



# St. George's Anglican Church

## News from the Pews

Fall 2024

### From the Rector

***"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice." (Philippians 4:4)***

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice." This is a verse very familiar to many of us, whether you've read it in your Bible, or received a Hallmark card. I think it's because this verse is cited during times of celebration, but more often during times of great difficulty to remind us to be joyful in the midst of trouble. Which, if we're honest, is something that we all struggle with. It's like this verse mocks us as much as it promises hope. I think that's because we end up putting on our fake happy face even though on the inside we feel sick with worry and anxiety.

So then, how do we understand this verse? Well the word for 'rejoice' in Greek shares the same root with the word that means to be thankful. So when the apostle Paul writes this verse to the Christian community in Philippi, he's saying rejoice, be thankful, be aware of all that you have been given. The gift of life, the gift of breath, the gift of children, the gift of forgiveness, the gift of food, be aware that all of life is a gift. That this moment is a gift. That the people around you are a gift. That love, peace and grace are all a gift.

And so rejoicing is not fake happy. Rejoicing is an alert awareness that every moment we have is a gift. For when Paul wrote these words, he was on death row in Rome. He had cause to be bitter and depressed, and yet in the midst of his imprisonment, in the midst of his uncertainty, when he didn't know whether or not he would live to see another sunrise, he was able to give thanks for each moment he had, and take comfort in that the Lord was near.

In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul wrote about his "troubles, hardships, distress, beatings, imprisonment, riots, sleepless nights, hunger." This was a man who knew suffering, yet his suffering doesn't lead him to despair. Instead, Paul claims that he and his friends are "genuine, yet regarded as imposters; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet they live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything."

David Letterman had the musician Warren Zevon on his show soon after Zevon found out he had cancer. Letterman asked him, "From your perspective, do you know something about life that maybe I don't know?" Warren Zevon answered, "I know how much you're supposed to enjoy every sandwich."

Sometimes what happens to us when we suffer is that we become open to the mercy and grace and gratitude and gift and appreciation and joy that are always around us all the time, even in a sandwich.

*Continued...*

And so for Paul, when he talks about rejoicing, he's not talking about putting on your fake happy face and pretending things are fine. He's talking about a kind of formation that has been forged in the furnace of suffering, and yet is able to give thanks for every moment you have, because you know just how precious it is.

It is with this spirit of gratitude that we come together here at St. George's to celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday on October 13th. As always, your support of St. George's and our many ministries is deeply appreciated.

Later this autumn on Sunday, November 3rd we will celebrate the Feast of All Saints. Then on Sunday, November 10th we will observe Remembrance Sunday at both our 8:30 am and 10:30 am services. As well, throughout the autumn our confirmation class will continue to meet, and soon we will be starting Bible studies open to everyone. Please see me for further details about the studies.

In addition, you may have heard that on Saturday, November 16th, at 3pm there is a wedding at St. George's. Belinda and I are getting married and everyone is invited! We are both incredibly excited and look forward to celebrating with you on that day.

As you will be able to see from the announcements in our newsletter, we have a lot of additional ministries going on right now, and lots of opportunities for you to get involved. I invite you as you are able to join us at St. George's this autumn as we gather to be the Church. May God continue to bless you and your family this Thanksgiving season, and may you always experience His peace, comfort, and joy.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev'd Victor Kischak  
Pastor, Priest, & Rector

## From the Wardens

### **Answering the Call: Using Our Talents at St. George's**

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30). The main lesson we can learn from this parable is God calls us to use the talents we have been given to the best of our ability. St. George's Anglican Church is a beacon of faith and hope in Guelph, strengthened by the active participation of many members who already volunteer their talents. We invite everyone to consider how you can further contribute to our congregation's growth through volunteering.

### **Building a Stronger St. George's Community**

Volunteering at St. George's strengthens the bonds among us. As research shows, congregations with high volunteer engagement, like ours, tend to have stronger community ties. Whether it's helping at events, organizing activities, or supporting Sunday services, your involvement ensures our church remains a welcoming home.

### **Enhancing Your Church Experience**

Volunteering enriches your connection to St. George's. Studies have shown that members who volunteer are often more satisfied with their church experience.

By giving your time and talents, you become more invested in the church's mission, leading to greater satisfaction and a thriving community.

*Continued...*

## **Growing Spiritually Through Service of Talents**

Service is a way to live out our Christian faith. Volunteering reinforces our values and teachings, fostering both spiritual growth and stronger personal faith.

## **Helping St. George's Flourish**

Our church's growth reflects the dedication of our volunteers. By sharing your enthusiasm and encouraging others, you help St. George's flourish and extend its impact in the Guelph community.

## **Your Invitation to Get Involved**

Volunteering offers numerous benefits, including a stronger community and deeper spiritual growth. More importantly, it's an opportunity to serve others. Explore how you can contribute, and together, we'll keep St. George's a beacon of faith and hope in Guelph.

Opportunities exist in a variety of ways including:

- Book Club
- Chancel Guild
- Choir
- Crafters' Guild
- Church School
- Greeter
- Special Events such as Christmas Market
- Outreach Ministry
- Reader
- Saturday Night Suppers
- Server
- Spring / Fall cleanup
- Videographer
- Warden (did you think we'd forget that one? )
- ... and others

Thank you for being part of this journey. We look forward to serving alongside you as we continue to build a stronger St. George's Anglican Church.

