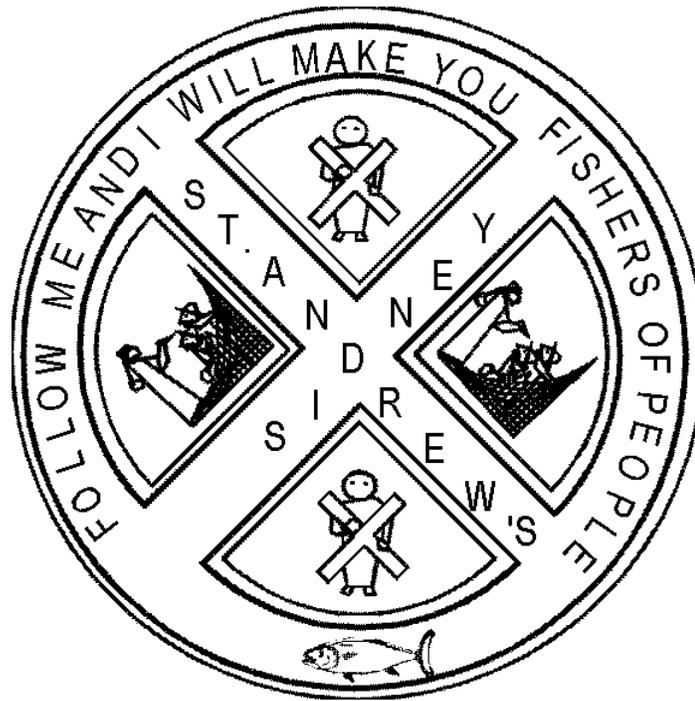


St. Andrew's Anglican Church



***Parish of Sidney
Annual General Meeting
January 31, 2016
9:30 a.m.***

Reports of Parish Ministries 2015

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ABBAYFIELD HOUSE – St. Andrew’s

In 1956, a unique concept for retirement living originated in England to foster safe housing for independent older persons who are seeking companionship within a caring affordable environment. Currently there are over 700 Abbeyfield houses located in 14 countries around the world.

In 1987, St Andrews Abbeyfield was the first house established in Canada. Like all Abbeyfield houses it is a non-profit organization, managed by a volunteer Board of Directors. It is truly a home within a home. Each of 9 rooms has a door to the garden which can be accessed by visitors, 2 piece en-suite, phone, cable and wi-fi available and is furnished with the resident’s own furniture and decor. Lunch and dinner is provided at set times and breakfast is buffet style at the resident’s convenience. The common rooms for bathing, dining

and socializing are comfortable and well appointed. The gardens are attractive and well maintained and there is parking available for cars and scooters.

We have been fortunate this year to see our rooms fully occupied. Change of residents has occurred as some became less able to look after themselves but their places were taken fairly quickly from a short waiting list.

Sister Mary Joseph after many years of devoted service as House Mother retired in the Spring and the position was taken by Jenni Toth who had been the assistant for 3 years. Jenni and her husband Ryan and two sons moved into the upstairs suite during the summer and the residents were pleased with the continued caring attention and good food.

If any Parishioners know of people who might be interested in becoming residents, staff or in sitting on the Board please let us know so we can continue to provide this valuable service to our community.

Respectfully Submitted, Terry Melville
for the Board of Directors

ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY PROGRAM 2015

In 2015 there were 16 active volunteers to deliver the Altar Flowers each week, usually to 2 members of our parish family. These members could be shut in, ill, bereaved or had a special birthday or anniversary. The flowers are always very much appreciated by the recipients. If anyone would like to be involved in this ministry, please contact Sally Brand at 250-656-2947.



Respectfully submitted, Sally Brand

ALTAR GUILD

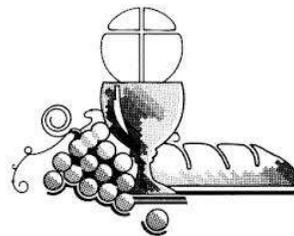
The Altar Guild membership for 2015 totalled 24, with average attendance at meetings being 11 members. Two current members of the Guild died – Bev Conkin in March, and Betty Carter in August, also a former long time member, Ivy Jarvis.

