**ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2019**

All Saints Cochrane

Annual General Meeting

March 8, 2020

**HOSPITALITY MINISTRY**

The Hospitality Ministry is of great value to our church: welcoming newcomers, visitors, and parishioners of "All Saints" every Sunday. Several greeters have been very active over the past year. We have families with children and youth enthusiastically greeting, as well as several couples and single people happily taking their turns according to a schedule. With a smile, they are meeting everyone at the church entrance, and then follow up with newcomers and visitors at coffee time.   Nametags have been very helpful for greeting visitors and newcomers, and for learning other parishioners' names. If you would like to join this valuable ministry, please contact me.

-Margaret Hunziker

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**ALTER GUILD**

Our small group consisting of myself, Agnes Moore, Nancy Racicot and Lynda Alderman continue to

carry out the work of the Altar Guild. We make sure the sanctuary and Altar are prepared for every

Sunday service and for special services such as baptisms, funerals or weddings. We launder and care for

all the Altar linens and change the altar hangings in accordance to the colours of the different seasons of

the Church year. We also polish the silver and brass and purchase flowers or plants to celebrate special

times of the year, such as Easter and Christmas. We encourage parishioners to donate money towards

flowers for the Altar to perhaps remember a loved one. If you would like to do this please let us know.

If you may be interested in joining us in this very special ministry, please let us know. The training is

not difficult to learn. We would be very pleased to welcome new members.

-Christine Goodman

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**WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY**

We are a group of women that gather on Thursday afternoon at 1 pm at the church from September to April. We choose small group studies for the year with seasonal ones for Advent and Lent. This year from January until April, we studied 1 & 2 Peter by Max Lucado and a Lenten booklet. In the fall, with two participants, we only gathered to discuss an Advent program. We are seeking more people for the group to share their thoughts on bible study questions. We support each other with fellowship, encouragement, prayer, and try to connect the lessons from the bible to our daily lives.

-Joyce Archer

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**COUNSELLING**

Faith-informed counselling services are available for church members and others, out of the Family Center. Individuals, couples, and families are welcome. If you are interested but are unable to manage the cost, please approach Greg Clark or Patti Lott regarding subsidies.

Patti Lott, MA Counselling (Mettle Counselling) PH: 403-819-3417

**ACW**

We continue to meet every two months on the third Tuesday of that month with the exception of June, July and August. There is usually a good number of our faithful members who regularly attend. The January meeting is when we disburse the money we have raised over the past year.

Our major fund raisers continue to be the selling of apple pies that we make ourselves on a day that we

get together and spend the day making them at the Church and our Bake and Craft sale in early

December. Also, at our January meeting we have a silent auction.

The Officers of the ACW are;

President. -  Christine Goodman

Secretary - Sharon Barnden

Treasurer. -  Joyce Archer

Every meeting begins with a delicious Pot Luck supper and a time of socializing. Everyone agrees that

we really have a good time.

Here are the Disbursements of the funds we raised during the year and as agreed upon by the group:

Northern Clergy Families Fund $500

Cochrane Food Bank (lunch program) $400

Cochrane Hospice Society $400

Big Hill Haven (Women's shelter) $400

All Saints Reconciliation Ministry $300

Anglican Foundation of Canada $300

Total disbursed $2300

 Our next meeting is March 17. Please consider joining us.

-Christine Goodman

**THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

2019 was another busy year for us. We had 8 ladies create 63 unique shawls. These were given to those in need within our community and beyond. We even sent 5 of them to the Calgary Addiction Centre. These lovely shawls give strength to the weak, and comfort to the suffering. They are also given in celebration of births and other major life changes.

With God’s grace we will continue to spread His love with our gifts. Thank you to all who have contributed with donations of yarn, money, or just your good wishes.

-- Sharon

**PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB**

The photography group meets at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. We share our photos and tips for improving our techniques. A few of our photos are posted on All Saints website. Anyone with an interest in photography is welcome to join us.

