



2025 Vestry Reports

In our 205th Year

St. John the Evangelist (Stamford)

**Annual Vestry Meeting to be held
February 22, 2026, at 12:30 pm in the Hall**

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Contents

Table of Contents	pg. 1
Interim Priest's Report	pg. 3
Canon Howard Anningson's Report	pg. 4
Minutes of Annual Vestry Meeting – Feb. 19, 2025	pg. 5

Section A

Statistical Report for 2025	pg. 8
From the Parish Records: Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals	pg. 9
Wardens Report	pg. 10
Building Report	pg. 11
Parish Administrator's Report	pg. 13
Parish Council Report	pg. 14

Section B

Evangelism & Community Outreach Reports:

Advent Giving Tree	pg. 15
Project SHARE	pg. 15
Various Other Outreaches: St. Georges Breakfast Program Red Jam, Grace Pantry	pg. 16

Parish Fellowship & Events Reports:

Prayer Shawl Ministry	pg. 16
Labyrinth Group	pg. 17
Spiritual Formation Group	pg. 18

Section C

Partners in Ministry Reports:

Bee Montessori Niagara School	pg. 20
Niagara Falls Christian Ministries	pg. 20
Niagara Falls Horticultural Society	pg. 21
Pathfinders and Rangers (<i>Girl Guides</i>)	pg. 22

Section D

Financial Reports:

Funds Held by the Diocese	pg. 24
Comparative Income Statement (will be available at Meeting)	
Balance Sheet (will be available at Meeting)	
Financial Report – Summary & Income	pg. 25
Parishioners Givings to St. John's	pg. 26
Financial Report – Expenses	pg. 26
Budget for 2026	pg. 27

Section E – Annual Vestry Meeting Materials

Proposed Slate of Elections and Appointments for 2026	pg. 28
Agenda for Vestry Meeting – February 22, 2026	pg. 29

*Many thanks go to Karen James
for the photos in this booklet.*



Interim Priest in Charge's Report *Submitted by The Rev. Allison Courey*

Dear People of St. John's,

What a joy it's been to join your community this year! You've been through many challenges, largely stemming from transitions in leadership, and yet you remain joyful and vibrant. Thank you for welcoming me warmly in October.

I've been encouraged by many things which have taken root at St. John's in the last couple of years: a vibrant African community, the establishment of Bee Montessori (which reports being very pleased with our relationship), Grace Pantry (run by Niagara Falls Christian Ministries), and spiritual formation classes facilitated by Rob and Stephanie.

Vestry is a time to look to the year ahead as much as we review the year that's passed. It is easy enough to see the ways we fall short, and it's tempting to lament the things lost since the pandemic. I lament those things as well. However, what's abundantly clear to me is that St. John's is not short on strengths and gifts. They're just different strengths and gifts than you once had. The challenge now is to empower one another to live into a new way of being church together. We're being invited into a season of discernment, looking for what God is up to among us, and being curious about how we can engage in new ways.

My contract is only 16 hours a week, meaning I cannot attend to all the pieces a full time priest would. But this also means that, instead of being led by just one voice from the front, we have the chance to develop a leadership team with a greater diversity of gifts. Irene, who was made a deacon before leaving Kenya, is active in pastoral care and worship ministry. I also have a pastoral visiting workshop scheduled in March for folks who wish to assist with visiting those who are sick or elderly.

Rob and Karen are assisting with redesigning our Sunday liturgies and PowerPoints so that they're more user-friendly. Lydia has committed to helping with the financial management of the church, starting with becoming the envelope secretary. Irene and Val are in conversation with me about how to better integrate Swahili music and worship into the 11am service. Clyde is coming on as a signing authority for the cemetery. Lil is involved with training new people to be wardens, assist with coffee hour, steward our finances, and care for the building grounds. Others are stepping into roles on parish council or Sunday duties, and still others serve faithfully in the roles they've filled for many years.

Stephanie, Greg, Karen, Jill, Lynne, and Rob have each been involved in opening up a visioning process to understand what we're called to next as a community. This will begin with a morning of prayer and conversation facilitated by Rob on a Saturday morning in March. From there, anyone who wishes to join a process of listening prayer will be invited to join a small group that meets regularly after Easter.

I have no illusions that shifting our congregational culture toward something new will be quick or easy. In fact, stimulating new growth always takes more energy than hibernation does. It is true that many churches *are* entering a season of hibernation, and there's little to do but watch and pray. But it's abundantly clear to me that St. John's is not one of those churches. We're being invited to become a beacon of hope in our neighbourhood, and a house of prayer for all nations. God is asking us to take hold of a courage which lets go of the things which no longer serve God's purposes, and say "yes" to the new thing being born in our midst. We're being invited to name the gifts we see in one another and nurture them.

