



Open To The Light
ST Catherines
ANGELICAN CHURCH



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Leadership and Decision-Making Reports

Vicar's message

Rev Sharon

In the Book of Hebrews, the author commends the Mothers and Fathers of the Abrahamic religions for their courage and their faith, for they 'set out, not knowing where they were going' (Hebrews 11:8). These sentiments are echoed in the contemporary poem from Antonio Machado:

**'wanderer, there is no road,
the way is made by walking'.**

I would describe 2022 as a year of trail blazing. The community of Saint Catherine's walked together, asked good questions, listened to each other, experimented, and cleared a path for the future.



Some of the major milestones along the way that I observed this year are:

- the resolution of alternating Sunday liturgies and the beginning of Soul Food Sunday, a neighbourhood breakfast and prayer service, welcoming community musicians;
- the replacement of the pews with chairs to create a flexible sacred space for parish and community partner use, and the new hard wood chapel floor;
- gaining the support from the Diocese and preliminary support from the District for a property development plan to ensure our future sustainability;
- strong ministry groups forming in the community, such as: Keeping us Together pastoral care team, Soul Food Sunday planning team, Tuesday Spiritual Practice Group leadership team, a robust Parish Council led by exceptional Wardens, an adaptable Altar Guild, Fundraising Campaign Team, Community Garden team, and a growing Livestream team;
- hiring of a Community Engagement Facilitator to assist the community to open more intentionally to the neighbourhood, and
- an end of year financial picture that shows wise stewardship.

As the fog clears and we see the road more clearly, we realize that we have come to a very important threshold. A moment of decision that requires all who call Saint Catherine's their home to step forward for collective discernment.

At Vestry 2023, we will review a property development plan, which, together with a fundraising campaign, could be a 'gamechanger' for Saint Catherine's future.

It would mean that if we (the gathered community of 2023-2026) worked together, we could leave a legacy of a church that would meet the needs of generations to come.

A church where:

- all that is good in the Christian tradition - the spiritual, emotional and social practices - could be accessible and transformative;
- Jesus' words and example become part of everyday questions and conversation;
- an ethic of love, humility and justice informs our response to societal issues of climate change, wealth disparity, migration, housing shortages, and racial injustice;
- a rhythm of life sustains its members through the years ahead of global suffering, offering courage, honesty and integrous action;
- there is authentic connection that is fun, with laughter, food, and tears;
- curious people of all walks of life are welcomed, included and made to feel safe to share their journeys;
- we bless all the milestones and transitions in people's lives, honouring with sacred rituals - gender questioning and coming out, moving in with a partner, changing your name, immigration, moving home, recovery milestones, separations, births, adoptions, first jobs, first publications, retirement, and losses of all kinds;
- work and volunteer life outside the church is supported and valued; and
- social action and social justice activities are not only based on a charity model but also facilitate enduring and lasting relationships between people who are youth and elders, rich and poor, healthy and addicted, liberated and oppressed.

We are do not know what Christianity will look like in the future, but we do have a moment to shape a local church we would like to see in the future.

I look forward to continuing to walk this way with you. It is a joy and a privilege to pastor such resilient, motivated and committed Christ followers.

Wardens' Message

Robb Watt, Linda Robertson and Chris Wensley

By any measure, 2022 was a dynamic year of many changes and progress toward an exciting new chapter in the evolving story of our parish and community. As we approach Vestry 2023 our parish is poised for some of the most important projects we have undertaken as a community of faith



since our foundation in the 1950s. This flows from a series of important studies, reviews and reflections which unfolded in 2022 which were thoroughly explored at Vestry, a Parish Council retreat, special vestry, and consultations with the congregation in July.

This was a year when we completed a major feasibility study, undertaken by Rob Waller and Associates, with a report completed and presented at Vestry 2022. This led to a resolution passed at Vestry which authorized next steps for property and sustainable growth including seeking approval from the Diocese to retain proceeds from the sale of part of our property to restore, reimagine, and reconnect our core building, develop our ministry plan, and strengthen outreach to the community.

Following vestry, the next major planning session was held on 2 April at St. Stephen's Church in West Vancouver. Parish Council spent a day firstly examining our values as a church community adding humility to our list, then discussing what we mean by these values. We discussed how we would apply these values to user groups who would eventually rent our church building once the chairs arrived for reconfiguring seating in the sanctuary. Secondly, we focused on what are our metrics of success in addition to attendance at Sunday services. We discussed financial sustainability, vocational goals, emotional and physical health of the congregation and spiritual goals as well as community outreach. The work done on this day helped give us strategic guideposts for future planning.

In April 2022 I was able to pass responsibility for the rentals file to Billy Garton, who has done wonderful work ever since in overseeing the contacts and contracts for all our renters. One of his outstanding successes in this area occurred late in 2022 when he guided preparations to replace a long-time tenant in the rectory with successor tenants. Billy and Rhonda Garton painted the entire rectory interior over the Christmas Holidays and into January to prepare the rectory for new tenants.

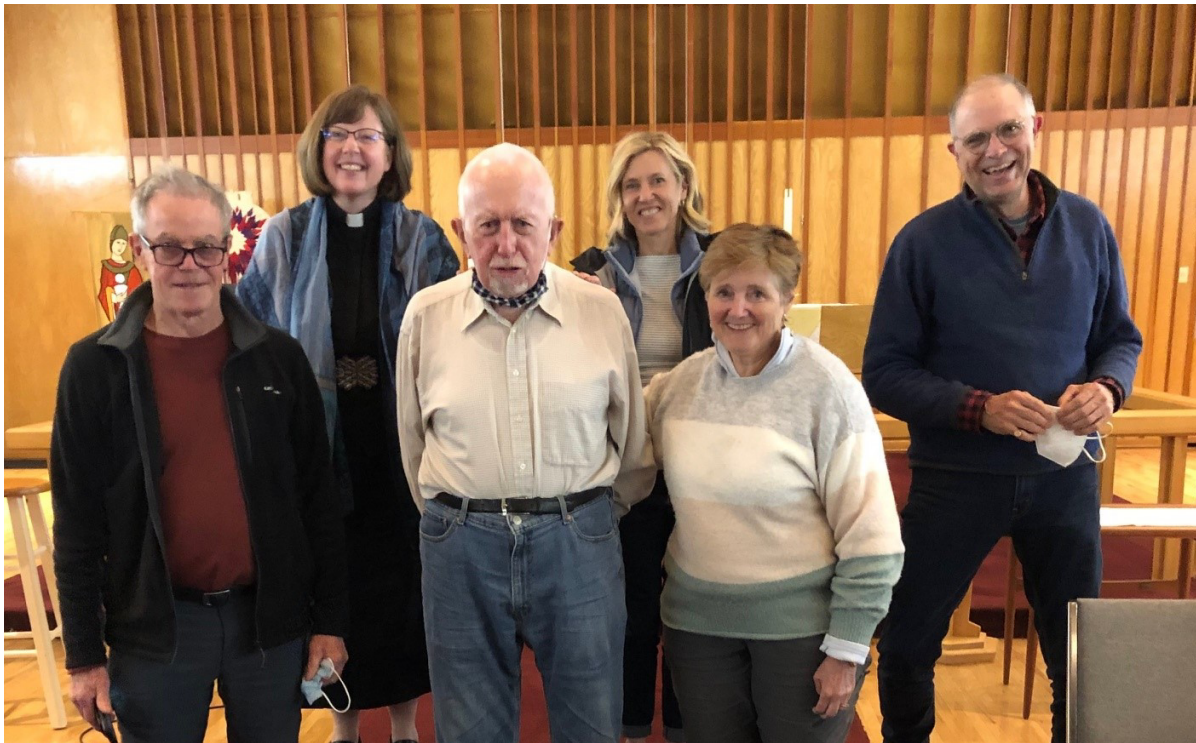
The Diocese gave us an important green light in May, a conditional approval to retain the proceeds from the sale of a portion of our church property to be applied to a plan to restore portions of our building and enhance of ministry plan and outreach to the community. Buoyed by this great news, we moved forward with our planning at Special Vestry on May 29th where the focus was on building and property development, the fund raising campaign, and reconfiguration of the sanctuary and chapel, with the evolution of pews to chairs.

During the first part of the summer, conversations were also held with members of the congregation on the next steps to be taken with our worship rhythm, reflecting on the current schedule of alternating Sunday services, between traditional services and Fresh Expressions. Chairs to replace the pews were ordered, a step made possible with a substantial legacy gift from Linda Kilbey. We said goodbye to our pews in early September, and implemented an imaginative plan for reuse of the first growth wood for new flooring in our chapel. With further planning and consultation steered by the Liturgical Advisory Committee (see report on page 22) we changed the rhythm of our worship beginning in Advent to concentrate our resources on one service each Sunday. Beginning in December, the first Sunday was a combination of a

communal meal with a simplified eucharist. This was followed by services built around readings from various sources in addition to scripture, varied liturgies for eucharist and familiar and more contemporary music.

This very rapid survey of highlights from 2022 conceals a huge amount of work by the leadership team, the three wardens headed by our ever creative and superbly organized priest, Reverend Sharon, and individuals who headed key ministries for property development and for sacred spaces, notably Chris Wensley, Kim Mead and Billy Garton. As I near the end of my fourth year of serving as Vicar's warden, I want to pay tribute to the cohesive working relationships between the various members of the team, particularly Linda Robertson, People's Warden and Chris Wensley, Associate Warden, a cohesiveness which has ensured maximum benefit for all the efforts and brought us solidly to the next stages of both property development and campaign fundraising to buttress a sustainable financial future. A separate report from Linda and Chris on their work in 2022 follows these comments.

Through the year, I continued my involvement as Chair of Parish Council and in attendance at Administration and Finance meetings. Regular administrative work also involved signing cheques. I enjoyed returning to involvement in the sanctuary services as an intercessor, and occasionally as a singer with the group of songsters in the chancel.



One special project that was a highlight of the year for me, was to organize, with vital help from Bonnie and Nairn Grundy, the borrowing of the beautiful paintings by Chris Woods of Chilliwack featuring his vision in late 20th century Vancouver settings, of the Stations of the Cross. With the support of Rev. Michael Batten of the Parish of St. Thomas in East Vancouver where the

paintings are on permanent display, these unique spiritual dramatizations from traditional interpretations of the Life of Christ, were set up in our sanctuary as part of the events for Holy Week.

As I step down from service as Vicar's warden, I wish to say that it has been a privilege to support Reverend Sharon in the many and varied tasks she undertakes on our behalf with such care, creativity and energy. Her leadership of us as a priest and pastor is inspiring. I want also to thank my fellow wardens and colleagues, Linda Robertson, Chris Wensley, Kim Mead and Billy Garton. It has been a daily and weekly pleasure to work with them and be supported by them in the plans and programs for the next chapter in the life of this community of St. Catherine's. And to all of you in various ministries of worship and outreach, your contributions are vital and essential to our ongoing life as a parish. Many thanks.

Robb Watt, Vicar's Warden

People's Warden Report

I echo Robb Watt's words that one of the best parts of being a warden has been working with Rev Sharon who brings such energy and hope for our future; and working closely with my three colleagues Robb Watt, Chris Wensley and Kim Mead as part of the leadership team on the Administration and Finance Committee and with the wonderful parishioners on Parish Council.

I want to say a special thanks to Robb Watt for agreeing to extend his term last year in 2022 for a fourth year as Vicar's Warden. His many professional and personal skills make him a pleasure to work with.

Working daily with such enthusiastic and hard-working colleagues makes being a Warden satisfying and fun. It inspires me to be part of a church that is innovative in its programs and worship; that is reimagining the use of its buildings; that is actively planning for the future by engaging with the community and is moving forward with confidence.



My Warden's work including preparing for A&F, Parish Council and other meetings and the daily business decisions that come up at St Catherine's over-lapped with three other responsibilities. Most significantly, is the financial campaign which started its preparations in January 2022 working with our consultant Rob Waller to do a month- long Feasibility Study. The

many further steps of our campaign preparation are set out above in this report and outlined in the Campaign Report.

Chris Wensley ably handles the time-consuming details of determining the building repairs and renovations as well as the costing. Thank goodness for his project management expertise as an engineer. I am also very grateful for Billy Garton who joined the Campaign as Co-Chair in the Fall. Billy brings great energy, enthusiasm, and professional legal expertise to our campaign team.

My second project is working as leader of the Spiritual Programs jointly with Rev. Sharon and others where I assisted with three of this year's programs reported elsewhere in these reports.

