

The Message

The Newsletter of the People of St. Mary's Anglican Church, Richmond Hill

10030 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, ON Canada L4C 1T8

Advent Newsletter

Reflection

by *The Rev. Matthew McMillan*

We are now entering the season of Advent. The word '*Advent*' comes from the Latin word, '*Adventus*', which means *coming*. Advent is the season in the church year where we prepare for the arrival of Jesus, by waiting with anticipation. Our Advent journey takes four weeks as we prepare ourselves for the nativity of our Lord, who comes to us in the form of the infant Christ child. Advent is closely related to Christmas and the two should not be considered apart from each other. In the early years, after the destruction of Jerusalem in the year A.D. 70 and with the dispersion of the Israelites throughout the Roman Empire, many dates and observances within the fledgling Christian Church became out-of-sync. As such, it was not until the end of the 4th and the beginning of the 5th centuries that the birthday of Jesus was universally celebrated on December 25th throughout the Christian Church. And so it was in the years to follow that the season of Advent formally came into existence. This season is to be synonymous with the understanding and teachings of the incarnation— the moment and point in time when we remember that the Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. In approaching the seasons in this way, Advent is much more than a preparation period. It is the beginning of our celebration as we prepare for the arrival of God as the personhood of Jesus Christ. Advent is to be seen and experienced as God making His promise to creation, and at the same time fulfilling it, too.

For many Christians, Advent is considered a time of spiritual preparation for Christmas. The emphasis during Advent is often focused towards keeping Christ in Christmas. The origins and traces of the earliest records regarding Advent come from the practices of the ancient French Church from around the time of the 4th Century. It was a French custom to have a period of preparation before the feast of Epiphany, which marks the arrival of the Three Magi in Bethlehem. This was a special time of year in the Church when baptism would occur and so preparation was required. This time set aside for preparation was a time to fast, pray, and reflect on the significance of the events about to unfold. The focus changed over time and it became more oriented towards preparing for Christmas rather than Epiphany. The focus intended was to kindle within the hearts and minds of the faithful an emphasis on the Second Coming of our Lord, both in power and in majesty.

The great cry, 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord', from John the Baptist at the opening of Mark's Gospel, is the central theme of Advent. The first focus is preparing for God to come into the world as a human, taking on our likeness, weights, and cares, and thus making them His own. The second focus is to engage ourselves as Christians in unpacking what the fullness of God's reign on earth would and could look like. This second aspect is an opportunity to consider and dwell in the re-organization of what God's return to earth would bring about, in the hopes of causing us as Christians to begin to build and bring that reality to life today, rather than having us continue in our waiting. These two focuses are theologically connected and are essential for understanding our connection to God and the message of salvation brought into the world through the newborn Christ child. When these themes or focuses are viewed together, they bring to bear a unique statement about our Christian faith, a concept of, 'Already, but not yet.' We are 'Already' saved and reconciled to God through His Son. Through Jesus the kingdom has 'Already' been established and God's people are 'Already' receiving and bearing the fruits of this covenant. However, as

Christians we also understand that the work begun through Jesus has 'Not Yet' been completed or brought to fulfillment. And so in the meantime, the labourers work away in the vineyards on the Master's behalf, until the Master returns again. This is our recognition that the kingdom of God has 'Not Yet' been perfectly experienced by all of God's people, and until God brings this about, we together await the fullness of His grace and love.

As we travel on our own Advent journeys this year, I pray that you and those close to you will come to experience and feel the love that God has for us in His heart. Enough love to give up His infant son to those who were estranged from Him, but who were also people who He loved, nonetheless. May your journey this Advent lead to an enrichment of your Christmas season, with a deeper understanding and experience of God's love for us all.

