak to me as it is not too late to get involved.

We have also had a staffing change in our church, with the departure of Organist and Music Director Ted Moroney last fall, and welcoming Dr. Alexandra Weiss as a guest organist. Dr. Weiss brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, and we are so thankful for our continued music ministry.

We also say thank you to Elaine Watters and Denise Farrugia as our Deputy Rector's Warden and Deputy People's Warden as they conclude their service in these roles. Both have served faithfully and diligently these past two years as we have navigated many difficult changes as we have emerged from the pandemic. They have been a tremendous help to our community, and I thank them sincerely.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Rob Mackay and Moyah Morgan who will remain as our Rector's Warden and People's Warden. They both continue to work tirelessly as we have had to navigate some very challenging times in our community. We will also welcome Art Slade as the Deputy Rector's Warden. Art brings a wealth of financial knowledge and leadership qualities to our church's leadership team.

I also extend my gratitude to Joe Moore, our treasurer, Peter Davidson, our Envelope Secretary, Sharon Jones, our Parish Administrator, Alison Scanlon, our Parish Caretaker, and Rev. Richard Newland, our Honorary Assistant.

As we look forward, I pray that we continue to look at how God is leading us outside of our building and into our community. Yes, we attend to the work before us, but as we "go out into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit," may we continue to look at how we are called to be as a community.

It is a joy to serve with you all!

In Christ,
Rev. Shelly

HONORARY ASSISTANT REPORT

In the fall of 2023, I took on the joy of directing the radio play, *A Christmas Carol* for the Back Pew Players. It was great fun for me to step back into the role of “Director” as I’ve been involved with community theatre for a long time. The cast worked diligently, and you enjoyed the fruits of their labours. Too bad it was only one performance! Perhaps the future may hold more bold undertakings. I do know current plans are to mount another radio play for performance in late 2024.

As you know, I serve at the pleasure of the Incumbent so my Sunday duties can vary but generally it involves me celebrating the Eucharist and preaching once per month. I’m also available to step in to assist the Incumbent whenever necessary. As such, Shelly has assigned me the Easter Vigil service (April 30) so I will work with our musicians to make this a meaningful event. Personally, I believe the Vigil to be the singularly best service the Church has to offer – it is full of mystery and majesty. I also hope to offer a different version of the Stations of the Cross at some point within Holy Week.

I am enjoying my time with you. Over the course of my ministry, I have served in a variety of churches, all varying sizes from the very small to the rather large. It is a pleasure to be in a church of this size. I think too often parishes fall into the trap of limited thinking because of they are “small.” That is a shame because size has nothing to do with success. I am confident that St. Martin’s and the people who worship here can rise to any challenge that comes its way.

I shall be absent from the Vestry meeting, as I will be in the Antarctic at that time. I trust it will be a fruitful meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Richard Newland

WARDENS' REPORT

2023 was a year of challenges, both in our personal and church lives. Yet we celebrate many successes through all of these challenges, we have indeed overcome and for those we haven't yet overcome, we continue to work on them. As Reverend Shelly continue to help us navigate these challenges, we continue to worship both in person and online through our YouTube Channel. Rev Shelly, we thank you for your continued commitment throughout this year. Father Richard, our honorary Priest, your continuous presence here with us, shows we're doing something right. Thank you for still being with us, taking us as your home and helping us through the ups and downs. Our Parish Administrator has been with us for a full year. Sharon, thank you, thank you for continuing this journey with us, we know it has not been easy at times, Rob, Elaine, Denise and Moyah, truly appreciates it. Allison, thank you for continuing to ensure that our church remains clean and spotless. Our music ministry has seen some challenges this year, as Choir Director and Organist Ted fell ill and was not with us for a while. During this time, we had several guest musicians who shared their musical talents with us, Catherine, Kirk and Alexandra, thank you. Regrettably, Ted resigned his position and we have commenced a search for a new Choir Director and Organist. Thank you to Ted for sharing with us your gift of music, we continue to pray for your continued success on your healing journey. Joe, thank you is not enough for what you have done for this parish. You have kept our finances on solid ground and for this we are truly grateful. To our projection and audio-visual teams, thank you for helping to enhance our worship service in person and to give those a chance who are unable to be with us in person an opportunity to do so on our YouTube Channel.

Our office received a face lift which included reorganizing and archiving. For the first time we were invited by the Durham Regional Police – Youth in Policing Initiative to their semi-annual Community, Advocacy, and Networking Conference during the summer at Durham College. Thanks to Rev Shelly, Denise and Lee for manning our booth.

For the first time in our church's history, St. Martin's Anglican and St. Paul's on the Hill co-hosted a joint fundraiser at the Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex in September called Caribbean Culture Event. This collaboration gave and taught both churches unique experiences and most importantly, it was a great success. Thank you to the St. Martin's team: Rev Shelly, Denise, Lee and Debbie. Ministry Training Day was held this year, this saw all ministry representatives meeting with Rev Shelly to have a refresher in the various ministries which each parishioner is a part of. The Wardens hosted a thank you social for all the volunteers of the Holly Bazaar. To the volunteers, we know you had a lot of work done to make the Holly Bazaar a success. So, on behalf of the church, we say many, many thanks, we appreciate you.

Finally, to all our parishioners, thank you for always being here and doing your fair share of the work. You continue to show how much you love your Church St. Martin's and for that the Wardens Rob, Elaine, Denise and Moyah show much appreciation and say lots of thank. Looking forward to your continued support and involvement so we can have a wonderful 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Moyah Morgan, People's Warden

ST. MARTIN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

SUMMARY

	<u>Actual to</u> <u>31-Dec-23</u>	<u>Budget to</u> <u>31-Dec-23</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Income:	\$269,783	\$270,002	-\$219
Total Expenses:	\$278,884	\$270,002	\$8,882
Net ordinary income for the year to date:	-\$9,101	\$0	-\$9,101
Other Income:	\$37,809		
Net Income:	\$28,708		

Budget Variances

Income: TOTAL INCOME of \$269,783 was under budget by \$219.

- \$1,500 AV upgrade over budget
- \$1,329 EFT's over budget
- \$2,065 Parish Events over budget.
- \$1,449 Outreach under budget.
- \$4,415 Other Envelope Offerings under budget.

-\$970

Expenses: TOTAL EXPENSES of \$278,884 over budget by \$8,882.

- \$8,211 Special Projects over budget.
- \$855 Personnel expenses over budget.
- \$922 Utilities over budget.
- \$1,400 Audit fees under budget.
- \$1,930 Church maintenance under budget.

-\$6,658

Income over Expenses before other items:

-\$9,101 The expenses for 2023 exceeded income by \$9,101.