Meetings were held in February, March, May, September and November under Ruth Moffoot's continuing leadership as President.

Respectfully submitted, Hella Irvine

The Altar Guild provided support for the smooth running of worship services at St. Andrew's, as well as arranging and decorating for the special Festivals – Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving, and memorial and funeral services.

The Guild is grateful to the members for carrying out their various duties and to all who donate flowers and vegetables for special services. New members would be very welcome.



BANNER MINISTRY

The Banner Ministry is responsible for changing the banners hanging in the church every couple of months and there is always a seasonal banner hanging to the right of the door in the middle of the church. We have acquired the banners from different sources which included a request some years ago for the different ministries to make a banner. They are stored in a cupboard next to the men's washroom. It was a great shock, when in March my banner partner, Bev Conkin, died very suddenly.

Respectfully submitted, Judith Bradshaw

BOOK ROOM

2015 was a good year for the Book Room.

The majority of our money comes from Wednesday's Neighbours Soup Lunch.

On Wednesday I bring out a selection of books from the Book Room and display them on a card table during the lunch.

After lunch I take them back to the Book Room, shelf them and pull new books to display the next Wednesday. This seems to work quite well.

The money collected this year has been

used in the following way:

1. Purchased 23 BAS books for the church
2. Purchased a computer program update for the church computer
3. Money was given to the Sunday School to enhance their program
4. A few small items were purchased for the hall kitchen

A big thank you to Juan for setting up the card table for me.

Respectfully submitted, Betty Holland

BURSARY COMMITTEE

The Keith Tucker Memorial Bursary Fund awards were awarded to the following recipients:

Ms. Amy Blandford
Ms. Jacqueline Gaby

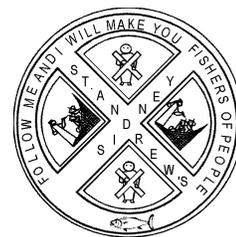
The John and Margaret Twining Memorial Bursary Fund awards for 2015 were awarded to the following recipients:

Ms. Gail Roger
Mr. Scott Hoadley
Ms. Georgina Stevens
Ms. Nicola Hestnes

The Twining Bursary Fund was also able to award a discretionary grant to Ms. Jacqueline Gaby, for mission work.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Bergink, on behalf of the Committee,

Ruth Moffoot
Thirell Trottier
Scott Hoadley
Sandra Bergink



COMFORT MINISTRY

The Comfort Ministry provided refreshments on ten occasions following memorial/funeral services, allowing family and friends time to meet and comfort each other.

The team is very grateful for the help and donations of food, and have tried to involve as many people as possible to ease the load on more willing helpers.

If anyone would like to volunteer their time and service to the Comfort Ministry, the team would be delighted to hear from you.



Respectfully submitted, Audrey Waugh
Ruth Moffoot

ENVELOPE SECRETARY

Once again the statistics are not good news, while I have issued 7 new envelope numbers this year, we have lost 11 regular contributors over the last year. I would like to thank all of those parishioners who have increased their giving to help maintain our contribution levels.

New parishioners wishing to join the church can find an information pamphlet in the narthex. Please complete the form and return it to the Sidesperson or to the Office. This will give you the option to receive our Weekly E-news and the option of receiving an envelope number. Use of the envelope system allows you to give to the church and receive a yearly tax receipt for charitable donations.

I encourage members to think about monthly direct deposits. The steady flow of giving helps Parish Council to budget our resources. If you wish to sign on for direct deposits, there are forms in the narthex or you can contact the office or me.