Have a Blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Matthew+

Fall Special Vestry Follow-Up

This past October we held a special vestry, where The Corporation asked the parish for permission to apply for a grant from The Diocese to cover costs of work done on the rectory. The Diocese has a special fund called the Carleton Fund Grant, which exists to help churches with repair and maintenance costs of their rectories. Parishes are able to apply every two years for a grant of up to 50% of the cost or a maximum of \$5 – \$6,000. We had work done last winter, when the rectory furnace died and we had to replace the heating system. Our ambition was to get a portion of those costs covered by the grant. However, our application was turned down. Our grant was rejected because the work had happened too long ago and they only fund pending work, not completed work. The Bishop's office had encouraged us to apply, but unfortunately, this proposal was turned down. We are still eligible to obtain funding for other ongoing repair work on the rectory and will look to apply in the future for funds to help us lighten the cost of maintaining our parish rectory.

Respectfully Submitted by,

The Corporation

A Historical Note from the Archives

When St. Mary's celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 1972, we were fortunate to have a Parish Historical Group in place, chaired by Dorothy Gummersall. She and her hard-working group produced a wonderfully researched book about our first century in Richmond Hill. Perhaps one of the more interesting items contained in that publication is an article entitled "1865—A Sunday School Ride". The author recounts an outing, organized for Sunday School children from Aurora, Oak Ridges, King City, and Thornhill.

With a brass band at the lead, this excursion has all the earmarks of military precision and no doubt considerable planning with churches and parents went into ensuring that the entire event was "an agreeable treat for the children". I want to share the article with you this Christmas and I hope you will enjoy reading it as much as I always do.

1865—A Sunday School Ride

The children attending the Sunday School of Trinity, Aurora; St. John's, Oak Ridges; and All Saints, King, had their sleigh ride on Monday, March 6th. The day was everything that could be desired; the sky cloudless, and the road, Yonge Street, hard-packed.

Headed by the Aurora Brass Band and accompanied by the Incumbent and Mr. Wilson, the diligent Sunday School Superintendent of the School of Aurora, the party started from the Church to Shuttle's cross roads, where they met the children from King, under the care of their Superintendents, Messrs. Garden and Armstrong, and the children from Oak Ridges

under the care of their Superintendents Messrs. Leg and Kelts.

Forming there, the line now composed of from eighteen to twenty sleighs, they proceeded to Richmond Hill where Dr. Duncombe had all things ready to make the young people happy and in his beautiful hall, well-heated and comfortable, the children sat down and ate sandwiches innumerable and cakes ad infinitum, while the older members shared the Doctor's hospitality in his house.

This being done, all joined in singing Psalm 100, the band played the National Anthem, three hearty cheers and one cheer more were given for the Queen, and health and happiness wished to our kind host. Then the sleighs got under way again, the Union Jack was hoisted, and the word forward to Thornhill was given.

Thornhill was reached about 2:00 p.m. and this being the end of the drive, the cavalcade wheeled about and proceeded homewards where they arrived at 5:00 p.m., having spent a pleasant and happy day.

The Incumbent and Superintendents are very grateful to the kind friends of the Sunday School who, by turning out so nobly, and having every arrangement so complete, made an exceedingly agreeable treat for the children. They also tender their best thanks to Mr. Mortimer, the band master, and several members of the band for the excellent music and no less excellent glees and songs by which they enlivened the whole proceedings and made the day pass so very agreeably.

It is pleasant to state that though the throng was so great, the sleighs so much crowded, and the journey so long, there was no accident or unpleasantness to mar the happy proceedings of the day.

The Diocesan Church Chronicle
Thornhill, 1865
[From "Notes on the Deanery of West York, 1865"]

This sleigh ride pre-dates both the establishment St. Mary's as a parish and Confederation. Note also that a stop was made at Dr. Duncombe's Hall, the site where Richmond Hill's first Anglicans often worshipped. As many of you will already know, the Chapel bell was donated to St. Mary's in 1878 as a memorial to Dr. Duncombe. It still rings out for many of our services and celebrations, representing one of our significant links with early Richmond Hill. In my opinion the bell is always at its best on a frosty Christmas Eve!

On behalf of our Committee members Joan Connolly, Dave Hunt, Lucille King, Phil Shepherd, and Colin Webb I want to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a blessed and peaceful New Year.