Other Income:

- \$363 Reinvested income credited to our investments in the Consolidated Trust Funds with the Diocese.
- \$37,746 Unrealized capital gains for the Consolidated Trust & Rectory Trust Funds investments.

Excess of Income over Expenses:

\$28,708 Net income for 2023.

Note:

Although our income was up, our expenses were also up and we finished the year with a \$9,101 operating deficit. We had hoped for a zero deficit after running a deficit the last four years. We started 2023 with \$9,841 in available cash (cash in bank and Consolidated Trust Fund minus designated funds). We are starting 2024 in a negative cash available position of -\$762.

Our cash reserves have been severely depleted in order to cover our past deficits.

ST. MARTIN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

FINANCIAL REPORT 2023 (Cont'd)

Cash on Hand, December 31, 2023

	<u>Cash on Hand</u>	
	Cash in bank	\$18,597
	Consolidated Trust Funds	\$0
		<u>\$18,597</u>
	<u>Less, Designated Funds</u>	
	Deferred Income - Cemetery Trust Funds	-\$5,230
	Rotary Club Garden Bed	-\$1,500
	Youth Group Fund	-\$1,361
	Urgent Response Fund	-\$1,329
	Rent Deposit	-\$5,020
	Designated Outreach carried forward to 2022	-\$4,919
		<u>(\$19,359)</u>
	Cash available for operating expenses:	<u>-\$762</u>

Financial Audit

At the beginning of 2015 we selected a qualified accounting firm, Dawn Flett & Associates of Ajax, to conduct our financial audits. Effective in 2023, we will be undergoing a Review Engagement as opposed to a Full Audit. This review meets Diocese requirements and will save the parish money.

We are benefitting from the firm's policy to apply a discount to the fees they charge to local churches.

When the Review Engagement for 2023 has been completed, a copy of the official report will be posted on the notice board next to the office.

BUDGET 2024

We are blessed with the generosity of our church community which continues to build upon our foundation of joy and love.

We are proposing a balanced budget. The numbers used are what is known or most probable. They do not account for "what if" scenarios. We are looking at income and expenses equal to the 2023 Actual Income and Expense.

We are grateful that Montessori Casa are operating a successful venture. In 2024 they will be providing us with \$55,008 of income.

In order to cover the deficit in 2023, our cash on hand and all funds from the Consolidated Trust Fund were used. It is not all doom and gloom as we do have \$8,301 in Accounts Receivable coming to us early in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Moore

**ST. MARTIN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
INCOME & EXPENSES FOR 2023 AND
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2024**

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2024</u>
General Revenue	\$115,513	\$118,715	\$118,724	\$127,035
Restoration and Development	\$7,768	\$8,000	\$8,109	\$9,000
Other Envelope Offerings	\$30,930	\$15,000	\$10,875	\$10,100
Special Projects	\$1,157	\$9,016	\$10,516	\$1,500
Outreach - FaithWorks	\$20,491	\$21,500	\$19,119	\$19,200
Outreach - Other	\$4,758	\$4,300	\$5,233	\$5,100
<u>TOTAL ENVELOPE OFFERINGS</u>	\$180,617	\$176,531	\$172,576	\$171,935
Diocesan Grant/Credits	\$2,677	\$500	\$300	\$300
Interest & Investments	\$14,797	\$14,800	\$14,941	\$14,800
Canada Helps (and other EFT's)	\$1,359	\$1,500	\$3,028	\$2,200
Open Offerings	\$504	\$1,000	\$1,251	\$1,500
Organizations & Events	\$9,976	\$9,175	\$11,071	\$10,710
Rent	\$27,320	\$66,296	\$66,616	\$68,908
Youth Group Fund	\$0	\$200	\$0	\$200
Cemetery Income	\$3,205	\$0	\$0	\$0
<u>TOTAL NON-ENVELOPE OFFERINGS</u>	\$59,838.00	\$93,471.00	\$97,207.00	\$98,618.00
<u>TOTAL INCOME:</u>	\$240,455	\$270,002	\$269,783	\$270,553

<u>EXPENSES</u>				
Advertising / Promotion	\$48	\$100	\$174	\$200
Audit	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$2,600	\$2,600
Bank Service Charges	\$835	\$725	\$853	\$860
Chancel/Sanctuary/Liturgical	\$2,831	\$4,000	\$3,954	\$4,050
Music Ministry	\$130	\$0	\$0	\$0
Diocese Allotment	\$26,229	\$22,643	\$22,643	\$20,619
Synod Fees	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$0
Office & Equipment	\$10,089	\$8,509	\$8,989	\$9,399
Organizations & Events	\$374	\$0	\$454	\$950
Education	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200
Outreach - FaithWorks	\$17,342	\$18,275	\$16,191	\$16,320
Outreach - Other	\$6,828	\$7,525	\$10,187	\$7,980
Personnel - Clergy Costs	\$88,075	\$94,118	\$95,014	\$98,800
Personnel - Other Staff Costs	\$40,333	\$55,072	\$55,031	\$57,400
Property - Municipal Tax	\$4,003	\$4,200	\$4,156	\$4,300
Property - Insurance	\$7,380	\$8,000	\$8,288	\$8,555
Property - Grounds Maintenance	\$15,884	\$18,000	\$17,174	\$18,500
Property - Maintenance	\$4,420	\$4,500	\$3,396	\$4,000
Property - Special Projects	\$14,200	\$9,515	\$17,726	\$3,500
Property - Utilities	\$7,534	\$8,150	\$9,072	\$10,150
Taxes - GST/HST	\$2,616	\$1,970	\$2,482	\$1,970
Youth	\$167	\$200	\$0	\$200
Cemetery Expenses	\$3,524	\$0	\$0	\$0
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES:</u>	\$256,842	\$270,002	\$278,884	\$270,553
Excess of income over expenses before other items:	-\$16,387	\$0	-\$9,101	\$0
Reinvested Interest	\$976	\$0	\$363	\$0
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments:	-\$41,868	\$0	\$37,446	\$0
Excess of income over expenses:	-\$57,279	\$0	\$28,708	\$0

St. Martin's Anglican Church
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2023