For some of you, this means saying "yes" when you're invited to set up for coffee hour or lead Sunday prayers. For others, this means giving mindful attention to what the gifts of others are, asking for help directly, offering basic training, and then letting go of the pieces that belong to someone else now.

I invite you to open yourself up to new possibilities this year, and allow yourself to be surprised by a new experience of church, and a new encounter with Jesus. Who is coming through our door *today*, and how can we meet them as Jesus would? What is the need in our community *right now*, and how can we face it fearlessly? How can we immerse ourselves in prayer and discernment so that we can recognize God's call to try something new when it comes?

I encourage you to think about which roles at the church are life-giving for you, and which ones are a burden. As much as possible, it's important that we place people in leadership roles which utilize their gifts, so that we can strengthen one another. Holding back from engaging your gifts can stunt the growth of the community, and cause others to become over-extended.

I look forward to this next year together. My prayer is that we will find the balance between utilizing new energy and living into rhythms of rest, as we follow God's lead into this new season.

In peace,

Allison+

Honorary Assistant's Report *Submitted by Canon Howard Anningson*

In 2025 I presided at 8 am Sunday and Wednesday services. I thank the Parish for allowing me this privilege.

St. John the Evangelist (Stamford), Niagara Falls
Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting for the Year 2024
Held Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025
(delayed due to a storm on Sunday)

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer: The meeting was called to order by The Rev. Canon Phil Bristow, Interim Priest in Charge, with an Opening Prayer, using the Prayer Card for St. John's that he had designed.

2. Appointment of Vestry Clerk: Val Clarke was appointed as Vestry Clerk. Moved by Sterling Tooke, seconded by Lynne Coull. CARRIED.

3. Establishment of Eligible Voting Members as per Canon 4.1: 15 people signed in and attended this Vestry Meeting.

4. Review and Acceptance of 2024 Minutes:

Moved by Val Clarke, seconded by Melissa Bishop that the minutes be accepted as corrected. CARRIED.

5. Adoption of Reports (apart from Financial Reports): Lynne Coull reported that she had submitted a Synod Report, but it was not included in the booklet. Canon Phil thanked everyone for their submissions.

Moved by Howard Anningson, seconded by Karen James to adopt the reports. CARRIED.

6. Remembering the Departed of St. John's: We mourn the losses of the past year.

The names, as printed on page 8 of the Vestry Reports Booklet, were read by Canon Phil Bristow.

7. Financial Statements for the year 2024: as found on pages 29-34 of the Vestry Booklet.

This portion of the Agenda was let by Lil Booth.

Lead Mechanical did dishwasher and radiator repairs, and came quickly. Very reasonable prices.

We are still waiting for our GST refund (after Hallie Chase worked it out the amount we are owed).

Judy Giberson reported on the amounts in accounts as of this date.

Lil reported on the 3 funds that the Diocese holds at present (see page 29).

Lil said that there was an issue this week with the hot water being too hot; Lead Mechanical turned it down. We own our hot water tank (from 2004), but it became full of sludge, creating a thermal blanket and raising the temperature. Corporation agreed to get a new hot water tank from designated funds; if you rent a tank, you get a lien on the building. After 8 years, it is more beneficial to purchase than to rent.

The DM&M will be down almost \$1000 per month from last year.

It was moved by Lil Booth, seconded by Lynne Coull, that we receive the Financial Statements. CARRIED.

8. St. John's Parish Budget for 2025: (Page 36).

Lil Booth led this portion. The budget is very similar to last year. World issues may impact our finances, but we have hope for 2025.

We still haven't heard from the Diocese regarding our Insurance charges for this coming year. We pay monthly. They charge minimal interest.

Motion by Lil Booth , seconded by Karen James to accept the 2025 budget. CARRIED.

9. Slate of Appointments and Elections for 2025:

The proposed slate of Elections & Appointments remains as it was in November, 2024:

People's Wardens:	Lil Booth
Rector's Warden:	Amanda Fretz
Deputy Rector's Warden:	Susan Maddeaux
Deputy People's Warden:	Lydia Kateza
Bookkeeper:	Hallie Chase (appointment by Corporation)
Envelope Secretary:	Mary Simons (appointment by Corporation)
Synod Delegate:	Lynne Coull
Alternate Synod Delegate:	Susan Maddeaux
PWRDF Contact:	Val Clarke <i>(to be called Alongside Hope in 2025)</i>
Other Parish Council Members:	Arlene Adamson
	Jill Shupe
	Judy Giberson

Folks put in a lot of hours in the background of the parish.