Norman McMullen, Chair,
The Archives Committee

Winter Music Program Update

Lots is happening with our music program here at St. Mary's and we are so grateful for the parish's support of our work. We would like to thank our choristers for all their hard work and diligent practising to help lift up our weekly worship with their joyful melodies. St. Mary's has also been blessed with many guest musicians who have lent their talents and gifts this fall. We would like to thank Deanna Shorrocks, Ed Lehming, and Sangkyu Lee for their help in adding to the musical offerings here at St. Mary's. We look forward to their continued musical offerings, as well as some special guests throughout the Christmas Season. If there are others in the congregation who would like to join the choir, all are welcome. Please speak to our Organist and Director of Music to find out more details or to have any questions answered about our music programs.

To further help lift up our music program, we are starting a new initiative at St. Mary's this winter. We will be looking to start a Choral Scholars Program that will need your support to be a success. We are looking to create an endowment fund, of between \$10 - \$15,000 to help us offer scholarships to local high school students in Vocal Music Programs. Our goal is to be able to offer

a \$2,000/yr scholarship to students who join the choir from September until June and sing with us at practices and Sundays during that time. We would like to have five choral scholars to help fill out the vocal sections of our choir and expand our number of choristers. We are asking any patrons who may be interested in sponsoring this program to speak to either of us, as we would be happy to share our vision and hopes for this program. We will look to present a formal plan at vestry in February of 2018 for adoption, but we hope to begin raising funds now. Thank you everyone for your continued support of our musical program and your singing each week too. We are in this together and to God be the Glory!!

Blessings,

Soyoung Shin, Director of Music & Organist

The Rev. Matthew McMillan, Parish Priest

Local Parishioner Undertaking International Humanitarian Mission with Habitat for Humanity and is asking for funding support

Habitat for Humanity is a nongovernment and non-profit organization that simply gives life-changing opportunities. It is essentially for anyone to go to a country in need and to make a difference by building a house for the less fortunate. Every year my high school, École Secondaire Catholique Renaissance, gathers 16 lucky students to fly down to a different country and lend a helping hand. The goal of this trip is to build a house for the people of Cuscatlán, El Salvador, in order to work towards a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. In order to make this happen, each student is asked to raise about \$3000; any amount of donation can help make a difference. I'm here to solicit the help and support from the congregation. Leaving on the first Saturday of February, we plan to make a difference! *Chasley-Claudia (Daughter of Balthazar and Claudette Barutwanayo)*

Christian Education

As St. Mary's looks to begin our Advent journey, we will be starting to offer additional opportunities for members of our community to deepen their spiritual journey. Commencing Sunday December 3rd, we will be starting an Adult Christian Education Program that will run each Sunday morning. From 9:20 to 10 a.m. we will meet in the Centre Room of the Sunday School Wing. Because of the timeframe available we will be using a study program built around the Sunday readings entitled Synthesis CE, which is produced by the Episcopal Church. Study resources will be made available the week prior so individuals can reflect and personally study the material before coming together as a study group. Packages of the study guides are available in the Narthex or via email from Fr. Matthew. Please note: during the Christmas School Break there will be no formal Sunday Morning Christian Ed Activities. We will not be having programming December 24, December 31, or January 7. Programming will resume on January 14th.

St. Mary's Lenten Study Program

This lent parishioners are invited to join Fr. Matthew as we look to deepen our awareness of our Christian faith, but participating in an apologetics program, that compares and contrasts the teachings of different world faiths with Christianity. Our program this lent is entitled, "Christianity, Cults and Religions" and looks at this topic in a way that summarizes the differences in core beliefs and how Christians can engage with those of other faiths. Our program will begin the Wednesday after Ash Wednesday. We will meet in the Chapel from 7:15 – 8:45 pm February 21 & 28 and March 7, 14, 21 & 28. Handouts will be provided throughout the course and a sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex in the New Year to assist with planning. Please speak to or email Fr. Matthew if you have any questions or would like to know more about this program.

