




† saint benedict's table



a worshipping community,  
rooted in an ancient future



2024



annual report





**SETTING  
OUR  
BEARINGS  
TOWARD  
THE LIGHT**  
a retreat for  
Advent



**the season of "ordinary time"**

**1st Sunday after Pentecost  
Holy Cross Day (optional)  
September 30, 2023**

• **1st Corinthians 1:18-23**  
• **John 8:12-17**

**Making the retirement of Louis Houston  
a grace, mission, foundation and labor**

**contemplative**

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,  
So may your mercy come down upon us  
To cleanse our hearts and set us free  
To sing your praise (Now and forever)

**contemplative**

Almighty God,  
To you all hearts are open  
All desires known, no secrets are hidden  
Cleanser the thoughts of our hearts  
By the inspiration of your holy Spirit  
That we may perfectly love you  
Worthily magnify your holy name  
Through Christ our Lord.

**collected for the day**

Almighty God,  
I thank you our Saviour Jesus Christ  
who lifted high upon the cross  
that he might draw the whole world to himself,  
may we take refuge in the mystery of our redemption,  
have grace to take up our cross and follow him.

**setting the table**

God in our refuge and our strength  
An ever present help in times of trouble  
And though the earth itself should change  
The broken vine, the fragment fall  
Through life's long day and death's dark night

There is a river whose streams  
Make glad the city of God  
God will help when the morning dawns  
When it dawns  
When it dawns

Be still and know that I am God...

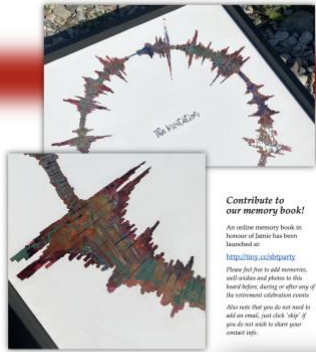
**Advent communion**

The day has gone 'n' hoorn have run  
And you have taken count of all  
Scanty triumph grace has won  
The broken vine, the fragment fall  
Through life's long day and death's dark night

In our midst the lovely art  
Let the joyful song be filled high  
So we can find some grace of mind  
Through life's long day and death's dark night

**Be our light**

Let us return, turn to the Lord  
Forsoke the path of injustice  
And our self-seeking ways



**Contribute to our memory book!**

An online memory book in  
honor of Louis has been  
launched at  
<http://tiny.cc/abjzqjarty>

Please feel free to add memories,  
well-wishes and photos to this  
hardy, durable, and oh-so-pretty  
of its retirement celebration events.

Also note that you do not need to  
add an email, just tick 'Yes' if  
you do not wish to share your  
contact info.



Split bring us together,  
Spirit, by your breath...  
We go, children of God,  
moved together with breath.  
We claim our inheritance:  
a kingdom to build and grow.  
We go, children of God,  
moved together with breath.

Go to ground, go in hidden  
Go to love, go to faith  
Leave the day, day behind us  
The day is done, go in Grace  
Let us go into the dark  
Not afraid, not alone  
Let us hope by God's good pleasure  
Safely to arrive at home.

**Money Knecht** has stepped up to act as a point-person to oversee big picture logistics in the life of all her's through this transitional period. As **Legation Coordinator**, Money will maintain full understanding of ongoing workings, maintain, and coordinate with a view to supporting continuity, and act as a "point person" that people can contact diverse questions. Money is well suited to this role and the need of all during a unique time in our community.

Further to the **Adeline Berg** is taking leadership of **Prayer Requests**. If you have prayer requests that you'd like our to be read at our next prayer service, please send them to Adeline at the email address below.

**Online Evening Prayer** gathers Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:00 pm on our Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/onlineprayer>), and the liturgy for the upcoming week will be available by Monday morning on the website (<https://www.stbenedict.org/onlineprayer>). Reading are provided by Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday mornings, so you can pray this simple liturgy at home on your own.

**Family-Friendly Liturgy** will continue on regular rhythm on Sunday, September 17th at 10:00 am, and we are planning a "Bless the Backpacks" book at school service, to make your children and bring your bags and backpacks along! This service is for all ages, and is held every 4th or 5th week. [www.stbenedict.org](https://www.stbenedict.org)

**Adeline Berg** - prayer and welcome minister  
**Sarah Knecht** - liturgy, prayer, and welcome minister  
**Adeline Berg** - prayer minister  
**Adeline Berg** - prayer minister

**Wise and Diverse**  
About the Artist - **Kathy Family-Shing**  
Kathy is an Ottawa-based multimedia artist who creates art with passion, creativity, and integrity. Created with over 20 years working in the risk for profit, charitable sector, she combines art as a service, the love for creating art with a meaningful story and by weaving emotion and personalization into each of her paintings.  
Kathy does this through paintings and woodworking, including:  
• round wood paintings that weave together memory, joy, parenting, and spirituality.  
• wood art on canvas and wood art on canvas.  
• drawings in pencil or ink on a variety of wood, and  
• wood art that serves as a daily reminder of our goals and purpose.  
Kathy truly believes that the world's better place by sharing her art and creativity.  
**About Your Painting - The Tradition**  
From the first moment, I spoke with Sharon about St. Benedict's Table and its community, I knew that St. Benedict's was something special. I was inspired to have when we spoke on the phone. The tradition is so moving and welcoming - the world needs more of this. I felt connected to your church when I learned the tradition and reporting. I feel honored to have been asked to bring my gift to the for your Parish, James, retirement.  
**The Process:**  
First, I met with Sharon about a recording of Daniel programming. I recorded a video of my painting process, and a recording of the tradition. These videos will be shared on the website. Then, because your round-wood was round, like a round table gathering, I brought your round-wood into my studio and turned your horizontal round-wood into a round-wood table.  
I used the St. Benedict's Table logo and used your colors, blue, red, gold, grey, and orange, to paint the base of the painting. To me, this represents St. Benedict's being the foundation to your working community.  
Then, I had the liturgical calendar colors sent to me for inspiration. Once your foundation is laid, you can sign in the language of the season considered by your community. These colors will be placed around the circle. The amount of color used is proportional to the duration of the season in the calendar. For instance, you might find the amount of the painting has given across from April through May time. And the white accent is very much that represents Christmas.  
I really looked on my website and found a couple architectural elements that I drew from of your painting. It may have been to find some of these details but here is one:  
**Give to God, also your writing to me do  
Adeline Berg, then do not call or write.**  
September 23rd - New Jerusalem 8:00  
Thank you for the honor of creating this painting for you.  
Kathy Family-Shing  
kfamilyshing@protonmail.com



# annual report 2024

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from the bishop



**The Diocese of Rupert's Land**

The Right Reverend Geoffrey Woodcroft  
Bishop of Rupert's Land

Memorandum

To the Annual General Meetings of Parishes

Of the Diocese of Rupert's Land

Disciples of Jesus Christ, greetings to you.

What does the Church require in order to fulfil the mission of God we are called to serve? This is perhaps the most important question any Synod at any time might ask. Its importance lies in the context of God speaking to the Church, and the Church actively listening.

Jesus calls disciples to commend the faith that is within each, exercising our baptismal covenant to the end that the world may have abundant life. Our call leads us to make disciples, encourage life-long learning among all disciples, bring healing and sustenance to the community around us, cast out demons, and always proclaim that the kingdom of heaven has come near and deep within. What do we require to fulfil the mission of God for which we bear responsibility?

May the Annual General Meetings of the Diocese of Rupert's Land reflect our commitment to God's mission, our courage in making wise plans as faithful stewards of God's economy and resource, and be renewed in faith as we collectively yearn and strive to challenge the trajectory of a dying Church today. May we do all in our power to support disciples in their life in Christ, learning and growing together in the Apostles teaching and fellowship, and seeking council as Christians to steward God's resources in new and exciting ways.