- Submitted by Floyd Siegle

on behalf of the Photography Group

**MID-WEEK EUCHARIST**

A service of Holy Eucharist is held each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Regular presiders are Rev. Faith Brace and Fr. Matthew Perreault, and on occasion Fr. Greg Clark or Fr. Tony Hilling. Each week, Gordon Moore prepares a brief reflection on the scripture readings for the day, or on the commemoration of a saint whose feast falls on that day. Services are held in the side-chapel. It’s an opportunity during the week to take a brief time for quiet reflection, prayer and Holy Communion. Everyone is invited to join us.

Rev. Faith Brace, Honorary Assistant

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**BETHANY WORSHIP SERVICE MINISTRY**

Each week from September to mid-June, our Church has a worship service in the Chapel of the Bethany Care Center at 10:30. Either Fr. Greg or Fr. Matthew come to take the service which alternates between morning prayer and Holy Communion.

Anne Stead usually comes to play the keyboard for us which we really appreciate as the singing of the hymns is very important to our participants. Even those from the dementia wing, (800) enjoy the music so much. Our very loyal volunteers bring the residents to the Chapel and then take them back to their rooms after the service.

All of us find participating in this ministry very rewarding. After the service we usually go to Tim Hortons for coffee. If you would be interested in becoming a volunteer with us contact me.

-Christine Goodman

**HIKING CLUB**

During 2019 the club completed 20 hikes, walking 164.5 kilometers with a total elevation gain of 7023 meters. The longest hike was 14.2 kms while the shortest was about 4.0 kms. Participation has ranged from 3 to 10 with an average number of 6 individuals. Most of the hikes were located in the Bow and Kananaskis Valleys as well as the foothills west of Bragg Creek. During the year we also ventured east to hike in the Drumheller area. In winter, we add snowshoes and traction devices to our equipment list depending on conditions. Photo montages of all the hikes are filed in the big binders on the counter in the SW corner of the church narthax. In addition, hike montages for 2019 and onwards can be viewed on the parish website. Our group is not the fastest (nor the slowest) in the world but we are steady and all seem to have a pretty good low gear for those up, up and more up sections.

The group is very informal although participants should be reasonably fit and willing to accept all the risks which can occur on any hike, especially where outside communication is limited or impossible. That being said, there is still no better way to enjoy such wonderful fellowship with kindred spirits as well as simple uncomplicated fun than a hike in God's beautiful mountain Cathedral!

Please e-mail Peter Goodman at pwgoodman@shaw.ca with your contact info if you are interested in receiving notification of the hikes.

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Father Greg’s Children’s Talk has been a great tool to kick off our discussions during Sunday School class. Our focus is based on Father Greg’s message and we expand on it by making it fun and relatable to the children by presenting games, songs, crafts and gospel reading. Children who are in grade 5 and up meet in the youth room and children 2 years to 9 years of age meet downstairs in the Pre-school.

We are using a curriculum that follows the lectionary and helps students to understand the church year and its seasons. The focus of the Sunday School program is to strengthen and deepen their love for God. We also want to encourage and instill confidence in the children so that they can be Disciples of Christ.

I would like to thank the volunteers who make the Sunday School program so successful. Without them we wouldn’t be able to provide a wonderful program. More volunteers are always welcome!

* Rose Mcrae

**MYSTERY BOOK CLUB**

The Mystery Book Club began its fifth year in January, with nine faithful members. We meet once a month, on the third Thursday or Friday, in the afternoon during the winter months and in the evening in the spring and fall. We create a reading-list in January each year, with mainly Canadian and British authors, and sometimes works by Americans, Europeans or other writers. Most of our selections are recent publications (since 2000) but we read the occasional classic from the 19th or early 20th century. We tend to read a few more female authors – the last two reading-lists have included 12 out of 19 women. New members are welcome to join us.

* Rev. Faith Brace, Leader

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**CHURCH WEBSITE**

With a grant from the Diocese of Calgary, we updated our Church website in the spring of 2019. The new website’s monthly cost is about half of the previous version (and may soon go down in price again), and has better support from the providers. The new format is easier to maintain and update, as well as being automatically available in all computer, tablet and mobile phone screen sizes. There is also an easy way to promote upcoming events and highlight current news items that relate to the church.