Family Ministry Updates

Thanks to everyone who came out Friday Nov. 17th for our Family Fun Night. There were roughly 30 in attendance and we all had a great time. There was great food, fun and fellowship had by all. We would encourage everyone to feel welcome to attend these activities and please feel welcome to bring friends and family to these gatherings as you attend. Our next Family Fun Night is scheduled for Groundhog Day, Friday February 2nd 2018. As always the Family Fun Night will be from 6-9pm in the Chapel. Pizza is \$2/slice with drinks included. Bring a favourite board game or activity and be prepared for some fun! Our sign-up sheet for this event will be in the narthex at the beginning of January. Please sign-up to help us order enough food and have an idea for how much seating to provide.

St. Mary's is continuing its efforts to raise funds for creating a staff position to help organize and coordinate our Family and Children's Programs here at St. Mary's. We have raised roughly \$21,000 of our \$30,000 target for this program. The Wardens and I have come up with a plan and vision for this initiative and we ask for your continued support as it comes online. The Diocese has a number of Ministry Grants that we would like to apply for, to help supplement our investment in a Family Ministry Staff Member. Once we have the \$30,000 in hand, we will work with The Diocese to see if we can double our investment and create a funding model for a 3yr part-time position. Our vision at present for this program is that it will support our family & children's programming needs as well as have some service components as we help support the needs of the local community as well.

To enter into formal discussions with The Diocese we will need to have our funds in hand. To that end at Parish Board last month we voted to adopt a strategy that will help us keep momentum towards our financial goal. We have approved that the open offering on the collection plate will go into our Family Ministry Fund. From last years audited statements the average open giving's each month is about \$300. Diverting this from general funds will keep us moving forward with our plans and not create an onerous burden on our monthly budget. Thoughts are also being given to occasionally have "Spare Change Sundays," where people can contribute that way to this program as well. More fulsome discussions on our Family Ministry Plans will be forthcoming at Vestry. If you have any questions or concerns about any of the items in this report, please feel free to talk to myself or the Wardens.

*Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the Corporation by,
The Rev. Matthew McMillan, Parish Priest*

St. Mary's Creates New Vision for our 9:15 Family Service

As St. Mary's continues our work to look at how we can reach out and attract new families and young members to our congregation, we have made some changes to our services and Sunday programming. It was noted how when we held our 9:15 a.m. service on the 3rd Sunday, we cancelled Sunday School at our 10:30 service as all the teachers and family were present at the early service. As St. Mary's has adjusted to using it's new A/V system it was suggested to Parish Board that we could expand our 9:15 service and put it into our main worship time in the main church. Our service is now the 3rd Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and is simply referred to as "Family Sunday." This service is a little shorter, involves our young people in each of the components, and has an interactive children's time in place of a sermon. The worship format is inter-generational, with a focus on creating a service where everyone is engaged and families can share in the joy of passing on their faith to the next generation. All are welcome at this service, especially friends and guests! Please note that December's Family Sunday on December 17th will be our Christmas Pageant!

Sunday Services Updates

(Morning Prayer & Anointing Sundays)

As St. Mary's began to revisit and firm up our vision for our Family Ministry Fund and Family Programming, we made some updates to our service planning, so that we can celebrate our Anglican heritage and offer the depth of our Sacramental tradition to our church family. As Parish Board ratified our Family Ministry Plans, the Board also reviewed and ratified a formal calendar and set of plans for our Anointing Ministry and our Morning Prayer Sundays. With St. Mary's rich music tradition, we have committed to our desire to keep the Book of Common Prayer Choral Mattins Service as one of our service offerings on a regular basis. To that end, Parish Board approved a schedule for Mattins to be held on the 4th Sunday of the month, four times per year. Morning Prayer services will occur September, November, February, and May at the 10:30 a.m. service. Sunday School will occur these Sundays and will be lengthened to correspond with the service format. As the Family Service and Morning Prayer plans came together, it became clear to us that our Anointing Service needed to have a permanent Sunday home, so that those desiring to receive this sacrament knew when it would be offered. In consultation with our lay anointers it was decided to formally adopt the 1st Sunday of each month as our Anointing Sunday. Anointing Sundays will continue to follow the same format, with anointing being available during Communion from our lay anointers. If anyone has any concerns or would like further information about these changes please contact the office or speak with Fr. Matthew. *Thanks, St. Mary's Worship Committee & Parish Board*

Christmas Services Schedule

Sunday, December 17th

10:30 a.m. Service - Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Services

4:00 p.m.