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Howland
Envelope Secretary

GRANDMOTHERS TO GRANDMOTHERS

Report

Chair: Elsie Widdowson	Treasurer: Ruth Howland	Recorder: Elsie Widdowson
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Item	
2014 Activities	
1. Annual General Meeting	The Annual General Meeting of the St. Andrew's Grandmother's group was held in January.
2. Spring Tea and Fashion Show	The Spring Bonnet Tea and fashion show was held again this year. Once again Suzanne's provided the ladies clothing for the Fashion Show and the models were from the Grandmothers group. Again this year men's clothing from Bremner's and male models from St. Andrew's was very well received. There was also children's clothing from Bubba Loo's with 3 models from St. Andrew's. Approximately 90 people attended the tea.
3. Bridge Afternoon	A bridge afternoon was held again this year. The function was well attended; there were 20 tables of bridge players.
5. Sale of Other Peoples Treasures	Sale of Other Peoples Treasures was held in October.
4. Bike Ride	The Victoria Grandmothers group held their bike ride from Campbell River to Victoria again this year. The St. Andrews Grandmothers provided help and food for the rider's lunch at Centennial Park and attended the rally to welcome the riders at the legislature.
6. Thank You	Many thanks from the Grandmother's to the parish of St. Andrew's for their continued support.

HOLY TRINITY CEMETARY
REPORT

Sexton's Report for the year ending December 31, 2015

Holy Trinity Cemetery Board
Parishes of Holy Trinity(North Saanich) and St. Andrew (Sidney)

Interments (ashes): 25

Deceased 2015

**Pamela G Bellamy
William Andre Falk
Herta Elizabeth Stricker
Phyllis Mary Murison
Elizabeth M Macintosh
Dorothy Joan Axford
Dorothy Lorraine Martman
Julia Eleanor S Stenner Epps
Richard J G Sparke
Robert Neil Martman
Mary Elizabeth Jarvis
Enid May Matthews
John (Jack) Pedlow
Stephen Istvan Csima
April Barbara Cumming
Mary Lucille Vowles**

Pre-2015 Deceased

**Robert J Bellamy
Shirley Lena Parkinson
Pamela M Stone
Madeline H Chapman
Beatrice Merle Rolph
Derek Eden Rolph
Elin Kay Bailey
Alice Finlayson Belson
Margaret Vivian German**

Plots sold in 2015: 23

Respectfully Submitted

**Jim Cumming
Sexton**

INTERIM REPORT

HOLY TRINITY CEMETERY BOARD 2015

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL
Starting Balance (January 1, 2015)	3196.47	3791.47	5288.97	6988.97	16358.97	16358.97	14129.35	14729.35	114729.35	15529.35	14189.35	15689.35	
REVENUE													
Diocese				10,000.00									10,000.00
Investment Income													0.00
Savings Interest													0.00
Sale of Plots	600.00	1,500.00	1,700.00	600.00		1,050.00	600.00		800		1,500.00		8,350.00
Donations													0.00
													0.00
													0.00
Total Revenue	600.00	1,500.00	1,700.00	10,600.00	0.00	1,050.00	600.00	0.00	800.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	18,350.00
EXPENSES													
Maintenance Labour													
Equipment				1,230.00		3,279.62				1,340.00			5,849.62
Open & Close Plots												1,850.00	0.00
Sexton													0.00
Miscellaneous	5.00	2.50											0.00
bank charges													0.00
Total Expenses	5.00	2.50	0.00	1,230.00	0.00	3,279.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,340.00	0.00	1,850.00	7,699.62
Monthly Balance	595.00	1,497.50	1,700.00	9,370.00	0.00	-2,229.62	600.00	0.00	800.00	-1,340.00	1,500.00	-1,850.00	10,650.38
Bank Balance YTD	3,791.47	5,288.97	6,988.97	16,358.97	16,358.97	14,129.35	14,729.35	14,729.35	15,529.35	14,189.35	15,689.35	13,859.35	

HOME GROUPS
Third Mile Home Group

The natural progression of the life God has given us is evident in our group. We are growing older and truly appreciate our fellowship, our prayers and our readings in preparation for the following Sunday. I must admit memory loss is raising it's ugly head and four days

is a long time. The love for God and each other is strong and we give thanks for our many blessings.

Six or seven members meet every Wednesday from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at my home.

Respectfully submitted, Shelagh Horel

MORNING GROUP

Morning Group Report 2015

Morning Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:45 am except in July and August. We have eighteen active members and often have guests at our meetings.

This year we had speakers on a variety of topics. These topics included Falling Prevention, Hearing for You, The workings of Mount Newton Centre, and Recycling. We also had two visits by the Sidney Serenaders Choir. They joined us for a Christmas sing-a-long and for our Stephen Lewis- Grannies in Africa Programme.