Lil said that we need more volunteers and help: Sunday kitchen, counters, Altar Guild, etc... COVID wiped everything out, and we need to build it up again.

Moved by Canon Phil, seconded by Eleanor Frost to elect this proposed slate. CARRIED.

10. New Business:


- Black History month is in February. Irene will preach next Sunday. She was ordained as a Deacon in Kenya.
- When Canon Phil is away March 11-25 to visit his daughter in the States, Canon Howard Anningson will cover.
- Canon Phil invited us to use the parish prayer cards.
- March 4 is Shrove Tuesday. We are invited to Holy Trinity Chippawa from 11am-2pm to join in their Pancake Lunch. \$10.
- Lent: Canon Phil is working on a program and a Wednesday evening discussion, to make it personal. A leaflet will be coming out next week.

11. Motions of Thanks:

- Canon Phil said that this is a scary time, and he is always afraid he'll miss someone, as he is so new.
 - Thanks especially to Corporation for their dedication and work.
 - So appreciating of Canon Howard, who is continuing 8am Sunday leadership
 - Thanks to Val Clarke, who is so well organized!
 - Thanks to ALL!

12. Adjournment: There was a motion to adjourn from Carol Anningson, The meeting ended using the prayer "For a New Priest" on the prayer card.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Val Clarke



SECTION A

Statistical Report for 2025 *Submitted by Val Clarke*

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Number of households	141	137	113	117	121	202
Envelopes used	19	17	21	23	25	35
Pre-Authorized Payments	34	37	38	37	42	47
Identifiable Contributors	22 (totaling 75)	35 (totaling 89)	19 (totaling 78)	36 (totaling 96)	27 (totaling 94)	30 (totaling 112)
Baptized	1	3	2	2	1	3
Confirmed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marriages & Renewal of Vows	0	2	0	3	1	1
Funerals	0	4	3	8	8	4
Average Weekly Attendance	105 In-person & online	107 In-person & online	73 In-person & online	63 **Open 42 Sundays in 2022.	16 in- person + 64 online weekly = 80 ** ** NOTE: open only 21 Sundays in 2021 due to pandemic	43 ** ** open only 25 Sundays in 2020 due to pandemic
Average Sunday Attendance	46	51	39	33	32	41
Average Mid-Week Attendance	11	15	14 *	8	6 (on Zoom)	Not held
Persons Eligible to Vote at Vestry	75	89	78	96	94	112

From the Parish Records *Submitted by Val Clarke*

We welcomed the following into Christ's fellowship through Baptism:

Munachhimso Janelle Onyezi

***We remember those who have died in the peace of Christ,
including the following present and past parishioners:***

Edward Bennett

Lloyd Pepperall

Valerie Williams

Carl Onofrio



Wardens' Report *Submitted by Lil Booth*

The year at St. John started out with interim Archdeacon Val Kerr here til the end of January. Canon Phil Bristow came in February and stayed with us until the end of September. Thanks to both of them. In October Reverend Allison Courey started as interim until the end of December.

Canon Howard graciously continued his faithful support by doing 8 a.m. services, covering vacation time as needed and covering Wednesday night church when needed. Thanks to him for all he does in his ministry here.

Val Clarke continues as administrator keeping the office running efficiently.

Val also plays music for Sunday services. Thanks Val.

Kris Foster-Garbutt is our caretaker. Kris cleans the building for us and the school.

Kris is always there to help out where needed. Thanks for all she does.

Maximus Fretz cares for our youngest parishioners on Sunday as well as changing the sign. Fine job young man.

Hallie Chase continues as our bookkeeper doing an amazing job.

Mary Simons has been our envelope secretary for 25 years but has retired at the end of December. Thanks Mary for your dedicated service to this position and for meeting Lydia Kateza and I in your home to answer any questions Lydia had as she prepared to be our envelope secretary starting in January..

Bee Montessori School and Niagara Christian Ministries continue to use the building spaces as needed and to support us financially

N.F.C.M continues to run the pantry meeting needs of those in the community.

Thanks to all of you for your support to this ministry as well as St. George's church red jam collection.

A very special thanks to Leighton for all he does for the church.

Barb and Dave Blythin for helping me with the gardens this past summer,

they generously donated a Redbud tree to replace the pine tree that was removed. Barb and Dave are instrumental in having the Niagara Falls Horticulture Society use our space for which we receive rental fees. Thanks to Barb for arranging and organizing the making of urns

in the Spring as well as Christmas urns. Monies generated from these projects minus cost of materials was donated to the church.