In Christ,  
Giesela, Laura, Rani, Paul, Bruce

## **Save These Dates!!!**

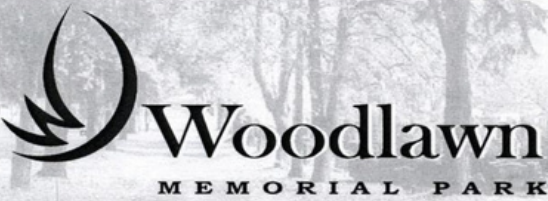
**Sunday, October 13 – Harvest Thanksgiving**

**Sunday, November 3 – All Saints' Sunday**

**Sunday, November 10 – Remembrance Sunday**

**Saturday, November 30 – Christmas Market – 11:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**Wednesday, December 4 – Parish Christmas Dinner – 6:00 pm**



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## RECTOR

The Rev. Victor Kischak  
[rector@saintgeorge.ca](mailto:rector@saintgeorge.ca)

## PRIEST ASSISTANT

The Rev. Canon Jean Mitchell  
[priestassistant@saintgeorge.ca](mailto:priestassistant@saintgeorge.ca)

## WARDENS

Bruce Carrick, Giesela Goetz , Paul Deacon,  
Laura Keller, Rani Varkey,  
[wardens@saintgeorge.ca](mailto:wardens@saintgeorge.ca)

## TREASURER

John Laidlaw [treasurer@saintgeorge.ca](mailto:treasurer@saintgeorge.ca)

## PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Bruce Mackenzie [office@saintgeorge.ca](mailto:office@saintgeorge.ca)

## BOOKKEEPER

Tracy Jewell [bookkeeper@saintgeorge.ca](mailto:bookkeeper@saintgeorge.ca)

## MUSIC DIRECTOR

Jeff Enns [musicdirector@saintgeorge.ca](mailto:musicdirector@saintgeorge.ca)

## CHURCH SCHOOL CO-ORDINATOR

Hannah Keller [churchschool@saintgeorge.ca](mailto:churchschool@saintgeorge.ca)

## FACILITY MANAGER

Harry Oussoren [facilities@saintgeorge.ca](mailto:facilities@saintgeorge.ca)

## RENTAL COORDINATOR

Maryjane Oussoren [bookings@saintgeorge.ca](mailto:bookings@saintgeorge.ca)

## CARILLONNEUR

Don Hamilton

## SEXTONS

Toni Atieh, Bryce Sukhdeo, Andrew Wilson

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday:  
Please call in advance.

## Contact us:

519-822-1366  
[office@saintgeorge.ca](mailto:office@saintgeorge.ca)  
[www.saintgeorge.ca](http://www.saintgeorge.ca)  
[facebook.com/StGeorgeGuelph](https://facebook.com/StGeorgeGuelph)

## Livestream on YouTube

(follow St. George's Guelph)

## MAILING ADDRESS

99 Woolwich Street | Guelph ON | N1H 3V1

# Treasurer's Report

The amount received from Identified givers in August is down \$10K from August of last year; however, Total Offerings are on par with last year as there was a \$10K onetime gift. Total offering year to date is up \$70K, however, without the special gifts, the givings are on par with last year. Total income is also up \$75K YTD from last year, \$3.3K without the special gift. This is mainly due to parking revenue increasing as we rent out more spots and an increase in Easter and Lent givings. There has been a trend over the last few months that the identified givers have slowed in their givings and are falling behind last year's numbers.

On the expense side, Maintenance costs are on the high side, but on par with last, with only repairs and insurance being overbudget. Insurance will continue to be a huge expense going into 2025. Expenses for Office and Accounting are slightly higher than last year with Printing and Stationery being over budget. Building Recovery Costs - Other Users (shown in our budget as a negative expense rather than as income) is up from last year as rentals increase and is on target to meet the budgeted income of \$25K. Overall total expenses are only up slightly compared to August 2023 at \$348K and should stay within the total budget of \$492K.

Our Expenses over Revenue are lower than last year at -\$60K which would be -\$122K without the special gift, however that is still better than 2023 which was -\$126K.

How can you help?

The best thing you can do for St. George's is to make regular, generous offerings to the church. You might consider Pre-Authorized Giving if you haven't already. Simply fill out the form (download it from our website or contact the office for one) and your gift will come directly out of your bank account. No more having to remember an envelope every Sunday!

Other ways to donate include:

- Mail a cheque to the church
- Drop off cash or a cheque at the church during business hours (call ahead)
- By e-transfer to [bookkeeper@saintgeorge.ca](mailto:bookkeeper@saintgeorge.ca)
- On our website using a credit card

	Actual Jan-Aug 2024	Actual Jan-Aug 2023	Budget 2024
Total Revenue	\$288,699	\$213,772	\$418,350
Total Expenses	\$348,227	\$399,828	\$491,594
Net Revenue	-\$59,529	-\$126,056	-\$44,744





## A message from the Stewardship Team at St. George's

As a parish, it is our mission to “Make Jesus Known” in our church, and in the world around us. We do this in a variety of ways, from Sunday and Wednesday services, to clubs and committees, to being the hands and feet of Jesus in the community. As members of our parish, we hope that you feel welcome and part of our church family. We encourage you to get involved in church life – there are lots of fellowship events to attend and many ways to serve in ministry. There’s something for everyone!

We also want to encourage you to support St. George's financially. There are two ways to give regularly. First, you can sign up for **Pre-authorized Giving (PAG)** where your monthly gift automatically comes out of your bank account and directly to the church. This method of giving allows you to give throughout the year, even when you aren't at church, and allows us to more accurately predict our budget. As well, you can use **offering envelopes** that you bring to church with you each Sunday. If you would like to sign up for PAG or get offering envelopes, please call the church office or let a Warden know on Sunday, and we will make sure to get them for you. Both of these options allow you to receive a tax receipt at the end of the year.

We are so grateful that you have chosen St. George's to be your church home. Please reach out if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

St. George's Stewardship Team

Laura Keller, Ella Turnbull, Jeanne Forsythe, John Laidlaw, Rev. Victor Kischak