

A LETTER FROM THE WARDENS

“Greetings in the name of Christ”. We, as your Corporation members write to you regarding our finances and to present hope for the future.

In the past few years we have been dealing with declining numbers. As a result, our envelope offerings as a proportion of our revenues have decreased while fundraising and contributions from the ACW have increased. This allowed us to finish 2016 and 2017 with small deficits.

It is wonderful to welcome new members. However, at the same time we have experienced the loss of several elderly members and a decrease in offerings. While we are grateful to ACW members and their supporters and fundraising efforts this cannot continue.

Our current deficit is -\$22,801. This time last year it was -\$12,660. While this downward trend continues, and we see no reason why it will not, then our annual deficits will increase. Other sources of revenue such as hall rental can still be explored, but to date have not proven sustainable and can not be expected to be a solution.

Corporation believes we can perhaps sustain ourselves for another two years after which we will no longer be financially viable.

There is still good news to share: our building is in excellent condition. Any renovation or new roofing can be supported by funds and bequests from past faithful members.

The challenge as always is to understand that as a church we should be about mission first and foremost. With our focus on our deficits, decreasing revenue, and declining members, our minds are elsewhere. How do we change our focus, and look outward to a hurting world in which we are called to serve?

We don't have the answer, and we look forward to hearing suggestions and ideas from you. In the meantime, the Corporation will be initiating conversations with neighbouring parishes to discuss options for the future. No one wants to close their parish. Neither do we. So we are looking at other options.

Other parishes throughout the diocese have formed new area parishes. There are at least seven area parishes where there is a team of clergy serving a few to many churches. Parishes in the City of Ottawa have opted more toward amalgamation (All Saints-St. Matthias Westboro, Julian of Norwich, St. Margaret's Vanier, and others in formal discussions now). Parishes outside have opted to keep buildings open while sharing in mission, education and worship together.

This summer, the Venerable Brian Kauk, Archdeacon of the Deaneries of Arnprior and Lanark, is meeting with each of the parishes in our area to determine each's need, interest and/or desire to engage in collaborative discussions with the area's other parishes. He will report his findings in September.

It is proposed to hold a parish Town Hall meeting when we have the results of the Archdeacon's survey. Its purpose is;

1. To report on the Archdeacon's findings
2. to inform the parish in greater detail of our current financial situation
3. to seek ideas and suggestion from you

For this, we need your help. We need your prayers of support and your ideas.

If any wish to sit in on the talks or contribute, please speak to your Wardens, Geoff Barnes or Diane Bresson or Reverend Cathy.

Aside from the financial issues we are dealing with let's look at what we have accomplished in the field of mission. So far this year:

- Through our celebration jar as well as our annual parish commitment we have sent funds to the Neighbourlink Fountain. The last half of the year our celebration contributions will go to Hospice Renfrew.
- Supported PWRDF through our "Hunger Luncheon"
- A Bible Study was held on the book of Revelations
- Sponsored five children to camp Wanago.
- Assisted a student in dire need of help.
- Donated groceries not distributed during the Big Give to the Food bank, which was so greatly appreciated.
- With food left from our spaghetti dinner helped feed 60 fire fighters who were sandbagging against the flooding Ottawa River.
- Continue to visit parishioners through our pastoral team.
- Welcome newcomers to our church.
- Volunteer within the operation of the church and for special events with our time and talents.
- Coaching offered for those interested in becoming Lay Readers

Watch for more information on events planned for the fall... a Market & Craft Sale, a Chicken Dinner, a Fashion Show and the ACW meat pies and Bazaar.

Thank you for your support in the past, now and in the future. Remember, a little a can go a long way.

Let's all have faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and be encouraged through prayer.

God Bless you and have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Rev'd Cathy McCaig

Diane Bresson

Geoff Barnes

WHEN YOU...

*Praise God in good times and bad, listen with all your heart, honour your elders,
encourage young people to take over the church often and loudly,
choose good over evil, welcome the stranger,
write the government about issues that matter,
open doors for people, invite a co-worker to church,
buy ethical, put a stop to bullying,
smile at a stranger, help a friend with house work,
get messy with your Sunday School kids,
say "Thank God" and mean it,
tweet your blessings one by one,
introduce your grandchildren to nature,
are a good sport, say what you believe,
"friend" people for real not just on line,
be patient with someone who doesn't speak your language,
are generous in your praise, pray along with the news,
sing in harmony, buy less and give more,
respect the dignity of every human being,
thank your parents for raising you,
are fierce in fighting for justice, give until it hurts, feed the hungry,
include the outsider, seek right answers not easy answers,
encourage a young leader, volunteer your time, tell the truth,
visit a friend in the hospital, defend others rights, tend a garden,
sponsor a refugee, understand your connection to the earth,
glory in a freshwater swim, read and share God's word*

YOU ARE LIVING THE MARKS OF MISSION