The overall administration of the website is in the hands of Sonya in the office, and the content is kept up to date by Gord. The website has two goals: provide a presence on the internet for our Church for those who are looking for a church home, and to provide our church members with information on service times and group events.

If you don’t see your group or activity mentioned, or you would like to add or update information, you can email webadmin@allsaintscochrane.org. You are encouraged to check out the site ([www.allsaintscochrane.org](https://www.allsaintscochrane.org)) and visit often as events change daily.

* Gord Moore

**TECHNOLOGY**

The old laptop and software used to display the services were replaced just before Easter. The new software provides several useful features including remote control via an iPad and the ability to have a separate display for the singers.

The new setup has proven to be more reliable than the old equipment and easier for our tech team to operate.

The “Carols with a Twist” concert in December needed more than the usual tech support. Our new LED light bulbs on the church ceiling do not provide a lot of illumination for the choir in the evening and the high quality of the singing deserved a more professional approach to complement the production. So we rented stage lights for the occasion (the cost of which were covered by a donation) which truly added to the atmosphere, even if they were a bit dazzling for the performers.   Maybe someday we will have more permanent event lighting.

It can be a problem to provide tech support for weekday events such as funerals. I thank Cary and Michael especially for their tremendous work on the tech team but all three of us work during the week, so if anyone able to spare time during normal work hours would like to join the team for this ministry we would be most grateful.

-John Stead

**MUSIC AND WORSHIP**

This year we welcomed some new members into our choir and music groups. This was very exciting and meant we could choose even more demanding pieces for our musicians to perform. The choir proved they were prepared to tackle anything from the complex and difficult to fun and entertaining music. The favourite piece this year was ‘The Old Church Choir’ which went down a storm. It was sung when we revealed the new-look T shirts which say, “I’ve got the All Saints Choir singing in my soul.” Many thanks to John for creating these for us.

Some new and worthy mentions from the band this year include ‘Remember’, ‘Who You Say I Am’ and ‘Is He worthy’ keeping us bang up to date with the latest worship music trends.

We are fortunate to have a range of soloists and instrumental performers who not only sing but also play drums, guitar, percussion and recorders. We now also have a number of pianists including James, Tim, Liam, Julian and Victoria.

A well as the choir we have two A Capella groups: the original motet group and the young adults group who call themselves ‘A Choired Taste’. We even have a group of performers who are prepared to sing, dance and act!

The biggest highlight of the year had to be the Christmas Concert, ‘Carols with a Twist.’ Over 200 people attended and it was very well received. The variety of music showed how versatile we are in being able to perform an eclectic mix of styles from medieval to the present day. Thanks to such a talented and dedicated group of musicians including singers, percussionists, pianists, recorder players and guitarists. Our songs were brought to life with the help of our narrators, Ruth-Anne and Ross who did a marvellous job. The success of the evening was not only down to the music and stories but also our very talented and and hard working tech team led by John. The lights created the mood and the overhead pictures illustrated what was being said and sung. They kept the whole performance together and were also responsible for causing the Baptist delegation to gasp and cry in delight.

The entertainment for our church dinner this year was delivered by a group of singers/performers who got together and performed from memory a 15-minute Disney medley in harmony with choreography and props. They sang about princes, princesses and villains. The group were on the verge of individually and collectively having a nervous breakdown due to the amount of work involved but they shone through, brought the characters to life and delighted the audience.

**Some of the highlights from last year’s services included:**

Choir - Coventry Carol, Create in Me, Just As I Am, Peace Like A River, Old Church Choir

Band - Remember, East to West, If We’re Honest, The Stand, What A Beautiful Name, Is He Worthy

Motet group - O Sacred Head So Wounded, Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring.

The Wasylik girls sang In Flanders Fields for the Remembrance service.

Kathleen and Anne played Handel’s recorder Sonata in A minor.

Terry, Alicia and Kathleen played Taizé music.

James and Tim played piano for the worship songs. Anne played Bach, Chopin and Haydn and Liam brought us Bach, Brahms and Beethoven. Julian and Victoria performed Christmas music and improvisations on piano for Advent 4.