We enjoyed our tour of the Sidney Lion's Food Bank in May and had a lovely picnic at Ruth Moffoot's in July.

We continue to have a Bring a Book/Buy a Book at our September meeting to support our book room.

All in all another successful year!

Respectfully

Audrey Waugh

Chairperson

ST. ANDREW'S MORNING GROUP
TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Morning Group's only source of funding is from the \$5.00 annual membership fee and from donations collected in our coin jar for the Speaker's Fund. The Group was happy to be able to make the following donations during 2015:

St. Andrew's Church	\$100.00
Sidney Lions Food Bank	50.00
Mt. Newton Centre	50.00

Respectfully submitted,
Freda Voysey
Treasurer

MUSIC MINISTRY



The Choir and Praise team continue to provide leadership at the 11:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. services, under the leadership of our music director, Cameron Ashton.

The Choir is smaller in numbers but continues on. We have welcomed some new members and would love to see more.

Thanks must go to those who come out to help us for special services. It is especially nice to have our young people join us.

I end this report with special thanks to Cameron Ashton for his leadership and encouragement. We are very fortunate to have such a gifted musician and leader.

Respectfully submitted, Betty-Rose Harrington
Choir President

NEIGHBOUR'S LUNCH

This year we served 6,770 bowls of soup, bringing a grand total of 73,884 bowls of soup served since we started this Ministry. This was a tough row to hoe this year as we were short some of our regular volunteers for part of the year. What a wonderful world and wonderful family we have at St. Andrew's Anglican Church. People stepped up and kept the pace and no days were missed, except for Christmas and New Year, because of the dedicated, wonderful volunteers that were on duty each week, taking care of their neighbours.

The donations were great and we were able to keep things up to standard and even better asking for money from the church budget has yet to happen. The Peninsula Co-op kept the buns and other foods donated to our pantry. Breadstuffs in Brentwood were also great in giving us breads and buns...

The Christmas Dinner, we served 133 dinners, bringing the total to 1,683 dinners since our start-up. It went smoothly. Thrifty Foods deboned (not donated) the turkeys again this year and that helps a lot when it comes to preparing and cooking the birds.

There is still some call for take-out for those at home and we are happy to help.

Ruth Howland and Sandi De Luca are temporarily taking over coordinating this ministry and are still looking for new helpers. We are grateful and thankful for all the help that came forward and took over when Donna took much needed time off. The other volunteers have been so loyal and reliable that it makes it impossible to fail. Please, if anyone is interested to give some time to this, please com in on any Wednesday and chat about it. Let's keep this outreach; it is important to our community neighbours.

Thanks and Blessings to all our helpers and all of you who come and enjoy the fellowship at this luncheon, as it needs you in order to succeed.

Respectfully submitted, Irene Shaw (for Donna Godwin, Coordinator)

PARISH LIFE

As a parish, we try to find ways to enjoy each others company and spend some time together. This past year was a little different than other years, and some adaptations were made to help achieve our goal of having ways of being together. It started with Shrove Tuesday dinner - this year the men of the parish organized and served dinner to us all (with a little supervision from Dennis).

Meetings started after that to organize our 'Grad Dinner' being one of the most important events in our calendar year where we recognize and celebrate all (mature and youth) students and their achievements. It is also the time when we formally announce and award the bursaries. We plan and execute the menu serving favourites that have been selected by the secondary student graduates.

A Soc Hop was held in the fall, with a band called 12 o'clock Rock ~ a band formed with members of St. Stevens who put on a fine performance. We are planning another event with them. September was a time of farewells, we said goodbye to Rev. Osita and family at a Luncheon which was very well attended by all. Another farewell to Suzanne was enjoyed at our continental brunch time and we invited her back on a Sunday in November to worship with us and to have a luncheon and presentation to her.

Christmas was celebrated with an offering from the choir followed by brunch to visit and celebrate the season.

This year a new offshoot of the Parish Life was formed with the start of the 'Wine & Appies' group. I want to thank Susan and Sharon for organizing and getting it started ~ it is another way to visit and share with each other.

