

# **Saint Mary's Anglican Church**

## **1872 — 2007**

Incumbent: The Rev. Mark Kinghan  
Honorary Assistant: The Rev. Wendy Lywood  
Deacon: The Rev. Dr. Derek Davidson  
Lay Pastoral Assistant: Karen Hatch  
Organist and Music Director: Murray Baer  
Parish Nurse: Susan Rodgers, RN  
Office Administrator: John Martin

10030 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, ON L4C 1T8  
905-884-2227 • [office@saintmaryschurch.ca](mailto:office@saintmaryschurch.ca)  
<http://saintmaryschurch.ca/>

## **Vestry Report, 2006**

**Vestry Meeting, Sunday, February 25, 2007**

### **Mission Statement**

We, the people of Saint Mary's Anglican Church, called by God and committed to Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, seek to live and make known, in word and action, the good news of God's love in the world.

Using our gifts, we worship, proclaim, learn, serve, reach out, welcome others, and develop a caring and sharing community of believers.



# Vestry Sunday

February 25, 2007

## Agenda

1. Eucharist (beginning at 10:30 a.m.)
2. Procession to Wrixon Hall with symbols of our Faith
3. Prayers of the People
4. Luncheon
5. Appointment of Vestry Clerk
6. Reading and signing of the Declaration re: Vestry
7. Acknowledgement of the Pastoral letters from Bishop Johnson (pp. 4–5) and Bishop Elliott (p. 6)
8. Acceptance of Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of February 26, 2006 (pp. 7–12, blue)  
    “That the reading of the minutes be dispensed with, and that the minutes of the meeting of Vestry on Sunday, February 26, 2006 be adopted and confirmed.”
9. Acceptance of committee reports (pp. 13–27)  
    “That the reading of the reports to Vestry be dispensed with, and that they be accepted as presented in the written Vestry report.”
10. Prayer for St. Mary’s finances
11. Heritage Fund Presentation
12. Presentation and acceptance of churchwardens’ financial report for 2006 (cream pages, attached)
13. Presentation and acceptance of proposed budget for 2007 (yellow page, attached)
14. Prayer for the election of Parish Board
15. Incumbent’s appointments to Parish Board
16. Presentation of nominations for elections to Parish Board
17. Election of officers and committee chairs
18. Banking Resolution  
    “That the signing officers of the church accounts for the year 2006 be the following: Geoff Chandler, Kola Deru.”
19. New Business:
  - Motion re: Affordable Housing
  - Motion re: Thanks to Victorian Order of Nurse
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  -
20. Motion to Adjourn
21. Closing Prayers, Doxology, Blessing and Dismissal

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**Diocese of Toronto**  
Anglican Church of Canada

The Rt. Rev. M. George H. Elliott,  
Area Bishop of York/Simcoe

**A letter for annual Vestry meetings**

Dear Friends in Christ,

On February 3rd six years ago I was consecrated and began my ministry as your Area Bishop. I want to begin my words to you with very deep and sincere thanks for your love and support, especially over the past year. 2006 has seen some remarkable undertakings as God's Spirit moved in our midst and opened doors to all kinds of new possibilities. It is that same Spirit working in and through you, both individually and in your communities of faith, that bring me joy. Thank you for all that you offer of yourself in service to God and to your neighbour, far and near.

York-Simcoe Area Council once again used the bulk of its \$95,000 annual budget to offer Ministry Development Grants in 2006. We help supported ministries in Christ Church, Stouffville; the Parish of Coldwater Medonte; St. Paul's, Newmarket; St. Timothy's, Newmarket; and St. Mary's, Richmond Hill. St. James the Apostle, Sharon and Grace Church, Markham will use funds allocated in 2006 for the same projects in 2007. Our Area FaithWorks funds help support the Sibbald's Point Park Chaplaincy, St. Margaret's, Barrie's Summer Church Camp, and the Board of the David Busby Centre in Barrie as they went through a visioning process. Money also went to support the Youth Winter Weekend, Trinity, Barrie's mission trip, and a number of individuals who attended a variety of conferences and training events.

A major focus of Area Council has focused on Strategic Planning. In the next twenty years, Simcoe County and York Region will add well over one million people to their population numbers. That is quite a challenge for us Anglicans too. Will we have communities of hope ready and willing to welcome these newcomers into our midst? Will we have the love and sensitivity to honour and respect the varying cultural and religious traditions of our new neighbours? Will we find ways to share with others the Good News of Jesus Christ in our increasingly secular world? I believe the answers are all a yes and I look forward to sharing that future with you as it all unfolds.