- Anne Stead

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**SMALL GROUPS LIST**

Small Group Contact

Altar Guild Christine Goodman

ACW Christine Goodman

Band/choir Anne Stead

Bethany group Christine Goodman

Bible study (ladies’) Sharon Barnden

Building and yard maintenance Ross Sargent

Children, Sunday School Rose McRae

Coffee Group Sharon Barnden

Coffee set-up and clean-up Lynda Alderman

Deepening the Faith Fr. Greg/Jackie Harbidge

Eucharist and Discussion Gord Moore

Events planning Sharon Barnden

Guild of St. Cuthburt Fr. Matthew Perrault

Hiking Group Peter Goodman

Hospitality/Welcoming Margaret Hunziker

Men’s Breakfast Jonathon Wasylik

Morley Neighbours to Neighbours Elizabeth Short

Mystery Book Study Faith Brace

Out to Lunch Group Sharon Barnden

Photography Floyd Siegle

Prayer Group Christine Goodman

Prayer Shawl Group Sharon Barnden

Sunday Servants Fr. Greg Clark

Tech team John Stead

Youth Group Richard Tustain

-Submitted by Jackie Harbidge

**A TO Z PRESCHOOL**

Currently, we have 40 students registered at A to Z Pre-school. The Pre-school, which is an outreach program of All Saints, provides programming for three to five year olds. We also provide speech and occupational therapy for children needing additional support.

As the Pre-school is a part of the church community, I have stressed the importance of making these Pre-school parents feel part of the All Saints community. The A to Z staff have been able to make strong connections and cultivate relationships with the Pre-school parents. One of the activities was coffee time for the Pre-school parents, with Father Greg and Father Matthew. Implementing our core values of “Greeting you with joy”, families have been invited to our Invitation Sundays. The Pre-school children have continued developing a special relationship with Father Greg. It was great to see some of the congregation come out to our Christmas performances.

The teachers at A to Z Pre-school would like to thank All Saints for providing us with a warm, caring environment for families, students and staff alike.

February is pre-registration month for the upcoming school year. If interested, please call Rose Mcrae at 403 803-7106.

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**HEALING MINISTRY**

The healing ministry begun in the fall of 2018 continues with opportunities offered for prayers for healing every three months. We began with one station and have now increased to three, so it’s possible to include these special prayers in the context of the Sunday Eucharist and not prolong the service. At each station there is a priest or deacon as well as a lay person. Laying on of hands and anointing with oil are offered. If there is a desire for private prayers for healing, at the church or in the home, parishioners are invited to make a request to one of the clergy.

Rev. Faith Brace, Honorary Assistant

**GUILD OF ST. CUTHBERT**

The guild of St. Cuthbert is a ministry for altar servers which is designed with a number of goals in mind, including enhancing our Sunday worship, including young people in the centre of our worship, and discipling members in their faith with an encouraging and supportive environment. The guild is designed for persons aged 9 – 18.

This year has been one of rebuilding. Fr. Matthew resumed leadership for the Guild upon his appointment as curate. A number of existing members of the guild had decided for various reasons not to continue in regular participation. A recruitment day was held, however only one new recruit came forward. While this has successfully allowed for servers to assist both for the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord and Candlemas, there is not currently a regular schedule for servers to participate even at significant Holy Days and Major Feasts.

Some consideration has been given to the possibility of recruiting adults to serve as a number of adults have expressed an interest in participating. This might assist in the short-term as there are in fact a lack of age-appropriate candidates for serving at this time. However, given that the Guild was designed for youth, there has been some reluctance to open the guild up to adults. Continued discernment is needed as we decide whether or not to expand membership in this way.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Matthew Perreault

**DEACON’S REPORT**

It is now 3 years I have served as a Deacon at All Saints, and 15 since I have been part of this parish.

This past year saw some changes and some continuation of ministries.