Candlelight Family Service with Communion

7:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service

10:30 p.m.

Carols, Anthems and Readings

11:00 p.m.

Candlelight Communion

Monday, December 25th

Christmas Day Service

10:30 a.m.

St. Mary's Website Update

Our parish website, www.saintmaryschurch.ca is up and running, but we are currently looking to expand and update our online presence. The website had been run and maintained mostly by our previous parish priest, but we are now looking to see if a parishioner would be willing to work with us and help oversee this important resource for our church. If you could lend us a hand, we would be most grateful for the time and help. In the meantime, Fr. Matthew's and Pam's eldest son Riley is helping to post material and refine content as we work to recruit a dedicated volunteer for this position. Riley is heading to

university next year and is able to help only for a little while. If you have any pictures or content you would like posted, please email Riley at; stmarywebmasters@gmail.com and it will be added to the site. If you are potentially interested in taking on this role, please feel free to speak to the Wardens or Fr. Matthew at any time. *Thanks, Parish Board.*

Ways to help out and serve at St. Mary's

Maybe you are new here at St. Mary's, or maybe your schedule has changed recently and you have some extra time and you'd like to give back or help others. There are many opportunities to help out in our parish church and we would love to connect you with programs that need extra helpers or ministries that you may enjoy participating in. New volunteers and committee members are needed and welcome in every area of programming at St. Mary's. If you have any interest in helping out in the following areas we would mostly gladly welcome you and your gifts. We need more of the following:

Out of the Cold Program Volunteers, Servers, Communion Ministers, Altar Guild Team Members, Intercessors, Sub-Deacons, Greeters, Sides People, Coffee Hour hosts, A/V Team Members, Sunday School helpers, and many other areas as well.

If you can help in any of these areas or have a particular interest, please contact the office or speak to Fr. Matthew. We can put you in touch with the leaders of these programs and ministries to get you connected and provide further information about what help is needed and how you can get involved.

Outreach Updates

The Outreach & Social Justice Committee met formally for the first time this year on October 17, 2017 to review the existing and ongoing programs of the committee with Fr. Matthew. Our intention is to inject new life into the committee by looking for new opportunities to be active in outreach and social justice within St. Mary's, our walls in the broader community. While maintaining our focus on the Coffee Hour and Loonie Muffin Sundays to support our children fostered through The Plan, it is our hope to review this committee's current initiatives for relevance and level of benefit as well as look for new opportunities for St. Mary's to provide support and promote social justice. To that end, this small committee looking to welcome new members and new ideas. Do you see a need somewhere that you think St. Mary's may be able to take on? Is there a social justice issue that you are passionate about and would like to advocate on behalf of? Please consider adding your voice to this committee. See any of our committee members for more information: *Gwen Halliday, Dionne Robertson, Norman McMullen, Maggie Veltheer, and Lyne Webb.*

Adopt-A-Family for Christmas

This year we continue the "Adopt-A-Family" programme, which allows parishioners to contribute towards the purchase of gift cards for those less fortunate than ourselves. Special offering envelopes are available for those who wish to contribute on the table in the narthex. Our goal is to fund 30 families this Christmas.

