

APRIL 2019

THE SEED

Official Newsletter of Christ Church Anglican, Ashton

rector's message - a time of renewal

BY THE REV. KERRI BRENNAN

One of the beautiful things about Spring is how all creation comes out of itself--its hibernation or its incubation--and prepares for renewal, transformation, and newness of life.

It is no different for the life of the Church. Our snowbirds return, we are ready to dust off the cobwebs, and with the annual Vestry meeting now thankfully behind us, we're eager to get to the work God has in store for us!

This year, CCA is revisiting the priorities we established at last year's Vestry as part of a three-year plan. And we're having real, honest conversations about our future in light of our financial position.

I look forward to shedding light on how far we've come, sharing with you where we're looking toward in the future, and which areas we can use your support. Join us in our conversation!



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vestry update

At this year's annual Vestry meeting, we renewed our commitment to the priorities we established at last year's Vestry as part of a three-year plan. The priorities included:

1. Communication and Pastoral Contact to Extended Parish Community - continuing to reach out to those members of our wider community whom we do not see regularly but who we understand to still be connected to our Parish.
2. Stewardship of Property - exploration of the responsible stewardship of our four buildings (the current church, the old heritage-status church, the rectory, and St Augustine's, Prospect).
3. Stewardship of Money – The Parish finances are tighter than ever—our expenses exceeding our income last year by approximately \$1500, which was significantly lower than anticipated on account of two sizeable bequests. We recognize this trend is not sustainable in the longterm.
4. Accessibility – As a pastoral response to the needs of an aging congregation, we will explore the feasibility of installing a lift on the stairs from the sanctuary to the parish hall.
5. Relationship Building – Evaluating how we build healthy community, respectful, loving relationships even in times of challenge.

Parish Council has been charged with following up with these priorities this year. Additionally, it will visit the question of how well team ministry works for us and in which manner we would like to continue with it. Stay tuned for updates on our progress!

“Desires dictate our priorities, priorities shape our choices, and choices determine our actions.”

DALLIN H. OAKS





from outside the walls to reconciliation

If you've wondered whether Church Outside the Walls - Pub Church is merely an excuse to sit at The Royal Oak on March Rd. over a pint and some munchies with some friends and fellow parishioners...well, it might be on some level! But that's not all it is! Pub Churchers (yes, I made that word up) are grappling with issues of our day and how to respond faithfully as Christians. I have thrown some potentially controversial topics at participants and they have generally eaten them up with gusto. We've discussed the controversy over the holiday song "Baby It's Cold Outside" and most recently we tackled Quebec's proposed ban on religious symbols for public service workers.

But perhaps the most engaging and challenging topic we've broached was when I (innocently) reported back to the group on a motion that was passed nearly unanimously at Synod this past fall.

The motion read: That Synod acknowledge that the Diocese of Ottawa occupies land that includes traditional territory of Indigenous peoples and therefore:

- a) encourages public acknowledgements of this fact at worship services and other public events in our Diocese; and
- b) requests the Bishop to give direction to parishes to determine in what territory they are located and to make regular public acknowledgements at public worship and other events as a first step in responding to The Truth and Reconciliation's Call to Action #59:

"to develop ongoing education strategies to ensure that their respective congregations learn about their church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families and communities were necessary."
- c) requests the All My Relations Working Group to investigate and report to next year's synod on the actions taken throughout the diocese to implement this resolution.

Palm Sunday - at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, April 14

Maundy Thursday with Washing of the Feet, Celebration of the Last Supper, and Stripping of the Altar at 7:00 p.m. April 18

Good Friday at 9:30 a.m. April 19

Easter Sunday at 6:00 a.m. Sunrise Eucharist Service followed by bacon and egg breakfast and at 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist





outside the walls to reconciliation, cont...

The discussion revealed a deep discomfort with the direction Synod had taken, underscored skepticism over political motives of the motion and about the value to Indigenous People. But perhaps most importantly, it exposed the need and desire for further education on issues relating to Peace and Reconciliation.

To that end and with Rev. Ryan's lead because he sits on the All My Relations Working Group, we are excited to offer the following opportunities for you to engage more deeply in learning about and responding to the Truth and Reconciliation's Call to Action:

First Nations 101 Book Study is being offered Wednesday, May 1 for five weeks at St Paul's, Kanata.

Saturday, May 4 - The Diocese is hosting, in collaboration with St Paul's Kanata, a Blanket Exercise. The event will take place from 9-12, doors will be open by 8:30. Registration will be handled by the Diocese and will be forwarded to you ASAP.

June 21 is National Indigenous People's Day

June 22 We will host a viewing of the Anglican Church of Canada's video "Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Land, Strong Hearts" followed by a discussion and concluding with the Standing Stones liturgy at St Paul's, Kanata (liturgy to be held in the Park behind the parking lot, weather permitting).

Please consider participating in any or all of these events so we may be better prepared as a community of faith to accept the call to "acknowledge that we are standing on Algonquin, Anishinabek territory."