We did not have a Christmas market this year but we received jams and pickles donated by parishioners which Lynne Coull arranged and sold to raise money.

I would like to thank Amanda Fretz for taking care of the computer, video and put the Sunday service on Facebook.

We have added two ladies to the lay reader position. Thanks to Lydia Kateza and Judy Giberson for stepping into these vital positions for our services.

Thanks Lydia for being a warden and your support.

Judy and Karen continue their support as Financial support and Liturgical support. Thanks ladies for all you do much appreciated.

St. John continues to be a welcoming and vibrant place of worship thanks to the support of you the parishioners. You all continue to support and volunteer in many capacities to meet the needs of the church and outreach programs.

Thanks to your continued support and generous dedication to St. Johns.

We look forward to a new year at St. John as we welcome Reverend Allison as our interim for 2026.

I am sure she will guide us spiritually as well as bringing new ideas to help us continue and grow as needed.



Building Report *Submitted by Lil Booth*

Here is a list of building improvements needed this past year.

Tree removal

The pine tree outside of the gym door was removed as the tree was losing needles and turning brown.

The tree in the children's playground was dead and became an issue with young children playing there. Tree was removed for safety reasons

The boiler and furnaces were turned off in the spring.

The furnace's air conditioning was not functioning. Lead Mechanical came and repaired the issues. A new thermostat was installed in the church to control the timing for the unit to meet the needs for the building.

The one stove was not working so it was repaired. The company that came said gas stoves need a kick plate to prevent the stove from tipping. Tipping plates were put on both stoves to meet government regulations for gas stoves.

The service to the boiler and furnaces was done in mid September to prepare for turning them on in mid October. Lead Mechanical turned both on in October.

The company emptied half of the tank at that time.

It was brought to my attention by the school that a couple of the rooms downstairs and chapel were cold. Lead Mechanical came back and got the heat in the chapel working. They were unable to have access to the area to address cold rooms downstairs. The room at the bottom of the stairs will have to be emptied before they can work to repair this issue. The school was informed.

We had another leak in the ceiling outside of the Casa classroom. Jake got up on the roof and shoveled off the ice and water. He noticed the water was coming from the eaves from the hall roof. This created too much water for the drains to work properly. Hamlets came and repaired to the best of their ability the eaves. They recommended having the downspout drain to the far side of the flat roof on the graveside of the building. They will give us a quote for this to be done.

There were some holes in the asphalt in the parking lot which were repaired. The city was notified of a hole at the entrance to the parking lot and asked to repair it.

During the Christmas holidays the urinals were leaking.

I called a plumbing company to come in. They had to hydro jet to release the buildup in the pipes. They did a temporary repair of the one urinal as they did not have the parts with them they needed to repair the trap.

These repairs will be made shortly..

We continue with our monthly pest control and Stacey meets any needs we have.

Birmingham Fire continues to do our monthly and yearly checks.

Fire Monitoring of Canada continues in their capacity.

Niagara Regional Public Health does their inspection which we passed. Certificate posted in kitchen.

Grass cutting and snow removal continue.

I would like to say a very special thanks to Jake from Montessori school for helping in many ways. Jake has done many things for the building which has saved us money.

Thanks to all of you for your financial support which allowed these repairs to be done.

Parish Administrator's Report *Submitted by Val Clarke*

2025 was a year like no other. The most obvious issue and focus for the office in 2025 was our rotation through 4 Interim Priests, and assisting them in their roles. It provided a lot of challenges, but also allowed for new creativity in our parish life and worship.

Our leaders through 2025 were:

Dec/24 through Jan/25:	Archdeacon Val Kerr
Feb – May (then extended to end of August):	Canon Phil Bristow
September:	Archdeacon Val Kerr
Oct-Dec/25 (then extended through 2026)	Rev. Allison Courey

Having Archdeacon Val return was a joy, as she knew so many people and our way of being together and helped with the transitions. Both Canon Phil and Rev. Allison were entirely new to St. John's, so there were a LOT of things that they had to learn – for 2 parishes! But they were both kind-hearted and prayerful.

Special thanks to Karen James who has offered much help and brainstorming through challenging computer, website, MailChimp, and PowerPoint issues this year.

I am also grateful to the Diocese that we are able to keep Rev. Allison through 2026 (and hopefully longer!) to provide us with continuity and stability, and the ability to do some longer-term visioning and planning for ministry in this part of God's world.