St. Mary's Audio Visual System

This past fall, St. Mary's formally launched the use of our A/V system on Sunday mornings at our 10:30 a.m. service. We have been blessed by this new addition to our services, in being able to add videos, images, and other resources to weave together the themes and focus of our worship in ways that add to and enhance our Anglican tradition. This resource has also allowed us to reduce our weekly paper needs as our bulletins are now a single page. Many seniors and older members of the congregation have shared their appreciation of this resource, in that the size of the font is large enough to be seen from the back of the church. The Leadership of St. Mary's would like to thank the A/V Leadership Team of Trevor Kimpton, Kola Deru, and Ken Wightman for their research, paperwork, and launching of this resource. would also like to thank Riley Gervais for his operation of the system during the initial launch phase and his continued help in teaching others how to use it. as well to our trainees and those who have volunteered to be part of the operators team: John Martin, Natasha Daisley, Lauren Wirtzfeld, Glennis Harris, Jonathan Wilkinson, and Trevor Kimpton.

With gratitude and thankful hearts, Parish Board

Growing Green at St. Mary's

Our Green Team continues to toil in God's Garden of Planet Earth here at St. Mary's. We are extremely grateful for the support of our Parish Family, and the increasing efforts in all of our homes, communities, and church to honour God through the care of His Creation. Meeting the challenges of greening our lives seems to bring us even closer to a faithful walk with our Creator.

How do you think we are doing with our Mission?

Raising awareness at St. Mary's on issues relating to protecting the environment—sharing information and holding informative sessions.

Suggestions on how our church might sustain environmentally-friendly acts such as recycling, reusing, and reducing.

Liaising with like-minded persons, groups, churches in our community—sharing and supporting each other in related activities.

The Green Team (GT) is buoyed by your 30+ responses at our last video presentation of Boyan Slat's "How we will get rid of Plastics in the Ocean" on October 1, 2017. Expect more such relating to protecting the environment in the new year. Barry Rollinson represents our GT at the Parish Board, and initiated a suspended process of solar panels on our church. We continue monthly supper meetings at members' homes and welcome new members. Consider joining us.

We liaise with other organizations and churches in our community, such as "Faith and the Common Good" and the David Suzuki Blue Dot organization. Our members attend their activities and Blue Dot's Kathleen Wong did a presentation at St. Mary's on "Water and the First Nations". Some of our members recently attended an Inter Faith Event at the RH Muslim Centre. In November 2015 when the world prepared for the Paris Climate COP21 Conference, which resulted in a historic Global Agreement on Climate Change, the GT had local involvement. Some may remember one of our now famous GT Skits on the event and a Prayer Vigil with persons from as far as Mississauga and Bolton joining us at St. Mary's.

Looking forward, the Team is considering joining forces with other churches in a more formal and organized way by beginning the process of registering with the Green Churches Network of Canada (www.greenchurches.ca). By sharing with and learning from other churches and continued parishioners' participation, we expect to become a recognized "Green Church". In addition to honouring God and discovering new spirituality in protection and care of Creation, our Parish will benefit in the long term by saving costs through reducing and managing waste, lowering heating and lighting costs, etc., and empowering the next generation by involving our children and youth in greening activities. All of which may be transferred to our home lives, and in fact, may be taking place now and on an on-going basis in families.

In keeping with this, we are further inspired by Fr. Matthew's request for us to work with him on a "Green" Lent. He would like us to assemble and provide resources and paths (as we tried last Lent) for parishioners who would like to "give up" something other than chocolate that benefits the environment and enables us to give of ourselves, or free ourselves to a more Christ-like walk, in our Lenten journey.

Thanks for your thoughts and ideas on this upcoming Lenten initiative, our mission to become a Green Church, and with our sincere appreciation of your support, on the work and service of your St. Mary's Green Team.

February 24, 2018

is the scheduled date for the *African and Caribbean* Evening.

There will be food and entertainment
for everyone.

More information to follow.

Karl Lashley and organizing committee.