My third responsibility is sitting as the Warden representative on the Pre-School Board. I am working with the Board Chair, Gillian, and the staff to increase our public profile on social media and redesigning our website.

Linda Robertson, People's Warden

Associate Warden's report



In addition to being a member of the Administration and Finance leadership team as an Associate Warden, my focus this past year has been co-chairing the Property Development Committee; drafting the Operational Budget in conjunction with our Treasurer Faranak and with the assistance of our previous Treasurer Bruce; drafting the property development project budget; sitting as a member of the Financial Campaign team; looking after daily maintenance issues along with Kim Mead; and live-streaming and coordinating the live-stream team each Sunday to ensure that our services are more accessible.

All of these activities are set out in separate Vestry reports.

Chris Wensley, Associate Warden

[Draft Vestry Minutes February 2022](#)

Natasha Stegemann & Rev. Sharon

Sunday February 27, 2022

Attendance: The Annual Vestry was held in the Gym (33) and on Zoom (13), a total of 46 people voting.

Regrets: Apologies were received from Monica Macdonald, Vivian McGie, Brenda Stenson, Roslyn Jackson, Jill Denison

1. Welcome and Vestry guidelines.

Rev Sharon welcomed everyone, gave a land acknowledgement and went over guidelines for the meeting. Communication and Zoom communication guidelines (Accepted at Vestry 2020) were reviewed.

Vestry was video recorded to assist Natasha Stegemann (Vestry Secretary) to type the minutes.

2. Opening Prayer – Rev. Sharon

3. Voting Instructions

Alison Watt explained the voting procedures for those sharing computers and those on the phone.

4. Welcome of New Members:

The community welcomed the following people into the community:

Marthe Duncombe, Pauline Barratt, Peter Mercer, Ginger Shaw



5. Memorials

Rev. Sharon read out a memorial prayer and we remembered:

Michael Burns, David Lambert, Dora Harvey, Nigel and Pat Henderson, Doreen Hodges, Linda Kilbey, Daphne Lakes, Kristy Milligan, Marion Smith, David Smith, Margaret (Chris) Trendel, Tony Triggs, Mary Anne Willis, Doris Wallace, Irene Huget, Lawrence Jillings, Duncan MacGregor, Phil Sunderland, and Herbert Metzger.

The community held a moment of silence.

6. Feasibility Report

Rev. Robin Waller presented the findings from the Feasibility Study carried out St. Catherine's in January 2022 (a full report is available in the office). Following this report, the community participated in facilitated Table Conversations (and Zoom break-out groups) to consider the following questions, and notes were taken:

- (1) During COVID we have not been able to have social gatherings as a community. What are you longing for? What do we need to do to grow our friendships here?
- (2) We have experienced alternating liturgies since September 19th, 2021 (11 Fresh Expression Services and 13 Traditional Services). What surprised you? What puzzled or challenged you? What possibilities or promise is emerging?

(3) St Catherine's has always had good connections in Edgemont and partners on the North Shore. What conversation, if begun today, could create new possibilities for St. Catherine's future?

7. Acceptance of Agenda and Vestry Minutes:

Motion A: To approve the Agenda for St. Catherine's Annual Vestry Meeting as presented. Yes (44), no, abstain

Motion B: To accept the Minutes from St. Catherine's Annual 2020 Vestry Meeting held on February 28th, 2021 as presented. Yes (44), no, abstain

Motion C: To accept the Minutes from St Catherine's Special Vestry Meeting held on May 30th, 2021 as presented. Yes (43), no, abstain (1)

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

Note all Motions were put forward by Parish Council and did not require a seconder.

Motion D-1: "On the basis of the feasibility study, Vestry directs Parish Council to prepare for a fundraising campaign, including the preparation of a business plan, to be presented at a Special Vestry on May 15, 2022 for a vote." Yes (43), no, abstain (1)

Motion D-2: "That Vestry reaffirms its support of the redevelopment of St. Catherine's property and instructs Parish Council to continue its work to:

- determine the feasibility of proceeding with Option 2 of the LeMare Report to:
 - sell a portion of the property and
 - use the funds to maintain or upgrade the remaining property),
 - present a report at the Special Vestry Meeting, on May 15th, 2022."
- Yes (41), no (1), abstain (2)

Discussion:

- John Luccock expressed concern that the Gym and church complex was built for a different time and different ministry. He feels that maintaining the Gym is not viable for the future.
- Linda Robertson outlined that it was important to develop community partners with those who use the Gym and the Church (without pews) which can be an opportunity to grow neighbourhood connection and grow the community.
- Heather Luccock she commented that she has seen partnerships with music groups be quite successful for churches in the past.
- Derek Barratt expressed his support for welcoming the neighbourhood into the church. He wonders if St. Catherine's community could make more use of the chapel for worship.

Motion D-3: “Approve A&F/Parish Council to move forward with the planning and preparatory activities for the 2022 projects, and to initiate the activities included in the draft 2022 budget item - Fundraising campaign- Capital/renovations:

- Roofing, windows, doors
- Gutters, downspouts, drainage - Lighting, heating, plumbing
- Rectory, grounds, exterior when funds are available”

Yes (44), no, abstain

Discussion:

- John Luccock expressed concern about building repair and adhering to District codes.
- Chris Wensley’s expressed his concern that if we do nothing, we are deferring the necessary maintenance.
- Gordon Lee has a question, comment, he understands what John Luccock is saying, we need to go forward with repairs that don’t require a building permit.
- Chris Wensley doesn’t believe a permit is needed for these renos.
- Deborah Foster expressed her opinion that we need to survive as a faith community, there is a lack of spiritual wisdom in society, we need our presence here.
- Derek Barratt suggests we keep our options open to consider the preschool’s use of the building and the neighbourhood use of the church complex.
- Janet Benjamin supports Derek’s idea.
- Rev Sharon Smith wants to note idea from Derek Barratt and Janet Benjamin for thought when considering property development.



Motion D-4:

“We propose that Vestry authorize Parish Council to appoint a committee to research the reconfiguration of the church and chapel that will include investigating types of chairs, possible configurations of the nave, and placement of the choir/musicians. To present their work at Special Vestry in May 2022”

Yes (41), no (2), abstain (1)

Discussion:

Gordon Lee presented on the installation of chairs in the church and chapel

- Billy Garton is for this motion, as it will bring people together; he stated some thoughts re the committee to test the chairs and also to test the floor re asbestos.
- Gordon Lee thanked Billy for his suggestions.
- Rev Sharon says we can have flexibility, e.g. choir part of congregation.
- Lois MacGregor asks that we give thought to have chairs with arms
- Janet Morris offers if we could invite people to buy chairs to lessen costs

9. Receipt and Discussion of Annual Report

Motion E:

To receive the Annual Report 2021 as presented. Yes (40), no, abstain
No discussion

10. Worship: Approval of Eucharistic Ministers

Motion F:

To approve the Eucharistic Ministers as presented. Yes (40), no, abstain

11. Leadership: Report of Nominating Committee (Vestry Report 2021: pages 11 - 12)

- **Call for nominations from the floor**
- **Elections if any**

Motion G:

To accept the Nominations Report as presented. Yes (39), no, abstain (1)

Discussion:

- Heather Peacock wants to know if Faranak Leilaby is being paid as treasurer,
- Rev Sharon says yes
- Call for Nominations from Vestry Floor for additional Members at large and or Alternate Youth, none received.

12. Financial Sustainability: Financials & Budget (Bruce Davidson)

13. Report of Independent external accountants for 2021

14. Treasurer's Report – 2022 Budget

15. Appointment of Independent Accountants

16. Appointment of Signing Officers

17. Motion to appoint Fund Trustees – Parish Initiatives Fund

Motion H:

Accept the Report of the Independent external accountant for 2021 Yes (40), no, abstain

Motion I:

To accept the 2022 Budget as presented. Yes (39), no, abstain (1)

Motion J:

To appoint Rolfe Benson as Independent Accountant for 2022 Yes (39), no, abstain (1)

Motion K:

Accept Robb Watt, Linda Robertson, Chris Wensley and Kim Mead as signing officers for 2022 Yes (40), no, abstain

Motion L:

To accept John Luccock and Ann Mansfield as trustees of the Parish Initiatives Fund and Capitol Development Fund.

Yes (39), no, abstain (1)

18. *New Business from the floor*

None.

19. *Honouring Parishioners - Friend of St Catherine's Pins*

Bruce Davidson, Kim Mead, Bev London, Gillian Holland, Penny Zuk

20. *Honouring Parish Council Members and Vestry Secretary*

Rev. Sharon thanked all Parish Council Members and those who were ending their term.

21. *Adjournment/Closing Prayer*

The meeting was adjourned with the sharing of the peace.

[Draft Special Vestry Minutes May 2022](#)

Natasha Stegemann & Rev. Sharon

Roles:

Vestry Chair: Rev Sharon,

In-person Scrutineer: Linda Robertson,

Presenters: Rev Sharon, Kim Mead, Gordon Lee, Linda Robertson, Robb Watt and Billy Garton

Zoom Host: Maddy Walter

Zoom cohost and Scrutineer: Alison Watt

Attendance:

48 people attended Special Vestry (33 in the Gym; 15 on Zoom), 47 of whom were voting members of Vestry.

Welcome and Instructions:

Following a morning prayer service in the Gym, Rev. Sharon opened the Special Vestry meeting.

Rev. Sharon conveyed Bishop John's greetings and gratitude for the faithfulness and perseverance of the Saint Catherine's Community in the midst of COVID.

Rev. Sharon outlined the Agenda for Special Vestry. The agenda was motioned (by Parish Council) and carried. Alison Watt reviewed the Zoom voting instructions.

All four motions came from Parish Council, no seconder was necessary.

22. Motion 1: Worship

The Vestry approves the additional Eucharistic Ministers: Pauline Barrett, Lori Burns, Janet Johnston, Nicole Geha, Elizabeth Barratt, Janet Benjamin and Bob Paxton

Vote: 47 in favour

23. Motion 2: Community Values

That Vestry adopts the revised wording of St. Catherine's values: St. Catherine's is a community that aspires to be: **Welcoming, Curious, Creative, Sustainable, Caring, Inclusive, and Humble (addition)**: replacing the existing words: Welcoming to All Spiritual and Religious seekers: Explorative, Sustainability: Care of the Earth: A Caring Community: Opportunities and Equality for All



- Janet Morris questioned the need for the word humble. Robb responded that we need to be humble in the church.
- Heather Luccock questioned "Do we need to say St. Catherine's is a Christian community? or are we assuming people will know this?" Robb reiterated that the values flow from the mission and vision of the church that clearly state the church's Christian identity.
- Derek Barratt comments about demonstrating that St. Catherine's is a Christian community.
- Rev Sharon explained how we would share the facilities with other groups and how the values are to be shared among us all. For the groups to align with our values, we need to broaden them.
- Linda Robertson reread out the mission statement which explicitly states that St. Catherine's is a Christian community.

Vote: 47 in favor

24. Motion 3: Future Direction, Finances and Property

Motion 3.1: Future Direction

That Vestry instructs Parish Council to form a consultation group to embark on an open consultation process, providing feedback to Parish Council, to ensure that a diverse cross-section of ages and parish perspectives are considered in the future direction of St. Catherine's.

- Robb Watt expressed his gratitude for the work completed to date and thanked key people involved in important projects such as the Diocesan property proposal and conversations, building maintenance and preschool support, livestreaming equipment, lobby upgrade: Rev Sharon, Linda Robertson, Chris Wensley, Gordon Lee, Kim Mead.
- Rev. Sharon presented the future direction, not a revolution but an evolution, to move forward together. She encouraged the community that we have enough energy to walk forward, we are more than 12 (Jesus had 12 disciples).
Rev. Sharon introduced Reconnect, Restore and Reimagine:
 - Reconnect: with each other at St. Catherine's after COVID
 - Restore: the building and property; and our neighborhood connection
 - Reimagine: what the church could be as a relevant place for this time.
- Rev Sharon laid out a plan for a Lay Minister of Community Engagement.
- And showed a video on how other Anglican Churches are reimagining church.