On Sundays when I am not somewhere else in the Diocese, I serve as Deacon for the Sunday Eucharist. I assist at funerals and special services as well. I also take my turn preaching and giving the children’s talk. I serve on Parish Council, the Stewardship Committee, the Prayer Group, and meet regularly with the staff. I was a non-voting member of All Saints Family Centre Board.

My Diocesan responsibilities have grown. I am now on staff, working half-time as a Parish Health Facilitator, which includes working with the Rural Ministry Team and other parishes who are dealing with various challenges. I am a member of the Board for the Calgary School of Mission and Ministry, am on the Missional Coaching Team, and the Committee on Ministry. I have taken my turn as an Examining Chaplain (a discernment process for people considering Ordination). I served in 2019 as an accessor for ACPO (Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination) for the Anglican Province of Rupert’s Land. This is a weekend discernment process for those considering ordination to the Priesthood. I have been invited to be part of ACPO again this year.

I continue to work with the people of the **Stony Nakoda First Nations**. My main focus is grief and loss, but of course there are various ways this work expands to include other things. This year I began working with a young man with the hope of him becoming an assistant facilitator. Because he is from Stony Nakoda First Nations, it will be a valuable addition to my team. It continues to be a challenge without my colleague, Myrna Kootenay who died last January.

I continue to be engaged in **outreach** from All Saints. There have now been several iterations of what I do but I see a natural progression. Part of the changes can be noted in the name changes! The programs I offer next door (in the building now called “**The Parish House**” and my work with Morley (Reconciliation Ministry) have moved from the purview of All Saints Family Centre Society to All Saints Anglican Church. This is an important move as it is meant to include all of you, and your participation, support and understanding of what is happening as a Parish ministry means a lot. The programs offered are also our outreach into the Community of Cochrane (and Calgary, it turns out). Some of what we offer is in the style of a **Retreat Centre**. We will be offering ways to learn about and become involved in various spiritual practice which will enrich your Christian walk. We will be offering quiet days, workshops and teaching sessions. I will continue to offer programs that deal with life transitions, especially Grief and Loss. Karen Wold, a registered Spiritual Director offers individual sessions and will also be part of the offerings mentioned above. We are also delighted to have Alicia Dykstra involved in programming and grateful to Agnes Moore our volunteer. Patti Lott, a chartered psychologist continues to offer counselling services.

A program that we are excited about is called **Sacred Space Co-Working**. Co-working is becoming more and more popular because there are many people who are just starting up business or who work from home. They can’t or don’t need to rent office space. This can become very isolating. You will see people working in coffee shops, in order to get out of the house. We offer a quiet space with your own table to work from, access to Wi-Fi and printing, and a place to make a cup of tea or coffee and heat up some lunch. We also offer larger spaces where people can hold meetings, interviews, etc. that they wouldn’t be able to do from home. What makes our space unique from many others is that it is co-working with a monastic twist! We begin and end the day with prayer and have prayers at noon as well. We also offer a Yoga Practice at noon, thanks to Sonya. Sacred Space Co-Working happens every Thursday. To learn more about this, including the program, cost and how to register, please have a look at one of our brochures.

The Parish House also offices space to various groups, sometimes on a regular basis and sometimes as occasional or single-time use. This includes a men’s AA group, an Anxiety and Depression Group, various gatherings of Big Hill Haven, a Marriage Preparation Course and Diocesan committee meetings.

I would be very happy to speak to anyone who would like to become involved in any of these programs. If there is something you are interested in offering or would like to see offered, I would be happy to speak to you about this as well. And, please, invite a friend or family member. We want as many people as possible to experience the love of Christ at All Saints, and these programs can be a gentle introduction and an ongoing encouragement and support. Please pray for this ministry.

In closing, I want to share with you a scripture that continues to both challenge and motivate me: “As he [Jesus] went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.” *Mark 6:34*

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Short

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**WARDENS’ REPORTS**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Throughout the last year we have been working with the simple phrase “*Growing the Body of Christ*.” It was a busy year with many accomplishments and positive things underway.

A strategic planning session was held on April 6th with members of Parish council Family Centre Board and ministry team leaders attending. From this session we developed a list of action items which we are working towards implementing.