I am also appreciative of the extended group of Wardens & former Wardens who put so much into keeping St. John's functioning. And we are so very blessed with good and faithful parishioners who want to and continue to support St. John's. We certainly couldn't do any of this without you all!!

Parish Council Report *Submitted by Val Clarke*

The following people were elected as members of Parish Council in 2025:

Wardens:	Lil Booth
Deputy Wardens:	Lydia Kateza
Other Members:	Arlene Adamson
	Judy Giberson
	Karen James
	Linda Knight
	Jill Shupe

Parish Council met January 26th, September 21st, and November 30th.



Section B

Evangelism & Outreach Reports:

Advent Giving Tree *Submitted by Val Clarke*

In 2025 Corporation decided to change the regular focus of the 4 weeks of Advent, to match Project Share's research into the need for deeper concentration on food needs in our community. The revised donation suggestions became:

Advent 1 – Warmth (for Project Share)

Advent 2 & 3 – Food (for Grace Pantry)

Advent 4 – Hygiene Products (for Grace Pantry)

As we tried to deliver coats, gloves, and scarves from our Week 1 collection, we discovered that Project Share would no longer receive them this year. They suggested we offer them to St. Andrew's United Church on Morrison for their free clothing shop, which we did.

At the end of 2025, I recommended to Corporation that in 2026 we start collecting a week earlier than Advent 1, and have a drive to collect coats and jackets. There is a shop on Victoria Avenue that has held a free coat giveaway for a couple of years in November, when the need for warm clothing is so great, and where the population needs such resources. I believe we will give this a try in 2026.

Project SHARE *Submitted by Val Clarke*

In the fall we were invited to do a special fund-raising for Project Share, because a donor was willing to match funds up to \$1000. Thank you to this anonymous donor for helping raise more funds for this very worthy cause.

We continue to support the work of Project Share – the central food bank for people of Niagara Falls.

Some people choose to support Project Share directly through their donations. Others designate part of their offerings to St. John's to go to Project Share.

In 2025, due to the very large demand for food assistance in Niagara, Project Share decided to focus totally on aiding with food assistance, and stepped back from the other supports

they used to offer. This became reflected in our Advent Giving Tree program for 2025 (see separate report).

Various Other Outreach Projects During the Year *Submitted by Val Clarke*

To get a true picture of this past year, we should also acknowledge these additional outreaches for the benefit of our Community:

St. George's Breakfast Club Red Jam Collection: We have been collecting red jam bottles in support of St. George's Breakfast Club in St. Catharines. Thanks to Eleanor Frost for organizing and distributing the jars, and for everyone who keeps supplying the jam.

Grace Pantry: *See Niagara Falls Christian Ministry Report*

Parish Fellowship & Events Reports:

Prayer Shawl Ministry *Submitted by Karen James*

The Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. John's continues to be a source of comfort and connection, providing handmade shawls as tangible expressions of care and prayer. Shawls may be given during times of celebration, life changes, or whenever support is needed.

Prayer Shawl creators continued their ministry throughout 2025 at group gatherings and in their own spaces. Throughout the year, many shawls were crafted, blessed, and shared.

Leah Olszowy and Noreen Spicer graciously offered their homes for gathering and fellowship as this dedicated team volunteered their time, talent, and prayers in the creation of shawls.

A heartfelt thank you to Barb, Noreen, Leah, Gail, Kathy, Jill, and Lynne for their support and stewardship of this ministry.

Whether you are an experienced crafter or eager to learn, all are welcome! Please reach out—patterns, needles, hooks, yarn, and prayers are available.



Labyrinth Group *Submitted by Stephanie Wilton-Duncan*

“And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’” (Isaiah 30:21)

Walking the labyrinth is the spiritual discipline of setting aside a time and a space to pray and walk meditatively with God. A labyrinth is not a puzzle; it is a single path to be followed to the centre and then out. Many people can journey at the same time but often each is on their own personal journey. It can be a time of prayer, meditation, relaxation and spiritual refreshment.

The themes of spiritual journey and following God’s way are common in the scriptures. Our faith journey is seldom a linear process. The twists and turns of the labyrinth can represent our faith journey and facilitate our prayer and reflection.

The labyrinth group meets monthly from September through May on the fourth Saturday morning of each month excluding December in the gym at St. John’s. For many years the group met at St. George’s Anglican Church, but this fall transferred to St. John the Evangelist Church to support scheduling needs. The labyrinth we use belongs to St. George’s Anglican Church, St. Catharines, this labyrinth is a large, 40’ diameter canvas pathway modelled after the labyrinth in Chartres, France. We usually have 6-8 walkers coming from St. George’s, St. John’s and Holy Trinity in Chippawa. Newcomers are always welcome and may come at any time in the walking season.