	<u>31 Dec 2023</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
1000 · C I B C	18,597.45
Total Chequing/Savings	<u>18,597.45</u>
Accounts Receivable	
1100 · Accounts Receivable	8,300.97
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>8,300.97</u>
Other Current Assets	
1200 · Consolidated Trust Funds	0.00
1300 · Prepaid Expenses	1,993.33
Total Other Current Assets	<u>1,993.33</u>
Total Current Assets	28,891.75
Other Assets	
1910 · Rectory Trust Fund	401,786.69
Total Other Assets	<u>401,786.69</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>430,678.44</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2020 · Deferred Income	
2021 · Cemetery Operating Fund	0.00
2022 · Cemetery - Perpetual Care	5,230.00
2028 · Urgent Response Fund	1,328.75
2029 · Youth Group Fund	1,361.64
2031 · Rent Deposit	5,020.00
2052 · Rotary Club Garden Bed	1,500.00
Total 2020 · Deferred Income	14,440.39
2110 · Accrued Liabilities	3,235.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>17,675.39</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>17,675.39</u>
Total Liabilities	17,675.39
Equity	
3100 · Retained Earnings	384,294.53
Net Income	28,708.52
Total Equity	<u>413,003.05</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>430,678.44</u></u>

**ST. MARTIN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
OUTREACH
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Brought Forward from 2022: \$6,780.37

INCOME

FAITHWORKS	\$19,119.00	
FOOD BANK	\$1,265.92	
LOON BANK	\$751.00	
RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	\$875.00	
UNDESIGNATED	\$2,091.50	
HELPING HANDS	\$60.00	
FAITHWORKS RETAINER	\$150.00	
XMAS WISH	\$200.00	
LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR GRANT - TRANSFER	\$289.08	
Total Income:	\$24,801.50	\$24,801.50

EXPENSES

INTERNATIONAL:

WORLD VISION (Marvin Jose Castillo Obando)	\$588.00	
Total International Expenses:	\$588.00	

LOCAL & NATIONAL:

CANADIAN BIBLE SOCIETY	\$250.00	
FAITHWORKS	\$16,191.15	
FOOD BANK (St. Paul's On-the-Hill) - Parish Donations	\$2,265.92	
HELPING HANDS	\$2,478.82	
LUKE'S PLACE	\$500.00	
RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	\$1,080.81	
WATER FIRST	\$1,000.00	
URGENT RESPONSE FUND (transfer to deferred income)	\$200.00	
BACK DOOR MISSION	\$590.00	
DURHAM OUTLOOK	\$500.00	
LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR	\$289.08	
DURHAM YOUTH SERVICES	\$500.00	
OUTREACH SUNDAY	\$28.98	
XMAS WISH	\$200.00	
Total Local & National Expenses:	\$26,074.76	

Total Expenses: -\$26,662.76

Net: \$4,919.11

Carried Forward to 2024 \$4,919.11

Committed Not Paid: Rector's Discretionary Fund \$384.19

ENVELOPE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Last year I changed the reporting chart to indicate the various categories of donation that you see below.

During 2023:

- The number of envelope sets issued remained fairly constant
- The number of envelopes used at least once declined
- PAR usage dropped slightly
- The number of individual CanadaHelps donations declined significantly
- The number of people using CanadaHelps also dropped .

PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance) continues to be a popular choice and now more than 60% of donors use that method. In addition those donors may use envelopes for special occasions, including festivals such as Easter or Christmas

CanadaHelps, an organization which accepts donations and distributes them to the specified charity, continues to be an important source of donations, despite a downturn in 2023. It is convenient and several donors are not involved with our parish.

Envelope numbers will continue to be issued as that number is used to track everything for tax receipt purposes.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Envelope sets issued	136	132	128	120	119
Envelopes used at least once	121	114	101	106	100
PAR users	57	63	61	64	61
Total number of CanadaHelps donations	8	27	19	32	13
CanadaHelps individual donors	7	8	6	11	8

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Davidson, Envelope Secretary

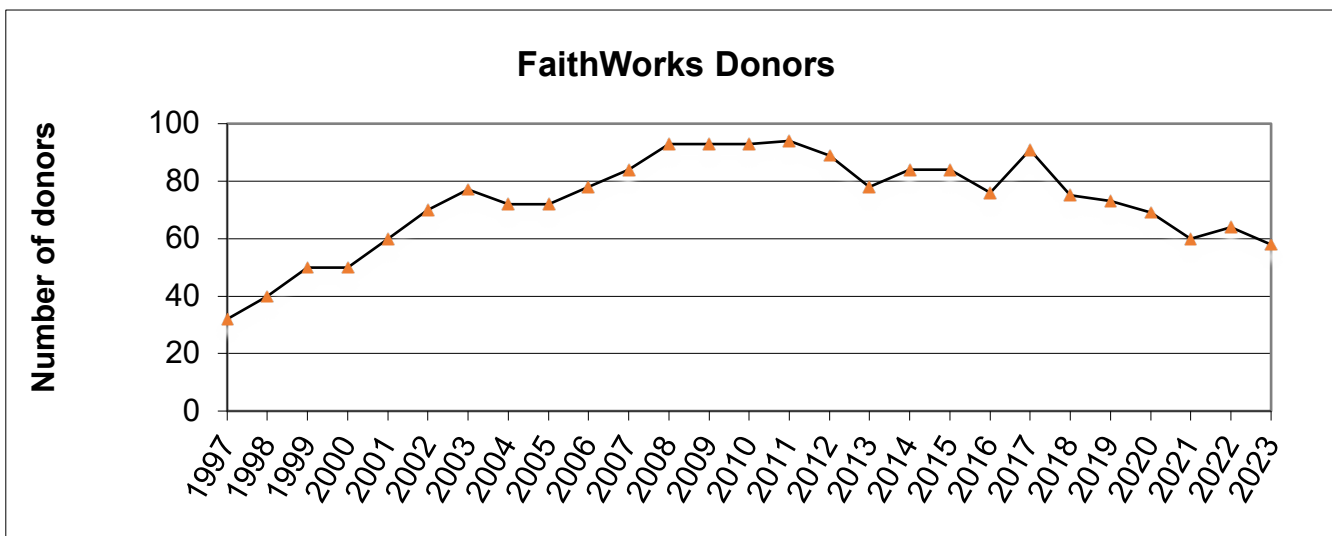
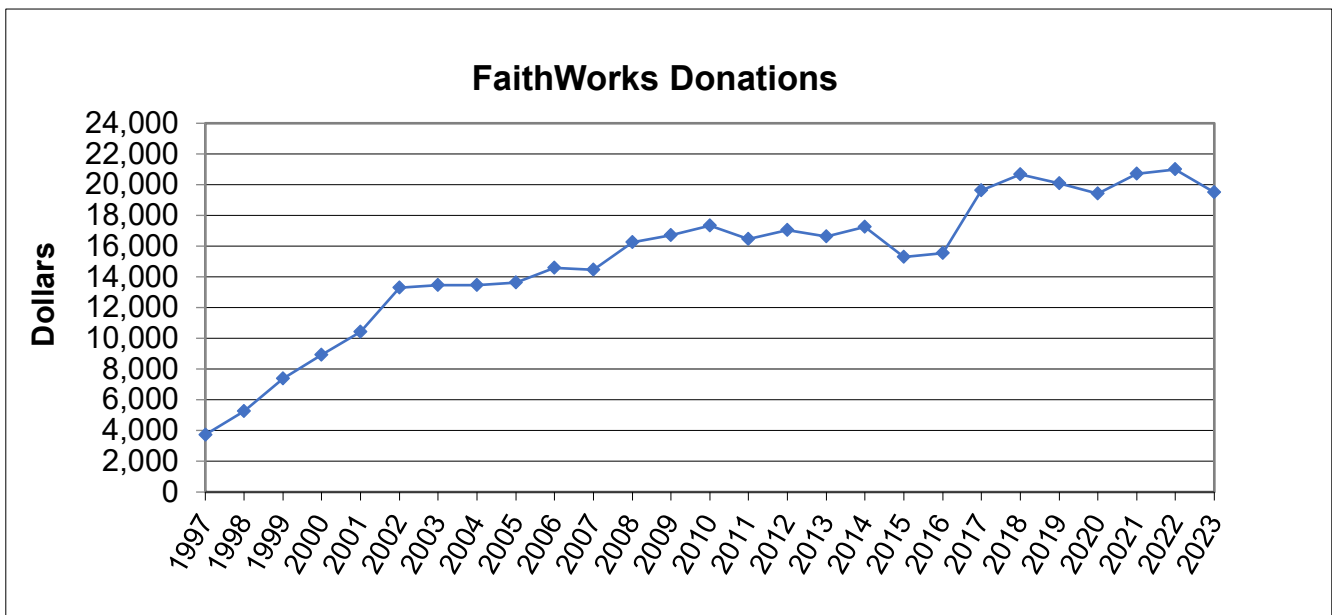
FAITHWORKS REPORT