A Planned Giving seminar entitled *“Where There’s a Will … (lets fill in the dots)*” led by Joe Stolee and Pamela Giles of Faithful Servant Consulting was held on October 20th. This was an informative session that provided useful ideas to consider. A brochure summarizing Planned Giving is available at the back of the church. A Gift Acceptance Policy was developed to provide clarity about roles and responsibilities related to gifts to All Saints. In conjunction with this, a list of designated funds for planned giving was prepared. There are five options available for designated gifts:

1. Local, National or International Outreach
2. Parish Life
3. Ben Greenfield Fund
4. Theological Education: e.g. Northern Parishes
5. Where needed (other than General Fund) at discretion of Corporation

An All Saints Tide dinner was held on November 2nd at Cochrane Alliance Church. Light-hearted entertainment with a Disney theme was provided by the music team. A modest profit of $950 was realized from this fundraiser. A special thanks to the organizing committee, the music team and people who attended and supported this event. The 2020 dinner is already booked for November 14th.

All Anglican parishes in the diocese of Calgary are required to contribute annually to support the work of the diocese. The amount (called apportionment) that each parish contributes is set by the diocese according to an established formula. Since 2015 we have applied to the Diocese of Calgary for a reduction of our apportionment payable to help meet our budgets for each of the subsequent years. We were granted reductions ranging from $12,000 to $30,521 for 2016 through to 2019. For 2019 we’ve been granted a reduction of $32,000.

In 2019 were able to hold our operating expenses, excluding Outreach and Building Fund, almost flat compared to 2018 while our offerings increased by 9%. Thus we were able to realize positive net income before accounting adjustments. A Ben Greenfield Memorial fund for building and grounds maintenance and repairs was set up in 2019 in honour of Ben who was instrumental in the purchase of the church property.

In 2019 we raised sufficient funds to paint the exteriors of the church and the Parish House, replace an office window and repair a window in the Parish House. Thanks to everyone who supported these projects. Prior to painting the church we had an enthusiastic group of people come out to remove the deck at the back of the church and to clean up the grounds. The deck was removed safely and all materials were hauled way. The storage shed was also emptied and torn down. The old clothing donation box was removed and replaced with a new one by the Diabetes Association. Additionally, upgrades were made to Fire monitoring.

The sale of grocery cards is an ongoing and easy method of fundraising to generate funds for capital projects at All Saints. We purchase the grocery cards in bulk and receive discounts from the stores ranging from 3% to 6%. The cards are easy and convenient to use for grocery purchases and have a declining balance that can be used over several shopping trips. The cash register receipt indicates the remaining balance on the card. Cards are available for Sobeys/Safeway, Save-On Foods, No-Frills, and Co-op. We had a record year of sales in 2019 and realized a profit of $2,596. Since the program was started in 2013 we’ve raised $15,316 for capital projects at the church. We ended 2019 with $1,756.50 in the Building Fund from grocery card sales. In 2019 we introduced the ability to accept debit and credit card transactions (with fees paid for by the users).

There are so many great things happening at All Saints that it is not possible to mention them all. A family evening of bowling, pizza, popcorn and pop was held on May 25th at Cochrane Lanes. A parish potluck/picnic/barbecue was held on June 23rd at Riverfront Park. A draw for the raffle of *No Greater Love* concert tickets was held on the same date (June 23) and was won by an individual from outside of the parish. Due to increasing attendance at worship we purchased twenty new hymn books with costs covered by donations from individuals in memory of loved ones. Our website was upgraded and modernized and is greatly improved.

The exploration of the feasibility for outside space development and the construction of a columbarium, aka The Bishop Ford Memorial Park, was completed and presented at a general meeting Jan. 19th. The proposal was unanimously approved by the parish on that date. The building permit submission has been made to the Town of Cochrane. The Bishop Ford Memorial Park committee is currently developing the necessary contracts, pricing and provincial recording documents so that once approval for development has been granted niches sales will open.

We would like to thank Greg and all of you for your support and encouragement in 2019. We encourage you to prayerfully consider how you will participate in and contribute to continue Building the Body of Christ at All Saints in the coming year. We look forward to another successful year in 2020.