The monthly continental brunch continues to grow in both numbers attending and food to share, thank you all. This has been a successful way to incorporate visiting with members who attend the different services.

My thanks go to Glenda, David & Thirell, Donna, Irene, Marilyn, Susan, Sandra, Judy, Tom & Sharon, Betty, Michael, and my dear husband Dennis, for all your help throughout the year. A BIG thank you to Marguerite who has overseen the continental brunch set up all year ~ you have made it a success, thank you for all you do. And I would be remiss if I did not thank Lois, my not-so-behind-the-scenes co-chair, thank you Lois.

Dennis is looking forward to cooking pancakes for Shrove Tuesday on Feb 9 and on Feb 12 we have a 'pot luck' with entertainment from the 12 o'clock Rock band.

Respectfully submitted, Janice Varga

PASTORAL CARE

"Call on Me and I will answer you, and will tell you great things that you have not known" (Jeremiah 33:3). Call and I will answer says the Lord.

If you need help who do you go to? Who really cares about you? Did you know that St . Andrew's has a Pastoral Care Team? You may be one of those who weekly go to Church on Sunday seeking to be touched by God and trusting that you are in the right place. Last year's Pastoral Report mentioned that those worshipping at St Andrew's are members of a parish family and mentions brothers and sisters in Christ. Many haven't heard from their natural birth family in a while. Time passes and we haven't shared. This can hurt and be disappointing. For those blessed to have their family near, even daily, business can separate us from real relationship and sharing.

So what if you need a helping hand, a true loving sharing warm place to go or someone to call who really cares? Beyond our dedicated Interim and vestry in this transition time at St. Andrew's as we await an Incumbent Minister whom the parish family will call to be a shepherd. The Lord says call upon Me and I will answer. Yet if you are one of the hurting or someone in crisis whom the still small voice is not part of daily life for many reasons; whom do you call?



The pew bibles at St Andrew's contains the passage Jeremiah 33:3 that relates what happens beyond our call for help. The 33rd chapter in Jeremiah, Gods Word goes on to say, "I am going to bring recovery and healing" .. "I will restore" .. "I will cleanse and forgive". Then the Lord states that He fulfill His promises and cause a righteous Branch to spring up .. Jesus. In John's gospel read at St Andrew's we listen to Jesus saying "If you abide in Me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you" (John 15:7) that the Father may be glorified and that you abide in the love of Jesus. Then Jesus relates how we are part of His family.

Is it possible that there are those at St Andrew's who have heard God's call and abide in Jesus so to minister in His Name as His hands and feet in God's family and in the parish family?

Yes, St Andrew's has church family members who look daily for direction from the still small voice of the Lord and have responded to His call venturing out as members of a Pastoral Care team. This serving group has been so active in the past year in your midst. You may not even be aware of their dedicated ministry of service. They are not perfect, yet they recognize that through them the Lord touches others to the glory of God. Oh that we through Him would listen to His voice and abide in His grace. If you need ministry for you or your family, look to the Lord and in faith call St Andrew's parish family office that you would receive ministry and help. There are those who are prepared to go to your home or care facility or hospital. The Pastoral Care Team this past year has ministered under the auspices and care of The Rev. Suzanne Crerar together with a dedicated caring Pastoral Team. Each team member serves with the help of His grace with various gifts in the Lord. Those currently serving on the Pastoral Team are Betty Rose Harrington, Bidy Morrey Jones, Marge Nelson, Fran Sterne, Janice Varga, and Audrey Waugh together with the licensed Diocesan Eucharistic Ministers Stephen Hives, Wayne Hatt, David Smethurst and Fran Sterne. Each team member has their own God given gifts and area of concern. With His help, looking as unto Jesus, may there be a true sense of caring and touching for healing within our parish family. As you listen to Him, perhaps you are called to serve, ministering as unto the Lord in the capacity of a Pastoral Care Team member. With a heart that listens unto the Lord you may be enabled to minister this year in His special way to touch for healing those who are called in this parish to be His hands and feet. Consider this and offer to be part of the Pastoral Team at St Andrew's Sidney.