There was a drop in FaithWorks donations during 2023, down 7% to \$19,915. The number of donors also decreased, by 9%. Analysis of those two numbers indicates that those who supported FaithWorks did so at a higher per person rate than in the previous year.

Despite the decline, St. Martin's can be very proud of the support that it continues to give to this program which provides funding to so many ministries in need.

Thank you for your support during 2023. Please continue to support this cause during 2024. The easiest way is through PAR, automatic monthly withdrawals. If you would like more information, please speak to me.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Davidson, FaithWorks Co-ordinator



SOCIAL JUSTICE VESTRY MOTION 2024; Protecting and Advancing the Right to Housing

We, the parish of St. Martin Bay Ridges, Pickering, call on all levels of government to take the following measures to protect and advance the human right to housing:

- We call on the Government of Canada to ensure that federal subsidies and incentives are targeted to those developers and projects that demonstrably address housing need and uphold the human right to housing by meeting clear conditions on affordable rents, non-displacement policies and eviction prevention measures.
- We call on the Government of Canada to end the favourable tax treatment of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and tax them at the regular corporate rate, with resulting revenues being directed toward the creation and preservation of affordable housing.
- We call on the Province of Ontario to enact rent controls and vacancy controls on all rental housing and put restrictions on Above Guideline Rent Increases.
- We call on the Province of Ontario to work with municipal governments to enact and enforce restrictions on short-term rentals to protect rental housing stock.

Canada has ratified the human right to housing in multiple international treaties, including the Sustainable Development Goals. The National Housing Strategy Act (2019) commits the federal government to the progressive realization of the right to housing. This does not mean that the government guarantees everyone a home. What it does mean is that the government must do everything in its power to realize the right to housing for Canadians, including removing obstacles and barriers to the realization of that right.

Three key aspects of the right to housing are **affordability**, **security of tenure** and **habitability**. Affordability is threatened when housing costs exceed 30% of a household's pre-tax income. Security of tenure is threatened when people are subject to eviction for no fault of their own, such as expropriation or arbitrary eviction. Habitability is threatened when units are not kept in an adequate state of repair.

Most recent government policy around affordable housing, at both the federal and provincial levels, has focussed on supply. Considering that both levels of government stopped creating non-market housing in the 1990's, we have a 30-year deficit in that supply. Worse, we are losing existing affordable housing faster than it is being built. For every new affordable rental unit created between 2011 and 2016, 15 units were lost in the private rental sector.¹ We cannot merely build our way out of the affordable housing crisis: we must also take measures to prevent the loss of existing affordable housing stock.

In the 1990's, as governments in Canada withdrew from investing in social housing, they also made several regulatory and legislative changes. These changes permitted the securitization of mortgages removed restrictions on the type and location of assets pension plans could hold, and enabled the creation of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITS), which provide investors with access to real estate income at a preferential tax rate. These changes have accelerated the acquisition of existing rental housing by corporate investors whose primary purpose is to minimize costs and maximize profits for

¹ <https://www.focus-consult.com/why-canada-needs-a-non-market-rental-acquisition-strategy/>

shareholders, rather than to provide housing at a reasonable rate of return. This trend is known as the *financialization of housing*, and “is associated with rising rent levels, displacement pressure, impacts on tenant quality of life, higher rates of eviction, and gentrification.”²

The pressure to minimize costs while maximizing profits for shareholders has adverse impacts on affordability, habitability, and security of tenure for tenants of corporate landlords. Routine maintenance and upkeep of buildings is often neglected or deferred while money is invested in cosmetic improvements that allow landlords to apply successfully for above-guideline rent increases. Tenants suffer from neglect of needed repairs and upkeep, disruptive construction, repeated above-guideline increases, and both legal and extra-legal tactics, including harassment, that pressure them to leave their units. Indeed, financial firms strategically pursue “turnover” of tenants to benefit from vacancy decontrol (the opportunity to raise rents between tenancies.) This puts a strain on the mental and physical health of tenants while putting their security of tenure in jeopardy. These harmful effects are disproportionately experienced by people who are Indigenous, racialized, disabled, and newcomers to Canada, as well as those on low or fixed incomes – the same “vulnerable groups” that the National Housing Strategy is designed to assist.³

Some corporations buy up multiple rental units and divert them to the short-term rental market (i.e. AirBnB) This keeps these units from being accessible to local residents, and drives up rents in the area. It is happening in communities large and small, urban and rural alike.

Carol, a renter in Toronto, lives in a building recently acquired by a REIT. She describes “a real struggle getting any work done”, with pest control, break-ins, and a non-functioning elevator being ongoing problems, while the owner was granted back-to-back above guideline increases. “We are always on edge because they have all the power and money to win things. It’s exhausting for us,” she says.⁴

Whitney is a mother of three who has been renting a house for five years in a small town with a very low rental vacancy rate. While her rent has been increasing each year as her landlord makes upgrades and applies above guideline rent increases, her own income has not been getting upgraded. Whitney is worried: “If the rent goes up anymore, I don’t think we’ll be able to stay—where will we go?”