As a result of this increased strategic role I am expanding the membership of Area Council by adding an additional lay member from each of our five deaneries. I am, therefore, looking for new members for Area Council. We meet four times a year, on a Thursday evening in Bradford from 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. We even give you dinner. If you are interested in further information, please speak to your Incumbent.

After some prayerful consideration, we have decided to postpone our Area Ministry Day, originally planned for March 31, until the fall. We now have our new Area website up and running, thanks to the efforts of my Admin Assistant, Jennipher Kean. The address is <http://www.york-simcoe.org/>. Check it out for details about the Ministry Day and other Area information.

The year has not been without some sorrow and pain. St. Gabriel's, Richmond Hill was closed and deconsecrated on December 31. The parishes of Tecumseth and Beeton & Tottenham are moving through a process towards amalgamation in Tottenham. We bade farewell to a number of faithful servants, including Bishop George Snell, the Rev. Canon David Kaye and Lorraine Kaye. Many of you will know that my mother, Phyllis, died on December 26. Please know that your prayers for the family of all of these folk have made a difference. Thank you!

I pray that you and all those with whom you share ministry in your congregation and parish will continue to be empowered by God's Holy Spirit. May the light of Christ lead you into the future with hope and joy as together we live into the promises God has made to us and to all of humankind.

Yours faithfully,  
+George

## Incumbent's Report

As I begin my reflections, I am keenly aware of recent deaths in our parish community and how that affects our life together. We will miss those who have died and the place they have held here at St. Mary's. Yet, even as we grieve our loss, with hope and trust we commend them to God's care and keeping, ever conscious of God's promise to us through our resurrection faith. May they rest in eternal peace where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing but life everlasting.

Two thousand six has been a year of challenge and of realizing how important our sense of community is. Although we have experienced difficult moments in relationships together, I have sensed a real renewal and revitalizing of our connectedness with one another and with God's Spirit who is ever with us to guide and direct. I look forward with anticipation to a spirit which is growing and becoming more alive here at St. Mary's. I have felt, and continue to feel that we have tremendous potential and opportunity to build on where we are now and what we have been blessed with by those who have gone before us. I feel privileged to be called by God to be in this place at this time. Together by God's grace, and with His wisdom and discerning Spirit, He will accomplish in us more than we can ask of him and far more than we can ever imagine. Thanks be to God for that!

Last year, I encouraged us to highlight two priorities in particular: spiritual formation and community building. For spiritual formation, I challenged each of us in 2006 to enter into at least one opportunity to develop and grow in our individual spirituality, faith formation and relationship with God. I don't want to even attempt to evaluate how we have done at this. I believe that that is up to us as individuals; only you can answer for yourself, and I for myself. My own personal spiritual discipline goes with the natural ebbs and flows that we all face. I try to offer daily prayers as I have committed myself to do. In particular I have found that noon day prayers work better for me than morning devotions. It helps when we as a ministry team take the opportunity to pray together providing some accountability to one another. I have also entered into the probationary period as a discerning associate with the Sisters of St. John the Divine. Through the convent I have a spiritual director with whom I meet regularly to discuss spiritual issues, questions and concerns I may be dealing with and going through in my own life, vocation and ministry. I value and look forward to these times with Sister Anitra. As well, I enjoy the opportunity to preside at the Eucharist once a month at the convent. In addition I have committed myself to attend the Eucharist on major feast days in the church year. I am also meeting regularly with three others from St. Mary's who are also discerning associates. Together we support, challenge and uphold one another on this journey. I am more and more aware that my

own spiritual discipline and practice is integral to my ministry as a parish priest. I commit myself to continue developing personally in my faith and spirituality. Again this year, I would invite and challenge each of you to do the same. Take advantage of at least one opportunity to grow in your faith and relationship with God. We all need that in our lives in this world with all the challenges and stress we feel placed upon us. I can assure you out of my own experience that a healthy spirit within us does help in our day to day living and relationships with others around us.

For those who might be interested, I am working with John Martin on setting up an on-line sermon discussion group. Because I'm not technologically advanced enough to know how to do this, I appreciate his suggestions in helping me implement this. The format it will take will be some kind of sermon outline on the Internet after Sunday with an opportunity for those so inclined to discuss the content and how it strikes them individually in their own lives and faith journeys. If you are interested, watch for more details and sign on. This will hopefully be one more way, using the technology of our time, for you to work at your spiritual and faith formation.