Vote: 47 in favor

Motion 3.2 Financial Sustainability

That Vestry approves the expenditure of \$70,000 (or up to \$100,000 - when other donations are received) in the fundraising account to:

- Hire part time positions of (1) a facilities coordinator and (2) a Lay Minister of Community Engagement.
- Hire the necessary consultants to prepare a planning application to submit to the North Vancouver District in order to sell a portion of the church property, and
- Undertake urgent repairs (to the extent possible) of the building as discussed at Vestry, February 2022

Discussion:

- Linda Robertson discussed proceeds of sale and the need to raise further money through a fundraising campaign. She emphasized Diocesan support and the need to have Robb Waller's assistance in fundraising.
- Gordon Lee gave an update about the selling of the church rectory property, rezoning and the DONV policy about public assembly land. There is the possibility that we might be able to create 2 lots for sale and still maintain more parking, that would generate more income in the future.
Gordon Lee described the process with the planning department of DONV in order to move forward and to rezone, and that we would need professional assistance (consultants in real estate and architecture firms).

- John Luccock questioned about hiring people on salary and the budget.
- Linda replied that these position would be contract on one-year positions.
- Rev Sharon discussed how you need to hire for growth.
- Linda Robertson commented that growing the congregation is the goal over the next 3 years.
- Derek Barratt asked of we have looked at the size of development and lot that is being sold, Robb Watt explained how Chris Wensley and himself went to the district and discussed how it was doable.
- Linda Robertson says we will get maximum amount of money we can.

Vote 45 in favor: 2 against

25. Motion 4: Sacred Spaces

That Vestry instructs Parish Council to: order two hundred (ICON 40 chairs) to replace the pews in the church and chapel, and to find uses in the church for the pew wood.

- Gordon Lee presented the work of the Church and Chapel Reconfiguration Committee. He discussed the rationale for the chairs, he showed samples of the chairs that were considered, and how the committee formed criteria and tested the chairs against the criteria. He also presented potential uses for the pew wood, moveable altar, moveable lectern, cupboard to store chairs, just to name a few.
- Two members of the committee also presented their thoughts in favour of the ICON 40 chair: Pip Stigger and Janet Benjamin.

Discussion:

- Monica MacDonald asked if any pews would remain at the back of the church. Rev Sharon says the committee is in favour of clearing the full space.
- Rev. Sharon also assured the community that there would be cushion kneelers.
- Elizabeth Barratt shared her concerns about where you would put bags, or hymn books, or other belongings - on the floor? Gordon responded that there will be chairs next to you to use for this purpose.
- Ros Jackson asked if we are keeping the pews in the chapel. Rev Sharon suggested that we put the whole motion for vote to Vestry (both church and chapel removal of the pews) and see how the vote goes.

Vote: 42 in favor: 5 against

Closure:

Rev. Sharon thanked everyone for their attendance. Vestry was adjourned at 1:20pm and sparkling juice was served.

Future Direction Consultation

Rev Sharon Smith

At Special Vestry on May 29th, 2022, Vestry passed the following motion:

That Vestry instructs Parish Council to form a consultation group to embark on an open consultation process, providing feedback to Parish Council, to ensure that a diverse cross-section of ages and parish perspectives are considered in the future direction of St. Catherine's.

During June, July and August we embarked on a consultative process to get feedback on the following activities proposed for St. Catherine's future direction:

- Continued Liturgical Experimentation;
- Lay Minister of Community Engagement; and
- Renting out the Church Building to user groups who align with St. Catherine's values.

Three ways of obtaining feedback were used – a survey, small group conversations (focus groups), and individual phone calls to parishioners unable to attend the groups.

Survey:

The Liturgical Advisory Committee (Rev. Sharon, Robb Watt (Vicar's Warden, chair), Rob Gloor (Interim church musician and choir lead), Bonnie Grundy, Evan Jennings, Heather Luccock and Vivian McGie) met twice in the summer (June 14th, 2022 and July 26th, 2022) to consider Vestry feedback on the past year of alternating liturgies (one week Book of Alternative Services, and the next week Fresh Expressions with contemporary prayers and music). The committee also took time to consider ways to provide worship every Sunday that is spiritually nurturing for all members of the St. Catherine's Community and invitational to the neighbourhood. They submitted a proposal to Parish Council and then sought feedback using an online and paper based survey to the parish.

The deadline to submit responses was August 15th, 2022; we received 43 surveys back (see detailed grid on Appendix 1). In addition, we received written comments that added to the consideration.

August Conversations – Focus Groups:

41 parishioners participated in the small group conversations. Three questions were asked:

- Forming two services: What excites you about this? Where do you have a sense of caution?
- Community Engagement Lay Minister: What excites you about this? Where do you have a sense of caution?
- Sacred Space change - pews/rentals: What excites you about this? Where do you have a sense of caution?

Phone Calls and Visits:

An additional 23 parishioners were phoned or visited by Rev. Sharon during July and August.

The Wardens suggested that the following three questions were asked:

- "How are you? How has the pandemic affected you?"
- "Have you been thinking about attending Saint Catherine's? What service would interest you?"
- We are in a period of transformation. Different ways to connect to the neighbourhood. What activities would you like to see the church provide?

Regarding the Liturgies we noted the following:

- There is a recognition of the creativity in the community and a desire to be creative and use a variety of the arts in worship
- Some parishioners need the Anglican Poetic prayers of the past each Sunday
- We need to manage our limited resources
- 8 am spoken Eucharist will not meet the need of many parishioners
- There is energy to try a meal/breakfast/brunch
- There is energy to invite musicians from the community
- We need to make time to celebrate each other

Regarding the Lay Minister of Community Engagement, we noted the following:

- An excitement to see what relationships might be formed by this role
- A concern that there isn't budget for this position long term
- A desire to see the Thanksgiving Dinner offered again
- A desire to see groups that meet needs like grief care and divorce care
- Many are looking forward to the ways that we can grow our outreach activities again

Regarding Rental of the Church, we noted the following:

- An openness to the opportunity for flexibility;
- Concerned that the space be kept sacred;
- A suggestion that we call rental groups, community partners;
- Renting space may break the barriers between parish and community down;
- Many have seen chairs in church spaces work well and are excited; and
- A concern that worship set up retains the option to sit spaciouly in quiet.

Many thanks to all who participated.

[Nomination Committee Report](#)

Robb Watt, Kim Mead, Rev. Sharon and Pip Stigger

The 2022 Nominations' Committee included the Reverend Sharon Smith (Vicar), Robb Watt (Vicar's Warden), Kim Mead (Sacred Space Ministry Stream; Alternate Synod Delegate); Pip Stigger (Synod Delegate).

We wish to thank the 2022 Parish Council for their dedication to the people and parish of St. Catherine's and our future ministry together.

Special thanks to those who are retiring from their roles: Faranak Leilaby as Treasurer, Kim Mead, Pip Stigger and Robb Watt who have completed their terms on Parish Council. Many thanks to Robb Watt who extended his term as Vicar’s Warden by a year.

In order to meet Diocesan Canonical requirements, we invited several new members who have put their names forward to be considered for a role on Parish Council:

- Vivian McGie (appointment as Vicar’s Warden)
- Tony Dodd (Synod Delegate)
- Marthe Duncomb (Alternative Synod Delegate)
- Elaine Von Horne (Member at Large)

The Diocese requires that all persons must be re-elected or appointed annually.

The committee presented the following:

Diocesan Role	Name	Parish Council Role
Vicar’s Warden (appointment)	Vivian McGie (year 1)	TBD
Secretary of the Vestry Meeting (appointment):	Natasha Stegemann	
People’s Warden:	Linda Robertson (year 3)	Spiritual Development Ministry Stream
Associate Warden:	Chris Wensley (year 3)	Financial Sustainability Ministry Stream
Treasurer (appointment):	Gordon Lee (year 1)	
Synod Delegates (three required):	Tony Dodd (year 1) Linda Roberson (year 3) Mermi Vouse (year 4)	TBD Spiritual Development Community Connection Projects.
Alternate Synod Delegates (three required):	Marthe Duncomb (yr 1) Robert Paxton (year 4) Billy Garton (year 2)	TBD Outreach Ministry Stream Community Connection Ministry Stream.
Youth Synod Delegate (one required):	Cody Spence (year 2)	Outreach Ministry Stream
Alternate Youth Synod Delegate (one required):	Vacant	
Members at Large:	Paul Clark (year 2) Elaine Von Horne (Year 1)	Outreach Ministry Stream

Parish Administrator

Natasha Stegemann

The administrator has ongoing tasks such as preparing the Friday notices, coordinating with tradespeople, monthly Parish Council packages, annual Vestry reports, recording registrations for educational programs, answering phone and email enquiries. This report highlights tasks above and beyond these duties: coordinating Sunday services, events, mailouts, rentals and church maintenance.

And the best part of all. We got new phones! With thanks to Chris Wensley.

Coordinating Sunday Services (during a Post Pandemic era):

The pandemic was still in effect this year (although easing) and the office was busier than ever. The office is working to capacity at 25 hours over five days a week. We have a steady stream of 5 - 6 volunteers a week helping during 80% of the year.

The service went back to being in person and livestreamed. Print bulletins were prepared weekly including bulletins for Amica residents (who watch the livestreamed services), and updating the website with YouTube links, bulletins and art. In addition, a separate presider's bulletin is prepared for Rev. Sharon, an accessible bulletin for Sheila, and service art on black boards for the church and website.

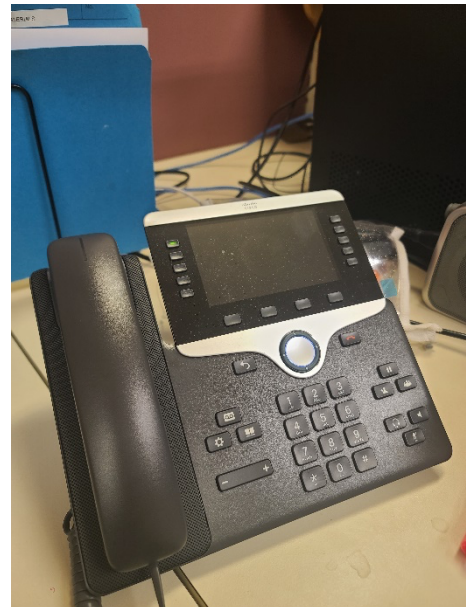
The Sunday service rota is redone every year in February. Emails are sent out weekly to Sunday service participants and greeters.

Volunteers such as Gillian Holland, Julia Hadrill, Elizabeth Barratt and Elaine Van Horne came in weekly on Thursdays and Fridays to fold bulletins, help with massive special mailouts, projects and everything in between. Their volunteer time and dedication is greatly appreciated. I could not prepare everything for the Sunday service without their help.

Other events:

The major events requiring organizing with numerous emails, website and poster/flyer advertising and phone calls included:

Ash Wednesday, Stations of the Cross, All Souls Event, Thanksgiving Gift Cards Outreach, Advent Edgemont Project, and the Pet Blessing Service.



Major Mail-Outs:

Major mail outs were sent for Easter, Thanksgiving, the November pledge cards, All Souls event, and Christmas.

Rentals:

As part of the Rental Committee, I coordinated the typing, updating and editing of rental contracts (with the required safety plan). We have a waiting list for gym rentals and people are also very keen to rent the church/sanctuary once they are interviewed by the Community Engagement Coordinator and approved by Parish Council.

We now have new tenants in the rectory because the former tenant has moved.

Church and Rectory Maintenance Issues:

Our janitorial work is being done by Melba who is doing an outstanding job. Nairn Grundy and Kim Mead have worked diligently fixing everything that needs to be fixed. They both have worked so hard and we really appreciate their volunteering so much of their time! I also managed the renewal of the snow removal company who was contracted and thank goodness, December was a snowy month.

In addition, I coordinated the recruitment of summer students, and new part-time church staff. The Canada Summer Student program went ahead again and we appreciate receiving these grants; interviews were set up; the committee met with the prospective people with Covid guidelines in place. Keys and time sheets were provided for the students: Ashkon Vahedi and Shaunti Baines. We are grateful that both Ashkon and Shaunti have stayed on and become part of the part-time staff at Saint Catherine's. Ashkon is our new Facilities Coordinator who works so hard, and Shaunti is one of our Sunday School teachers and sometimes helps in the office.

Thank you volunteer parishioners!

We are very grateful to those parishioners who have volunteered to help with some of the more time-consuming administrative tasks. Elaine, Elizabeth, Gillian, Julia, Shaunti, and Peter were very helpful especially with very large mail-outs and everything in between.