Nicole leads an outreach team in a small community, supporting people experiencing homelessness. She recently realized how precarious her own housing is. After over 10 years of renting a house, she and her husband were given sixty days to vacate as the landlord elected to put the property up for sale. Nicole and her husband could not afford to purchase it and so, with limited options, short notice, and high prices, they had to leave the community to find housing. While Nicole continues to lead outreach work in the community she loves, she now commutes to work. It turns out the landlord didn’t sell the house after all - it is being rented again to new tenants at a new (higher) price. Nicole says, “Thankfully we were able to live with my parents for a few months until we could find a place. If it can happen to us, it can happen to anyone.”⁵

Protecting and advancing the right to housing for people like Carol, Whitney, Nicole and their families means removing the barriers to housing that is affordable, habitable, and does not expose renters to

² August, Martine. 2022. *The financialization of housing in Canada: A summary report for the Office of the Federal Housing Advocate*. The Office of the Federal Housing Advocate.

³ August, 2022

⁴ ACORN Canada. 2022. *The impact of financialization on tenants: Findings from a national survey of ACORN members*. The Office of the Federal Housing Advocate

⁵ These are the stories of real people living in our Diocese. “Whitney” and “Nicole”’s names have been changed.

arbitrary eviction. To make this happen, governments should ensure that public funds are targeted to the creation and preservation of housing that commits to those principles. Real Estate Investment Trusts, which have been shown to erode the right to housing, should be taxed at the regular corporate rate, which would make hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue available for creating and preserving truly affordable housing⁶ The province must end the vacancy decontrol loophole, which gives landlords an incentive to evict tenants, and work with municipalities to create and enforce restrictions on short-term rental operators so valuable units are not removed from the rental market.

Scripture recognizes the human need for shelter, security and dignity. Isaiah 32:18 reads, “My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.” If Canada is a country truly committed to realizing the right to housing, our laws and policies must reflect this commitment.

⁶ <https://www.pbo-dpb.ca/en/publications/RP-2324-001-M--cost-removing-tax-exemptions-real-estate-investment-trusts--estimation-couts-elimination-exemptions-fiscales-accordees-fiducies-placement-immobilier>

COMMITTEE AND MINISTRY REPORTS

ACOLYTES/SERVERS

We have not had regularly scheduled acolytes since before the pandemic. I'm extremely happy to report we now have five acolytes / servers including 4 adults and 1 very keen young person (so far). Training has taken place and our group of servers are being scheduled on most Sundays.

Submitted by,
Rob Mackay

ALTAR GUILD

Things are very much back to normal now and the teams are glad to be back doing their thing! This includes cleaning silver and brass, dusting and cleaning in the sanctuary, changing the sanctus lamps (hanging red lamps) and presence lamp (beside the aumbry), changing the altar frontals, arranging flowers, counting hosts, measuring wine!!

In October our group participated in the Responsible Ministry - Screening in Faith training, along with all other ministries.

Our four teams rotate on a weekly basis. They include myself, Ellen Corbin, Gillian Bevan, Joan Wilson, Michelle Loftus, Marge Wade, Adelaide Pieterse, Gail Suckling, Janis Lynch, Debbie Cuciurean and Shelley Moore (Team leaders' names in bold). Enid Bournier, June Hall and Felicity Martin help with clean up after the Wednesday morning services. A huge 'Thank You' to all these people for their continuing dedication. We would appreciate some younger people joining us and will be happy to provide training.

Thanks also to those who donate money for flowers. This enables us to enjoy flowers on many occasions, other than during Lent and Advent. Any unused funds at year end are transferred to the church's general operating fund.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Davidson

COMMUNICATION

The Communication Committee works to connect parishioners and visitors to what is happening at St. Martin's using both electronic and more traditional methods. We continue to have a strong Facebook presence where we connect with many people both near and far. Our services are broadcast weekly on You Tube where we have over 120 subscribers. Most services are viewed by 40-50 people weekly. Our parish newsletter The News From The Pews was revived in December and we intend to publish at least twice yearly going forward. A goal for the coming year is to update and enhance the church website. Finally I'm happy to announce Marilyn Dunhill will be taking the reigns of this committee and we're looking forward to her strong organizational skills as well as the new energy she will bring. Many thanks to the members of the committee as well as Shelly and our church administrator who all help to share the great things happening here!

Submitted by,
Rob Mackay

FUNDRAISING

Chairperson: Debbie Cuciurean

Members: Lee Lynn, Denise Farrugia, Pat Dunhill, Elaine Waters and Tracey Robertson

#1 CARIBBEAN CULTURAL EVENT

Saturday, September 23, 2023

Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex

1867 Valley Farm Road, Pickering

Net Income: \$4,108.61

Working with St. Paul's gave us the opportunity to work collegially with a local Church towards a common goal of raising money to continue both Church's Outreach and Ministry work.

As always St. Martin's came through and our major contribution was the Silent Auction, decorating and overall helping organize it. We cannot thank you enough!

#2 HOLLY BAZAAR

Saturday, November 18th, 2023

-283 Attended, yes we do keep track of this

-Net Income = \$4098.50

-I think the following Break Down should be included, as we want all those who participated to know how much we appreciate their help...

Granny's Attic	=	\$1,633.50
Bake Table	=	\$1,126.25
Jewellery	=	\$477.35
Bottle Boutique	=	\$700.40
Cafe On The Bay	=	<u>\$256.00</u>
Total	=	\$4,193.00
Expenses	-	\$95.00
Net Income		\$4,098.50

#3 CHRISTMAS VENDOR'S MARKET

Saturday, November 25, 2023

-250 Attended

-24 Vendors

-Net Income = \$990.00

OUR TOTAL FUNDING RESULT FOR 2023 = \$9197.11

A big thank you and congratulations to our organizers Lee and Denise, their organizing skills and enthusiasm go above and beyond.

We are very pleased with the funds raised and very grateful for the following:

- Donations from our St. Martin's parishioners
- The help we received for setting up the spaces...moving chairs, setting up tables and decorating.....
- Those who manned tables, cash, ran the Cafe, placed signs in the neighbourhoods and who kept count of all who entered the events - THANK YOU!!!

Our Committee is again looking forward to planning more events that will help raise money and keep us all connected. St. Martin's and community have supported our efforts and have given us the inspiration to keep setting goals for our group to accomplish.

Respectfully submitted by,
Debbie Cuciurean

STEWARDS OF CREATION VESTRY REPORT 2024

The name of this committee underwent a name change from Green Team to the new name, Stewards of Creation which more accurately reflects our mission and goals, which includes education and advocacy regarding protecting God's greatest creation.