A second priority I named was community development. I recognize and value that we have quite a spirit of community which, although it sometimes is compromised, is always here. Although we may not always agree, at our core, there is a unity of spirit and purpose in who we are called to be and what we are called to do. We need to continually seek ways to build up our sense of community and what God can and does accomplish through us and our work together.

A year ago I announced that Helen Evens would be sending greeting cards on behalf of St. Mary's to individuals in need of a cheery note from their parish family. This seems like a simple thing to do, but I have found the effects to be very gratifying as people appreciate the contact that was made in a time of need. We will be continuing this. If you know of anyone who can use a card due to illness, bereavement or anything else that is causing stress, please contact the church office and we will be sure that an appropriate note is sent on behalf of the parish. In addition, if you were inadvertently missed over the past year, we apologize for the oversight.

For over a year, we have been actively involved in our prayer shawl ministry. We have a number of people involved in this ministry, and have blessed many shawls. These have in turn been passed on to individuals who were in need of knowing they are thought of, cared about and prayed for. The warmth of this ministry has been obvious in the reactions of those who have received a shawl. In addition, those who have made them are also blessed. Thank you to all who have used their talent and ability to knit shawls. If you know of anyone who could use one, please speak to Susan Rodgers our parish nurse. Also, if

you would be interested in learning more about this ministry speak to Susan.

For a number of months we have been including in our bulletins a thank you corner acknowledging one of the many ministries of St. Mary's with gratitude for the work that they do. In addition, a note is sent to each individual involved in that ministry. I have been astounded at how appreciative people are when they are thanked and the work they do is recognized. We all need to be thanked. We will be continuing this practice as a means of not only thanking people, but also of building up our sense of community.

Social events which allow us to share fellowship and fun are an integral part of any parish community. One such exciting activity in the past year was the 2nd annual Steak-In. This year the event also included a silent auction. Thank you to all who were involved in planning, organizing and working at this event. A few people have volunteered to work on a spaghetti supper. Although this hasn't gotten off the ground as anticipated before Lent, we will bring that group together soon and plan for something for the near future. Socializing together, especially over a meal of some kind, is a wonderful way to build community spirit. It would be good to have other opportunities to do so. The challenge is in finding enough volunteer help to make these kinds of gatherings possible. Some churches offer a light brunch after church every couple of months. Others offer theme dinners. What can we do here at St. Mary's? If you have an idea, raise it, and find others who will work with you on it. The more people involved in helping, the easier it is for everyone, and the more enjoyable it is as we get to know one another better in a relaxed environment. What better way to build community and grow in our spirit together.

Last year we passed a motion at vestry acknowledging the importance of our health and wellness ministry here at St. Mary's. As I expect you know, the position of parish nurse at St. Mary's is funded by the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) as a community project. We are extremely grateful for the partnership which has developed over the past couple of years. Part way through 2006 there was concern that the funding for this position might be in jeopardy. We were pleased to learn that that was not the case and that the value of the relationship was affirmed by VON themselves. One thing I learned out of that experience is that we can't and shouldn't take this position and relationship with VON for granted. The time could well come when funds might not be available. Susan's presence and ministry has become integral to the team. She has built up significant relationships with individuals and reminds us of the gospel ministry we feel called to surrounding health and wellness issues. I would ask you to vote in favor of a motion presented this morning as part of vestry acknowledging our appreciation to VON for their part in this ministry and for the partnership arrangement we have established.

With the assistance of a ministry development grant from the Diocese, we have been blessed with the position of lay pastoral assistant as part of our ministry team. I'm grateful to Dan Graves who held this position until June 2006 and to Karen Hatch who has been in the position from September to the present. Both Dan and Karen contribute from the richness of their experience by taking on responsibility in various areas of our parish life. They have built significant pastoral relationships which have been meaningful and inspirational for those involved. As well they have taken on liturgical roles and leadership in worship. Karen's report is included in this vestry package. Near the end of 2007 we will apply for the final year of our grant. We need to be aware that the amount we request will be significantly decreased for 2008.