Synod shall complete its affairs on the second weekend of October. On the 4th weekend of the same month, I have invited the Archbishop of York, the Most Rev'd Stephen Cottrell to lead us in a day of discipleship renewal. It is my sincere hope that the business of Synod 2024 prepares the church to fully engage new and hopeful trajectories in God's mission.

It is our obligation to prayerfully consider whom we shall elect as lay delegates to synod. Lay delegates to Synod are gifted disciples, who are courageous to challenge the status quo of scarcity, they who accept and embrace the hard work of doing theology while leading, and they who have our trust to chart courses in Jesus' name. In short, the lay delegate to synod is a profoundly important disciple, one whom we will do all in our power to support.

May you be blessed with the gifts for mission, and gratitude for the joyful life we have been given.

The Rt. Rev. Geoffrey Woodcroft  
Bishop of Rupert's Land

Diocesan Office: 935 Nesbitt Bay, Winnipeg, MB Canada R3T 1W6  
Bishop's Office: (204)992-4212 General Office: (204) 992-4200 Fax: (204) 992-4219  
E-mail: [bishop@rupertsland.ca](mailto:bishop@rupertsland.ca)



# minutes of the 2023 annual general meeting

2023 Annual General Meeting

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## saint benedict's table

### 2023 Annual General Meeting

CALL TO ORDER	Saturday, February 25, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. by Jamie Howison. Meeting was conducted via Zoom.
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND OPENING PRAYER	The land acknowledgment and opening prayer were given by Jamie Howison.  Jamie turned the meeting over to Robin to Chair the meeting.
ATTENDANCE	Jamie Howison, Robin Shugard, Katharine Langille, Adeline Berg, Gilbert Berg, Murray Krushel, Brad Vrolijk, Rachel Titterton, Karen Merkel-Kopp, Martin Lyons, Christen Rachul, Pierre Plourde, Jim Cornelius, Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk, Aisha Entz, John Berard, Andrew Colman, Pat Mowat, Ian Mowat, Krista Waring, Danielle Morton, Hillary Friesen, Ann McKenzie, Kathy Berard, Angeline Schellenberg, Vonda Plett, Annick Boulet, Zoe Matties, Sharon Jones-Ryan, Julie Schellenberg, Karen Cornelius, Gladiola Kehler, Beth Downey Sawatzky, Barb Beaupre, Danny Serhal, Elizabeth Serhal, Tim Cruickshank, John Badertscher, Rob Kwade, Audrey Krushel.
RECORDING SECRETARY	Katharine Langille was appointed recording secretary.
<b>REPORTS</b>	
WRITTEN REPORTS	<b>It was moved by Pierre and seconded that we receive the written reports as distributed. Carried.</b>
PASTORAL COMMENTS	Jamie Howison gave his opening comments, he commented that this time last year we were resuming gathering. Sunday evenings have never rebounded to this point, attendance is 50 – 60 at the 7:00, however the 4:00 is well attended and strong. "Hear the Silence" is rebuilding, 5:00 Evening Prayer is strong. Online access for the 7:00 Sunday service is about 12 or so live, but later views are more. He also spoke of his plan to retire. He hopes to be able to stick around.

**2022  
FINANCIAL  
REVIEW**

Jim Cornelius presented the financial review.

Comments by Jim: offering support through pandemic has held but not increased. We benefitted from the Canada Wage subsidy. Expenses have been less as activities have been done. Expecting costs will go back to 'normal' levels in the future. We ran a surplus in 2022 of ~ \$11,000. Pierre commented that the internal review was well done and wanted to express thanks to Martin and Murray for their good work.

**It was moved by Murray and seconded to approve the 2023 financial statements as reviewed independently by the Financial Committee. Carried.**

**APPOINTMENT  
OF FINANCIAL  
COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS**

**It was moved by Martin to appoint members of the Finance Committee to conduct an internal review of the congregation's 2023 accounts and financial statements prior to the statements being presented to the annual meeting of the congregation for approval. Seconded. Carried.**

**PROPOSED  
2023 BUDGET**

Jim presented the 2023 budget. The Kitchen Table has reviewed the 2023 budget. For budget purposes, income projected to remain the same however We are hopeful in an increase. Interest earnings ~ \$1800. Money has been moved into a high interest account. No gov't assistance or Collegetville Grant will be received this year. On the expense side we are expecting an increase in some activities. Also built in an increase to the diocese. There is a projected deficit of \$9,000. Kitchen Table feels we are still in recovery after the pandemic, and may see an increase in givings as a result. An increase in income of 4.5% would be needed to have a balanced budget.

**It was moved by Martin and seconded that the 2023 budget be approved. Seconded.** Discussion – Danielle asked about implications of Jamie's retirement. Jim responded that we don't see a need to have any changes regarding the transition issues. Jamie is meeting with Bishop Geoff and his associate this week to start exploring the transition. We are a mission church, so some flexibility is available. Cost of clergy may be less. Adjustments may be made throughout the year by the Kitchen Table. Krista offered thanks to Jim for his work on our behalf. **Carried.**

**COMMUNITIES  
OF CALLING**

Jamie gave an update on the Communities of Calling project. We are in the fifth year with the Collegetville Institute. They have been resourcing us financially to explore our calling. This has been an

extraordinary resource for us to enable us to do things we wouldn't have been able to do. We are in our final stage now. Andrew reported he has been taking inventory with what's going on, coming up with plans for some things: \$ for a lending library, podcasting. Build a team that will have ideas, work on them, and post them. Three or four people want to work on this to get it going. There is a huge wealth of gifts at saint ben's to share. We have to be mindful that not everyone is going to engage in the digital world and prefer the in-person experience.

ARTS FUND REPORT

Appointment of Artists-in-Residence for the coming 12 months – Jamie. He began by acknowledging the committee members, Rachel, Barb, and John.

- Adam and Mary Jane Kroeker, and Karen Cornelius – six-month term, built around the creation of an online illustrated prayer book for children and families, based on the liturgical calendar. (It may be eventually put in print.)
- Rachel Colman – four-month term, dedicated to recording an album of twelve original songs of wrestling, hope, praise, lament, and healing, with a concert performance at the church to cap it all off.
- Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk – two-month term, exploring a place-based analogue photo project that she is calling (for the time being) 72096. The project combines Sarah's critical interest in the correlation between the photographic image and history-making with her delight in the wonders of the natural world.

SYNOD DELEGATES, WARDENS AND KITCHEN TABLE MEMBERS

Robin pointed out that the synod delegates and the wardens will be the canonical committee, who work on the new incumbent process.

SYNOD DELEGATES

Delegates – Murray Krushel and Danielle Morton  
Alternates – Robin Shugart and Kevin Grummet

**It was moved by Beth and seconded that Murray Krushel and Danielle Morton be affirmed as our Synod Delegates, and that Robin Shugart and Kevin Grummet be affirmed as our alternate delegates. Carried.**

WARDENS

- John Berard is continuing his term as a warden, for his final year. Robin Shugart has now completed two terms as a warden, and is now stepping down.

- Beth Downey Sawatzky has agreed to step into the role of incoming warden.