In September and May, weather permitting, the group uses an outdoor labyrinth in the community to provide a different experience. This has included labyrinths at Fairview Park, Niagara Health St. Catharines Site and Niagara-on-the-Lake Library.

In the past walks were opened and closed with prayer and included a scripture reading, often from the morning office. This fall we began using materials inspired by the book “The Cup of Our Life – A Guide for Spiritual Growth” by Joyce Rupp. This series has walkers focus on a cup as a metaphor for their lives and includes prompts to use while praying. In October we considered that we are vessels to be filled with God’s love. We need to nurture and protect this relationship as we pour out our love to others. In November we reflected on the open cup. We can become cluttered when we let the feelings and messages of the world take up our inner space. Emptying the cup and listening attentively are essential. In January we explored the chipped or stained cup. Life’s experiences leave their marks on us; we are not perfect. Jesus longs to bring us to healing and wholeness.

Labyrinth walks are facilitated by Stephanie Wilton-Duncan or Deb Kostialik. We are extremely grateful to Jim Jenter for liaising with St. George's and for his guidance in setup and clean up. We are also grateful to St. George's for the use of their labyrinth.

New walkers are always welcome, and brief instruction is provided as needed.

Spiritual Formation Group *Submitted by Rob Duncan*

Several years ago, I was in training for ordination to the priesthood here in the Diocese of Niagara. In one of the courses I took at Trinity College, Professor Jesse Billett began by noting two things about our Anglican Book of Common Prayer. For one, that it is not a collection of liturgical resources on which to draw; it's not a compendium from which to "pick and mix" but rather important as a whole text. Secondly, the Prayer Book is not just a collection of rites or religious services to be used as situations called. Rather, it presents an entire approach to spirituality. It is a manual for spiritual formation. One of the primary responsibilities of a priest is to be attentive and supportive to what God is doing in the life of whoever happens to be before them at any given moment. In other words, we are responsible for their spiritual formation and, I would argue, the Book of Common Prayer is the primary tool for Anglicans.

This past year, several folks from St. John's, along with some from Holy Trinity Chippawa, have taken up spiritual formation over the course of two ten-week sessions, meeting on Tuesday evenings in our home from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. "Breaking Open the Big Book" began the first Tuesday after Easter Sunday in April. In the context of saying Morning Prayer from the Daily Office from the Common Worship Daily Prayer Book of the Church of England, together we learned how to find our way around the Bible. Week by week, I would give a quick overview of a main section of the Bible and its themes. Secondly, I endeavoured to provide training in how to read the Bible. In short, how to read it, not for information but, to allow God's transformation of our minds, hearts and lives.

In his gospel telling of Jesus' resurrection, Luke recounts the experience of two disciples. Walking together on the road to Emmaus from Jerusalem, they are in heated conversation about the recent events of Jesus' arrest leading to his death on the cross and, now, rumours of his resurrection. Unbeknownst to them, it is Jesus himself who comes to walk alongside them. It is he who explains the truth behind the recent turn of events and opens up for them new understanding of the Scriptures. In this light, our group gathered for a fall session as "Emmaus Road Companions," meeting again on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, in the context of saying Morning Prayer. In these sessions, we dwelt more deeply in the Gospel reading through the ancient practice known as *lectio divina*. *Lectio divina*, a Latin phrase

meaning “divine” or “spiritual reading”, is a way of reading the Bible that dates back several hundred years. As companions alongside whom Jesus walks, we learned to come to the Bible, not as a book we just read but, as the Holy Scripture through which we hear God *speak* to us.

Now in 2026, our journey as Emmaus Road Companions will continue. Would you be interested in joining us? Please let me know if you’d like to know more or if you have questions. Feel free to send an email to robducan98@gmail.com or give a call/send a text: 905-356-8060.



SECTION C – Partners in Ministry Reports

Bee Montessori Niagara *Submitted by Amanda Antonio-Marshall*

We are pleased to announce that our Lower Elementary Program is thriving, and has been in operation just over 1 year! We are grateful to be able to offer Montessori Education to our Lower Elementary children! Our goal for the upcoming year is to start the accreditation process for all of our classrooms (through the CCMA). We look forward to making our school community the best it can BEE!

Niagara Falls Christian Ministries *Submitted by Pastor Rose and Pastor Amer*

The year 2025 has been a challenging yet faith-strengthening season for Niagara Falls Christian Ministries. As poverty continues to rise across our region, we witnessed a significant increase in families struggling to meet basic needs such as food, housing, and essential living expenses. Throughout the year, hundreds of families reached out to us through emails, phone calls, and text messages seeking urgent assistance. In addition to supporting families, we also provided outreach to individuals living in local encampments, offering food, clothing, and compassionate care during difficult times.