Two thousand six was the year that St. Mary's entered into the Natural Church Development (NCD) program to discern the potential barriers to growth we might be experiencing. This is an evaluation tool recommended by the Diocese and has been used world-wide in various size congregations in a variety of denominations. A report is provided in this package by the NCD working group. We received good feedback throughout the process and are now at the implementation stage. As we work on the initial areas identified, we will eventually prepare to hold another survey in either the spring or fall of 2007. It is expected that this will become a regular part of our life together as we discern the direction of ministry God is calling us into. Thank you to those who have overseen this process at St. Mary's, and in particular to Bill Benson our Diocesan coach.

Finally in 2006 we have seen a remarkable turn around in our financial situation. We entered the year with a large accumulated deficit which we anticipated would take a few years to clear. We were prepared to do so. What we saw this year is an increase in offerings and a towing of the line, and in fact a decrease in expenses. The end result is an accumulated deficit of just over \$6000. I commend each of you for responding as best you could, and our wardens for watching expenditures. Together we have ended the year with a much more positive statement than expected. For that we offer thanks! However, we still do carry forward a deficit at the beginning of our year. As the financial presentation and budget will outline, we can not rest on our laurels. In addition to wiping out the existing accumulated deficit, we have budgeted for a reserve fund to be used as necessary for expenses that we may not be able to anticipate at this moment. One area where this could easily be applied is in increasing our ministry team through the eventual hiring of more ordained staff in the form of an assistant curate or associate priest. We aren't ready to do so yet, but I look forward to beginning that process in 2008.

As I focus on the year ahead of us, I am first drawn to the overarching mandate of the diocese to "build communities of hope

and compassion through healthy, sustainable parish ministries." I truly believe that we are underway here at St. Mary's in doing our part to contribute to this overall goal of the diocese. We are already a community of hope as we deal with the challenges we find ourselves facing. We haven't run away from them out of anxiety or despair, but have intentionally faced them head on with integrity and faithfulness.

As I have already talked about earlier in my report, I believe that we are compassionate in our relationships with one another, and also with the community around us. We genuinely care about each other and about those who come to us in need of assistance. Yet there have been times when we have not always felt in the best of health in our life together. However, over the past few months, I have sensed an undercurrent of change; a sense that we have turned a corner. Members of the congregation have also expressed this sense of an increased positive atmosphere to me. There has been some discerning of our issues, and through honest reflection and communication, I believe we are becoming a healthier community.

As well as being healthy, the diocese is also mandating that parishes be sustainable. I believe that in order to do this, we need to first acknowledge our dependence on God. We can't be all that we are called to be under our own steam! In addition, our increased unity of spirit with one another, and our increasing financial health are solid foundations on which to build sustainability. We are headed in the right direction. We need to continue to keep this diocesan mandate in front of us as we move forward into 2007. Let's continue building our ministry as a community of hope and compassion that is healthy and sustainable.

In parish ministry an incumbent is called upon to do many things including administration, visioning, problem solving, conflict management and the list could go on. All of these are necessary and important parts of the incumbent's job description. However, I have come to realize that although I am called to wear many hats in my leadership role here at St. Mary's, first and foremost the foundation of my ministry needs to be centered on being a priest. Being a priest is not just a job, it's a vocation. That is what God has called me to be, and likewise that is what the bishop has licensed me to do in this place. I need to be grounded in the essential essence of what my ministry is about — to be your pastor, spiritual leader, and teacher. By first remaining faithful to my calling as a priest, I believe I will be better equipped to fulfill the other duties that are mine as the incumbent in this place. Having served in this parish for five years now, I re-commit myself as your priest, pastor and teacher. I pray each day that as God has given me the desire to exercise this ministry here, he may also give me the grace to accomplish it to His honor and glory as I seek and strive to do His will.

Over the past few months I have had the privilege of intentionally meeting with some of you over coffee, lunch or simply sitting in the Narthex as you wait for an appointment or meeting to begin. In those conversations I have been asking you to reflect on three questions: (1) in your time at St. Mary's, what was the high point, the glory days? (2) In your time at St. Mary's, what was the low point, the painful days? And in each of those, what was it that caused the particular memory to be a high or low point. And (3) what do you hope for the future of St. Mary's? Although there has been some overlap, the responses I have received have been as varied as the individuals I have talked to. What I have found most interesting is that some may describe the same memory or incident, only for one it may have been a high point and for another a low point. We all remember the past through the lens of our own individual experiences and how those experiences made us feel. I will be continuing to enter into these conversations, both spontaneously as occasions arise, and through scheduled visits. What is paramount for me is that I am doing this not only with those in high profile leadership positions, but most importantly with the average parishioner who is here week after week, faithfully supporting the work of St. Mary's. I look forward to continuing to hear your experiences of the history of this place and how you feel it has impacted our life together and your own formation as an individual.