St. Mary's Richmond Hill: Financial Update October, 2017

Year to Date Overview October, 2017 (10 months) - Vestry Approved Budget			
	YTD Amount	YTD Budget	Difference
Revenues			
Envelope Donations	\$152,433	\$177,783	(\$25,350)
Open Plate, Festivals etc	\$7,575	\$9,000	(\$1,425)
Fund Raising	\$4,963	\$4,500	(\$537)
Rental Income	\$144,624	\$147,456	(\$2,832)
Diocesan Transfer(Our Faith Our Hope)	\$1,808	\$4,000	(\$2,192)
Miscellaneous Income (AV Grant)	\$25,453	\$0	\$25,453
Total Revenues	\$336,856	\$342,739	(\$5,883)
Expenses			
Utilities	\$31,984	\$45,560	(\$13,576)
General maintenance	\$43,186	\$38,660	\$4,526
Capital purchases	\$32,397	\$10,000	\$22,397
Administration	\$13,768	\$17,806	(\$4,038)
Committees	\$6,908	\$9,300	(\$2,392)
Staffing Stipends/Salaries/Benefits	\$126,721	\$145,695	(\$18,974)
Travel Expenses	\$1,084	\$2,000	(\$916)
Diocesan Assessment	\$51,190	\$51,190	\$0
Insurance	\$14,765	\$15,071	(\$306)
Property Taxes	\$6,376	\$6,316	\$60
Total Expenses	\$328,379	\$341,598	(\$13,219)
Net Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$8,477	\$1,141	\$7,336

St. Mary's is operating slightly ahead of budget through October, 2017. We budgeted a small surplus year to date following our normal seasonal cash flow patterns and in anticipation of the approaching winter months. Within this pattern we are operating slightly ahead of plan, with revenue shortfalls covered by lower expenses due to favourable weather (milder winter weather/cooler summer), lower staffing costs during the interim ministry period and some timing differences in our budget.

Revenues are tracking slightly ahead of budget.

Envelope donations are trailing budget (including the budgeted 5% increase).

Rental income is slightly behind budget due in part to timing of cash flows.

Expenses are below budget.

Utilities are below budget due to our conservative budgeting versus the favourable winter and cooler summer we have experienced this year.

Capital Expenses are above budget with the purchase of the new A/V system. This expense is largely offset by Our Faith Our Hope grant funding and a \$1,000 donation from Blessed Sacrament congregation towards the cost.

Staffing expenses remain below plan year-to-date due to lower Interim Priest overhead during interim ministry period. Staffing expenses have however returned to "normal" levels since September.

Other expenses continue to be closely controlled.

We remain current with all of our payments to date.

Despite these results, St. Mary's faces a number of challenges as we near the end of 2017. In the fall months we typically face higher overhead with the arrival of colder weather. We also face additional capital expenditures as we must replace the eavestroughs around Wrixon Hall. While fundraising has defrayed part of the cost the parish will absorb the difference. We will update the parish when more details are available.

Our thanks to all parishioners for your ongoing support to the Wardens as we have managed St. Mary's finances this year. Despite a difficult and unexpected start to this year, St. Mary's parishioners have once again risen to the challenge. Notwithstanding the recent disappointing news that our request for grant funding was declined, through your efforts and donations we have successfully raised over \$17,000 towards the Wrixon Hall eavestroughs replacement.

The Wardens will shortly begin the budgeting process for next year which will include capital expenditure and ministry initiatives. Please continue to keep St. Mary's and our finances in your prayers as we approach the end of 2017 and look towards 2018.

Dave Hunt

On behalf of the Wardens

Slope the Roof Campaign Offering

The Wardens and I are asking members of our congregation to help and to make a contribution to the "Slope the Roof" Campaign. Even with a little slope, a roof will be stronger and last longer. We are asking members of and friends of St. Mary's to help us with this task. Because like our little slope, big and little gifts will go a long way towards this project. It is important for us to look after this church and its property—after all, this is God's house. My wife Pam and I have spent this last week of November praying about how to respond and we have put on the offering plate this Sunday the first contribution of a \$1,000 towards this goal. A special appeal envelope is available to help us earmark contributions towards this work. I would ask each of you to again consider your ability to contribute and give as your prayers for this matter guide you.

