



*Honour the Lord with your wealth,
with the first fruits of all you produce;
then will your barns be filled with grain,
with new wine your vats will overflow.*

Proverbs 3:9-10

St. George's Church, Guelph Stewardship 2011

Dear Friends,

So often when we speak about “Stewardship” the conversation tends to center on money. But dollars and costs are only part of the story. Our Parish narrative includes incalculable unpaid hours of ministry given by our members as they...YOU...give generously of your God-given talent to support our mission and work as a church.

This is the story that this booklet sets out to tell. Here is a snapshot of our ministry in action ...the things that get done because of your contributions and support. It is not exhaustive, and we likely will have missed mentioning some things, but as this is a living document, just as our life together is a living ministry, we will perfect our story-telling as we go forward.

Your Stewardship Team thanks you for taking time to read this story, a story all of us have helped to create in faithful service to Christ. Your generous giving of time, talent, and yes, treasure too! is what keeps this amazing community moving forward in faith.

Blessings and Peace in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Theresa +", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.



In concert with our Diocesan Vision, we engage our Mission and Goals as the Parish of St. George in Guelph, Ontario.

Our Mission

to make Jesus Christ known

Our Goal

- to make St. George's a place
- of prayer and seeking after God
- of faith where Christ and the Gospel are proclaimed
- of outreach to those in need
- of engagement in the issues that confront us today
- of love where all find a warm welcome





Worship and Music

Worship is the core of our being as a parish, not only as a sustaining catalyst to our growth as disciples but also as a means to reach beyond our doors. We greet one another, "The Peace of the Lord be with you", and understand God's presence to be immediate, personal and communal: weaving all our lives together. Through the expansiveness of prayer, the fullness and diversity of the word proclaimed and preached, the richness of music, and the communal intimacy of the sacraments, we lift up our hearts to God. Worship is where we gather in thanksgiving with Christ and each other. It is where we are knit into the body of Christ. It is where we are shaped, renewed and strengthened for service to live and work within the Domain of God.

Our Music Programs support our worship and enhance our communal life and outreach to the wider communities we serve. We have a wonderful organ, an experienced and professional quality choral tradition, and openness to new expressions of music to enhance our worship. We also host and present numerous concerts and musical productions which not only opens our doors to the wider community but also serves as a witness to our desire to be an accessible parish filled with welcome and hospitality.

Our unique musical tradition continues to be the greatest single asset of the Anglican Church, and anything done to support and enhance the role of music at St. George's will be crucial to its survival now and growth in the future.



"I love our rich Anglican musical tradition and am delighted it allows and encourages variety more than ever before, with many options for service music and nearly 500 years of anthem choices, a significant number currently, however, written and published in this 21st century, often by Canadian composers."

— Hugh Spencer

Faith Formation and Nurture:

Family Life, Children and Youth Ministry

Outstanding
Leadership
for Ministry

Family Life Ministry encompasses faith formation and intergenerational congregational life at St. George's. Our goal is to foster a strong sense of community amongst all ages of church members by actively involving children, youth and adults in engaging programmes designed to teach and impart Christian values and beliefs in the parish, the local community, and the world at large. Children and youth are regularly involved in parish worship through drama and music.

Youth programming fosters personal growth in Christ through stewardship, community outreach and in reach, leadership roles, Biblical knowledge, and involvement in developing family-friendly worship services. Our Church School offers a dynamic, fun and exciting curriculum in which public school aged children learn about God's involvement in their day to day lives. Sporting events and tournaments bring together not only the young people of this parish, but their friends, family, and youth groups from other local churches.



**Following
Christ
passionately we
pursue excellence,
practise justice
& grow**

Faith Formation and Nurture: **Adult**

Christian learning and formation at St. George's is an on-going and uplifting pursuit with many forms and formats.

- Weekly worship and meaningful preaching from our clergy
- Regular Bible Study, book club, and education groups
- Yearly Lecture presenting a notable voice of our time
- Seasonal programs like Lent study
- Topical workshop programs

These enriched learning opportunities enhance our fulfilling of our mission to know Christ and make Christ known and our goal of being a community that engages in the issues that confront us today.

*Thought provoking sermons, Bible study,
Book Club, Lectures, Lent Studies
...and so much more!*





St. George's – Making Community Together

Through active groups including Parish Guild, the Men of St. George's, Chi Rho Fellowship, the Chancel Guild, Youth Sports Saturdays, the Prayer Shawl Ministry and special events, we strive to build a healthy supportive community of faith. Strong community, supporting one another in love, ministry and service, reflects the call of Christ for us to be one.

This is extended to those who are now shut-in or in care facilities and institutions by our ministry of visitation, sending out the Sunday Altar flowers, Caring Tree Ministry and cards to shut-ins at high holy seasons, worship offered regularly in area Seniors residences, and our support of those moving through the passages of life.