Our activities in 2023 included:

- We hosted Earth Hour in person on Saturday, March 25. We enjoyed a potluck dinner and an environmental film before we turned the lights out at 8:30pm and read/listened to nature/Indigenous poems and stories and sang folk songs by candlelight
- The team tackled picking up litter in the church neighbourhood on Earth Day0
- We collaborated with Jacky's Place to plant a vegetable garden for their clients
- We were lucky to collaborate a parishioner's neighbour, who lent expertise and planting skills which saw our garden producing vegetables in late March. We were happy to harvest a good-sized squash for the Thanksgiving altar. We shared the bounty with parishioners, St. Martin's Centre and DARS throughout the growing season
- The pollinator garden continued to flourish and provide home and nourishment to nature's pollinators. It also provided beauty and joy to all who pass by, including the children at the Montessori school
- This team continues to advocate on environmental issues through letter writing, and email campaigns.
- The two planters outside at the front of the church are changed seasonally for all to enjoy
- Lug-a-Mug initiative was reinstated in January 2023 and we saw the successful return of many people bringing in their reusable mugs for coffee hour.

There is a small, dedicated group who maintain the perimeter church gardens and the cemetery to keep these areas looking their best.

Faithfully submitted by,
Lee Lynn, Chairperson, Stewards of Creation

WELCOME TEAM

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received” – 1 Peter 4:10

Since the return to full-capacity services without restrictions in early April 2022, our team has been experiencing the pleasure of greeting people and ensuring a smooth flow of our worship service every Sunday.

At Welcome Back Sunday, September 17, 2023 (aka sign-up Sunday) 11 people volunteered for this role, compared with 14 the previous year. At the time of this report, we have had one more volunteer bringing our total to twelve.

Members of our team (formerly known as “Greeters and Sidespersons”) attended Ministry Training Day on Saturday, October 14, 2023 led by Rev. Shelly. We emerged from this training with a new name, “*The Welcome Team*” which integrates the functions of the role. We also implemented a change that required three people, instead of two, to perform the roles each week. We have since realized that a team of 12 is insufficient to sustain 3 people each week indefinitely without often scheduling the same people many of whom serve in other capacities and ministries. With Rev. Shelly’s approval, we will move back to two people each Sunday, effective February 2024.

As and when required, members of the Welcome Team are kept up-to-date on changes affecting their roles, and our procedures are modified accordingly.

A huge “*thank you*” is due to all who have committed their time to serve in this important ministry.

Submitted by,
Elaine Watters, Team Lead

HOSPITALITY

This team is led by Adelaide Pieterse and an awesome team of volunteers. We are so grateful for all that they do for our community. If you have any questions, please speak to Adelaide or Rev. Shelly.

INTERCESSORS

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”
(Romans 8: 26 -27)

Since the Spirit intercedes for us with wordless sighs, let us therefore as intercessors, join with the Spirit and pray for each other.

“First of all, then I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for Kings and all who are in high positions so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity” (1Timothy 2: 1-2).

On October 8, 2023 The Rev. Shelly Pollard put on a workshop for Intercessors based on the format "INTERCESSORY PRAYER" by THE ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER (CANADA). The material was comprehensive and informative.

Today our team is made up of 9 parishioners. I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to this team, who graciously make themselves available by taking the time to compose and present the prayers when scheduled. They are: Elaine Watters Don Henderson Enid Bournier, Moyah Morgan Peter Davidson, Selwyn Newton, William McCullough, Sharon Jones and Shirley Vasey.

We are extending the invitation to more interested parishioners, in all reverence and seriousness, to participate in this Ministry at this time, under the guidance of The Rev. Shelly Pollard.

Submitted by,
Shirley Vasey

MUSIC

This past year we have undergone some change within our music ministry. Our former Organist and Choir Director, Ted Moroney, departed in the Fall of 2023 after having been serving with our community since 2019. We sincerely thank him for his contributions.

Since Ted’s departure, I have been selecting our music for our worship services. I will continue to do so until we find a permanent Music Director.

We have been very blessed to welcome many guest musicians, who have helped us throughout the Fall. More recently, Dr. Alexandra Weiss has been leading us each week, offering a variety of music genres, and providing us with great overall support of our church’s music ministry.

We have also seen our choir grow throughout the Fall. It is such a testament to see our choir remain so committed to helping us each week with the musical offerings. Likewise, we have had members of our congregation share their individual gifts of music through the playing of instruments or through special anthems.

While we look ahead, my hope is that we continue to observe such wonderful participation in our worship. I remain so grateful to the choir and those who give their time and share their musical gifts with our community.

I look forward to seeing where we go musically in 2024 and beyond.

In Christ,
Rev. Shelly Pollard

OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee meets regularly to distribute the funds that are raised through contributions to the specially marked giving envelopes, the 15% of funds designated to FaithWorks, and the Loon Bank. Through your generosity, Outreach has been able to provide financial support to the following International, National, Indigenous and local charities:

- World Vision (sponsored child)
- Canadian Bible Society
- Water First, Canada's largest charitable organization dedicated to resolving the water challenges facing First Nations
- Back Door Mission, a low barrier access hub for essential supports, social services and primary health care for individuals experiencing homelessness and other challenges in Durham region
- Durham Outlook for the Needy, providing food distribution to those experiencing challenges in Durham region
- St. Paul on-the Hill Community Food Bank, Pickering
- St. Martin's Urgent Needs Fund, a newly formed initiative at St. Martin's to respond to requests to those experiencing financial hardship
- DARS, a local registered charity that responds and supports individuals and families experiencing homelessness, food insecurities and other challenges
- Helping Hands, a wonderful group of volunteers who get together to cut and sew sleepwear for women and children in local shelters
- Luke's Place, an organization that provides specialized family law support to abused women and children
- Durham Youth Services

There was an Outreach Sunday presentation by Darlene Walker and Margaret Eskins from DARS during the service on Sunday, April 30 in place of the homily for that day. The presentation was a good opportunity to learn more about the services they provide in our local community and we felt it was important for the church community to hear directly from them as we have partnered with them on different initiatives.

We received a very generous donation of \$1,500 from the Pickering Rotary Club to help us build a second raised bed to help support our neighbours with fresh produce.

Paddy McLoon continues to happily accept our loose change and over the past year we were able to provide donations to St. Paul's on-the Hill Community Food Bank and Durham Youth Services. We will continue to raise funds supporting various designated charities through this initiative – we ask that you continue to answer the call of the loon!

The Outreach Committee also organized very successful hands-on community initiatives to support the following:

- We collaborated with Jacky's Place (Durham Youth Services) to plant a vegetable garden at their transitional youth shelter
- Held an Easter Food Drive to help stock St. Paul's Food Bank shelves
- St. Martin's Outreach Committee provided a lunch to the DARS Outreach group in the spring which took place in one of the meeting rooms at the Pickering library.

