



News From The Pews

St. George's Anglican Church, Guelph, Ontario

From the Rector - Fall 2020

Dear Friends,

For what a long time we have had to be apart! We have interrupted so many of the rhythms of what we assumed were normal and best in our daily lives, including our faith and worship life. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided us a lot of time to despair, to reflect, and to look at what is truly important in our lives.

Now we prepare to return to some form of regathered worship and mission. Our church building will finally be

rush to get all things up and running, but an intentional measured process forward. We will start by having limited office hours and offering Sunday worship. Our worship numbers will be restricted, so we have devised a plan to meet the conditions we have to live up to for safe-distancing, contact tracing, safe liturgical practices and so on. Our plan for Sunday live worship is outlined in this newsletter. It is how we will begin and adjustments will be made as we go. We are on a journey forward, not at a destination.

Plans for limited gatherings of parish groups and ministries are in process. We do not anticipate inviting groups back into the church building until late autumn at the earliest and will communicate with individual group leaders.

I do look forward to be able to gather with folks in the church for worship and prayer as we re-open on Sunday, September 27 when we will celebrate the Festival of St. Michael and All Angels also known as Michaelmas. However, I must encourage you to reflect on your health, your concerns, and your personal comfort level during this pandemic as you make your decision about returning to gathered live worship, or not. We will also look to create opportunities for personal visits as the situation allows.

Lastly, I want to thank the efforts of all our staff and lay leaders to keep everything connected and for being so supportive and responsive during what has been a very fluid time of change

and reaction filled with unknowns. Thanks too, to all of you who have supported us with prayer and continued financial support during this time.

Blessings to All,

Ralph+



open for worship and some parish activities again ... "Open but Different!" It will not be 'how we were', but 'how we will be' as we rebuild, renew, transition into a new future. However, this is what faith and following Jesus is all about – renewal, transformation, new land, redemption, new life ... and more.

We will re-open the church under many restrictions set by the Diocese in conversation with Public Health and as guided by our Corporation. It will not be a

Treasurer's Report

Although we are very fortunate at St. George's to have many parishioners on Preauthorized Giving (PAG) and others who have made sure that their contributions have made it to the Church, the financial impact of COVID-19 is starting to take its toll on our finances. Although the Workside Early Childhood Education Centre has resumed operations since mid-July, the Church is still without much of its rental income and other rental opportunities may not be available for some time.

To help with our cash flow, we had suspended our DM&M payments to the diocese. Starting in July, we have started to make those payments again, so we will not be in arrears at year end. The diocese, which administers our payroll, has applied and been approved for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) in every month that it has been offered. This helps to offset some of our salary expenses.

Although our income is off by \$18,000 from this time last year, it is off budget by \$72,000. It is important to note that the rent received from Workside does

not show up as income, but rather as an offsetting expense. Even though the Church is closed, most of the expenses remain the same. Our expenses are about \$6,000 higher than this time last year and \$25,000 over budget (remember the Workside revenue that we missed while they were closed would decrease our expenses). Our deficit is about \$13,000 larger than at this time last year and is \$95,000 larger than was budgeted.

As a parish we have some work to do to help St. George's recover from COVID-19. With the Church opening in September we hope to see an increase in our revenues.

For those who want to start PAG, please contact the office at office@saintgeorge.ca or call 519-822-1366.

If you wish to send in a donation, please mail it or if you want to drop it off at the church, donations can be left in the mailbox outside before noon each day. Donations can also be made online at www.saintgeorge.ca.



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Our MISSION at St. George's:

- to make Jesus Christ known

Our GOAL is to make St. George's a place of:

- prayer and seeking after God
- faith where Christ and the Gospel are proclaimed
- outreach to those in need
- engagement in the issues that confront us today
- love where all find a warm welcome



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WELCOME BACK TO ST. GEORGE'S

◆

HELP ALL OF US STAY SAFE!

- Please pre-register for church each week at www.saintgeorge.ca or by calling 519-822-1366.
- You can pre-register beginning on the Monday before church, until noon on Thursday.
- If you are experiencing COVID symptoms, please do not enter the church.
- You will only be able to enter through the Chapel doors.
- You must wear a mask to enter the church.
- You will be asked COVID screening questions when you arrive on Sunday mornings.
- Please maintain physical distancing of 2 metres from anyone not in your household or social bubble for the entire time you are at the church.
- You will also be asked to use hand sanitizer.
- You will be assigned a seat. Greeters will assist you in finding your seat.
- There will be no-contact sharing of the peace.
- Communion will be in one-kind (which means bread only).
- We ask that you try to touch as little as possible while at church.
- Please exit the church back row to front row.
- Please exit through the Chapel doors.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

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Update from the Wardens

Looking at the calendar, it's hard to believe the community of St. George's has been apart from each other for over five months. And yet, we have managed to meet together in creative ways. Now we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel with the resumption of services in a scaled-back form as of September 27. I'm sure we are all feeling some relief that our routines are slowly starting to return to some kind of normalcy.