This growing need also brought operational challenges. It became increasingly difficult to collect sufficient donations and maintain consistent volunteer support, as many supporters were facing pressures of their own. There were moments when the demand exceeded our available resources. However, we praise God that the ministry continued. Through faithful donors and committed volunteers, families were supported, outreach efforts remained active, and the program did not stop. We experienced God's provision in both expected and unexpected ways.

We are especially grateful for our partnership with St. John's Anglican Church for sharing their worship space and supporting our Grace Pantry through food and clothing donations. We sincerely thank the church leadership, including the Reverends and wardens, with special appreciation to Val, Lil, and Karen for their faithful encouragement. We also deeply appreciate the support of Rev. Allison Courey and all church members who have generously stood with us.

As we look ahead, we continue to pray for increased time, resources, and volunteers so we may serve our community with compassion and hope.

Niagara Falls Horticultural Society *Submitted by Barbara Blythin*

As the Niagara Falls Horticultural Society enters its 109th year since its founding in 1917, we continue to evolve. As a like-minded group of garden enthusiasts, we share the common interests that gardening and horticulture brings us, and provides a healthy pastime of both physical and mental therapy. The sharing of our gardens and our time given through members' garden strolls, plant sales, annual garden shows and public flower bed care, benefit our city as a whole.

Our mandate is to promote the use of, and interest in, horticulture through meetings, plantings, competitions and education, and to help beautify our community. Volunteers from the Society maintain several flower beds throughout the city at fire halls and the Armoury. Our members spent a total of 2,585 hours volunteering in Society events and activities in 2025.

Our fund-raising efforts help support many facets of our local community with contributions to Heartland Forest, Project Share, Grace Pantry, John Marshall Public School, Trillium Awards, NPC School of Horticulture and Niagara College bursaries.

We meet monthly, September through May, at the St. John's Church Hall. Typically around 50 of our members attend meetings to enjoy presentations, our monthly flower show competition, and social time together.

In 2025 we held a Spring Planter workshop to raise funds to benefit St. John's.



The Winter Planter Workshop fundraiser was held in November 2025 in support of St. John's Maintenance Fund. Several Society members volunteered their time, helping to make this a huge success.

In 2025 we held our annual standard judged flower shows at St. John's – our 70th Rose and Flower Show in June and our 101st Flower and Vegetable Show in August. These events were open to the public and were well received.

In 2026 we will be holding a second Spring Planter workshop, our annual plant sale (at St. John's for the first time) at the end of May, and our summer shows in June and August.

We are also planning a fourth annual Winter Planter workshop in November. All of these events are open to the public.

Pathfinders Report *Submitted by Amanda Fretz*

The 1st Niagara on the Lake Pathfinder Unit meets on Monday evenings, 6:30-8:30pm. The unit consists of 25 youth, Contact Guider Rebecca Carey, and 4 assistant Guiders. Pathfinders is for girls aged 12-14 where they learn and grow as they lead activities, plan events, explore their creativity, and make a difference in their community. Pathfinders also participate in activities in the community. Some of the things they have done over the last year include our annual sleepover weekend at the church, participating in a large-scale environmental overhaul of Camp Wetaskiwin - removing invasive species and planting trees, selling cookies and learning about safety, helping others and crafting. We would like to thank the church for being so helpful and accommodating. Thank you again.

Also If there is any acts of service you would like the unit to do on a Monday night (like raking leaves in fall) please let us know.

Rangers Report *Submitted by Rebecca Carey*

The 1st Niagara on the Lake Ranger Unit meets on Monday evenings, 6:30-8:30pm. The unit consists of 9 youth, Contact Guider Megan Gilchrist, and 4 assistant leaders. Rangers is the last level of Girl Guides for youth aged 15-17. Girl Guides of Canada is a non-profit group that empowers girls to discover themselves and be everything they want to be. Rangers build upon what they've learned in previous years of Guiding in exciting leadership activities. They take the lead and run their own community projects, raise awareness for causes they care about, mentor younger girls in Guiding, and learn essential life skills to prepare them for the future. In addition to regular meetings at the church where they are learning new skills through confidence building challenges, STEM activities (science, technology, engineering, mathematics), and exploring the world virtually, the Rangers also participate in activities in the community, such as park clean-ups, hiking, camping, and trips. Some of the things they have done over the last year include our annual sleepover weekend at the church, carrying out numerous service projects, participating in a large-scale environmental overhaul of Camp Wetaskiwin removing invasive species and planting trees, and going camping. The Rangers also volunteered their time at the church by cleaning up the gardens in the spring, and helping with the Poppy Project in the fall. Many thanks to St. John's Church for providing us with a space to meet and for supporting us through our cookie sales!