- We partnered with DARS and Durham Youth Housing to participate in their Community Christmas Wish project to help families and individuals who were experiencing increased needs at Christmas. The Outreach team provided a Christmas Wish tree with gift tags at the church for people to participate in the project and thanks to the incredible generosity of our St. Martin's family, we were able to help many of our neighbours enjoy a happy Christmas.
- We continue to seek out opportunities provide hands-on support to our local community

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone for generous ongoing support and we look forward to collaborating with our community partners to help make a positive difference for our vulnerable neighbours.

HELPING HANDS

subcommittee of Outreach – Submitted by Jacqueline Newton

The ladies of Helping Hands were busy last year producing 291 pairs of sleep pants and 31 children's quilts. These were distributed to Joanne's House (Durham Youth Service), Ontario Shores Mental Health, Y's WISH (Women In Sheltered Housing), Becoming Neighbours, and Rose of Durham. Through the generosity of the ladies and other parishioners we also donated toiletries, knitted toques, scarves, socks and baby wipes to the shelters.

In December we lost Frankie Collier, a long time and valued member of our little group. She is missed. We are always ready to welcome new members, so if you are interested, please join us. We will be meeting from 1p.m. to 3 p.m. March 4th and 18th, April 15th, May 6th and June 3rd

Thanks to all St. Martins parishioners and their families who support Helping Hands in many ways not only financially, but also setting up and taking down tables, enabling us to purchase fabric wholesale and of course our wonderful sewers.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Farrugia
Chairperson, Outreach Committee

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday afternoons. We have 11 ladies who knit and crochet shawls, lap blankets and sometimes hats, mitts and scarves. These last items go to needy families.

Last year we gave 12 items to parishioners and their friends. Also a total of 24 lap blankets and 10 shawls were given to the long term care besides Ajax hospital.

Just a reminder these are available on request for parishioners and/or families and friends. They are blessed by Rev. Shelly at the altar with prayer for the person receiving it.

As always we welcome new people to join us for our casual meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Henderson

PROJECTING/RECORDING

During the past year we were able to combine the Recording and Projecting aspects of this function into one station at the back of the church. This was made possible largely through three sizeable donations which enabled the construction of the booth and the purchase of additional sound and recording equipment.

We believe that this project is now complete and are pleased with the results. If you haven't seen our new booth, take a look during coffee time following the Sunday service.

Those who do not attend in person may continue to watch services on our YouTube channel and the new equipment enables better video angles of the proceedings.

A small group continues to help with this work and we give thanks for Eugene Farrugia, Mark Lynn and Rob Mackay on the recording end, and for Art Slade and June Hall on the projecting side.

Respectfully submitted

Peter Davidson, on behalf of the Communications Committee

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

There was very little activity in the Property area during 2023. There was not a lot of work needed and we tried to avoid expenses by doing only what was really required.

The lowest level of concrete blocks to the left of the front door were replaced as they had deteriorated due to salt damage. At the same time some cracked tiles on the ground were replaced.

The annual inspection of the fire alarm system and extinguishers was completed.

We will continue to undertake projects that funds will allow and do such work as is necessary to maintain the integrity of our church building.

Committee members include John Loftus, Bruce Powell, Keith Watters, David Bowen, Rob Mackay, Selwyn Newton and John Todhunter.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Davidson

READERS

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness." – 2 Timothy 3:16

...from God's holy word, divinely inspired, beautifully written, immensely powerful.

Since returning to full capacity services on Sunday, April 3, 2022 (following the third re-opening earlier in February of the same year) our team of readers has seen their roles revert to what they were prior to the pandemic in that there is a different reader for each lesson on Sundays.

At the last sign-up on Welcome Back Sunday, September 17, 2023, we had a total of 18 volunteers (up from 15 the prior year) who put their names forward to be readers, and we are most grateful for their continued interest.

Our team attended Ministry Training Day on Saturday, October 14, 2023, led by Rev. Shelly. Reading guidelines are updated whenever required and sent out to the team.

I would like to say thank you to all our Readers. You are doing wonderful work in this vital ministry.

Submitted by Elaine Watters,
Team Lead

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Social Committee members are always ready to lend their manpower, expertise, and enthusiasm to support and collaborate with various events and initiatives and 2023 was no exception! We helped out with Pancake Supper, Love Your Neighbour BBQ, Caribbean Cultural Event, Holly Bazaar, and Vendor Market.

In addition to the activities listed above, this committee was very active with our planned Social Committee events:

- Strawberry Social was held outside on the front lawn on an early summer day in June.
- Welcome Back Sunday in September included the food competition and the Ministry Poster Display. The food and fellowship were enjoyed by all! Fr. Richard won the salad competition
- The Social Committee and the Back Pew Players presented A Christmas Carol Radio play directed by Fr. Richard. Over 100 guests enjoyed the play and a Wine and Cheese Reception. \$900 was raised from this event
- Our annual Christmas Potluck was filled with food, fellowship and a healthy dose of Christmas spirit where we shared in a meal, took pictures with Santa and sang carols, including a rousing rendition of the St. Martin's version of the Twelve Days of Christmas

We also offered the opportunity to participate in two unique road trips, which included Herongate Barn Dinner Theatre and Crockadoodle pottery painting in their studio.

We are busy planning some exciting events for 2024, including our perennial favourites.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Lynn, Social Committee Chairperson

SOCIAL JUSTICE

We seek to be faithful to God's call to compassion and justice, live out our baptismal vows, and engage faithfully with the world. This past year we helped host a couple of events in the church. A Town Hall meeting with Pickering City Councillor Mara Nagy and Pickering Regional Councillor Laura Cook was held in the spring. Parishioners and other area residents were able to meet with our elected officials and share concerns. It was a very good discussion of very local and immediate issues. In June, we invited Dawn Lockhart from the Alzheimer Society to meet and help us learn more about dementia and provide resources, and education programs to give us the knowledge to better support and include people who are affected by dementia. It was a fascinating and eye-opening discussion. In the fall, Pickering Mayor Kevin Ashe held a Town Hall meeting at St. Martin's and again parishioners and members of the community were able have access and provide input directly to an elected official.

The Vestry motion from the Diocese for 2024 is aimed at protecting and advancing the right to housing. This year's Social Justice Vestry Motion addresses several of the key obstacles to the realization of the human right to housing in our province. The motion itself and some background information is presented separately elsewhere in this Vestry Report. For more than a decade, the Social Justice and Advocacy Committee at the Diocese has drafted annual vestry motions on concerns our Diocese is connected with. These motions are non-partisan, and the College of Bishops approves their final wording before commending them to parishes for consideration. When parishes support social justice vestry motions, it strengthens the bishops' voices in their advocacy with government. The motions also inform Anglicans about diocesan social justice concerns. Please take time to review the motion and information. We hope our congregation will again support this motion as well as some of the events we have planned to help better educate and advocate on this very pressing issue.