Council and Corporation have remained connected through regular Zoom meetings, and continue to insure that all aspects of St. George's are managed and cared for, despite the building being closed to all but a select few (clergy, office personnel, sexton). Here are a few highlights we would like to bring to your attention:

1. C&C endorsed the participation in two outreach projects, one local and one international. A one-time donation was made to the Guelph Community Foundation to support COVID-19 relief efforts in the local community. In June, we had two special visitors joining us. On the 7th, Will Postma,

Executive Director of PWRDF, attended our Zoom Coffee Hour and spoke about the current fundraising project assisting communities in Africa through the Emergency Food Relief with the Canadian Food Grains Bank, The All Mothers and Children Count program, and the Kilwa Emergency Response. It was a pleasure having the Primate of Canada, Archbishop Linda Nicholls, attend our "virtual" church service on June 28, as well as staying for the Zoom coffee time to chat about various issues including the PWRDF. We are encouraging our parishioners to consider making a donation of any amount to this worthwhile project. As in the past, any donations will be matched by the federal government.

2. Volunteers have continued with an all-parishioner "phone-blast", checking in with our members during this Covid time. All reports indicate that this has been a very valued and worthwhile effort. Thank you to those who have been doing the phoning.

3. A team of folks has prepared two meals for Saturday Night Suppers, one in June, and one in August.

4. A sub-committee of Corporation has begun preparations for re-opening the church, tentatively set for September 27.

5. Upon urgent recommendation of the Building and Grounds committee, Corporation unanimously passed a motion on June 16 to replace the roof on Mitchell Hall. This motion was subsequently passed by Council on June 19, via an e-vote. Building and Grounds was of the opinion that the work on the roof



We recently attempted to call everyone on our parish list. If you did not receive a phone call, there is a chance that we don't have your current phone number.

Please email any updates to your contact information to office@saintgeorge.ca.

could no longer be delayed for fear that the integrity of the roof might be compromised. Further leakage might weaken the structural elements in the roof and adjoining walls and this could become a safety hazard. As per protocol, Building and Grounds sought out quotes and recommended Centrix (General Contractor) to oversee the project. The cost will be less than the original quote of \$74,500 due to the presence of the underlying cement roof structure. Normally the protocol for an expenditure over \$15,000 would require a Vestry meeting, however due to restrictions caused by Covid-19, Synod Council and the Bishop suspended the requirement for a Special Vestry approval. Niagara Diocese expedited approval of the project which began in mid-August. By the time you read this newsletter the project should be completed. We want to assure parishioners that this decision was not made in haste, and after much discussion and debate it was decided to tap into the Endowment Reserves. As one would say, we have accumulated savings for a rainy day, and we have definitely arrived at our rainy day.

Submitted by Laura McDonald and James Walke on behalf of Council and Corporation

Events & Passages

since our last newsletter

Milestone Birthdays

Helen Brimmell (100)

Jim Stevens (90)

Graduations

Bryce Sukhdeo (Grade 12)

Passings

Ted Wiffen

John Fordham

Nancy Johnson

Arthur Porter

Lori Anderson

Stan Edwards

Bill French

Les Winship

If you know of a event or milestone who should be included in the future, please email the office at office@saintgeorge.ca.

Blessings From the Soup Lunch Bunch

Happy Summer and Fall to All !

This has been a year filled with lots of change.

We never know from one day to the next what they will arrange.

We've gone from isolating on our own, to small group visits, and six feet apart isn't snug,

but now we have a 10-member group that we can all hug.

I'm enjoying the church services online each week,

very different from looking around and seeing the friendly faces we usually meet.

For those of you that also watch, I'm sure you appreciate the work of the small 'TEAM' each week,

to deliver a service that's short n sweet.

The Wednesday Session, informative and enjoyable,

Another addition to our faith to make it unshakeable.

It will be wonderful to sit back in a pew, but only when its safe to do.

I'm sure everyone has heard that some events have been cancelled,

Sleigh Bell Fantasy and Soup and Buns Lunch temporarily dismantled.

We certainly are a resilient bunch.

Hoping to see you again at our next soup lunch?

I've talked with some of you in the last month or so, all of us hoping this will soon be done.

Blessings to All of Us, Everyone.

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Keeping in touch

A number of people have requested that they receive ALL communications electronically - including newsletters and other mass mailings. If you would prefer to hear from us entirely through email, please contact the office at office@saintgeorge.ca

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