In the meantime, if you wish to risk our next topic of discussion, Pub Church meets next on Monday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m. at The Royal Oak on March Rd.

tons of stuff
you need to
know about
first nations
people

First
Nations
101

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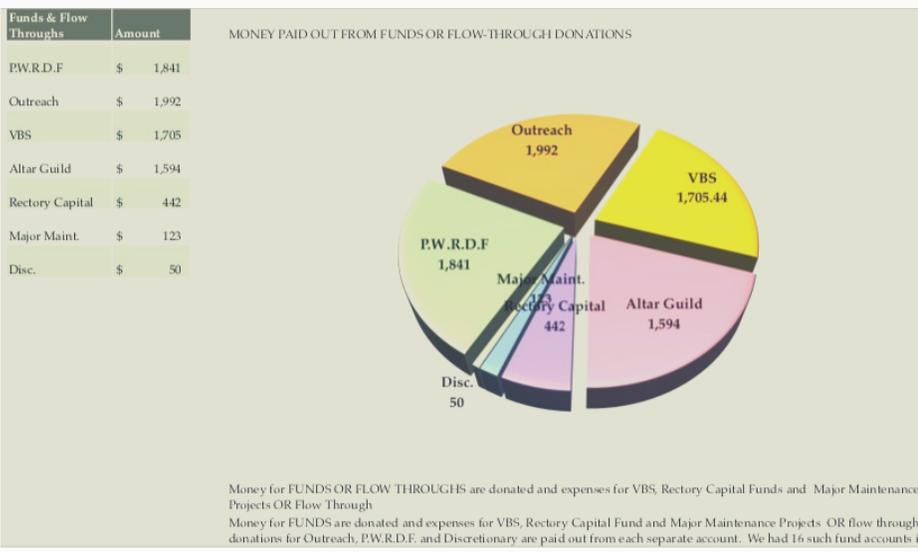
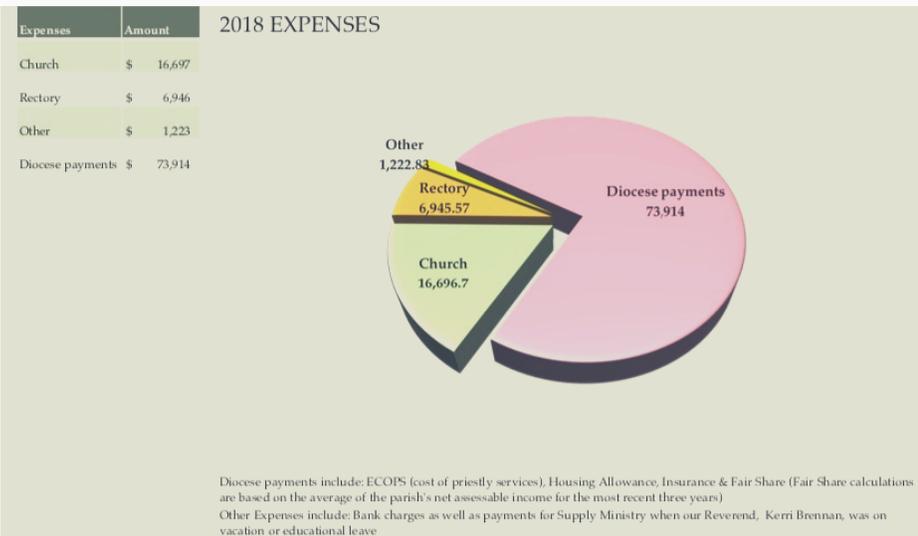
our financial picture

Questions often arise about the parish finances--where we're at a particular point in the year and whether we are meeting our budgeted financial obligations. The wardens, with the help of our treasurer, Lois Lohmann, presented a balanced budget to Vestry, which Vestry in turn passed. That said, meeting the demands of that budget (roughly \$97,000) is an ongoing challenge, not only to meet, but for some, to understand.

In response to requests we've received, below is a breakdown of first, our expenses, and second, how funds are distributed.

If you have questions, the wardens and treasurer are ready!

Stewardship is our response to the mission of God.



announcements, updates, events

PLANT SALE. Saturday, May 15 at Ashton United Church.

VESEY'S BULB & SEEDS SPRING PROGRAM CATALOGUES are available at the church. Money raised goes towards the Plant Sale.

HOT TURKEY SUPPER, May 25 5:00, one sitting, \$15. Tickets call Ruth Jones 838-5404 or Marion Jones 838-5405.

ST. LUKE'S TABLE (a ministry to the precariously housed) is in need of coffee mug donations. Drop them to church and we will deliver them.

West Ottawa Ladies Chorus presents A Tapestry of Folk Music 7 pm April 27 at St. Paul's Kanata. More info: www.westottawaladieschorus.ca

GROCERY GIFT CARDS for Loblaws/Your Independent Grocer, Farm Boy and Metro/Food Basics are available from Lois. Please support this CCA fund-raising effort.

GOD HAS GOT YOU COVERED SHOPPE. Please leave clean, mended Spring / Summer items (clearly marked) at the hall's back door, or bring when the Shoppe is open (April 27 10am-4pm).

COMMUNITY GATHERING PLACE @ Ashton United Church every Tues. 8-12. Free Will Offering.

Mother's Day Spring Fling, Thursday May 9th 7 to 9 pm. St. Paul's, Kanata, invite your Mother, Sisters, Friends and Neighbours to share an evening of fashion, refreshments & sweets. Door prizes include a Sunday brunch for 2 at Next Restaurant. Advanced tickets are required and can be purchased from Sandra Small 613-836-1891, Marilyn Holden-Pritchard 613-836-5308 or the church office.

We worship
every Sunday
at 9:30 a.m.
We cannot
wait to
welcome you.

Fundraiser for
Christ Church, Ashton

8948 Flewellyn Road, Ashton

Sunday June 9, 2018 - 2 PM

with live Gospel Music performed by the

GospelMattersBand



Coffee, tea & squares will be served after the concert

Price \$15

Tickets available by calling Gerd Lohmann at 613-838-9967