SECTION D

Financial Reports:

Funds Held by the Diocese *Submitted by Val Clarke*

a) Account # 6000900 **NFSJO Foundation Fund**

Began 2025 with \$ 106,671.64

*Funds removed during the year: \$ 0.00 **

At Dec. 31, 2025, the fund had a balance of \$ 119,157.08

b) Account # 5004148 **Rectory & Rectory Lands Funds**

Began 2025 with \$ 170,634.12

*Funds removed during the year: \$ 0.00 **

At Dec. 31, 2025, the fund had a balance of \$ 190,606.09

c) Account # 5004290 **Endowment Fund**

Began 2025 with \$ 171.54

Funds removed during the year: \$ 0.00

At Dec. 31, 2025, the fund had a balance of \$ 191.61

*(* For comparative purposes, in 2024 we removed \$5,000 from the Foundation Fund, and \$20,000 from the Rectory & Rectory Lands Funds.)*

Financial Report

	2025	2024
• Revenue	\$	\$190,169.97
• Expenses	\$164,804.81	\$189,698.44

Financial Report - Income

	2025	2024
• Pledge Drive and Building Fund	\$13,510.00	\$10,365.00
• Rental Income	\$59,342.86	\$46,285.00
• Bazaar Funds	\$0.00	\$5,252.20
• Fundraising	\$706.00	\$3,536.00

Parishioners Giving To St. John's

	2025	2024	2023
Sunday Givings	81,177.89	85,618.26	86,847.08
Adopt-A-Bill	8,111.31	8,351.25	8,855.71
Donations in Kind	3,879.45	4,193.85	7,302.49
Open Collection	318.25	845.50	942.00
TOTAL	\$ 93,486.90	\$ 99,008.86	\$103,947.29

Financial Report - Expenses

	2025	2024
• Total Payroll	\$70,408.08	\$80,540.74
• Landscaping	\$9,183.05	\$2,718.41
• Property Insurance	\$21,989.96	\$18,695.38
• Maintenance	\$17,367.97	\$8,346.59
• Repairs and Supplies		
• Diocesan Assessment	\$11,602.70	\$23,207.85

St. John's Niagara Falls - Budget 2026

Revenue

Giving from parishioners	\$ 90,000.00
Other income (fundraising, rent etc.)	\$ 115,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 205,000.00

Expenses

Payroll	\$ 85,000.00
Admin/Office	\$ 7,500.00
Building Upkeep	\$ 75,500.00
Church Expenses	\$ 2,000.00
Outreach	\$ 30,000.00
Sub-Total Expenses	\$ 200,000.00
Debt Retirement	\$ 5,000.00
Total Expenses	\$ 205,000.00

Notes:

- DM&M monthly in 2025 was \$966.88
- DM&M monthly in 2024 was \$1,917.27
- DM&M in 2026 monthly is \$2,354.09

SECTION E – Annual Vestry Meeting Materials

Proposed Slate of Elections & Appointments for 2026

People's Wardens:	Greg Shupe
Deputy People's Warden:	Robert Mwavana Rimba
Rector's Warden:	Lydia Kateza
Deputy Rector's Warden:	Stephanie Wilton-Duncan
Building Steward	Lil Booth
Bookkeeper:	Hallie Chase (appointment by Corporation)
Envelope Secretary:	Lydia Kateza
Synod Delegate:	Lynne Coull
Alternate Synod Delegate:	_____
Alongside Hope Contact:	Val Clarke
Other Parish Council Members:	Arlene Adamson
	Lil Booth
	Judy Giberson
	Karen James
	Linda Knight
	Jill Shupe
	Michael Thuku
	Sterling Tooke
	Irene Wakaria

Annual Vestry Meeting Agenda February 24, 2026, after potluck lunch

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
2. Appointment of Vestry Clerk
3. Establishment of Eligible Voting Members as per Canon 4.1
4. Review and Acceptance of 2025 Minutes

5. Priest's Charge to Vestry

6. Adoption of all Reports
7. Remembering the Departed of St John's

8. Financial Statements for the year 2025
9. St. John's Parish Budget for 2026

10. Proposed Slate of appointments and elections for 2026 (including Financial Reviewer)

11. New Business

12. Gratitude: Motions of Thanks
13. Adjournment