**Motion – Be it resolved that Beth Downey Sawatzky and John Berard be affirmed as Wardens. Moved by Karen and seconded. Carried.**

**KITCHEN  
TABLE**

- Adam Kroeker and Robin Shugart are both stepping down from their positions on the Kitchen Table. Thanks to the both of them for their good service over the years, particularly in their terms as wardens.
- Vonda Plett and Krista Waring are stepping down as synod delegates, but Krista will remain on Kitchen Table.
- Ian Mowat, Krista Waring, Rob Kwade, Christen Rachul, Zoe Matties, and Katharine Langille have offered to return as members for 2023.
- Paul Peters Derry remains on the Kitchen Table as an ex officio member on account of his being a member of the clergy, and Andrew Colman is now an ex officio member on account of his being a member of the clergy.
- New member: Rachel Titterton is coming on board as a new member, along with Beth Downey Sawatzky as incoming warden.
- Jim Cornelius will continue to serve in his capacity as treasurer.

**It was moved by Pierre and seconded that Ian Mowat, Katharine Langille, Rob Kwade, Krista Waring, Christen Rachul, Zoe Matties, John Berard, Rachel Titterton, Beth Downey Sawatzky, Murray Krushel and Danielle Morton (*ex officio* as Synod Delegates) and both Andrew Colman and Paul Peters Derry (*ex officio* as clergy members), be affirmed as members of the Kitchen Table, with Jim Cornelius serving as treasurer. Carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**THANKS,  
ON BEHALF OF  
EL SHADDAI**

Pierre thanked the congregation on behalf of El Shaddai gratitude for the mission fund contribution. The money has been used to keep community in Haiti out of extreme poverty and starvation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17.





## *from the* **rector** – *Andrew Colman*

It is a profound honour to serve as the second rector/incumbent at saint benedict's table. saint ben's is a community that has been a forming part of my life for over 15 years. Though my wife Rachel and I lived in Toronto for eight of those years, we always considered saint ben's our home church no matter where we found ourselves worshipping. When we would come back for a visit, we would see both little and big changes as the life of the community moved forward, but we were always met with the sound of old familiar songs and new songs making their way to being the old well-known ones.

One of the most important memories I have of saint ben's is from an evening when Gord Johnson was leading music and he had a new song. Before he began, he stood up and said something like, "This is a new one, and it has a bunch of Alleluias that might be a bit tricky, so let's try it out, and we'll see how it goes. I might need to make some changes."

That moment speaks to the life of this place. Something new, unpolished, willing to be shaped, vulnerable, without fear of judgement, leading worship. Not just suggesting worship, but leading it and inviting the congregation to join in the worship through this brand-new and knowingly unfinished song. It was an embodied act of the grace that is offered to us all in the Life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus. It said to the congregation that this song didn't need to be perfect to be offered as worship and neither do you need to be perfect in the offering. The important part is that we offer what we have as we are; in that act, both the offering and our very selves are made perfect by God. Thankfully, that tradition continues to this very day.

It is that life of Grace that I hope to foster here in this next chapter through preaching and teaching, at the table at the front of the church, and at tables around the city.

I pray that this first year will be filled with conversations around the various tables with everyone who calls saint ben's their home, those who call it second home, and those who are just walking in the door for the first time. I look forward to hearing all of the hopes and dreams of your own and for saint ben's as well as earning the trust to allow me to travel alongside in times when hopes and dreams seem far away.

So please, if you'd like to connect for coffee sooner rather than later, do not hesitate to tap me on the shoulder on Sunday evening, shoot me an email or give me a call. I do look forward to it.

In this year of transition there are a great many thanks to be offered. First, to everyone who stepped up to take on ministries to help keep things flowing as naturally as possible; thank you! A special thank you to all who served on the Kitchen Table over this past year: Beth Downey-Sawatzky (warden), John Berard (warden), Zoe Matties, Paul Peters Derry, Rachel Sutton, Katharine Langille, Krista Waring, Danielle Morton, Ian Mowat, Christen Rachul, Rob Kwade and Murray Krushel. Thank you to Jim Cornelius, for helping us see our financial situation in both a realistic and hopeful frame.

Thank you as well to Charles Garinger and Gord Johnson and everyone who helps to lead us in music worship week after week. Thank you and to Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk who kept administration and communications moving and Murray Krushel who took on the mantle of Logistics Coordinator in the months between rectors.

And a great thank you to the Canonical Committee, Murray Krushel, Beth Downey-Sawatzky, Danielle Morton, and John Berard for bearing the trust of the whole community in shaping the next chapter of saint ben's.

There has been the feeling of electricity in the air – let's call that the Holy Spirit. So let's see where the Holy Spirit will lead us next, shall we?

In Christ,

  
*Andrew Colman*



*from the* **director of music**  
— *Charles Garinger*

All in all, It's been a great year for music at st ben's. Finally free from the spectre of COVID restrictions, we have been able to build and look forward to the future. People have been a bit more cautious when they are sick, but that's probably a good thing.

For many years I have worked closely with Jamie on our music, and his well-deserved retirement obviously caused some changes. Happy to say, I am building a similar relationship with Andrew, who is an excellent musician himself. As with every year, we have had changes with our roster, but overall, I believe the music ministry is as strong as it has ever been.

We have made significant improvements in the quality of our sound this past year, thanks to some talented volunteers.

I'd like to thank all the musicians that participated this year in no particular order. Apologies to any that I've forgotten:

Andrew Colman, Rachel Colman, Fred Dugdale, Chris Sonnes, Ann McKenzie, Nick Kolisnyk, Gord Johnson, Steve Bell, Larry Campbell, Trish Vrolijk, Brad Vrolijk, Rachel Titterton, Tim Cruikshank, Zoe Cruikshank, Mark Holmes A Court, Murray Krushel, Tatianna Friesen, Krista Weibe, Mike Koop, Adam Kroeker

Special thanks to Chris Whitmore for technical assistance, and to Rob Kwade for producing some of our original songs, and also offering technical assistance. Also thanks to Rob Burton and Lyndon James for doing what they do so well, Kevin Grummet for doing the livestream, and Paul Peters Derry for formatting our songs sheets each week.

Peace,

*Charles*



*from the* **administration & communication coordinator** – *Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk*

The theme of 2023 feels to have been one of steadiness and consistency. As we stepped into healing following all the uncertainty of pandemic-era lockdowns, we aimed to deliver a comfortingly steady roster of our regular offerings, including Hear the Silence, our Lenten Series, Theology by the Glass, and of course, our 4:00 and 7:00pm liturgies.

Much credit is due to all the volunteers who have supported these offerings! A special thank you to our Livestream and Audio Volunteers Kevin Grummett, Karen Merkel-Kopp and Chris Whitmore. Your steadfast commitment and energy have maintained a consistently at saint benedict's table through times of transition. I also appreciated your willingness to take on new scheduling systems to contribute to improved communications and efficiency in planning.



With the announcement of Jamie's retirement in the spring of 2023 preparations began to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. This included transferring management of administrative details like accounts and subscriptions; establishing IT set up and support for new volunteers stepping into support roles; arranging new schedules and of course, planning a send-off for Jamie that would appropriately honour his legacy and our community.

Thank you to Pat Mowat and Sharon Jones-Ryan for acting as my partners in planning that event, as well as the many volunteers who helped with other aspects of the night, including the outdoor, pop-up art gallery. The many helpers helped ensure a seamless evening for all to enjoy before, during and following the St. Norbert Art Centre event. Thank you as well to Andrew and Rachel Colman and the many volunteers who delivered a meaningful farewell Eucharist celebration marking Jamie's last Sunday at SBT.

As we entered into a new season in so many ways this Autumn, I am grateful to the many individuals who came on board as Lay Readers, writers, committee members and more. Together we achieved a deeper understanding and appreciation of the strengths, challenges, and ultimately, unique character of our community through a Mission Profile and Congregational Survey to be proud of. We've also established systems of file sharing and communication that will help us work collaboratively into the future.