With Thanksgiving to the Lord
The Rev. Greg Lynn - Interim Pastoral Care Team Leader

PRECIOUS JEWELS MINISTRY



We thank God for His love, grace and sustaining strength in all that He has enabled PJM to do and be in the Philippines as well as in Uganda this past year. Thank you so much for your prayerful support and love as we reach out and walk with these precious children and their families – stars themselves, shining in the darkness! God has done great and amazing things for the children in our care! We are in awe at their growth as God touches and heals them. We are overjoyed for the beautiful ‘forever family’ God has provided for three siblings. We wait in hope for all our children to be safely nestled in loving families.

We have the joy and privilege of working with children of all ages from babies through to grandparents - everyday they help us catch glimpses of God's kingdom in our midst. Our families are

growing together; instead of AIDS destroying them, they are becoming stronger and more dependent on the Lord! And the children are blooming!

Family Days and **Treatment Partners** bring comfort and help to young parents and aging grandparents living with the challenges caused by AIDS. What a joy to see the children and youth growing as peer to peer educator/friends.

The special **Children's Days and Festivals** as well as the summer **Children's Day Camp** at a local school provided wonderful opportunities to reach out to the community – creative learning and great fun for all ages!

Our week-long **Family Summer Camp** was a great success with new families strengthened by long-term older families, helping them understand the challenges of living with HIV/AIDS and caring for affected children. Instead of AIDS destroying them, they are becoming stronger and growing in the Lord.

The **Amazing Hope Scarves** livelihood project continues. The women are growing spiritually and often provide counsel to others whose children or spouses are newly diagnosed.

Sound the Alarm! Recently PJM was interviewed by an international organization regarding children and AIDS in the Philippines. We realized we hold the whole story from “the beginnings through the struggles and with the victories” for children and AIDS. The alarming news is that the Philippines is now #1 in the world for the largest number of new infections primarily among young people ages 14-28 years old. PJM has a “platform” to speak from our years of involvement and extensive experience. We are responding to many invitations to teach in local youth groups about healthy lifestyle, values and HIV prevention.

The dramatic closure of the ECCC shook all of us; it appeared our hopes and dreams were shattered... and yet... God remained unshakeable! Busyness and bitterness were antidotes that we avoided. We leaned heavily into the Lord, enjoying times with our staff in prayer, worship and team-building. We continued reaching out and ministering to our children and families living with HIV and AIDS in their homes and at the hospital.

AngTulay to the Nations: The trainings in Uganda exceeded our expectations! The growth of the AngTulay leaders has been amazing! Joke observed a huge change from two years ago: “they have grown in confidence; the material is now a part of who they are – it is in their fiber.”

The PJM team led trainings with child-caregivers, teachers and community workers, helping them to develop new skills working with vulnerable children; adapting the AngTulay material for the communities where they live and work. We travelled far on terrible roads to northern Uganda, a mere 45 minutes from the borders of Congo and Southern Sudan. We worked closely with community leaders who are ministering in refugee camps with people displaced by civil war in Southern Sudan. We fell in love with the children - so precious!

The open doors for AngTulay throughout Uganda and East Africa can be traced back to our 2006 exploratory trip. Over the years we have encountered giants in the land, but oh, the fruit is plentiful and so sweet! We have reached a ‘tipping point’ in East Africa, so many asking “when will you train us?”

Arise - Shine: Seasons bring meaning to our life situations and help us understand changes. At PJM, we are definitely in a season of renewal and anticipation. We sense we are on the threshold of

something new. As God breathes new life into us, hope is rekindled and our vision becomes clearer. We are uncertain of many things, yet Jesus is our light, shining, and guiding and leading; calling us out of darkness and into His glorious light, then sending us out into the darkness to SHINE His Light.

Please pray that we will continue to bear the light of Jesus Christ in the hospital wards, and local communities; a flame to bring hope in the midst of darkness, for children, families, health care workers and one another.

As we look back over this past year, we thank God for the church family at St. Andrew's Sidney for your faithful prayers and financial gifts. Thank you for standing with us and praying with and for us. May God continue to bless and direct you as a parish.

