

The Dean's Report for 2021

Introduction

The year 2021 was a whole year in pandemic mode. The Parish was at times an open and shut case, with the Bishop closing down buildings to protect people and then reopening with lots of guidance and care. Despite some quiet periods, lots of things still went on. It is quite amazing really for the amounts of things that seem to be able to take place. What follows is a list of things that I thought I should mention:

A. Personnel changes

- **The Parish Ministry Co Ordinator:** There has been change in the Parish Office. In March, Rose Gish Stepped down from the Co Ordinator's Position and in September, Emily Klatt joined both the Parish and the Office after a search and interview process with the Wardens and I. I am grateful for all the things that Rose was able to do during her tenure. Emily has come up to speed quickly and we have been able to a number of small projects
- **Custodian:** Mary Ann – Vestry, because of financial constraints, sadly chose to lay Mary Ann off in January. We were equally glad to have her come back in September as we reopened to in person worship. She is a large part of what we do not just to keep things clean but to make sure that things are kept sanitary because of Covid. She is working on an hourly rate and submits her hours for payment once per month.
- **Honourary Assistant** - Archbishop John finally has his license and will celebrate the occasional Eucharist here at St. James. This is a huge help to me as we try to cover the Peace Deanery sacramentally speaking.
- **Lay Readers** – 2021 has been a year of growth and of vocation for the Lay Readers. In particular for Joshua Haggstrom and Bruce Laker. Joshua left us to go to Queen's College in Saint John's Newfoundland and Labrador where he is studying for ordination and is a postulant of this Diocese. Bruce is living in his father's condo in Inverness, Florida and he is studying at Emmanuel-St. Chad in Saskatoon for ordination. Both will hopefully convocate/graduate in the Spring of 2024 and be ready for ordination in this diocese. Margaret and Bruce Stewart will be leaving us to enjoy retirement on BC's (liquid) Sunshine Coast. At the time of meeting, Margaret will have left to go down to Sechelt and Bruce will join her in June. I am hoping that we can have someone come forward to join with Wanda to learn and to train as a Lay Reader. They can work as a team to do what needs to be done.

B. Pastoral Care

- **Hospital and Care Homes** – Since the closure of the care homes and Sutherland Place, I have only done 1 service in those places, dating back to March, 2020. I have gone in to visit and to spend time with residents who were in pastoral need, especially those who were dying. Services will resume when it is safe to gather in a group. The one service was a Christmas Eucharist for Sutherland Place. Our team went in at the request of the Staff of Sutherland. I celebrated a Eucharist and then we sang a number of Christmas Carols with the residence and staff. A good time was had by all.
- **Parish nursing program** – you will begin to here more and more about this venture that we to start in the life of the Parish. I am led to believe that it has been done in the past in other parts of the Diocese and it is something that I want us to try to make happen here. We have a number of folks who could use our care and concern and it is not all about one person, namely a nurse. It can be as simple as when I used to help the late Bill Veidt out. On Sundays after Church, he would come with my family, and we would join other parishioners for lunch. Then I would take my family home and Bill and I would travel to McLennan where Bill and I would have time to visit with Joan who was in hospital. We prayed together, laughed, even cried a little. Then I would bring Bill back and he would travel home to Grimshaw. It is my hope that we can learn to care for each other in these ways.

My Mission: to seek, to see and to serve God in Christ through the Holy Spirit

C. Christian Education

- Sunday School – As I understand it, Online Sunday School has been found both awkward and difficult to do. It is still possible for it to happen from the Sunday School Room concurrent with the Service, but those who are going to teach, learn and help with the Class need to be committed to it.
- Bible Study – There was a parish group that did a Bible Study on the Acts of the Apostles on Zoom which went well. It was a small group but that does lend itself to more discussion by everyone and less teaching by the parish priest.
- Prep for Baptism and Confirmation The fall of 2021 saw the gathering of a group that are going to get ready for Baptism and Confirmation on Easter Day April 17th, 2022. Candidates and their parents need to watch a series of videos from the Diocese of Central Newfoundland and then to have time with the Dean to ask questions and have conversations about the Faith, the Church and so on.

D. Parish Discernment Group

One of the joys of 2021 leading to challenges in 2022, is that a couple of our Lay Readers

- I want to say a huge thank you to Margaret Stewart, Sue Bowling and Dave Cambridge for their work, their time, dedication and energy to serving as assessors for the Parish, to make recommendations to the Bishop as to the suitability of people in the Parish for ordination. They did their job carefully and with grace.
- Joshua Haggstrom and Bruce Laker were interviewed separately, and responses given to Bishop for feedback. Both of the Candidates were accepted as Postulants by the Bishop and have been sent on to further their educations: Joshua is at Queen's College (in St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador) while Bruce is attending Emmanuel-St. Chad in Saskatoon remotely from Inverness, Florida.

E. Building Issues

- Building Fund I am deeply grateful that there are so many that have given to the different projects over the past few years. However, we have run into a situation where we have had lots of little pots of money (called Fund Accounting) and not enough to do some of the things that need to be done whether the buildings are concerned. To that end then, I am requiring that when gifts come for the building, that all monies are to be placed in the Building Fund and that the Vestry will decide how to expend the money and when projects will be done. This is one of the primary purposes of the Vestry: to make sure that our Church building is kept in a safe, secure and good operating condition. A thank you to Inez and Stacie for bringing those monies together so that they are useable.
- Wheelchair ramp – all of the monies needed to do the wheelchair ramp project have been raised. It is being held for the Spring of 2022 so that we can give the contractor better weather and to make sure that we have all of the funding in place to carry it off.
- LED lighting – A proposal to which the entire Cathedral Building over to LED lighting was discussed in 2021. I was thought to be a bit on the expensive side to do the whole building. There are concerns that the bright white light of the LED would change the way that the Cathedral looks. There are concerns over the cost of the bulbs. I have bought orange blubs for the Deanery and I will let you know how that works out. I can also tell you that there are dimmable blubs for those lights that need to be (i.e. the Fireside Room and the Lower Hall) so. I think I might prefer to have some of the white lights in the Chancel, to allow for better lighting to permit people to read books and music better. Using LED lights is also cost effective and will reduce the amounts of electricity we use which in turn will lower the power bill and reduce our impacts on the environment.
- Lower Hall outer doors – there is work that will be done shortly on the Lower Hall Doors to make the building more secure. Vestry also purchased sandbags in case there is another flooding event where

Pat's Creek is concerned and maybe even the River. It may be that we will need to re-key all of the outside doors at some point soon to make sure the building is as secure as we can make it.

F. Conclusion

I wanted to say a thank you to all who continue to work away at things as we progress through this pandemic, hoping that we will some time soon come through the other side and begin to find our new normal. I want to thank our Wardens Dave and Sherri for not only all they do, but also for the ways in which they have led in the past year. I am grateful to Stacie who came on board and has been sorting out the tangles of the financial parts of our ministry and got us back on track. Thankful for the members of the Vestry who have given of themselves, their time and talents. And I want to say both a thank you and bid Bruce and Margret Stewart farewell as they make the move to Sechelt, BC.

Grace and peace you all.

Jason+