Worship Reports

Liturgical Advisory Report

Robb Watt

A core strength of our community is our regular worship. In keeping with our determination to serve our existing congregation and balance this with plans for engaging with newcomers to St. Catherine's we have continued our experiments with the content, spoken and sung, of our services and of our liturgies. Rev. Sharon's willingness to reflect on our practices, to try new things and to give members of the parish a regular opportunity to participate in the shaping of our services is highly important to this endeavour. This gives extra significance to the work of the Liturgical Advisory Committee which it has been a privilege to chair for this past year. Through much of 2022, we continued to alternate services each Sunday; traditional services drawn from The Book of Alternative Services with well-known hymns and Fresh Expressions services, curated from prayers and liturgies drawn from a variety of sources and with more contemporary sources for music.

The Committee met three times since Vestry last year; on 4 June, 26 July and the 18 September. The discussions at the second and third meetings were guided by the results of a survey of the congregation in July, taken online, and some in person conversations in August. This led to the development of a new approach for the rhythm of worship services discussed in September and presented to Parish Council. This approach was modified by Council and formed the basis of an altered rhythm which began with the first Sunday of Advent, and continued through December and into Epiphany 2023. An important part of the reasoning was to closely assess and utilize the scarce volunteer resources to support the Vicar in the production of each service. It was decided that the first Sunday of each month would be a feast Sunday, built around a communal meal, with a shortened Eucharist flowing from a brief story.

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays each month would be a more familiar service with music, prayers, readings, a homily and Eucharist. The content would be at the Vicar's discretion. On the 4 or 5 months in a year when there is a fifth Sunday, the service would be composed of a short spoken Eucharist and a presentation focussed on a social justice topic flowing from the congregations outreach into the community.

This is a vital ministry for strengthening the worship life of St. Catherine's. It has been wonderful to have had a part in the discussions, and to watch our services evolve. I want to



thank the members of the Committee for their thoughts, suggestions and reflections. To Rev. Sharon, Rob Gloor, Bonnie Grundy, Evan Jennings, Heather Luccock and Vivian McGie, warmest thanks.

Soul Food Sunday Services

Rev Sharon Smith

Following the excellent work of the Liturgical Advisory Committee, a new planning team (Rev. Sharon, Rhonda Garton, Ginger Shaw, Vivian McGie, Penny Zuk, Cody Spence and Robb Watt) was formed to shape a creative expression service at a neighbourhood breakfast. The following objectives were defined:

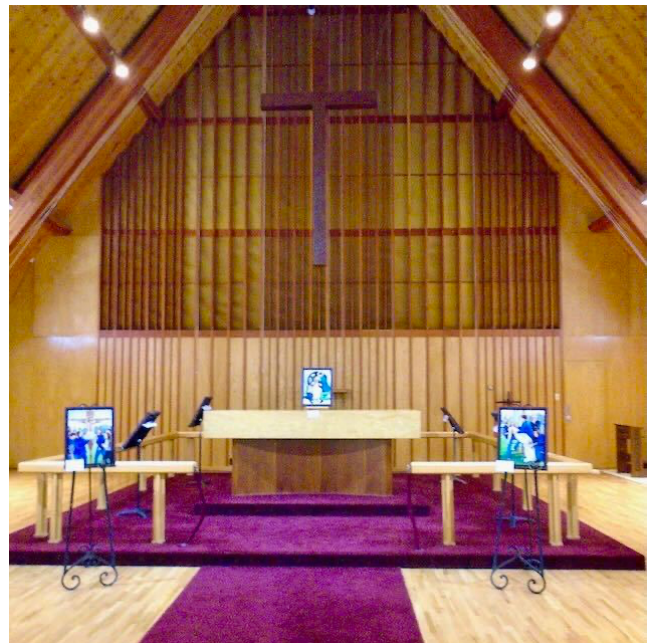
- To welcome strangers and friends around a table to share food and conversation;
- To hear a story told about Jesus (Gospel) and have a conversation to deepen our understanding;
- To break bread together and receive a blessing for the week;
- To enjoy the gifts of the artist community – neighbourhood musician and launch the art display for the month (Visual Arts, neighbourhood musicians); and
- Gather Prayers and hold the needs of the world.

The first service took place on December 4th, 2022 and we were delighted by the attendance, the food provided by members of the community, the musician Tom Arntzen, chants led by a cantor and reflections on Love, Gifts and Saint Nicholas of Myra. The service included a simple Eucharist at the tables. This service, now called Soul Food Sunday, is a work in progress and the planning team are refining it each month before advertising it to the wider neighbourhood.

Special Neighbourhood Services

Rev Sharon

On **Good Friday**, 65 people walked the Way of the Cross, savouring the original artwork of Chris Woods. Many came because of an advert in the North Shore News. Rev. Sharon had the privilege of offering a blessing to each person as they completed their walk at Station 14.





Many thanks to Robb Watt, Heather Luccock, Nancy Sunderland, John Luccock and Tony Dodd for their work in setting up. And to all who offered a friendly welcome - thank you!

Traditionally the church kindles a fire in the darkness of **Holy Saturday** as a sign of hope and light in dark times. From this New Fire the Resurrection candle is lit. 17 of us gathered on the Ridgewood Patio for a fire. We lit the Paschal/Resurrection/Easter candle with the words: "The Light of Christ".



Thanks to Daela, Cody and Ethan for their presence and for the hot chocolate and marshmallows!

To celebrate **Saint Francis of Assisi Feast Day**, October 2nd, 2022, we gathered outdoors at Peter Rabbit Parklet to bless the animals who have been entrusted into our care.

Ash Wednesday Service was held in the Memorial Garden on March 2nd, 2022, and we were joined by parishioners of other Anglican Churches on the North Shore.

Music Director

Rob Gloor



In 2022, the Music Ministry at St. Catherine's regained a sense of seasonal rhythm that had been seriously disrupted by COVID restrictions over the previous two years. Our choir led the congregation in singing songs and hymns of many styles. For much of the year, services and

music selections alternated between a traditional focus and Fresh Expressions. Beginning at Advent, we adopted a longer-term approach with our services, including an ongoing mix of traditional and contemporary styles, and a new, casual Soul Food Sunday model for the first Sunday of every month. Many generous musicians contributed to the musical life of St. Catherine's through the year. I am grateful to all for their time and talent, including Alice Korfman, Ginger Shaw, Vivian McGie, Penny Zuk, Susana Wensley, Gordon Lee, John and Heather Luccock, Alison and Robb Watt, Pauline Barrett and Tony Dodd.

Special thanks: to Gordon and Alice who provided leadership as cantors during Soul Food Sunday services; to Melanie Hackett and Doug Medley for their instrumental offerings; to Alice for her ongoing mentorship and repertoire suggestions; and to a growing roster of musicians from the broader community now joining us on Soul Food Sundays. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead, with music that contributes to a meaningful and fulfilling worship experience for everyone in attendance.

Bell Choir

Penny Zuk

In many ways the bell choir is going better and growing bigger than before. That's due to us parishioners of St Catherine's being joined by another bell choir and members of the wider neighbourhood. We are being led by Ruth Tschannen and Alison Roberts. There are some ways of teaching that differ from Siiri's ways of teaching but we are trying to get used to them and they are also trying out some of Siiri's methods too! And they are a very nice group of people and quite ambitious too! Come and join us every Tuesday at 3:30 pm in the church.

Altar Guild

Bonnie Grundy

St. Catherine's Altar Guild has continued to work hard to prepare an altar of beauty and grace each Sunday. Our ideas and tastes have changed as a result of the pandemic, and we use less adornments and flowers now, to focus our attention on the altar itself and its inherent beauty and mystery. We have adapted to new Eucharistic protocols as pandemic restrictions have been lifted and are now able to offer bread and the common cup as well as wafers to everyone. Our group has decreased in numbers in the past few years, but those remaining are extremely willing and faithful. We remain very committed to doing this important part of God's work at St. Catherine's. Many thanks to all our Altar Guild members for their hard work and loyalty!



Service Volunteers

Natasha Stegemann



This year along with every other year, volunteers stepped up and worked so hard, whether in the office with me or around the church or even participating in the church to make Sunday more enjoyable.

They are beyond appreciated by me. And I tell them whenever I see them. And I hope I show them. Readers and Intercessors came in and read and participated in the church Altar Guild provided masks and extra sanitizing. The greeters team has been strengthened this year in order to welcome people, new name tags have been created by the teams of volunteers.

We are always looking for new volunteers to be part of St Catherine's Worship. Contact me if you would like to be involved.

Livestream and Sound

Chris Wensley

In 2020, in response to the Covid19 pandemic restrictions on public gatherings, as with many churches, St Catherine's moved to providing access to worship online. Even though Covid19 restrictions eased in 2022, we have continued to live-stream our services to enable parishioners who are unable to join our services in person the chance to worship with us. Many of our senior parishioners are home-bound or live in retirement homes, such as AMICA in Edgemont village, and join our Sunday services on a regular basis. Our livestreamed services are available on YouTube, most easily accessed through the St Catherine's website.

During the pandemic, Gordon Lee set a very high standard for livestreaming our services and handed over its management to me in January 2022. This year we have had a small Tech Team of volunteers to assist in livestreaming and sound on a monthly roster, including Sara and Armin, Mermi and Paul Clark on the livestream and Cody Spence on the sound. Ashkon Vahedi sets up the microphones before each service (as well as for our rental groups) and Susana Valente continues to provide occasional advice on managing our sound system.

To simplify the livestream, we have installed a PTZ (pan-tilt-zoom) camera at the back of the sanctuary, which can be used in operator-assisted or unassisted mode. Although the main sound system is quite old, with the addition of new microphones and soundboard in 2021

under a bequest we now have a very high quality sound system. While it provides for a wide range of needs, we have developed a simple sound set up arrangement to cover most services. The addition of a new TV monitor in the sanctuary complements a very functional and flexible audio-visual system in the sanctuary. We have plans in 2023 to upgrade the wiring and sound console (so that it can be moved if required), and perhaps also to add another camera.

We continue to look for volunteers to assist with the sound and livestream during services, and we would welcome anyone who would like to join our Tech Team on a regular or occasional basis. With the new equipment and simplification of set-up, it is now relatively easy to manage livestreaming and sound on a one-person basis after a short training session. If you are interested, please get in touch with me at cjwensley@gmail.com.

Spiritual Development Reports

VITA Retreat Report

Rev Sharon and Linda Robertson

St Catherine's hosted its first Vita Retreat led by Rev's. Sharon Smith, Jessica Schaap and Eric Mason on Friday evening and all-day Saturday. This is a diocesan program that facilitates an environment for people to encounter the Spirit and reignite their lives of prayer and ministry. 28 people attended from St. Catherine's, St. Clements, St. Martins and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

The overarching concept of the retreat is an expanded understanding of the spiritual practice of lectio divina. Lectio divina (holy reading) is an ancient, meditative, and devotional way to read scripture. The retreat takes the basic form of lectio and applies it to many things such as art, being in nature, music, cooking, daily tasks, relationships, and conversation – the stuff of daily life.

Participants came away with a sense that prayer can be a continual activity in all aspects of their lives. Life can be lived as a prayer, and God is the one who prays within us. And the depth of conversation and community that grows is remarkable.

Lent Study – Engaging Sacred Space

Linda Robertson

In preparation for the arrival of our new chairs to replace our pews later in the Fall, we engaged the Very Reverend Peter Elliott, former Dean of Christ Church Cathedral who oversaw the extensive renovations to that heritage building and its liturgical space and Thomas Roach, a textile artist, community art facilitator and liturgical designer.



Over three Thursday evenings in March 2022, we looked at how we can transform our Sanctuary into a more inviting and beautiful space for worship and for the community to use. We looked at ideas that honour our tradition and incorporate a respectful use of space by the outside community. The three sessions were titled:

On Holy Ground – reflecting upon Mission from the place we are now.

Building a Blueprint – moving towards a renewed understanding of Mission rooted in architecture and theology.

In this Together – hospitality and the ministry of Sacred Spaces from and for communities.

Spiritual Practice Group – Celtic Practice

Deborah Foster

The Spiritual Practice Group began in September 2022 to complement Contemplative Compline. Spiritual Practice provides an opportunity to experience the rich tradition of contemplative Christianity and discover its relevance for our contemporary lives. We are guided by a leadership team of Rev. Sharon Smith, Deborah Foster (MATS), Bruce Metzler and Mary Jean Ellis. Attendance currently averages around 8 people.



We meet Tuesday evenings on Zoom which makes participation more accessible. Hence one of our members recently relocated to Victoria can still attend; likewise, someone in Delta; as well as those of us living nearby but who wouldn't drive to church on a dark winter evening. As one of our elders said: Zoom can be quite intimate. And the technology enables sharing group contributions such as music, photographs and poetry for reflection.