With joy in serving the Lord,
Joke Bergink
Director, Precious Jewels Ministry

PROPERTY & GROUNDS 2015

All inspections and servicing was done as required. This includes the fire sprinkler system, back flow preventer, fire alarm system, smoke detectors, kitchen fire suppression system, fire extinguishers and emergency lighting. Building and hot water heating equipment is serviced in late summer to get it ready for the winter heating season. So far we have not suffered any failures.

Thanks to Scott Hoadley, for arranging the parking lot line painting, the only major project undertaken this past year. Thank you

Respectfully submitted, Len Howland
Property and Grounds

to the others who also give their time and energy to keep the flowers looking great, doing repairs, and building things.

I observe many things around our facility that are looking a little shabby and in need of paint or repair. I don't have the magic wand to make the 'To Do' list disappear and some projects are beyond our volunteers abilities. I will gladly share and discuss with you the 'To Do' list and anything else to do with maintenance.

PRIMATE'S WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND MINISTRY

PWRDF-The Invisible Outreach Arm of the Anglican Church

The Primates World Relief and Development Fund suffers from having not only a name that sounds like it supports a Jane Goodall Chimpanzee Trust, but also from having an equally bad acronym, PWRDF. It doesn't exactly roll off the tongue. Perhaps equally confusing for some people is how the Fund is supported by church members, what it is used for and its accomplishments. Finally, it might be nice to think, "What if there was more money in the Fund?"

How is it supported by church members?

- Through members specifying contributions in January to the monthly mission.
- Marking offering envelopes PWRDF any time.
- Specifically forwarding funds to PWRDF. www.pwrdf.org

What was PWRDF used for in 2015?

- PWRDF forwarded \$20,000 for Vanuatu after Cyclone Pam-March 2015.
- PWRDF forwarded \$20,000 in relief funds for Nepal after a 7.9 magnitude earthquake devastated the region between Kathmandu and Pokhara on Saturday, April 25.
- PWRDF Responding to Second Nepal Earthquake May 12
- PWRDF forwarded \$20,000 in relief funds for Syrian and other refugees seeking refuge in Europe and is responding through the [ACT Alliance](#).
- PWRDF provided on-going support to the First Nations community of Pikangikum in NW Ontario.
- PWRDF provided water supplies to 50,000 people in Tanzania.



What if we gave more?

Over \$300,000 has been donated by Anglicans in Canada, through PWRDF, to assist Syrian refugees. The amount has been matched by the Federal government and will help relieve some of the misery being experienced in refugee camps. **The deadline for the government to match funds for relief to Syrians, displaced within Syria and living as refugees in the surrounding countries, will be extended to February 29, 2016.**

Can PWRDF be more visible in our parish? If anyone has suggestions please let me know?

Respectfully submitted, Richard Taylor
Parish representative

SERVER'S GUILD

This past year it has once again been a challenge for the Servers guild, at the moment we have David Smethurst who assists with the 7.45, the gam is covered by myself, and there are no servers for the 11am, recently we have had two younger members of the congregation stepped forward to serve Brooke and IJ (Isaiah) and they are at the moment in training and eventually will take part on their own with the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services.

We are still in need of servers, adults or younger members, if you are interested please contact the parish office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jennifer Nielsen who has stood down as Head Senior server after 19 years of dedicated service to St Andrews, she has been an inspiration to me and the previous servers and I feel very fortunate to have her train and guide me in my journey with Christ.



Respectfully submitted, Carensa Stevens

SIDEPERSONS & 9:00 a.m. GREETERS

I would like to thank all the parishioners who have volunteered for this ministry. Their friendly faces can be counted on once a month to greet the congregation and provide help where it is needed during the services. A special thank you to:

**Trevor and Veronica Blake
Vern Murison**

for their years of service.

Welcome to **Don Simpson, Ruth Gunning and Tony Pearce** for joining our ministry

Respectfully submitted, Irene Shaw

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School started in fall of 2015 with about 6 children. It is a one room program with different age groups. We have two parents who help with the program every Sunday. We started off with stories from the Old Testament, followed by Advent and Christmas stories. In the fall for thanksgiving the children brought food to donate to the food bank. They learned the value of sharing with people who are less fortunate.