St. George's – Serving the Wider Community

Supported by the initiatives and direction of our **Social Justice and Outreach Ministry** we aim to focus the attention of our members on the needs beyond the parish. Local projects, such as our support of Stepping Stones and the Community Dinners held at Chalmers Church, and the work of the wider Church through the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund are a few areas of concern. The money raised through projects such as the "Soup and Buns Lunches" provides some of the funds for these projects.

We also host many community events, concerts and programmes in our facilities.

Don't forget to help others and to share your possessions with them. This too, is like offering a sacrifice that pleases God.

Hebrews 13:16



Stewardship

Christian stewardship is a way of life, an unending and transcending value of generosity. At St. George's, stewardship binds and challenges us both as individuals and as a community of heart, in all that we undertake. Belonging is based on the teaching of Jesus Christ, and the responsibility that we each share for making the communities in which we live more spiritually and humanly centered. It is giving thanks and accepting accountability for the many blessings that are the gift of our heritage by sharing time, talent, and treasure. For the congregation of St. George's stewardship is a universal call to give with generosity of spirit, wherever we may walk, with thanksgiving and promise. Stewardship is in the final analysis an expression of gratitude and love and an opportunity to grow in faith.

St. George's is an expansive community, intentional, and committed to the mission of service, through faith, gratitude and love.



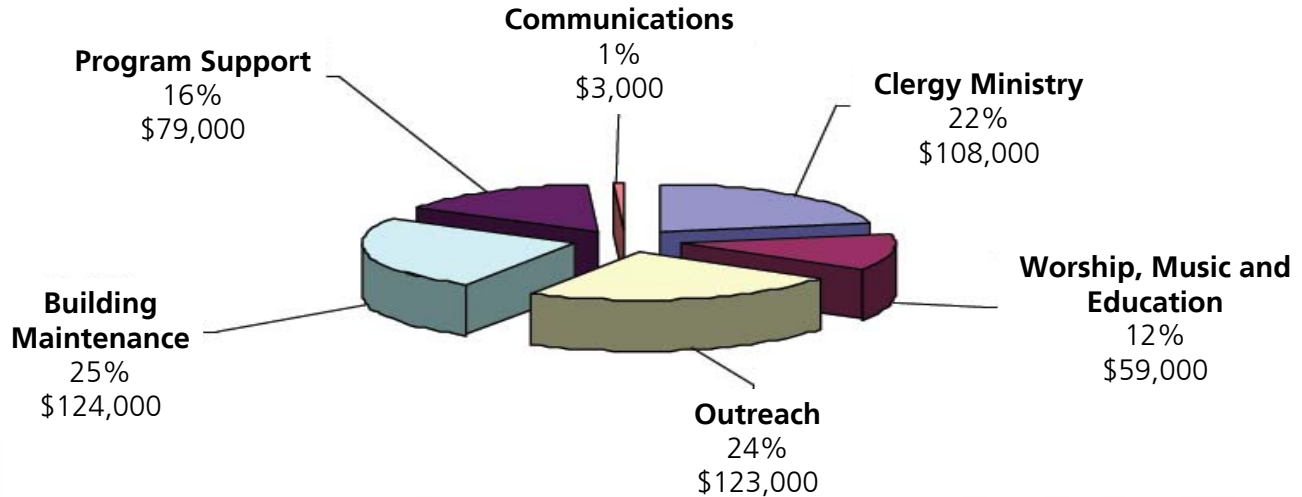
“My family and I are sustained by the church in many ways. We are willing stewards for a religious tradition within our family that celebrates our life together, and pushes us to extend our vision to the broader community”.

Generous
Culture of
Stewardship

Total Expenditures Budget

\$496,347

Our Expenses



St. George's is ...

- A vital and vibrant community of Christians
- Blessed with numerous welcoming and nurturing ministries
- Amazing music, bells, worship services and great preaching
- Family Life Ministry and Nursery
- Chancel Guild
- Our Sides-persons
- Hospitality and Coffee Hour
- Service Recordings, Library and Archives
- Book Club
- Parish Guild
- Chi Rho Fellowship
- Men of St. George's
- Lecture Committee
- Bible Studies
- A place for Ministry to the broader Guelph community
- Great speakers
- The Guelph Connection concerts
- Host for numerous community events
- Ministries to retirement home and long-term care facility residents
- Social Justice and Outreach Ministry
- *And so many more!*



Stewardship Team Members

Linda Tripp
Hugh Spencer
Diane Spratt
Franki Robinson
Paul Gilmore
Jeanne Forsythe
Ralph Sykes
Hazel Smith
Gordon MacFarlane
Rev. Ralph Blackman
Ella Turnbull, Chair