We are currently exploring Celtic Christianity with Christine Valters Paintner's book *The Soul's Slow Ripening: Twelve Celtic Practices Seeking the Sacred*. Working with themes such as Thresholds, Dreams, Peregrination (Holy wandering), Blessings, Soul Friendship, Prayers of Encircling and Protection (Loricās and Cairns) Solitude, Seasons, and more. With each of these



themes we practice various contemplative Christian ways of meditating such as visio divina (meditating on a photo), and/or journaling, writing poetry, and lectio divina (meditating on words, phrases). Celtic Christianity is earth based; this encourages us to explore our hearts and relationship to Spirit through nature and our simple daily tasks and routines. Through these very present elements and meditation practices, we discover the closeness of Christ within our immediate lives. This, in turn, provides a path for inner healing and growth.

The Spiritual Practice Group hosts the Quiet Morning at the church during Advent and Lent.

Contemplative Compline

Bruce Metzler

Each Tuesday evening we gather via Zoom for Compline. We begin at 8:00 after the meeting of the Spiritual Practice Group. Most, but not all, of those gathered have participated in the Spiritual Practice group, but this is not necessary as the two are quite separate and we have enjoyed welcoming individuals who come just for Compline.

Leadership of the liturgy rotates between Reverend Sharon, Deborah Foster and Bruce Metzler. We begin with some music to welcome us into the time of contemplation. This is followed by a chance to check in with each other – answering the question: “How are you arriving this evening?”

We are led through a grounding practice and a welcoming prayer practice to gently take us deeper into a space of calm and contemplation and a reading is offered from scripture or other spiritual writings.

After the reading we enter into 15 minutes of silent, centering prayer – a time of just being still in the presence of God and in the company of each other.

We are then given a time to share anything that has come up for us during the evening.

The experience of sharing at the beginning and end of the hour generates a real sense of trust and community over the weeks as we gather and as we are vulnerable with each other. The group ranges in size from 5 – 10 people.

All are welcome to join us for this blessed and sacred time of sharing, contemplation and calm. More information, including the Zoom link, is on the St. Catherine's website under the "Events" tab.

Quiet Day – Advent

Mary Jean Ellis



On Sat., Nov. 26th, we arranged a quiet day at St. Catherine's with the intention of deepening our spiritual practices and also to meet each other in person after gathering on Zoom throughout the fall. Initially, we met around the firepit for coffee and scones and then moved into the sanctuary where Rev. Sharon offered Celtic Morning Prayer and we were invited into silence.

For the next hour, we learned and engaged more deeply with the Celtic spiritual themes of

wandering, blessing and thresholds. To do this, we used the practices of a finger labyrinth, sand box, writing a journal or poem, praying with icons, resting, creative artwork, contemplative photography, praying and mandalas. Then we gathered together to share our experiences of that time.

At noon Rev. Sharon led us in Midday Celtic Prayer and we joined together to share our lunches and enjoy conversation with each other. We all appreciated this opportunity to grow in our experience of Celtic spirituality and share this time with each other.

Sunday School Report

Daela Dalzell, Ethan Spence and Shaunti Bains

Daela vacated Sunday School teaching in the fall of 2022. We thanked her for her service and hard work with Ethan Spence. Shaunti and Ethan make a great team now.

We played one game of tag with where, after being tagged by whoever was "it," a person was out for the rest of the game. This version of tag, unsurprisingly, went by very quickly.

We then played a second version of tag akin to freeze tag. In this version, a person froze where they were when tagged and could be tagged back in by a friend as long as the frozen person said "have mercy," first. This game lasted much longer and was much more fun to play.

We discussed afterwards how, although both games were fair, one was much more fun. It was better for everyone when one mistake (getting tagged) wasn't the end of everything. Asking for and showing mercy allowed the game to keep going. We need to ask for and show mercy in real life for much the same reasons.

St Catherine's Childcare Society

Marion Porter and Gillian Holland (chairperson)

St. Catherine's ChildCare Society has been a mission of our Church for more than 30 years. SCCS is an inclusive, play-based centre. We believe in the philosophy of 'learning through play'. This gives each child opportunities to express their emotions, build relationships and shape good behaviours, so that they can experience success in their elementary school education.

We have had a wonderful Fall and Christmas time, welcoming the return of our traditional Pizza Supper/Cake Walk for the first time in two years. To cap off the season, we had a joyful, full Church attended by parents and extended family members dressed in their finest, to watch and celebrate their children perform in the Preschool Service.



We continue to follow the best lessons that we learnt through covid to keep our children safe and healthy. Parents are asked not to send their children to school if they are unwell and to inform staff of their symptoms. Parents are also asked to leave their children with their teachers at the Church doors. Children feel safe, because their parents show their trust in the preschool and their children's ability to enter and learn their school daily routines independently. Parents learn to leave with more confidence and classes are calm and joyful.

The preschool has signed onto the Federal/Provincial CCFRI (Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative) which gives the parents a fee rebate on their child's monthly fees, dependent on their child's age, and number of hours and days attended. This is welcome news to parents.

We have a talented, Early Education staff, and Admin team, who shine every day in their dedication to our children and families.

We thank all the Church members for their continued support of our Samosa and Purdy's fundraising events. Especially we thank our Vicar, Sharon, the Wardens, Parish Council and Church and parent members on our Board for their support this past year.

Pastoral Care Reports

Keeping Us Together

Hugh Crosthwait and Tony Dodd

Although the Covid pandemic put a halt on some of activities, we (Sharon ,Hugh and Tony) got together to rename Pastoral Team to “Keeping Us Together”. We added a Care Link Team of five (Alison Watt, Lynn Spence, Heather Luccock, Bob Paxton, and Peter Mercer) to keep in touch with parishioners that would like to have a call. Cards and letters are still being sent were required.



Care Cards

Heather Luccock and Cathy Davidson

We have sent 17 cards in the past year to parishioners who have been ill or have had a bereavement in their life. During the year, we also decided to send cards for some happier events, including the birth of a baby and moves to new houses. I continue to enjoy providing emotional support to parishioners.

Prayer Circle

Deborah Foster and Linda Robertson

The Prayer Circle is now in its third year. We receive about two requests a month on average – some months are busier others less so. Requests for prayers can be emailed confidentially to Natasha in the office or to Sharon who then passes them onto the Prayer Circle.



There are seven members of the congregation who pray for immediate and urgent requests for a period of one week unless there is a request to pray for a longer period of time.

There is no set way to pray. We pray individually and not in a group. We continue to hear from those who have requested prayers for themselves or others that just knowing that someone is praying for them, makes them feel less alone and supported during a difficult time. It is so helpful for members of the Prayer Circle

to hear these stories and we encourage people to send us feedback through Sharon or ask for an email contact from the office.

The Prayer Circle has found this to be a very supportive ministry especially during the pandemic. Praying and knowing we are not praying alone has created a community where we feel we are doing something positive to help others through their difficulties.

If you would like to join the Prayer Circle or know more about it, please let Sharon or Natasha know and someone from the Prayer Circle will call you.

Memorials and Grief Support

Rev Sharon Smith

This year our grief as a community has been immense, I presided at 21 memorials this year, including some of our dearest Saint Catherine's members. Many of us continue to experience deep grief and feel something like the Psalmist, like an "owl among the ruins". My heart is with you and for you. And I pray for you often.

My sincere thanks to Natasha (administration), Rob Gloor, Alice Korfman, Ginger Shaw (music), Bonnie Grundy and Altar Guild members, Chris Wensley (sound) and Gordon Lee (livestream), who have worked closely with me to organize and support memorial services in 2022.

Memorials in 2022

Philip William Sunderland, Michael David Burns, Herbert Adolph (Herb) Metzger, Robin Victoria Walters (Ashby), Dorothy Frances Bray, Robert Capell, Rosemary Capell, Joan Gwendoline Clark, Edward Emery, Geraldine Marion Kilby, Timothy Hugh McCarrell, Angela Mary McGie, Clara Margaret Peters, Eileen Sands, Elizabeth Margaret Stirling, Jack Warren Rothenbush, Ernest Stephen Greenwood, Roy Austin McDonald, Phyllis Dorothy Mittlestead, Derek John Barrett, and Ann Watters Mansfield.

On *All Souls Day* (November 2nd, 2022), three services were held in the church around a central Altar in the nave. With thanks to the artwork of Lynn Spence and Natasha and her volunteer team invitations were mailed to families who have their loved ones interred in the St. Catherine's Memorial Garden. Over the course of the day 42 people gathered to remember, to pray, to grieve, and to give thanks. A light reception was held following each service.

*Lord, hear my prayer!
Listen to my plea!
Don't turn away from me
in my time of distress.
Bend down to listen,
and answer me quickly when I call to you.
For my days disappear like smoke,
and my bones burn like red-hot coals.
My heart is sick, withered like grass,
and I have lost my appetite.
Because of my groaning,
I am reduced to skin and bones.
I am like an owl among the ruins,
like a little owl in a far-off wilderness.
I lie awake,
lonely as a solitary bird on the roof.
Psalm 102: 1-7*



Community Connections, Neighbourhood and Global Outreach

Community Connections Report

Rev Sharon, Billy Garton

The St. Catherine's community connection ministry stream attends to how we are invitational and welcoming, providing spiritual seekers a clear picture of who we are and what to expect while decreasing the barriers for first time attendance. We also aim to engage parishoners by creating clear opportunities for people to connect and participate as volunteers. This means we need to consider and implement programs that involve multi-generational events for neighbourhood outreach, hospitality and community building.

Community Connection Coordinator

A critical event for this ministry stream in 2022 was the adoption at special Vestry in May 2022 of resolutions authorizing the hiring of a lay minister of community connections. A detailed job description was prepared and approved by Parish Council, after which we advertised seeking to fill this role as a part-time, 8 hours/week position. Candidates were short-listed for interviews and we were very pleased in October to offer the part-time position of Community Connections Coordinator to a recent top graduate of the communications studies program at Capilano University (and St. Catherine's pre-school alumnus!) Erik Nieweler.

Erik hit the ground running by assisting us in revitalizing our YouTube channel. He dug into our Ministry Plan and met or spoke with several members of our outreach volunteer team to learn the history of this mission at St. Catherine's and explore future outreach ideas. His marketing skills were put to work on posters and other materials to publicize our events on social media. As we shift toward more rental tenants using our re-configured sanctuary space, Erik took the lead on liaison with prospective tenants to ensure those who sought to rent our sanctuary understood St. Catherine's values and expectations with an aim to develop a healthy partnership in their use of our sacred space. He also promoted our other room rental opportunities on social media and pre-vetted many potential tenants. Our worship cycle now includes a "social action" Sunday each time we have a 5th Sunday in a month, and Erik helped plan our first such event for January 29. Work was also underway on a future parish survey seeking input on changes to our social media presence.

We were excited and grateful to work with this remarkable, poised and talented young member of the North Shore community and with regret accepted Erik's resignation in early 2023, prompted by a sudden change in circumstances that requires him to re-direct his energy elsewhere. We understand and respect his decision fully, and wish him well. A search for a replacement part-time community connections coordinator has begun.

Social Action Sundays!

4 or 5 times a year there is a 5th Sunday in a calendar month. As recommended by the members of the Worship Ministry Stream, St. Catherine's has adopted a practice of celebrating those "extra" Sundays as a "Social Action Sunday" where we will combine our Eucharist service with a social action-themed event. Our first such Sunday was January 29 where we heard from Eleanor Gill of the Edgemont Plastic Free Initiative. Stay tuned for more of these Social Action Sundays at the end of April, July and October this year.

Community Engagement Coordinator

Erik Nieweler



This serves to highlight what tasks I accomplished from start to finish as a part of my work for St Catherine's Anglican Church as Community Engagement Coordinator, beginning in October, 2022 until January, 2023.