Submitted on behalf of the Warden’s,

*Floyd Siegle Ruth-Anne Marley*

Incumbent’s Warden People’s Warden

**CURATE’S REPORT**

At the beginning of my appointment to the parish, I sat down with the Incumbent and Corporation to establish goals for my time at All Saints. The major goal was to create a report on the state of congregational development in the parish. To that end I prepared a significant report that reviewed past work done in this area, and also explored how significant resources that many parishioners may be familiar with such as Mary Parmer’s *Invite, Welcome, Connect* programme or Michael Harvey’s *Culture of Invitation*. The report took several months to compile, involving research, review, and several conversations with parishioners. The final report was delivered to Corporation around Christ the King 2019, and highlighted a very positive outlook for the parish.

While we are doing well in several areas, the overall goal of the recommendations in the report was to attempt to systematize many of the efforts being undertaken to ensure they are all moving us in the same direction. This has involved an attempt to re-engage with our parish vision, “to lead people to follow Christ, who makes life whole.” We have sought to identify in our themes throughout the season of Epiphany how our parish lives out this vision of mission, while reflecting on the missional themes of Christ himself. This reflection of our vision will continue in Lent. This has taken place in the context of having taken over some responsibility for liturgical planning from our Music Director, to allow her to focus on musical selections and her continued outstanding work in developing our parish’s musical talents. As a part of this, I have been developing a parish customary, a document that outlines norms for how we worship Sunday through Sunday in an effort to bring a big-picture outlook and to reduce the amount of day-to-day work required for this type of planning.

Another significant fruit of the report has been working to develop a comprehensive path for welcoming and discipling guests in the parish, as well as raising up new lay leaders. This section of the report was highlighted as being significant for the life of the parish, and in co-ordination with lay leadership from Jackie Harbidge, we are preparing to launch several new programmes after Easter with an eye towards a regular annual cycle of one-off introductory classes, as well as basic and intermediate Christian education classes suitable for instruction in the faith as well as Baptism and Confirmation preparation. These courses are being designed in a way to hopefully keep them engaging for people who are new to Christianity and those who have spent their entire lives in the Church.

When I was appointed as a curate, many parishioners had met my then girlfriend Linzie, who I had met while attending seminary in the United States. Just before my appointment began in August, we became engaged, and with much love, affection, and prayer from members of this community, we were married by Archbishop Greg in early January of this year. I have been using significant amounts of my holiday time, as well as my continuing education time, to visit Linzie in the United States while we address immigration issues. She is expected to move to Calgary around July 2020, and I remain extremely grateful for the prayer, consideration, and understanding of the parish during this time of transition, and as I work out what it means to be both a priest of this Diocese assigned to this parish and a husband.

Moving forward, I am looking forward to continued work on implementation of the various recommendations made in the report, and especially promoting involvement from other parishioners in the work of implementation.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Matthew Perreault

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**INCUMBENT’S REPORT**

Each year at this time, it is my responsibility and opportunity to speak to you about the direction that the parish has taken in the last year and the direction we hope, under God’s strength and guidance, to undertake during the upcoming year. Of course, it is impossible to properly and thoroughly mention all the ministries in our parish and the people involved in them. So, I will just mention this year’s stewardship theme again and recall a few significant moments from 2019.

First of all, you may remember that we have focused on ***Building the Body of Christ***.

This image is a very powerful one in the New Testament. It is meant to make us think of our own physical bodies, united to Christ’s body through the sacraments. This is a point that the Reformed part of our tradition really wanted to emphasize. In Baptism and the Eucharist, we are (this is not just a figure of speech) *united to the Body of the Ascended Jesus.* This makes our bodies holy; they are *temples of the Holy Spirit* as St Paul says. This means that the sacraments of healing (confession and anointing) are also very important because they are so physical. A priest placing his or her hands on our heads to absolve and heal us of sin or anointing us to heal our bodies are physical acts (think of how often Jesus performed similar physical actions in the gospels while healing the sick).