Now, we joyfully move forward to a new season welcoming our new incumbent, and I look forward to continuing to work with all of you as we journey together.



## from the logistics coordinator

— Murray Krushel

We quite often hear the words: we are in a “time between times”. I think that might be a way of understanding the Logistics Coordinator role. It was a helpful role during the time between Jamie retiring and Andrew beginning. The role was primarily designed as a support to the wardens, Beth Downey Sawatzky and John Berard as well as Sarah Hodges – Kolisnyk our Communication and Administrative Coordinator. When Jamie retired, it soon became very clear that as the “point person” for SBT, he carried out many tasks and responsibilities small and large, in addition to presiding/preaching at the Sunday evening services and connecting with folks on an informal basis, etc.



I've highlighted the key tasks/responsibilities the Logistics Coordinator role included:

- touching base with all committee chairs to ensure they knew they could contact the Logistics Coordinator at anytime, regarding questions or suggestions they might have.
- ensuring a prompt response/follow up to any and all questions received from volunteers, staff or Info@sbt emails.
- Ensuring Joy Peters (Administrative Assistant for All Saints' Church) was updated on any SBT meetings scheduled at All Saints' Church. In turn, Joy kept me up to date on any meetings etc., that might impact SBT.
- Making sure everyone who needed to know or was impacted by events, meetings and dates were kept informed and in the loop.
- At the request of HR, the Logistics Coordinator joined their meetings in the absence of an incumbent.
- Ensuring the Lay Reader and Presider guidelines (used in our Sunday evening services) were kept up to date with the help of Danielle Morton and Paul Peters Derry.
- Set up a key log which identified all folks from SBT who had keys to the church.
- Ensuring all SBT items in storage were consolidated in one location.

I would also mention, a significant behind the scenes task Jamie carried out regularly, was preparing our worship space for our evening services as well as locking up. We call this “setup” and “lock up”. A lot of details needed to be attended to. Audrey and I took on this task. That said, Audrey was the lead. It is also important to mention, Karen Merkel Koop and Marvin Koop were our back up.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist during this time of transition.



## from the wardens

What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end  
Is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from.

—T.S. Eliot, *Little Gidding*

Those who study and teach about transitions tell us that it is about moving through three phases. There is a letting go, a time of some kind of ending. This is followed by an in-between time. Often, they suggest, people experience a sense of disorientation or disengagement as folks move through the haziness of in-between times. Transitions end with a beginning, the third phase of the process is about beginning again.

This in many ways has been the past year for the community of saint benedict's table. The collection of reports for 2023 certainly highlights that life at st. ben's continued, moving through any kind of haziness with energy and enthusiasm. And to that we say a heartfelt thank you to all of you; to those who filled

in, to those who engaged more, to those who kept things going, to those who participated at every level, if the community of st. ben's transitioned well it is because you, the community, lived in and through the transition well.



A year ago, at the AGM, Jamie told us of his intention to retire at the end of August 2023. From that moment work began to plan through the coming transition. Jamie did much to lay the groundwork to help us be sure things wouldn't be missed. Kitchen Table, the finance committee, and the canonical committee worked through lists to ensure continuity. Sharon Jones-Ryan, Pat Mowat, and Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk planned a very fine event for the community to celebrate the work and ministry of Jamie on September 9, 2023. Jamie presided and spoke one last time at sbt on September 10, 2023. Both events were very well attended, poignant, and full of opportunities for the community to both celebrate and to wish Jamie all the very best. This marked our 'some kind of ending.'

Those who study and teach about transitions also say that phases may not the best way to imagine what occurs. Phases suggest a linear way of things when actually it is experienced more like three processes, each important and often overlapping, with one or the other more prominent in a moment. While we were moving toward our 'kind of ending' we were also planning for the in-betweenness of one incumbent to another. A particular word of thanks to Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk, Charles Garinger, and Murray Krushel, who carried at times the weight of more responsibility with grace and commitment. Thank you, Sarah, Charles, and Murray. The canonical committee, with assistance from the Diocese, met regularly engaging a process to prepare for a search for a new incumbent. Part of the process was gathering information and preparing a Mission Profile which was used by the Diocese in



advertising the position. At the same time a rotation of lay readers was paired with a rotation of Presiders to ensure Sunday eucharist was covered while our 4pm worship continued with solid leadership in place. Book clubs met, the emotional wellness group continued to meet, and our online evening prayer gatherings continued strong, each of these continuing to meet the needs of the community. The arts fund, missions fund, and human resource committees met and continued the work of their committees.



Our participation in the Collegeville Institute’s Communities of Calling initiative came to an end capping off a multi-year involvement with a series of podcasts and stories from the project. In a small joint effort with St. Margaret’s we have been continuing to aid and support refugee settlement in Winnipeg. And in our community a Pastoral Care team was available to anyone for coffee, a chat, or support in times of difficulty. Jim Cornelius, Treasurer, and the Finance committee did, and continue to do, an outstanding job of keeping track of all things financial – a huge thank you Jim. At a time when we may have felt we have let go of the trapeze only to feel as if there was nothing yet to hold on to, the community of sbt has lived in and through this in-between time well. And for that we say thank you to all of you: from those who operated a camera for our online presence to those who kept printing weekly song sheets, to those who participated at every level, and to all those that have served and volunteered in various capacities this past year, we extend gratitude and a sincere thank you.

The posting from the Diocese returned a number of applications for the incumbent position. From those applications a short list of interviews was made and from there a candidate was selected and that person accepted the call to be the next incumbent. Christmas Eve 2023 it was announced that Andrew Colman had accepted the call and in the midst of Christmas we also celebrated the announcement of the next beginning. In the distance we just might hear the faint echo of Elliot ... transitions begin with a kind of ending and end with a beginning. This is where we now find ourselves, the next beginning.



We have a rich, deep, and short history and into that story we welcome both Andrew and the next beginning. Andrew and Rachel are known to many and by the time this report is read Andrew will be settling into the position of Priest, beginning another transition of sorts. From the known and unknown to wonder and gratitude, from dreams and ministry about to be shared, we proclaim, “Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.” A wholehearted welcome to you Andrew as we imagine our next beginning. The community has prayed for this beginning long before your arrival and we continue to pray alongside you and Rachel. May you feel God’s blessing and our enduring support at your back now and in the years ahead.

*John Berard*

## **St. benedict's table Nominations committee report**

In the past, nominations at st ben's have been offered by Jamie and those assembled at the AGM have affirmed those nominations. Jamie's departure necessitated a new process to ensure that positions were filled. With necessity comes the great opportunity to reimagine and it was in that light that the nominations committee was formed.

This year the nominations committee was made up of Beth Downey Sawatzky (warden), Ian Mowat (member of kitchen table), Trish Vrolijk (4:00pm congregant), Chris Whitmore (7:00pm congregant and committee chair). Andrew joined the committee at the beginning of his incumbency. The committee was tasked with discerning candidates for the positions of elected warden, kitchen table members, and synod delegates. Bellow is a brief outline of what those jobs entail, as set out in the canons (legally recognised rules of the diocese). Individual church communities may have additional policies to clarify and expand on the roles of each ministry.

**Wardens** are the most senior lay leaders in a parish or mission and make legal decisions for the parish or mission. One warden is appointed by the incumbent (the main priest of a church) and one is elected by the congregation. The wardens and the incumbent together form the corporation of the church, which is the legal and perpetual body responsible for the church under the Anglican Church of Canada Temporalty Act. The main duties of the Wardens are to ensure the faithful continuity of a parish or mission, attend to legally required tasks, appoint and dismiss lay staff, and ensure that services are regularly and decently conducted.