Throughout four months, I took a strategic approach to get to know St Catherine's, make internal connections, utilize these connections to brainstorm ways I can support volunteer engagement, assist with marketing and administrative tasks, reach out to the community in an attempt to relationship-build for the church and assist with building community partnerships with rental groups. These are the tasks I worked on in a general sense. Below is a point-form, detailed version of tasks completed:

- Attend weekly or as frequent as possible meetings with Reverend Sharon Smith to go over current tasks, future tasks, ways to enrich my position, ways to promote relationship building with the parishioners of St Catherine's and ways we can build relations with the community
- Email and phone correspondence with outreach volunteer team from St Catherine's to note outreach history, events & outreach activities St Catherine's has been involved in, future ideas for outreach within the community → included is: Paul Clark, Bob Paxton, Penny Zuk, Vivian McGie, and Alison Watt
- Marketing & Administrative tasks → Christmas carolling poster, room rental poster & other rental admin tasks, Social Action Sunday on January 29th marketing materials and Project Drawdown
- Answer any and all church rental email inquiries (subject matter could be cost, scheduling, equipment St Catherine's has)
- Liaise with hopeful room rental customers – this includes further email, phone calling and zoom meetings with potential rental requests by going over St Catherine's values & expectations, identifying ways in which St Catherine's & the person(s)/organization can have a healthy partnership
- Promote St Catherine's room rentals on social media and personal network (i.e., sharing on LinkedIn, Facebook, etc)

- Event Planning – research and write up a rough event plan for January 29th, 2023 Social Action Sunday → this included liaising with potential speakers (Eleanor Gill from Edgemont Plastic Free Initiative), brainstorming event flow, supplies needed.
- Miscellaneous Tasks → assisting with St Catherine’s Youtube Channel revitalization, beginning the planning phase of a survey for St Catherine’s parishioners on what changes they want to see to social media, outreach, etc, assisting with helpful documents for St Catherine’s such as a list of all North Vancouver Non-profit Organizations, a room rental cost spreadsheet & more.

Community Partners

Erik Niewler

It was an honour to be a part of Community Partnership during my time at St Catherine's Anglican Church. My work involved exploring the potential future partnerships that St Catherine's could exercise in its room rental system, especially exploring opportunities for organizations with similar values to enter partnership with us. I was also very lucky to get to work on some marketing & promotional materials for events that surrounded community partnership & the church including January 29th's Social Action Day. Community Partnership is key to keeping the relation between St Catherine's and Edgemont Village alive and I am very happy to have been a part of this.



Community Garden

Sally Toft and Kim Mead



Early in the Spring of 2022 St Catherine’s took the initiative to set up a community garden in the parking lot of the church. A working party assembled 6 boxes which were then filled with suitable soil. The boxes were advertised to the local community and very soon all had been rented for a nominal fee. Plants and seeds were established and the results were amazing. The parking lot was quickly transformed with colourful flowers, herbs, fruits and vegetables. The boxes became a

highlight in the thoroughfare. Mid-summer we had a soirée with our gardeners and enjoyed a lively evening comparing notes and stories. Late fall the fruits of the garden were finally harvested and the boxes emptied and stored. It was an inspirational inaugural year and hopefully the momentum will continue in 2023.

Rental Committee

Billy Garton, Rev. Sharon and Natasha Stegemann

Billy Garton took over from Robb Watt in 2022 as Rental Liaison, he was instrumental in creating new contracts for profit and non-profit tenants. With thanks to Billy and Rhonda, the rectory was refreshed and re-rented to new tenants who are very happy.

With the removal of pews and the acquisition of chairs for our Sanctuary, as well as the hiring of a part time facilities coordinator in 2022, St. Catherine's is now poised to invite community partners to consider renting this space. In 2022 the guidelines for partnership and value-sharing by users of this sacred space were drawn up and applied to prospective renters in the community. At present we have five tenants using our sanctuary on a regular basis, assisted by our facilities coordinator Ashkon to set up and return the space suitable for our own use. Efforts to expand such community partnerships will continue in 2023.

Outreach to Amica

Rev. Sharon

The COVID pandemic changed the access that we had to AMICA seniors residence in Edgemont. Fewer volunteers from Saint Catherine's could visit and Rev. Sharon became solely responsible for the monthly services. The first Sunday of every month, I took the mandatory COVID test, waited 15 minutes for the result and presided at the Eucharist in AMICA's theatre.



These times were so special, with his growing group, an extension of Saint Catherine's.

I want to express my appreciation to Phyllis and now to Martha, for their role in providing pastoral care and keeping Saint Catherine's connected to the residents of AMICA.

Turning Point Recovery House

Alison Watt, Sally Toft and Rev. Sharon

On Sunday 5 November 2022, Rev. Sharon blessed the baskets that had been prepared by Sally Toft, Linda Parkinson and Alison Watt for the Turning Point Recovery House in Edgemont. This is an outreach ministry which is shared between St. Catherine's and Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church and was started several years ago by Heather Peacock and Brenda Stenson. These baskets are prepared as a welcome gift for each arriving resident at this residential site - residents who will spend between 3-6 months working to leave behind harmful addictions. It is funded through designated donations by parishioners at both churches.

In July 2022 we delivered 15 baskets to the house and now another 12 are there. Thanks to Sally for delivering the baskets in the snow/slush/rain after the service on Sunday.

In November 2022, Sally Toft was put in touch with a delightful elder in the community who has been making quilts for many years and had donated some to Family Services of the North Shore. There were a number left over and Sally thought of the residents at Turning Point who may appreciate them as Christmas gifts. Quilts were delightfully received with a Christmas note from Saint Catherine's Church.



Thanksgiving Gift Cards

Bob Paxton

Thanksgiving supermarket gift cards. Our community donated \$4560, which purchased 182 - \$25 Save on Foods gift cards. In addition, we received another 20, for a total of 202. These were distributed to 9 North Shore organizations who would give them to clients of theirs most in need. Besides myself, there were others of our community involved: Lynn Spence, Vivian McGie, and Penny Zuk.



Christmas Hampers

Penny Zuk

This past year the Family Services of the North Shore only seemed to want gift cards. This suited me and our parishioners very well as it's very easy to buy gift cards! Some gift cards came into the office with no visible amount on them but I think in total we donated around \$1200.00. That includes a generous cheque of \$600.00 from the church coffers. Christmas Bureau staff are very pleased with us! So, many thanks to the church and parishioners of St Catherine's Capilano.

Primates World Relief and Development Fund

Monica Macdonald

Once again, the Primate World Relief and Development Fund would like to give a big thank you for the generous donations from individuals and the collective membership of Saint Catherine's made in support of the fund.

An " At Home" Pancake Supper was held on Shrove Tuesday 2022 whereby

parishioners cooked and ate pancakes at their home, making donations to the P.W.R.D.F. A total of \$383. was raised and was contributed to the "Buy the Whole Farm" project, which supports livestock projects in six different countries.



Your donations have helped in the areas of Preventative Health, Food Security, Empowering Women, Indigenous Programs, Humanitarian Responses and Accompanying Refugees.

Some of the highlights of 2022 have been the Ukrainian assistance in the war, providing heating sources, climate change responses to the drought in Kenya, and flooding in Pakistan In Canada P.W.R.D.F. provided much relief during and after Hurricane Fiona in the Maritimes and Atlantic Canada. Please visit www.pwrdf.org for up to date information on the wide variety of projects overseas and here at home in Canada, and how you can contribute. Thank you for your continued support of P.W.R.D.F. -" making a world of difference"

Parish Social Reports

Garden Parties

Heather Luccock and Vivian McGie



Heather and John Luccock

We hosted a St. Catherine's Garden Party on August 6th, 2022. It was a lovely day and there were 23 in attendance. It was particularly enjoyable as there had been so few opportunities to get together because of the pandemic. Everyone contributed to the refreshments and it was an enjoyable occasion for the hosts as well.

Vivian McGie

On July 16th Tony Dodd and I co-hosted the first 2022 St. Catherine's Summer Garden Tea Party in the backyard of my mother's house. We had a small intimate gathering of 8 people (and one small dog!) The weather was a bit damp to start with but miraculously the sun peaked through near the end of the tea.

People kindly brought a delicious assortment of goodies and I supplied the tea and coffee. Rev. Sharon generously shared some Rooibos Vermouth from South Africa. It was a great compliment to the tea!



Though small in number we shared good conversation and laughs and enjoyed being social after several years of isolating COVID.

Queens Jubilee Tea

Robb Watt

We gathered on June 5th, 2022 to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, reigning as monarch for 70 years of the United Kingdom, Canada and her other realms. Ladies dusted off their fascinators and gloves, and the gentlemen wore their most patriotic ties.



Tables were set up in the MP Room and we enjoyed a light lunch of sandwiches and sweet treats. The nationwide festivities in the UK were aired on the screen and we enjoyed the many royal photos and regalia that parishioners displayed.

Special thanks to Bonnie Grundy's work in organising the event, and to all who brought sweets and attended with hat and tie!

Coffee Time

Penny Zuk

The serving of coffee is going as well as it can be at the moment. As with other things at the church it's sometimes feels difficult to get enough volunteers. Many of our parishioners can't negotiate steps very well but we cheerfully struggle on as best we can for now! I will do my best to continue to supply the kitchen with coffee, tea, juice etc and get set up early.

Hiking Group

Kim Mead

Unfortunately, due to a busy summer for everyone, we only managed two hikes. The first was a fun jaunt up to Whyte Lake in West Vancouver followed by a cool drink in Dundarave. The second was a group favourite, the Rice Lake and Varley loop, taking in both the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve and Lyn Valley Regional Park, and since no trip to the top of Lyn Valley Road is complete without a trip to the End of the Line Store, we made sure to pop in for a few scoops of well-earned ice cream. This coming year we'll aim to do a hike a month starting in April.



Hikes range from easy to moderate with a full description beforehand. If you would like to have more information or put your name on the hiking group list, please contact kimmymead@hotmail.com.

Pilgrimage

Alison Watt



The five North Vancouver Parishes held the first ever Regional Pilgrimage on Saturday 10 September, 2022, linking all the churches and their neighbourhoods.

The group of twenty or so pilgrims and four dogs representing all five parishes gathered at St. Catherine's in Edgemont Village at 9:15 am to start our journey; the day was sunny and warm - and it got warmer as we walked.

Using a Creation Season liturgy developed by Dr. Rev. Sharon Smith, priest at St. Catherine's, we started with a prayer of thanksgiving - rejoicing in the gift of the day.

Then we sang, walked and prayed our way to St. Martin's in North Lonsdale, St. Clement's, Lynn Valley, St. Agnes, Grand Boulevard and finally to St. John's the Evangelist at 8th Street and Chesterfield, pausing to bless the wonderful creeks, the trees and the neighbourhoods. At each church we were greeted with very welcome refreshments and concluded our visit with a especially relevant prayer for each parish.

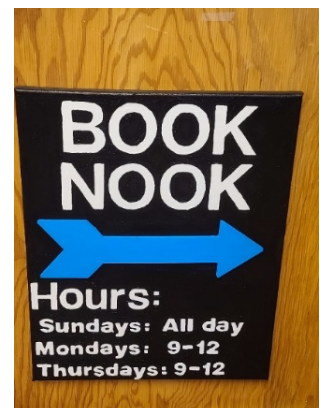
Deacon Emerita Elizabeth Mathers, St. Clement's, devised a fabulous walking route to avoid some of the heavy traffic areas and introduced many of us to parts of North Vancouver that were previously unknown - particularly noteworthy was the pathway from St. Catherine's to St. Martin's. It was all laid out in detail in our service booklet. And each pilgrim was given a Pilgrimage passport designed by Lynn Spence which was adorned with the badge of the Diocese of New Westminster and we collected the stamps of all the churches on the way.

Special thanks to Rev. Sharon and Deacon Elizabeth, and all the clergy and hosts at the churches who greeted us and made us all feel very welcome, and especially to the hospitality team at St. John's who provided lunch for all of us at the end of the pilgrimage. This may turn out to be an annual event - so we are marking Saturday, 9th September 2023 in the church calendar.

Book Nook

Lori Burns

The Book Nook is open and awaits your browsing and reading pleasure! Do follow the sign to the cozy corner with a rocking chair for your comfort.



Sacred Spaces (Building and Grounds report)

Building Safety and Fire

Gordon Lee

The purpose of St. Catherine's Fire Alarm System is to help ensure the safety of parishioners, our preschool's children and teachers, as well as all those who use our facilities. It was installed over 2 years ago and St. Catherine's preschool paid 50% of the cost, as it would not have been able to continue to operate without the new Fire Alarm system.

The Fire Alarm System is more than just the emergency exit signs and lights, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and audible alarms. These are all connected to a panel and in case of a fire, the District Fire Hall is immediately notified.



The system is also more than these components. St. Catherine's has a District Fire and Rescue Services approved Fire Safety Plan, and a Fire Safety Director. The Preschool is responsible for fire drills and the Fire Safety Director does monthly inspections of all fire safety equipment. Finally, each year, the Fire Alarm System receives an annual test.