This also then affects our attitude towards the faithful departed. Many centuries ago, St Athanasius made the point that fear of death leads to the worship of idols. Unlike pre-Christian pagans who were afraid of the dead, we Christians built our earliest churches around the graves of the martyrs. We celebrated the victory of the risen Christ and of his people who will “rest in peace, rise in glory”. Now at a time when people once more avoid death and dying (see the radical decrease in funerals) we are (as our forebearers in the faith) building a place in our holy place for the bodies of God’s people to rest while we name them before God. A place where people can come and remember and pray. It makes a strong statement and invitation to the larger community of Cochrane.

We have also continued to build the bonds of the Body. We have done so through events and opportunities for people to meet and get to know one another and enjoy one another’s company. This is essential. We must grow in love and relationship if the Body is to be strong. Recently I was able to engage in a short study of loneliness and isolation in our current context (this study is on our website). Speaking very broadly, we can report that about 50% of people in the greater Calgary area feel isolated from their neighbourhood. Those of us who are deeply connected through long lasting and God-given institutions like the Church, our family, and even (as above) neighbourhood have no idea how isolated those who have become increasingly disconnected from these institutions have become. And the consequences are everywhere. Loneliness, plummeting rates of marriage and family life and psychological well-being, increased rates of family violence, and even fear and isolation which has made euthanasia seem like an option are all indicators of this. “Online community” may well enrich already existing connections but, for many, it is increasingly another form of addiction and thus cutting off from real physical people. We, as a community, the Body of Christ, are a light on the hill in this respect. “It is not good” God said at the creation of humanity “for the man to be alone”. Amen to that.

Building the bonds of the Body also means caring for our temple, our church building, and also financial and administrative oversight. A body cannot function properly unless its bones and sinews are strong. During this last year we continued to ensure the upkeep of our facility and increased financial stewardship while carefully considering how to most effectively use our resources.

These are some of the ways that have, by the grace of God, built the Body of Christ, during the last year. One small proof that God has blessed us in this way and given us an abundance to share is how our tabernacle has come to be used in the last year. We now take the Body (and Blood) of Christ to feed the bodies, souls and spirits of people at Bethany Care Centre, Grande Ave Village, Big Hill Lodge, Pointe’s West, St Barnabas TsuuT’inna (where Rev Deacon Elizabeth and the Rev Faith Brace have also gone) and from time to time St Paul’s Church in Golden where 3 of our priests (Fr Tony, Fr Matthew and myself) have also either celebrated or are scheduled to celebrate the Eucharist in the several weeks. God has blessed us with this abundance so that others can flourish in Christ. We also have provided assistance for the restarting of ministry at St Barnabas TsuuT’inna (as above) and provided (through Rev Deacon Elizabeth) grief and loss ministry and pastoral care at Stony Nakota. Our tabernacle has become a place from which Christ has graciously spread his presence. Please notice the white (presence) lamp lit beside where Christ dwells in the Blessed Sacrament the next time you come to the Church

We are fortunate to have the Rev Matthew Perrault join us as assistant curate this year. A large part of Matthew’s job has been to take our strategic plan (first created in 2003) and (working with Jackie Harbidge) out of it create a plan to help all of us, from those entering the church for the first time to those of us who have been here for decades into a discipleship plan. There is a very laid out pathway to grow into the Body of Christ, to help us to grow into Jesus’s disciples. This will mean that, no matter where we are, each of us will have well-planned opportunities to grow in faith.

This next year we will continue to Build the Body of Christ through “Growing into the Body of Christ”.

As usual there are too many to thank. But I would like to especially draw attention to the selfless, faithful and thoughtful work of our wardens Ruth-Anne and Floyd. I also want to thank a highly effective parish council, staff, and assistant clergy. I am very grateful to the Family Centre Board which went through the agonizing work of bringing its ministry under the umbrella of the corporation and parish council. Again, there are way too many people to thank. So, thanks to you all and God bless you for your many ministries.

By the grace of the Risen Lord, let us ***Grow Together into the Body of Christ***.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev Greg Clark

Rector