The **Kitchen Table** acts as advisors to the Incumbent and Wardens; works to broaden the base of involvement of the church in the community; assists in managing finances and collections; and sets the wages of lay staff. Kitchen Table is responsible for the financial statements brought to the AGM, including the budget for the coming year.

**Synod Delegates** represent the church at meetings of Synod and, when necessary, form a canonical search committee along with the wardens. Synod delegates are members of the Kitchen Table. Synod typically meets every two years. In years without a regular meeting of synod, delegates are invited to a conference called Faith Horizons.

Members of the above committees serve one-year terms to a maximum of six years. All the above positions (except for the appointed warden) are elected by the congregation at a general meeting. There was a brief discussion in the committee about whether the canons that allow for the election of lay leadership in a parish also cover a mission. The constitution of the diocese clarifies that the word "parish" also includes missions, where applicable, and the Bishop's office confirmed the same in writing.

### **Background**

There are several models used at Anglican churches to ensure quality nominations for election at AGMs. Commonly today, nominations are discerned by a committee that includes the incumbent and some combination of wardens, vestry (called Kitchen Table at st. ben's), and congregants.

Some churches choose to have their vestry as a whole or just the corporation make nominations and often the incumbent, wardens or members of vestry approach potential candidates. Another



model common in churches and in non-profits is to have a specific committee tasked with helping the community discern potential candidates for election. This is the route that Kitchen Table decided to take for st. ben's. (The committee's terms of reference are attached.) In all cases, the community may make additional nominations and has the final say through their vote at the AGM.

### **Our Process**

The community survey helped to shape and guide the committee, particularly in response to calls for improved transparency, greater sharing of leadership, and increased diversity. The report from the survey noted that there was an appetite for a more formal approach to leadership insofar as formality would help st. ben's meet the needs and desires of our community.

Our process for bringing forward names was centred on prayer and the idea that church committees are an important ministry of and for the church and the broader community. In our deliberations we endeavoured to respect commitments that congregants already had at st. ben's, so as to broaden engagement in leadership at st. ben's and to not encourage overcommitment. There were so many good names that came up and we know that there were great candidates that we left off our list.

After drafting a list, members of the nominations committee approached congregants to ask them to prayerfully consider serving in a new way at st. ben's. In addition to new members, existing synod delegates, wardens and members of Kitchen Table were asked if they felt called to run again. The list of candidates attached is the outcome of that process and all candidates enthusiastically accepted our nomination.

The Nominations Committee would like to acknowledge the work of John Berard and Ian Mowat who will not be returning to their roles of warden and Kitchen Table member, respectively. We are grateful for the countless hours that so many volunteers have put into st. ben's over the year and are so excited to see where the spirit will lead our community in the coming year to come.

Respectfully,

Chris Whitmore, Chair

*Appendix to the nominations committee report: List of nominees*

The Nominations Committee, comprised of Chris Whitmore, Beth Downey Sawatzky, Ian Mowat and Trish Vrolijk, is please to nominate the following candidates, who have accepted our nominations:

- Rob Kwade for the position of elected warden
- Jonny Moir and Danielle Morton for the position of synod delegates (Jonny is new in this role and Danielle is returning for a second term)
- Krista Waring and Ian Mowat as Alternate synod delegates
- Krista Waring, Christen Rachul, Zoe Matties, Rachel Sutton, Katharine Langille, Rod Gray, David Lipinsky, Marvin Kopp, Pat Mowat, and Brad Vrolijk as kitchen table members.

Rod, David, Marvin, Pat, and Brad are all new kitchen table candidates, while the other nominees are all returning candidates. Jonny has served on Kitchen Table in the past and rob was a member of the outgoing Kitchen Table and is a new candidate for Warden.

For the sake of transparency, the nominations committee would like to disclose the following relationships between nominees and members of the Nominations Committee:

- Danielle Morton is the spouse of Chris Whitmore
- Brad Vrolijk is the spouse of Trish Vrolijk

**DRAFT terms of reference**

**st. benedict's table Nominations Committee**

Purpose: To provide transparency and accountability and increase congregational involvement and input in the nominations process; to relieve kitchen table and corporation of the burden of self-nomination and recruitment for elected positions; and to ensure the continuation of competent and enthusiastic lay leadership at st. benedict's table.

Mandate: On behalf of the congregation, to prayerfully discern a list of volunteers for various roles to be brought forward for election at the Annual General Meeting.

Accountable to: Kitchen Table

Chair: Appointed from the members of the nominations committee by the committee

Composition: Five members: The Rector or one other member of the clergy team, one Warden, one member of Kitchen Table (excluding Wardens), one member of the congregation who regularly attends the family liturgy and one member of the congregation who regularly attends the principal liturgy (excluding Wardens, the Rector and members of Kitchen Table)

Meetings: At least two meetings to be called by the chair in preparation for the AGM

Deliverables:

1. In consultation with Kitchen Table, prayerfully explore the volunteer ministry needs of st. benedict's table and the ministry gifts of the congregation.
2. In consultation with Kitchen Table and existing volunteers, determine which positions will need to be filled at the coming AGM and which volunteers would like to allow their names to stand for re-election.
3. Prayerfully discern and draft a list of potential volunteers.
4. Approach potential volunteers to see if they are interested in standing for election at the AGM and assist them in discerning their suitability for lay leadership.
5. Draft a final list of candidates for election at the AGM.
6. Present, at the AGM, candidates for election.

Notes:

These terms of reference are to be reviewed annually by the Nominations Committee.



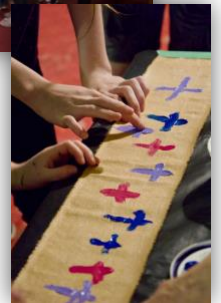
## from the arts fund committee

saint benedict's table is a community that values active participation in the arts. From our very beginning in 2004, we have sought to engage with the arts in a variety of ways, including in our weekly worship, special events such as art exhibits and concerts, as well as in the support of an artist residency and of the production of new works of art created by members of our community.

Our call to artists in 2023 asked makers to respond to uncertain and shifting times with an abundance of creative potential and growth. The resulting projects have each directly touched our community with their unique offering and vision. Each project received a modest honorarium of \$400 per month. The first residency began March 1, 2023, with the final one served in January/February of 2024. From a financial point of view, this meant that 10 months were included in the 2023 statements, with the final two months falling under the 2024 budget.

### 2023-24 residencies

- **Karen Cornelius/Mary Jane and Adam Kroeker** – this collaborative project brought together three artists from our community for a 6-month residency based on the liturgical calendar. The artists led families from our 4pm community through an art project each liturgical season. The artworks will be used to create a banner for our space as well as to help illustrate a prayer book for children and families.
- **Rachel Colman** – Rachel's four-month residency supported her development and recording of original songs focused on themes of wrestling, hope, praise, lament, and healing. These songs will contribute to a forthcoming album and two songs have already been released! "Be With Us" and "God has become One Of Us" can be found at <https://rachelcolman.bandcamp.com>. The songs have also made appearances at SBT worship on Sunday evenings.
- **Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk**- Sarah's two-month residency was an exploration of artistic process and creative vision. She set up a small studio space and explored making cyanotypes (a historic analogue photography technique) in combination with natural dyes made from harvested indigenous plant material using original photographs, archival family photos, and plant cuttings for image source material. The resulting images speak to a correlation between the photographic image, history-making and the natural world. Sarah helped us make our own cyanotypes at a Theology By The Glass workshop in July.