Garden and Grounds

Kim Mead and Nairn Grundy

2022 was a busy year for St. Catherine's buildings and grounds. Early last spring, Nairn Grundy had his grandson, Jack, raise the canopy of the trees growing behind the gym, allowing for more light in the preschool playground. On a brisk morning in late April, we enjoyed a volunteer morning in the memorial garden. Those who came out were rewarded for their efforts with coffee, muffins, and a few good laughs! For greater efficiency of our grounds keeping, St. Catherine's purchased both a gas-powered lawn mower and hedge trimmer this past year. This investment should also help alleviate the physical stress on our volunteers. Cavelti landscaping continues to prune the laurel hedge



around the memorial garden and provided us with a thorough fall clean-up of the rockery in November.

Thanks to a bequest, our new St. Catherine's sign and logo hang outside our church along Ridgewood drive. And, as for our buildings, after three of our toilets suffered a catastrophic failure within in a single week, both the woman's and men's washrooms were updated with new comfort height toilets. Due to severely blocked drainage beneath the gym and outside the lobby, the winter of 2022 saw St. Catherine's struggling against rising waters every time a storm blew through. A special thanks should go to Nairn Grundy, Chris Wensley, Kim Mead, and Gordon Lee who all took time from their evenings and weekends to either pump or snake drains to make sure our buildings stayed dry. After a consult with Milani Plumbing and Drainage, the company used high pressured equipment to blow out the drainage, vastly improving the water flow. The gymnasium floor, which showed considerable wear, was resurfaced with a stronger longer lasting finish. In the church, the pews were removed, dismantled and re-milled for use in our chapel floor renovation. Again, a special thanks must go out to Chris Wensley for his work with We Simplify, the contractor hired to facilitate the process.



Sanctuary Reconfiguration Committee

Gordon Lee and Committee

At last year's Meeting, Vestry approved a motion to: " authorize Parish Council to appoint a committee to research the reconfiguration of the church and chapel that will include



investigating types of chairs, possible configurations of the nave, and placement of the choir/musicians. To present their work at Special Vestry in May 2022."

Parish Council appointed a Sanctuary Reconfiguration Committee in March and provided it with terms of reference. Committee Members were: Gordon Lee, Pip Stigger, Kim Mead, Chris Wensley, Rhonda Garton, Janet Benjamin, and (Advisory Member – Lois MacGregor).

The Committee met 4 times including a consultation with Thomas Roach. It developed chair assessment criteria. Then, it did field research on chairs in other worship spaces in Vancouver. Finally, the Committee evaluated 5 sample chairs based on its assessment criteria.

The top ranked chair was the ICS ICON 40 which is as chair used in St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin, St. Mary’s Church Warwick, St Mary’s Church Maiden Head, St Paul’s Church Slough, and St Mattias Church Torquay. The Committee was surprised to discover that this chair was more comfortable for different sized people than the upholstered chairs we assessed.



At the May 29th Special Vestry, the Sanctuary Reconfiguration Committee submitted its final report with a recommendation that St.

Catherine’s purchase 200 ICS ICON 40 chairs at a cost of just under \$50,000. As reported at Special Vestry, this was the most cost- effective choice after researching comparable chairs. Special Vestry approved this recommendation and subsequently, Parish Council authorized the chair purchase. We are grateful for the bequest from Linda Kilbey that covered the cost of the new chairs.

The new chairs were delivered and put into use in late October. The pews were dismantled prior to this, and the wood was milled for use as flooring in the chapel.

Thanks to all members of the Committee for their commitment and dedicated work.

Student Summer Workers

Kim Mead, Nairn Grundy and Chris Wensley

Once again, St. Catherine’s participated in the Canada Summer Jobs program. The CSJ provides federal funded subsidies to employers to create summer working experiences for students. This past summer, we were delighted to have Shaunti Bains and Ashkon Vahedi come on board as summer maintenance workers. Besides assisting with gardening and watering, Ashkon and Shaunti were quick to roll up their sleeves and dive into any task asked of them. This included much scrubbing and cleaning throughout the buildings as well as a few larger projects. Thanks to their efforts, the kitchen, the choir room, and



music room were all freshly painted this past summer. Shaunti has continued as our Sunday School teacher and Ashkon as our building coordinator.

Property Development

Billy Garton and Chris Wensely

As many parishioners are aware, for many years St. Catherine's has been reflecting on the next steps to secure the future of our property. Since commissioning the LeMare Report on the state of our buildings in 2017, many in the Parish were initially in favour of entirely re-developing the property, including a new (smaller) church, underground parking and multi-family homes with a social housing element. In discussions with the District of North Vancouver (DNV) in 2018-19, given all the new building projects in Edgemont and nearby, our proposal to develop multi-family housing outside the Village Centre on land zoned for public assembly and single family residential housing was not endorsed by DNV staff. Parishioners were also divided on whether we should demolish our present buildings and rebuild a new church, or try to refurbish and retain our existing buildings, despite the very large footprint. No firm decision on development was taken at the time, but out of necessity we proceeded to address some of the more pressing maintenance issues identified in the 2017 LeMare Report over the last 3-4 years through our annual operational budgets. In early 2021, with support of the Diocese, we embarked on our new Ministry Plan to clarify our mission, vision and values and to better understand and map out our priorities for the future of St Catherine's. Viability of our buildings and financial sustainability were key elements the Plan.

Since late 2021, a fundraising committee established by Parish Council has been preparing to launch a significant fundraising campaign, now called "Seize the Day", to provide funds to support key elements of our Ministry Plan and our building refurbishment project (to be proposed at Vestry in February 2023 – see report on Fundraising Campaign). Rob Waller & Associates were initially engaged to undertake a funding feasibility study in early 2022 and later to advise us on management of a significant fundraising campaign. To date their work has been supported by anonymous contributions. Parish Council's fundraising committee have since held numerous meetings with Rob and his team, and their report on 2022 activities can be found elsewhere in this Vestry Report.

In early May 2022, after detailed consultations, the Diocese agreed in principle to allow St Catherine's to convert the residential rectory lot to parking and to re-zone and sell a portion of our current parking lot as a residential property, and to use the proceeds of the property sale to restore our buildings and to support elements of our Ministry Plan.

At our Special Vestry meeting in May 2022, resolutions were passed to reconnect, restore and reimagine our Ministry (the "Three Rs"). This included a combination of immediate urgent building repairs, new hires (a facilities coordinator and a community connections coordinator), restructuring our sanctuary and chapel layout (from fixed pews to movable chairs) and the

preliminary steps required to sell a portion of our property, with the proceeds used to re-invest in our buildings and the Ministry Plan.

Since the May 2022 Special Vestry meeting we have taken several important steps to implement the Ministry Plan and initiate our property refurbishment project:

- In July 2022 we removed the fixed pews from our main Sanctuary and chapel, re-purposing the wood as flooring in the chapel (with some stored for future use) – see the Sanctuary Reconfiguration Committee report. The Sanctuary and chapel have now become multi-use spaces available for church use and appropriate community rental.
- Since early 2022, we have informally contacted several architects, contractors and property management consultants involved in similar church re-development projects in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland to seek advice and proposals to support St Catherine’s proposed project.
- In December 2022, Parish Council endorsed the establishment a Property Development Committee to manage the Church Refurbishment Project in the coming months & years. Its initial activities will be to steer the subdivision and re-zoning efforts necessary to sell surplus property, co-ordinate the engagement of architects, consultants and contractors to support our project, manage project finances and eventually oversee the project for completion over 3-5 years. Billy Garton and Chris Wensley have initially been appointed co-chairs of the committee, and three parishioners are discerning their possible involvement. We are also encouraging other interested parishioners to put their names forward if they would like to be involved in this committee.
- Given the work and potential costs identified in the 2017 LeMare Report, in particular with regard to the Gower Hall (gym building), and the limited amount of building refurbishment and Ministry re-investment that can be achieved by the sale of only a single residential lot, the Property Development Committee and Parish Council have been investigating an alternative option to sell two residential lots by subdividing and re-zoning a portion of the current parking lot for residential use, selling that new lot plus the Rectory property and removing the Gower Hall (gym) to convert that area to replacement parking.
- In December 2022 a site survey of the lot and buildings was commissioned to further inform our deliberations;
- In January 2023, Parish Council engaged EW Architecture Inc. (who assisted us to install the fire alarm system for the pre-school in 2021) to work with a small team of other architects, consultants and contractors to prepare a very preliminary site plan, conceptual drawing and rough order-of-magnitude budget for this new 2-lot property development option for Vestry purposes. Final selection of architects and other key project consultants would follow a selection process to be determined later by Parish Council.
- In February 2023, we met with the Planning Department of DNV again to discuss our revised church refurbishment proposals and the proposed subdivision and re-zoning

of our property to create two residential lots, and received a positive response to submit a preliminary planning application for this layout.

- We meet with the Diocese in mid-February 2023 to update them on our progress and to seek their support for our current revised proposal and to submit a formal planning application to DNV for subdivision, re-zoning and sale of our property.
- At Vestry we will seek formal endorsement by parishioners of the proposed Church Refurbishment Project and to move ahead with the Project, overseen by the Property Development Committee of Parish Council.

The key elements of our proposed Church Refurbishment Project are:

- Subdivide, re-zone and sell not one but two residential lots to generate sufficient proceeds to support (with additional fundraising) the required investments in church buildings and Ministry;
- Renovate the Sanctuary and chapel for co-use by the church and other community groups;
- Upgrade all utilities, the sanctuary building envelope, bathrooms, basement rooms (pre-school etc.) to maintain safety and minimize future R&M costs;
- Address congestion and visibility/access issues at both of our main entrances;
- Demolish or unbuild the Gower Hall (gym building), re-using materials to the maximum extent, and create a new parking lot and playground at that location;
- Maintain vehicle access to both Ridgewood Dr. and Wellington Ave.
- Move the existing community footpath right-of-way that bisects our parking lot to establish a new, dedicated footpath adjacent to the 2 new residential lots, separated from traffic with landscaping, curbs, trees, etc.
- Re-construct & expand our current North entranceway lobby with new bathrooms, kitchenette, informal meeting space, etc. with re-located utilities beneath;
- Implement sustainable solutions for long term utility use, consistent with “passive house” technology as much as reasonably possible and, if not practical or affordable today, prepare the foundation for future adoption;
- Implement a practical solution for wheelchair access to the basement rooms, including the pre-school;
- Renovate the basement pre-school and re-locate some of the uses from the former gym building; and
- Stage construction to minimize disruption to long term tenants, the congregation and the neighbourhood.

At 2023 Vestry, resolutions will be proposed to seek endorsement of this revised property development proposal.

Financial Sustainability

Stewardship Report

Chris Wensley

Stewardship and Financial Giving

As mentioned by Alison Watt in her Envelope Coordinator's Report, approximately 95% of the pledges were fulfilled in 2022. Annual giving included \$140,973 in pledges and \$69,491 in unpledged donations, for a total giving of \$210,464 in 2022. Of the unpledged donations, \$50,606 was donated to designated funds.

The annual financial stewardship campaign for 2023 was conducted in November, and by mid-January 2023, parishioners had pledged \$120,901 towards offertory and \$11,366 towards designated funds for 2023.

Stewardship is not just financial giving, but includes the three gifts of time, talents and treasure. The Yearbook highlights the many ways in which parishioners have generously given of their time and talents to support our ministry and church. Parishioners are involved in preparing for and participating in services, in outreach activities, taking care of our gardens and property, providing administrative support, to name a few. This generosity is an important contribution to our Christian mission. As the Parish Council lead on Stewardship and Financial Sustainability, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed not just their treasure, but also their time and talents to all activities at St Catherine's in 2022.



Implementing the Ministry Plan

Our 2021 Ministry Plan highlighted the need to focus on Financial Sustainability as a Ministry Stream, to sharpen our focus on all aspects of managing our finances. Key activities identified for the Financial Sustainability Stream in the Ministry Plan (2021-2025) are to:

- Seek sources of funding for the short and medium term through possible fund-raising campaigns, grants and strengthening community giving;
- Investigate opportunities to optimise rental income, in collaboration with Sacred Spaces;
- Continue conversations on property development with the Diocese and the District of North Vancouver.

We continue to work on all aspects of financial sustainability highlighted in the Ministry Plan, as described below.