The Sunday School program helps the children grow in their faith and prayer. The crafts and activities included in the program helps the children understand the story better and gives them the opportunity to share it with the family.

We had about 10 children participate as angels in the Lessons and Carols on December 20th. As we entered the New Year the children are now learning stories from the New Testament. I am looking forward to planning a Children's outreach program for the community. The Sunday School is very appreciative of the support we get from the family in church.

Respectfully submitted, Marlene
Sunday School teacher

SYRIAN REFUGEE PROJECT

The year 2015 will long be known as the year that Canadians responded to the Syrian Refugee Crisis.

In September, St. Andrew's was invited to form part of church based Saanich peninsular group under the overall direction of our own Anglican diocese. Although this took a little time to come together, the diocese now has over 12 such groups all working towards the goal of accepting and helping refugee families come to Vancouver Island and other communities in the diocese, We are now "a Constituent Group" under the auspices of the Diocese of British Columbia as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder to sponsor a Refugee family or families". There are other groups in our area, both church-based and otherwise, but they are following different channels than our group, which is being called RAPID (**R**efugee **A**ction by **P**eninsula Churches **I**mm**e**D**i**ately).

Our other church partners in this group are the Parish of Central Saanich (St. Mary's and St. Stephen's); Holy Trinity; Shady Creek United; Friendship Community Church, Highway Christian Fellowship & Saanich Bible Fellowship. What that means at the moment is that one or two of us from each partner church have become the steering committee for interacting with the Diocesan Refugee Team, who in turn are working with the government. We will have met twice since formation by the time of this meeting and we have each gone through some diocesan refugee reception training and had the required criminal record checks.

Although it took a little while to get the process moving, everything has wonderfully accelerated as the partner churches have already raised the required pledge of moneys needed to proceed. Our own church has raised over \$6,000 including close to 50% from folks in the wider community who are not regular churchgoers here.

At a recent training meeting the diocese presented us with two families that were getting ready to come once a hosting group was in place. They want us to get fully prepared to take one of those families. We have chosen a family and the wheels are in motion for that family to come to us in the Saanich Peninsula. That will probably happen in February.

The family we are accepting is a family of four: mother, father, 16 year old daughter and a 12 year old son. We do not yet have names, but hope to have them by the time of the Vestry Meeting. The father is well educated so hopefully can soon seek employment. None of the four speak English so that will be an immediate challenge. A number of people in our congregation have stepped forward to offer assistance in this area.

Our biggest, most urgent challenge is to find a good home for them. If anyone knows of a home in the Sidney area where buses, shops and schools are handy, please let us know as soon as possible. There is a lead on a very short term home offering, but it is off the peninsula and well away from all of us.

There is now also in place a way of storing donations, so if you are aware of available furniture, household goods, etc., let us know.

My wife and I will be at the Vestry meeting and will probably have a significant update at that time but for those of you who receive this in the week before this meeting and are open to offering any help, please contact us at

marksmcavity@gmail.com or 778-426-4405

In time there may well be a number of families coming through this diocesan group and it is quite possible that we will be asked if we can take on another family. For this first round it is good to be working with so many others.

Submitted in Christ's name, Marks & Margaret McAvity,
(St. Andrews representatives on the Saanich Peninsula Group)

WARM CLOTHING FOR THE HOMELESS

The parishioners of St. Andrew's have been very generous in 2015. Many warm coats blankets, and sundry other items of clothing, were donated by parishioners for the Mustard Seed Outreach Program. We made 4 trips to the Mustard Seed to drop off the loads of clothing and bedding.

When we arrive, usually on a Sunday afternoon, the Mustard Seed Street Church is just getting started. It is wonderful to see and hear people from all walks of life joined together in praise and worship of Our Lord. There are many willing hands to help us unload the car and pack the goods into the Outreach office. They are so appreciative of all you give! Two days a week the clothing is arranged on tables inside and those in need, people who live on the streets or with low income, are invited to choose items that they need, free of cost.

(Matthew 25:34-36 "... Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.")



May God bless you abundantly and replenish all that you have so generously given.

Respectfully submitted, Lois Ainey