Submitted by,
Rob Mackay

ST. MARTIN'S CENTRE

St. Martin's Centre is an apartment complex with 58 units and is geared towards housing for residents in their senior years. Currently, there are approximately 60 residents. There are seven members on the Board of Directors, which include the Incumbent and three parishioners as well as two members appointed by the Bishop and one by the residents. The Board meets several times through the year with the Property Manager to review finances and oversee the general operation of the Centre.

We are very pleased to report that the Centre is operating extremely well. Maintenance is up to date and it is financially secure and strong. It continues to provide safe and affordable housing to many seniors in our community and is fulfilling the vision from when it was conceived over 40 years ago.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Mackay

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday school now meets every Sunday during our Sunday worship. Our attendance continues to increase but fluctuates each week with all the children in attendance bringing great enthusiasm.

As a team we have learned to adapt to all changes in order that we may make a difference in the lives of the children.

Children enjoys the hands-on aspect of our programming which includes reading the bible and lots of interesting art all related back to our bible readings for the Sunday.

In September the Sunday school was presented with a book during The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation service. The title of the book is "I AM NOT A NUMBER" which we used to stimulate our conversation about residential schools.

We have a dedicated group of individuals that are readily available to make sure that Sunday School time is enjoyable and a learning experience for all.

Respectfully submitted by
Janis Lynch for the Sunday School Team.

STEWARDSHIP

In its simplest form, Stewardship can be described as “taking care”. The Standing Committee of the Anglican Church of Canada stated that “Stewardship is a core Christian practice rooted in scripture”.

The Stewardship Committee presented a homily in October 2023 citing several passages from scripture illustrating the ways in which God wants everyone to be better Stewards; maximizing our time, talent, and treasure for Him. The presentation also included a clear reminder to put God first, and that all that we have, we have received from God. That our stewardship is not restricted to our time inside the doors of St. Martin’s, but needs to be a conscious and thoughtful effort in every aspect of our lives.

As we move forward into 2024, in which the Stewardship Committee has begun the planning of two events, we would ask you to reflect upon your stewardship, and what you can do to be a better Steward.

Respectfully submitted,
Stewardship Committee, David Bevan, Chair

SYNOD REPORT

162nd Session of Synod in the Diocese of Toronto

The theme for Synod this year was “Cast the Net”. You might ask what that is, essentially it is to cast the net in different places, especially coming out of the restrictions of the pandemic, and be open to what we find, and embrace some new ideas on what is CHURCH. If you are interested in the 20 calls to the Diocese for “Cast the Net” I can share them with you. Please let me know.

One of the interesting Missional and outreach moment that they showed was about the “Hiking Church” It starts with around a 30 minute silent walk in Nature, and then on the return walk you can talk about what you experienced in the silence, and nature. Whether that be animals/birds or insects, or just the thoughts of your own mind. When you return to the starting point, you then have a snack, and conduct prayer on what you have experienced.

There was a new motion brought to the floor as an emergency, dealing with the affordable housing issues. (#11 A). This has been discussed before at an earlier Synod. However this wasn’t adopted (it was withdrawn before we could vote), as it still wasn’t detailed enough, and open ended. Covered many items that had been previously passed. Some of the though was that if we repassed the motion, it could end up re-starting some of the previous work that had already been done. This will come back at a subsequent Synod.

Some of the closing remarks on the weekend really stuck with me. I will share some with you now.

Being together is like a tonic for the soul

It is not our Church, but Gods Church

Serve the world that God loves.

Thank you for allowing me to go and learn during this time.

I look forward to continue working with you to CAST OUR NET.

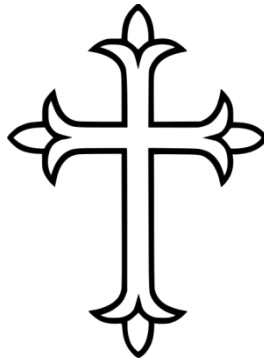
Submitted by,
Art Slade

YOUTH MINISTRY

The youth group for our church continues to be dormant, this is not unique to us as other churches in and around our community are experiencing a similar issue. We are hopeful that as we continue to pray and pool our ideas collectively as a church community internally and externally, there will be a change for the future. Thank you for the continued prayers and support.

Submitted by,
Moyah Morgan

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS IN 2023



BAPTISMS:

Heather Gifford-Radovski
Nash Radovski
Nixon Radovski
Saraiah Welikala

MARRIAGES:

Derek Jonell & Lisa Gordon
Douglas Marshall & Seta Khan

BURIALS:

Patricia Francis Poppleton
Adalcio Lawrenceton Greaves
Audrick Alexander Chung
Frances Collier

APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS 2024

APPOINTMENTS

Rector's Warden	Rob Mackay	These positions are appointed by the Incumbent/Churchwardens. All are members of Advisory.
Rector's Deputy Warden	Art Slade	
Treasurer	Joe Moore	
Envelope Secretary	Peter Davidson	
Appointed members of Advisory	Brent Levy TBD	

NOMINATIONS

People's Warden *	Moyah Morgan	These positions are elected at Vestry. The names shown have been nominated for the respective positions.
People's Deputy Warden *	David Bevan	
Lay Delegate to Synod *	Art Slade	
Alternate Lay Delegate to Synod	Marilyn Dunnill	
Elected members of Advisory **	John Loftus TBD	
St. Martin's Centre Board *	Peter Davidson Rob Mackay Ross Strickland	Each * indicates how many persons from that group are members of Advisory Board.
Parochial Tribunal *	Peter Davidson Felicity Martin	

COMMITTEES & MINISTRIES

Altar Guild	Anne Davidson	These representatives are selected from among the members of each group, by the group itself. They represent their group on Advisory Board.
Choir	Helen Locke	
Sunday School	Janis Lynch	
Youth	Moyah Morgan	
Servers	Rob Mackay	
Welcome Team	Elaine Watters	
Social Committee	Lee Lynn	
Outreach	Denise Farrugia	
Communication	Marilyn Dunhill	
Property	Peter Davidson	
Stewardship	David Bevan	
FaithWorks	Peter Davidson	
Fundraising	Debbie Cuciurean	
Stewards of Creation	Lee Lynn	
Hospitality	Adelaide Pieterse	
Social Justice	Rob Mackay	
Readers	Elaine Watters	
Intercessors	Shirley Vasey	