*Barbara Beaupre*, on behalf of the Committee



## *from the* emotional wellness group

The Emotional Wellness group provides an opportunity for insight and support into awareness, understanding, and acceptance of our own emotions. It represents our ability to grow and learn with experience. This group provides a platform for sharing and operates collectively as a safe and spiritual response to our emotional growth. The group welcomes all emotions without offering hasty problem solving, but rather a community of support. Encouragement is offered in response for individuals to identify and evaluate alternatives for themselves, towards a life of greater agency, acceptance, and ultimately peaceful living.

Participants are able to share openly and honestly in a confidential space without judgement in a group of peers. Benefits include improved coping skills, feelings of connectedness, reduced feelings of distress and loneliness, opportunities for sharing resources, and gaining a sense of empowerment and agency in life. Each session closes with a liturgical prayer that brings a blessing of peace and a Psalm of comfort to meditate on for the coming weeks.

This neurodivergent wellness group meets twice monthly on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. The sessions alternate between zoom and in-person to ensure accessibility for all. We have recently had the opportunity to create a space of worship at the in-person sessions with Rob Kwade volunteering his gift of worship music for the group from 6:30-7:00pm. It is a welcome addition to soak in God's presence and take the time to just breath before our session begins.

***Jodi Goerzen***

Facilitator



## from the 4:00 pm family service report

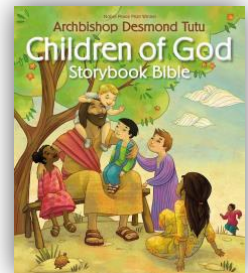
The 4 pm family service has continued strong throughout this year and the transition to the new priest. Andrew Colman has led the 4 pm Family Friendly service since September 17th, 2023. There were a couple of weeks of overlap between Jamie and Andrew, where Andrew was introduced to the community. There has been an attendance of 24-35 people at each service. Andrew has continued to move through the Desmond Tutu Children's Bible; Sarah is coming up with all kinds of interesting activities, from blooming Paper Moses Baskets to relay races where the children end up putting food in the basket for the Epiphany Indigenous Food Pantry. Most recently, the painting where the families added red, yellow, and orange hand-painted flames to Burning Bush stood at the front of the church for the following 7 pm service.



Our Summer BBQ took place, once again, at Sarah and Nick's, and there were 38 of us present. The children played in the pool, ran around the property, and did silk-screening for the liturgical project.

The Family Friendly Liturgical project that was part of our artist-in-residence program, by Adam and Mary-Jane Kroeker and Karen Cornelius, is well underway. A banner is being put together from art that the families are making to represent all of the liturgical seasons.

We had our first service outside of saint ben's on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, where we were warmly welcomed by the Rev. Vincent Solomon at Epiphany Indigenous Church. We brought all of our own communion set but ended up using our communion bowl for the wine and their plate for the bread. It was quite a beautiful service and seemed to be enjoyed by the families in attendance. The service at Epiphany was held in the round as it had been pre-covid, which inspired the move back to the front of the church on a regular basis.



We have seen several people who do not have children come to this service because they enjoy the more interactive and relaxed atmosphere, which is just lovely to witness.

I would like to offer a special thanks to Trish, Brad, and Caleb Vrolijk, who offer music and their accompanying actions each week. And also to Nick Koliznyck, who takes on that role when the Vrojiks cannot do so.

As the 4 pm family service continues to grow, in large part with people who have moved from the 7 pm service because of earlier bedtimes, we look forward to dreaming up ways to strengthen the connections within our congregation. And so may the Spirit Lead.

In Christ,

*Andrew*



## from the human resources committee

A large part of our year was spent helping with the transition from Jamie to a new incumbent. First, an exit interview document was created, which was used with Jamie to help him evaluate his time as st-ben's incumbent, evaluate his departure, and offer suggestions for moving forward. We also helped as a resource for the hiring committee, mostly reviewing and suggesting interview questions. Finally, we checked in on the staff occasionally to make sure that the transition was going well for them.

We have been working on an organizational chart, which should be available soon. We held interviews and hired Andrew Colman for the position of managing the digital commons. This term position was held for a few months in winter and spring of 2023. We also created a safe storage area for hard copy documents that are confidential.

### *Committee members:*

Annick Boulet (chair)	
Jamie Howison (incumbent) – <i>ex-officio</i>	<i>*January 2023 – August 2023</i>
Sharon Jones-Ryan	<i>*January and February 2023</i>
Vonda Plett	
Julie Schellenberg	
Robin Shugart	
Beth Downey Sawatzky (warden)	<i>*September 2023 to present</i>
Murray Krushel	<i>*interim as logistics coordinator in place of an incumbent, September 2023 – December 2023</i>

We greatly appreciate all the hard work done by the staff of saint benedict's table who faithfully serve our community and we look forward to supporting all staff in the coming year.

*Annick Boulet*



## from the mission fund committee

The Mission Fund Committee met on December 13, 2023 to review the potential grants for the year and to make recommendations for approval by the Kitchen Table. The fund represents 10% of our offering income that we use to support programs and ministries in our community and beyond that are doing good work. We have already received thank you notes and hope-filled stories from several of the programs we supported in 2023 through the mission fund.

After a small disbursement of \$300 earlier in the year, the committee recommended that the remaining mission fund of \$20,700 be allocated as follows:

1. **Hope Centre Ministries - \$1100** – Organization that provides spiritual care and belonging to individuals and families with disabilities, as well as training for churches on how to better support them. They are about to launch a new social enterprise employment program.
2. **EMAS/ El Shaddai Church, Haiti - \$7500** – During a critical time for Haiti, we recommended a substantial grant to support the school and meal programs run by El Shaddai Church and two major projects they are undertaking including building a security wall and installing a solar electrical system.
3. **Ndinawe (Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Inc.) - \$2000** - A not-for-profit, Indigenous-led organization dedicated to helping at-risk youth in Winnipeg's North End. Their initiatives include a 24-hour safe house, as well as arts programs, sports and activities, and more.
4. **Bell Tower Community Café - \$2000** - Neighbourhood food bank and community building project run through Westminster United Church.
5. **Intervarsity Canada – \$1500** - Financial support for this ministry allows them to seek out students who are in need of community and connection, facilitate spaces of spiritual engagement on campus, and develop and invest in students' character and leadership potential.
6. **A Rocha - \$1500** - a Christian nature conservation organization working to live out God's call to care for creation and equip others to do likewise. A Rocha envisions a hope-filled world where communities flourish and people and nature thrive together.
7. **Artbeat Studio - \$1100** - Organization committed to using art and mentoring in supporting people who have been struggling with mental health and wellness.
8. **Canadian Compass Rose Society/Princess Basma Centre – \$1000** – An organization that funnels funds to projects internationally including the Princess Basma Centre, a



ministry of the Diocese of Jerusalem, which provides treatment, support, and advocacy for children with disabilities in Gaza and the West Bank.

- 9. **Good Food Club – \$1500** - A program of West Broadway Community Organization, the Good Food Club (GFC) works to empower its members to eat healthier, gain new skills and build community.
- 10. **Epiphany Indigenous - \$1000** – Additional support for the church’s pantry program to supplement our Sunday evening basket collections.
- 11. **Anglican Foundation – \$500** - The Anglican Foundation of Canada provides resources for innovative ministries, Anglican presence, and diverse infrastructure projects across the Canadian Anglican Church.

Christen Rachul



Supporting the Pantry Program at Epiphany Indigenous Church

Thank you to all who have offered items for our collection baskets! As we welcome the return of this pre-pandemic tradition, you may want to consider the following list of most-needed items, to ensure your offering has the greatest impact! Preferred items to bring with you on Sunday evenings include the following: tinned goods - soup, stew, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, tuna, etc., pasta - including Kraft Dinner, biscuits & crackers, rice, women’s underwear (varied sizes), socks, feminine products (all varieties), shampoo, brushes & combs.