At our Parish Retreat in April, the Specific activities for Financial Sustainability in 2022 were identified to:

- Prepare a maintenance and renovation timeline
- Prepare projected future costs and timeline for property development
- Initiate a Funding Campaign
- Explore opportunities to increase rental income
- Conduct a Planned Giving workshop

Early in 2022, Kim Mead and I reviewed our property maintenance needs to estimate the R&M budget required in 2022. This included work on roofs, gutters, downspouts, drains, trim, painting, heating and electrical work, kitchen and washroom repairs, and flooring amounting to an estimated \$35,000. As this was expected to exceed the draft budget amount of \$23,136, an additional budget \$12,000 was made available, to be financed from the Fundraising Campaign fund.

In 2022, Parish Council and other volunteers have been actively preparing for the property development project and the fundraising campaign, as reported in the Property Development and Financing Campaign reports.

We have also made considerable progress in improving rental income, as reported in the Budget report. However, we have yet to make progress on the Planned Giving workshop, which we hope to take up in 2023.

Managing Budgets, Operations and Facilities

As reported in the Treasurer's report, St Catherine's was able to complete 2022 with a smaller deficit of \$7,805 than the expected budget amount of \$32,792, drawing \$13,250 from the Fundraising Campaign.

We successfully met all ministry, staffing and operational expenses and engaged two new part-time staff (a facilities coordinator and a community organizer).

Under Kim Mead's guidance, we were also able to complete maintenance work on the gym roof, gutters and downspouts, clean the stormwater drains, painting of many areas of the church with the assistance of the summer students, replace fluorescent tube lighting with LED tubes in the sanctuary and other areas of the church, replace toilets in the washrooms and refinish the gym flooring amounting, to \$44,920, although the expenditure was higher than the budget of \$35,136. We used bequest funds to finance the cost of the new chairs to replace the pews in the church, and used Fundraising Campaign funds to replace the chapel floor with wood from the pews.

Over the New Year's weekend, Billy and Rhonda Garton repainted and fixed many items in the rectory after the departure of the previous tenants, making it ready for rental at an increased rent in February 2023.

Financial Management

In February 2022 Bruce Davison stood down as Treasurer on completion of his term on Parish Council and we appointed Faranak Leilaby, our former accountant, as Treasurer on contract for 2022. We started the financial year by engaging an online accounting firm, Ledgers Online, to do our bookkeeping but this did not work out as expected, especially the timing of cheque preparation for payment. In May we engaged Tatevik Aroyan, who works with Faranak, as our bookkeeper. Despite some challenges in handing over the accounts along the way, the financial statements have been prepared regularly for our monthly A&F and Parish Council meetings and cheques prepared in good time. The annual financial statements for 2022 were completed and accepted by Parish Council in January, and Faranak and I prepared the draft budget for 2023 for Vestry.

I would like to recognize the efforts and hard work of all involved in ensuring the financial sustainability of our parish: Faranak as Treasurer; Tatevik as bookkeeper; Alison Watt for managing our collections and donations as Envelope Coordinator; Natasha Stegman in her role as Office Administrator; Linda Robertson for financial oversight on behalf of A&F; and Bruce for backstopping our accounting process over the last year. We look forward to appointing a member of Parish Council as a new Treasurer in 2023.

[Envelope Coordinator Report](#)

Alison Watt



The names "Envelope Secretary" or "Envelope Coordinator" need to be retired. Yes, we have envelopes for regular and occasional donations, but most regular donors to St. Catherine's are now using the pre-authorized deduction system which the Diocese of New Westminster operates for our churches (or on-line donation services like CanadaHelps)- and they don't need envelopes. As a result, I have been repurposing old envelope sets for 2023 rather than ordering a whole new set of envelopes, and I hope those parishioners who use envelopes will not mind using these repurposed sets. Whatever method used to support the mission and ministry of St. Catherine's, the support is vital and greatly appreciated.

Natasha and her volunteers, mainly Gillian Holland and Julia Hadrill, make regular bank deposits and I then work with the deposit slips and envelopes. My role is to document the donations made to St. Catherine's in a computer program entitled PowerChurch. This allows me to provide summary data to the Treasurer (Faranak Leilaby) and the Bookkeeper (Tatevik Aroyan) so that they can ensure that these funds are directed the correct accounts of St. Catherine's. I

also record the pledges annually - providing information for the budgeting process, and prepare spreadsheets for the Diocese (and periodic updates) so that Prashanthi Yadavalli can ensure that the regular PADs donations are made each month. In January, I prepare, print, and sign all the tax receipts which are generated from the cumulative data for the calendar year in PowerChurch.

Fund	Pledged	Unpledged	Total
Offertory Envelopes	\$129,227.00	\$18,885.00	\$148,112.00
PWRDF	\$4,675.00	\$280.00	\$4,955.00
Parish Outreach	\$3,610.00	\$50.00	\$3,660.00
Care and Share	\$2,880.00		\$2,880.00
Festivals Easter		\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
Festivals Thanksgiving		\$2,365.00	\$2,365.00
Festivals Christmas		\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00
Festivals Outreach		\$2,668.75	\$2,668.75
Open giving		\$945.00	\$945.00
Turning Point		\$600.00	\$600.00
Long, Long Night of Hope		\$815.00	\$815.00
Memorial Fund/Gifts		\$5,360.00	\$5,360.00
Altar Guild		\$1,070.00	\$1,070.00
Other Parish Activities		\$1,452.00	\$1,452.00
Vicar's Discretionary Fund		\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00
Fundraising Campaign	\$581.00	\$28,000.00	\$28,581.00
Totals	\$140,973.00	\$69,490.75	\$210,463.75

Here are the total pledge ranges for 2022 and 2023 for all 5 funds. Approximately 95% of the pledges were fulfilled in 2022. The five funds included are General Offertory, PWRDF, Care and Share, Parish Outreach, Turning Point). It's important to note that not all parishioners pledge but are donors through envelopes or other methods.

2022 Pledge Range			2023 Pledge Range		
\$0 - \$300	0	\$0	\$0 - \$300	1	\$300
\$300 - \$400	1	\$360	\$300 - \$400	1	\$400
\$400 - \$500	1	\$480	\$400 - \$500	0	\$0
\$500 - \$750	5	\$2,940	\$500 - \$750	3	\$1,740
\$750 - \$1,000	1	\$960	\$750 - \$1,000	1	\$960
\$1,000 - \$1,500	12	\$15,097	\$1,000 - \$1,500	10	\$13,380
\$1,500 - \$2,500	20	\$41,331	\$1,500 - \$2,500	17	\$33,517
\$2,500 - \$5,000	14	\$48,440	\$2,500 - \$5,000	14	\$47,000
\$5,000 - \$50,000	6	\$43,200	\$5,000 - \$50,000	5	\$34,970

A big thank you to Natasha, and all the volunteers, and to Faranak, Tatevik and Prashanthi.

Fundraising campaign – Seize the Day!

Linda Robertson and Billy Garton



Our fundraising campaign to reconnect, restore and reimagine St. Catherine’s started in the Fall of 2021 when we sought advice from Rob Waller our consultant, on how to carry out a multi-year campaign. Rob who is an ordained Anglican priest and whose parents the Rev. Ray Waller and his wife worshipped at St Catherine’s after his father’s retirement, has been assisting Anglican churches such as the Cathedral and others to run successful campaigns for almost 35 years. His help has been invaluable.

At the beginning of 2022, in January, Rob interviewed 42 parishioners and circulated a survey to those not interviewed, to determine whether the congregation would support a multi-year financial campaign. He found strong support amongst parishioners indicating that total donations between \$500,000 - \$600,000 was feasible.

Parishioners indicated that two external factors must be met - permission from the Diocese to retain the sale proceeds of any land plus District approval on rezoning our surplus property so it could be sold for residential purposes. The three most important internal factors from the study were building towards future financial sustainability, growing the congregation and the continued leadership of Rev. Sharon throughout the campaign.

The Feasibility Study was presented and accepted at Vestry in February 2022. The following four motions were passed by Vestry.

Motion 1: "On the Basis of the Feasibility Study, prepare to launch the Fundraising Campaign following a special Vestry in May 2022, to provide funds to initiate the 2022 works program as included in the draft 2022 budget."

Motion 2: "That Vestry reaffirms its support of the redevelopment of St. Catherine's property and instructs Parish Council to continue its work to:

- determine the feasibility of proceeding with Option 2 of the LeMare Report to:
- sell a portion of the property and
- use the funds to maintain or upgrade the remaining property),
- and to present a report at the Special Vestry Meeting, on May 15th, 2022."

Motion 3: "Approve A&F/Parish Council to move forward with the planning and preparatory activities for the 2022 projects, and to initiate the activities included in the draft 2022 budget item - Fundraising campaign- Capital/renovations:

Roofing, windows, doors; Gutters, downspouts, drainage; Lighting, heating, plumbing; Rectory, grounds, exterior, when funds are available"

Motion 4: "We propose that Vestry authorize Parish Council to appoint a committee to research the reconfiguration of the church and chapel that will include investigating types of chairs, possible configurations of the nave, and placement of the choir/musicians. To present their work at Special Vestry in May 2022"

The next step was to meet with the Bishop informally over lunch then the Diocesan Finance and Property Committee in March and April to put forward our case for making an exception to the Diocesan policy permitting parishes to keep only the interest (and not the principal) on the sale proceeds of any land. Based on our strong Ministry Plan developed in 2021 and our need for extensive renovations of our buildings, Diocesan Council approved our request in May.

On May 29, 2022, we held a Special Vestry to approve moving forward with our fundraising campaign now that we had Diocesan permission to keep the proceeds of the sale of the land.



The theme of our proposed campaign was Reconnect, Restore and Reimagine. Reconnect as a community around a future direction. Restore our building and our presence in the neighbourhood. Reimagine church to last beyond our time.

A proposal for the purchase of chairs to replace the pews was put forward so we could open up our church and chapel space to the community. (The chairs arrived in October 2022). Vestry discussed the need to hire two new positions – a Community Engagement Coordinator (hired in October 2022) and a Facilities Co-ordinator (hired in September 2022).

As of December 2022, we have received \$111,632 in donations from parishioners towards the campaign. This money has been spent on consultants fees, urgent repairs and maintenance and the hiring of the two new contract positions approved at the Special Vestry.

The Special Vestry in May approved these motions.

- That Vestry approves the expenditure of \$70,000 (or up to \$100,000 when other donations are received) in the fundraising account to:
 - o Hire part-time positions of (1) a Facilities Coordinator; and (2) a Lay Minister for Community Engagement,
 - o Hire the necessary consultants to prepare a planning application to submit to the North Vancouver District in order to sell a portion of the church property, and
 - o Undertake urgent repairs (to the extent possible) of the building as discussed at Vestry, February 2022.
- That Vestry instructs Parish Council to order two hundred ICON 40 chairs to replace the pews in the church and chapel, and to find uses in the church for the pew wood. (The wood from the pews was milled and now continues to form part of our church as the new chapel floor.)

In the Fall of 2022, Billy Garton and Linda Robertson became Co-Chairs of the Campaign assisted by a team consisting of Rev. Sharon, Chris Wensley, Gillian Holland, Gordon Lee, Robb Watt and our consultant Rob Waller. This team has met several times in 2022 to prepare the ground for a major campaign launch in 2023.

Since Special Vestry, we have reconsidered the best use of our property and buildings. At Vestry this year, we will be showing a new property configuration that will see us ask the District for permission to sell both the Rectory lot and part of the parking lot as two residential lots instead of just one. This has the potential to double our sale proceeds.

After much consideration of the costs of ongoing repair and maintenance as well as weekly volunteer and staff time maintaining the building and working with tenants, we will be recommending that the Gower Hall / gym be taken down. This will mean a significant savings in money and time for the parish. Our nave and chapel with movable chairs chapel are now available for community gatherings, receptions and meetings. Space that was used primarily only a half day a week will now be fully utilized.

The newly available land where the gym stood will be used to replace our parking lot and can also be used for a playground for the preschool, community gardens, outdoor worship space and many other uses. An expanded lobby, small new kitchen, new bathrooms and re-

configured office area and a wider, welcoming entrance to the Sanctuary will be constructed along with renovations to the preschool and utility and building envelope upgrades to the church building.

All of this is set out in the Property Development Report and will be discussed fully at Vestry. At Vestry and at a pre-Vestry meeting, we will show diagrams of the property proposals as well as what steps will need to be taken to sell the property. We will also outline what happens next with the campaign. We will be asking Vestry to approve a multi-year campaign to raise \$500,000 needed in addition to the proceeds from the sale of the land.

The Campaign has a new name “Seize the Day!” to show that this is our one opportunity to reconnect with our community, restore our buildings and reimagine our future.