The Corporation realizes the urgency of this work and has determined that the Heritage Fund will make up the difference from any shortfall in this appeal. The Property Committee, The Wardens, and myself are all available to address any concerns that members might have about this work or any other details. Please join us in this work and give a little to slope a little.

Blessings,

Fr. Matthew+

Slope the Roof Campaign

An update on the Wrixon Hall Eaves and Drainage work.

As you can see from the work begun atop Wrixon Hall, we have been blessed with good working weather and progress on our water management and drainage concerns. Our team is well underway and only small sections of wood need replacing on the edge of the eaves, which means our job will only be about \$3,500 over budget with the additional materials and work needed. Approximately \$18,000 was raised through our Thanksgiving Envelopes, Appeals, and the Harvest Feast. Thank you to everyone who worked and contributed towards this important and necessary work!

However, as some of our pictures reveal, we have come upon another concern with regards to our vast sections of roofing. The portico that encloses the Arnold Plot and bridges the church with the other three wings of our building (Wrixon Hall, West and Centre Rooms, and the Chapel) has serious leaks and water damage. This issue was brought to our attention by our contractor, who had the lowest price for the eaves work, excellent references which we verified, and has proven to be great to work with since arriving on site. Since this issue hit us out of the blue with winter fast approaching, we approached our contractor to see if these two jobs could be done back to back. We have been informed they could, and so we are now asking for your help to undertake this work. Our issue at present is ponding, where water doesn't make it to the eaves and drain. Without any drainage the water seeps in and rots the wooden structure. We have uncovered sections of rotten roof surface under the rubber coating that is full of water. This means that the wooden roof structure above the Arnold Plot and the paths that connect our building could at anytime give way, and collapse from the material failing. With the freezing and thawing anticipated this winter as the temperatures go up and down, it spells great risk if we do nothing. The trapped moisture that is already there and any new moisture that finds its way in, will only further deteriorate the structure of this part of our building. Should we wait and hope problems are a long way off, we would also have to contend with any possible internal damage and repairs if a failure occurred in the roof. But do not worry, we have a plan.

Our contractor indicated for a job this size they would usually charge \$60,000. However, our contractor has presented a number of \$37,000 to put on a whole new roof on this part of our building. The plan is to remove the rubber roof membrane, remove damaged wooden sections, and replace with new material. Then we will have built a sloped roof, with a slight pitch away from Wrixon Hall towards the edges. This will not change the looks of the property, but will ensure that water continues to find its way away from the buildings, rather than getting trapped on or in it.

Future Stewardship of our Property

In the coming years we have some major projects to consider.

After the eavestrough repair is completed there are few other things to be done to Wrixon Hall. The water has damaged the brick mortar on the outside of Wrixon Hall, so repointing the mortar is the next step. After the exterior wall has been repaired and the walls have dried out we have to repair the interior. At that time, we must consider whether to decorate the hall to make it a more inviting place or just repaint it.

The parking lot, and especially the area along McLatchy Lane, is in need of repair. There are numerous potholes to fill and large areas that need repaving.

The flat roof still leaks after numerous repairs in a few places around the church. It is a poor design that has no slope towards the eavestrough and there are many low spots where the water collects. The obvious remedy is to have more sections of the flat roof sloped and new membranes installed.

Colin Webb, Property Chair

Dementia Friendly Church

St. Mary's is partnering with a local Alzheimer's & Dementia support network to offer weekly programming for individuals suffering from these conditions and their family/caregivers. The Memory Lane Program, which is a local group working to establish an independent living environment for seniors with Alzheimer's and Dementia approached St. Mary's about working together to offer a weekly social and worship program. Beginning Friday December 1st at 1pm in St. Mary's Chapel, we will be holding weekly worship, consisting of prayers and familiar music, organized by Activity Directors and Spiritual Care Chaplains from local retirement homes and hospitals. This program is open to everyone and lite refreshments will be served afterwards. Please contact the office or Mona Lancaster at 905-876-8666.