# communities of calling

— collegeville institute

2023 marked the final year of the Communities of Calling Program through the Collegeville Institute. Our core CCI team shifted slightly, with the departure of Bramwell Ryan and the addition of Andrew Colman. In June, our team of Andrew, Jamie and Sarah headed to Minnesota to reflect, alongside other Communities of Calling teams and leaders, on the impact that 5 years of prayerful exploration of Calling has had on our communities.



2023 was also the year that our CCI-funded Digital Commons Coordinator, Andrew Colman, came on board with the goal of broadening our vocation in the digital space. Andrew has established a recording workflow that will enhance accessibility to content production and ensure quality content for our digital community well into the future. As of May 2023, we have published 750 podcast episodes and achieved over 100,000 downloads, and those numbers continue to grow.

"I was looking to hear something from different voices in the worldwide church...being in my early 40s i was going through a time of re-evaluating my faith journey...thank you for keeping the online ministry going, it's a little gem on the internet." – podcast listener.

While in Minnesota, Andrew was so inspired by the impact of the Communities of Calling teams that he has undertaken a new podcast project under our Ancient Future podcast channel, to share and synthesize the stories of all the participating congregations and shed light on the findings of this innovative program. The "From the Communities of Calling" podcast mini-series has released three episodes so far. <https://www.stbenedictstable.ca/blog/from-the-communities-of-calling-part3-the-power-of-story-and-community-hd7nz>

Given the ongoing and broad impacts of the Communities of Calling Initiative, there remains some work to be done, even after the official close of the project. With approval from the Communities of Calling we have changed the financing structure of our online songbook. Now, the songwriter and producer will be paid directly and the song will be given away for free on the website with an opportunity for people to pay what they would like. If a song sells more than a certain amount, there will be a portion of the revenue that then goes to the writer. We have six songs recorded, three of which are ready to launch with an accompanying podcast and the other three that are in production. The CCI funding will continue to support at least an additional six tracks after these.



To close this chapter of our journey together, we offer a look back at what the Communities of Calling Initiative has meant for st bens, and encourage you to delve deeper with the From the Communities of Calling podcast.

- Digital Commons Coordinator – expand podcast vision and broaden online reach
- Babel 2.0: Can Faith Survive Online – one-day conference featuring Dr. Katharine Schmidt, Nora Young, Rev'd Michael Coren, and moderated by David Balzer
- Online Songbook Launch – recordings and lead sheets available for purchase, launched 2022
- Art + Faith – day of conversation with Makoto Fujimura
- Discerning Calling During the Pandemic – with Cathie Camao and Andrew Krahn
- Threads of Vocation – community weaving project & graphic book
- Digital Commons Update – upgrading online presence

*Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk, Andrew Colman*



<https://collegevilleinstitute.org>



# financial reports

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*As a supplement to these reports,*  
[“Financial Statements: For the year ending December 31, 2023”](#)

## 2023 financial results

- offerings & other income**

Offerings to support the general ministry of saint benedict’s table fell by -17% in 2023 to \$174,740, \$37,260 less than we had projected in our 2023 budget, after being stable but flat for the previous four to five years. Much of the decline represents seven households who gave substantial funds disengaging from the congregations for various reasons, including moving away from Winnipeg or personal connections to the former rector.

Below is an overview of giving patterns to the general ministry of the congregation over the last four years. It does not include designated giving for expenses not in the operational budget, such as giving to the Arts Fund.

	2023		2022		2021		2020	
	# of Hlds	Total Offerings	# of Hlds	Total Offerings	# of Hlds	Total Offerings	# of Hlds	Total Offerings
>\$4,000	12	\$81,260	21	\$129,952	18	\$111,653	15	\$104,933
≥\$2,000-\$3,999	17	\$49,983	10	\$25,795	19	\$47,983	15	\$40,952
≥\$500-\$1,999	37	\$38,990	42	\$44,120	32	\$37,660	38	\$43,171
<\$500	30	\$3,215	33	\$4,076	29	\$4,698	46	\$7,725
Unidentified		\$1,292		\$7,614		\$7,819		\$14,481
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>\$174,740</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>\$211,557</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>\$209,813</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>\$211,262</b>

Interest income of \$2,536 was also received. Unlike previous years, no contribution to the operating budget was received from the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy or the Collegetown Institute Grant, further reducing total income compared to 2022.

- expenses**

Total operating expenses in 2023 were \$198,788, \$24,924 less than budgeted. The lower expenses were largely due to not having a priest on staff for the final months of the year.

- deficit**

Despite lower expenses than budgeted, the substantial decline in giving to the general ministry and mission of saint benedict’s table resulted in a deficit of \$21,511. Our operating

fund balance (operating reserve) as of December 31, 2023, fell from \$99,260 to \$77,749.

Income and expenses against budget by line item are detailed in the Statement of Operations at the end of this report and in separate formal financial statements that have been prepared and circulated.

## restricted funds

The congregation also operates three restricted funds to which income and expenses are attributed separate from our operating budget – an Arts Fund, a Refugee Fund, and the Collegeville Institute Community of Calling grant.

*Arts Fund* - We received \$975 in donations and \$12 in sales income into the Arts Fund with expenses of \$205, leaving us with a \$3,583 balance in the fund.

*Refugee Fund* – No income was received, or funds disbursed, from the Refugee Fund in 2023. We are expecting the Syrian refugee couple being sponsored to arrive in 2024 drawing down this fund substantially.

*Collegeville Institute Grant* – We received an additional \$2,984 in grant funds from the Collegeville Institute and spent \$6,230 from this grant funding in 2023, leaving \$3,506 in grant funding still available at the end of 2023 for activities in 2024.

## independent internal review of 2023 financial statements

As per a resolution passed at the 2023 annual general meeting, the finance committee has conducted and completed an independent internal review of the 2023 financial statements prepared by the treasurer to ensure financial transactions have been properly recorded and the financial statements presented are free from any material misstatements. Please see formal financial statements prepared and circulated that provide more detail and various notes to the statements.

## proposed budget 2024

The proposed 2024 budget is presented in the table at the end of this report. Given the substantial decline in giving in 2023 and the large deficit incurred, considerable discussion and care has been given to developing the 2024 budget. The budget being presented for approval at the AGM has been reviewed and is being recommended by the finance committee and the kitchen table.

The following principles and factors have guided the preparation of the proposed budget:

- We are assuming for budget purposes that income from offerings will not increase in 2024 given the significant loss of offerings from several key households. We are choosing to make a relatively conservative income forecast and not forecast any significant growth at this point. Just to stay at 2023 income levels, additional offerings will be needed from existing congregants or new households.
- The projected deficit should not exceed \$10,000. It is thought that this level of deficit can be managed in the short term.
- Budget amounts for activities deemed essential for rebuilding the congregation are being maintained.
- All Saints' has agreed to freeze rent payments despite an escalator clause in the rent agreement.
- The equipment budget needs to be increased to purchase a computer for the new incumbent and to make payment for recently purchased and installed video streaming equipment.
- The budget cuts needed to keep the projected deficit under \$10,000 will be taken from three budget lines – the Artist-in-Residence program, contribution to the ministry and mission of the diocese and national church, and mission contributions. While these are important elements of our ministry and mission, they are not deemed essential in the short-term to rebuilding the congregation. It is expected that as soon as the congregation is able, these budget lines will be restored to reach intended targets.

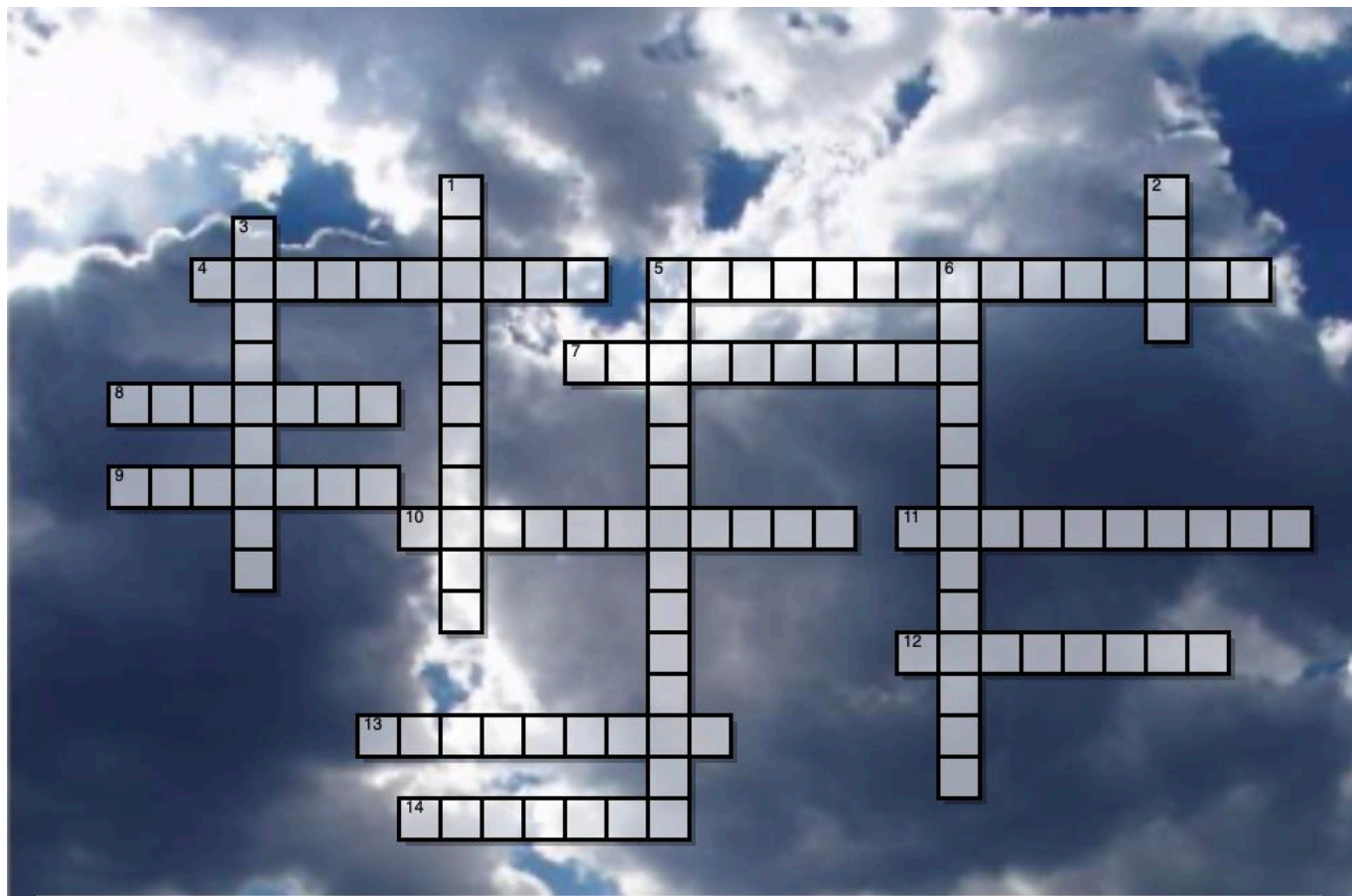
*Jim Cornelius*

Treasurer

2023 statement of operations and 2024 proposed budget

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Offerings	\$212,000	\$174,740	\$175,000
Interest & Investment Income	<u>1,800</u>	<u>2,536</u>	<u>2,000</u>
	213,800	177,276	177,000
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Staffing			
Wages & Benefits	136,300	105,082	120,000
Clergy Coverage	300	4,700	1,200
Professional Development	1,000	0	500
Transportation	<u>500</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>500</u>
	138,100	109,784	122,200
Programs			
Artist-in-Residence	4,800	4,800	2,400
Hospitality – Community	1,200	4,965	1,500
Hospitality – Pastoral	500	83	500
Program Expenses	1,000	428	500
Worship Supplies	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,530</u>	<u>1,500</u>
	8,500	11,859	6,400
Adm, Communication, Facilities			
Donation Fees & Banking	1,200	1,155	1,200
Equipment	500	1,264	2,900
Insurance	1,150	1,418	1,500
Office Costs	300	167	600
Photocopying	750	750	750
Rent	25,080	25,080	25,080
Telephone & Internet	2,000	1,530	2,000
Website, Streaming, Podcasts	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,186</u>	<u>1,200</u>
	32,180	32,550	35,230
Diocese, National Church, Mission			
Diocese & National Church	22,000	22,000	10,500
Synods, Conferences, Adm	1,932	1,595	2,000
Mission Contributions	<u>21,000</u>	<u>21,000</u>	<u>10,500</u>
	44,932	44,595	23,000
Total Expenses	<u>223,712</u>	<u>198,788</u>	<u>186,830</u>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>			
	(\$9,912)	(\$21,511)	(\$9,830)





ACROSS

- 4 With our artist residencies, each project received a modest \_\_\_\_\_ of \$400 per month. (10 letters, page 13)
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Endaawaad Inc., recipient of a \$2000 mission fund grant. (15 letters, page 17)
- 7 Just to stay at 2023 income levels, additional offerings will be needed from existing congregants or new \_\_\_\_\_. (10 letters, page 24)
- 8 Under "restricted funds" is listed 3 distinct funds: Arts Fund, \_\_\_\_\_ Fund and Collegeville Institute Grant. (7 letters, page 23)
- 9 FUTURE While in Minnesota, Andrew was so inspired by the impact of the C of C teams that he has undertaken a new podcast project under our \_\_\_\_\_ podcast channel. (7, 6 letters, page 19)
- 10 We have made \_\_\_\_\_ improvement in the quality of our sound this past year, thanks to some talented volunteers. (11 letters, page 8)
- 11 The theme of 2023 feels to have been one of \_\_\_\_\_ and consistency. (10 letters, page 9)
- 12 Our 4:00 family service had its first service outside of saint ben's on \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd, where we were warmly welcomed by the Rev. Vincent Solomon at Epiphany Indigenous Church. (8 letters, page 15)

- 13 An organization that funnels funds to projects internationally including the Princess Basma Centre, a ministry of the Diocese of \_\_\_\_\_. (9 letters, page 17)

- 14 Assessment of 2023 financial results include offerings & other income, expenses and \_\_\_\_\_. (7 letters, page 22)

DOWN

- 1 Saint benedict's table: a \_\_\_\_\_ community, rooted in an ancient future. (11 letters)
- 2 In \_\_\_\_\_, our team of Andrew, Jamie and Sarah headed to Minnesota to reflect, alongside other Communities of Calling teams and leaders. (4 letters, page 19)
- 3 With our 2023 statement of operations and 2024 proposed budget, there are two categories of "hospitality": \_\_\_\_\_ and Pastoral. (9 letters, page 25)
- 5 This \_\_\_\_\_ wellness group meets twice monthly on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. (14 letters, page 14)
- 6 An independent internal review of 2023 financial statements to ensure financial transactions have been properly recorded and the financial statements presented are free from any material \_\_\_\_\_. (13 letters, page 23)

# † saint benedict's table



a worshipping community,  
rooted in an ancient future

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