Our past very much influences who we are in the present, and definitely impacts on where we go in the future and how we get there. This is true for both individuals and communities. Sometimes the very things that are holding us back are buried in our past, often unrecognized and unresolved. I am proposing that near the end of 2007 we intentionally enter into a day of reflection on the past through a history taking exercise that names all the highlights of our history, both positive and negative. We need to celebrate the joys and accomplishments and grieve the pain and losses too. I believe that if each of us ventures into this process with trust and faith, it can be a cleansing and healing experience. In so doing, this experience will help us to move even further forward and assist us in reaching our full potential as a community of faith.

One of the difficulties that we experience, along with many non profit organizations, is an increasing lack of volunteers to do the work that needs to be done. A parish the size of St. Mary's needs the support of individuals to allow our programs and ministries to keep going. We see this in our Sunday school program, on our various committees, in finding key leaders such as wardens, individuals to assist in the upkeep and maintenance of our property, to work in our gardens and to work with our youth ministry to name but a few. Because of this decrease in volunteerism we have often had no choice but to enter into maintenance ministries rather than programs that would promote growth. Some of you indicated areas you might consider

volunteering in through our stewardship program last fall. We thank you for that! We all need to think about the gifts God has given to us and how we might be able to use them in our shared life here at St. Mary's. Stewardship is about dollars and cents, but it is equally about time and talents. There are many ways to become active and involved. I hope that you will each consider and pray about how you might be able to offer your support to uphold the ministries that are so vital in this place. God can accomplish so much more with a collective than through a few. Thank you in advance for the activities you will undertake.

We have much to be thankful for in reflecting on 2006 and in looking ahead to 2007. I appreciate each person who is a part of St. Mary's and all you are able to do in support of the work and ministry here. There are many hidden tasks that get done in the background with little fanfare and not a great deal of recognition. You know who you are, and what you do. On behalf of the parish as a whole, thank you.

Although I don't usually centre out individuals and the work they do, I feel particularly compelled this year to thank Geoff Chandler, Don Halliday, and Charlie Mills. They have formed our property committee for the past year. St. Mary's has a large physical plant that requires a great deal of attention just to maintain. Where more hands would have been most helpful and appreciated, these three individuals have worked on their own. I commend them for what they have been able to do with a committee that is short on volunteer support and yet is so vital to the workings of this place. We appreciate all you have done. If you feel so called, I invite you to become involved in this is a particular area of ministry. I would consider this to be a high priority need. Speak to Geoff for more information.

Thank you to the ministry team here at St. Mary's: John, Karen, Susan, Murray, Derek and Wendy. Each of you brings talents and abilities which augment and support the other members of the team. It is truly a blessing for me to work with such fine and faithful individuals. Your commitment to the work you do here is most appreciated. For those of you in staff positions, I know this is more than a job for you; it is also your calling and vocation. In the fall, we worked together to on a staff mission statement. It reads:

We, as part of the community of St. Mary's, are called at the present time to provide leadership and support by offering our diverse gifts and experience as discerned through prayer and reflection. As a mutually supportive team, we nurture the spiritual well-being and growth of the whole community of St.

Mary's, the wider church, and the community that surrounds us through worship, teaching, pastoral care, and outreach.

Enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit, we look forward to continuing this work together.

Finally, thank you to our wardens: Judy McAdam, Geoff Chan-

dlar and Kola Deru. I have appreciated your counsel and advice as well as the commitment you have given to your leadership roles here at St. Mary's. You too have been working short handed, with a full complement being four wardens. You are to be commended for your thoroughness as you have overseen the finances and all that goes on here. You have given tirelessly of yourself in a position that often is undervalued and easily criticized. I am pleased that both Geoff and Kola have agreed to remain on as appointed wardens for the coming year. We have instituted a three year term of office for this position to avoid the burnout we have been experiencing in wardens who have recently retired. We need to remain conscious of the responsibility these individuals take on as wardens and give them any support we are able to offer.

Thank you especially to Judy McAdam who is completing her term as warden. Judy, these have not been easy times to be a warden given the challenges we have faced and the decisions we have had to make and implement. Thank you for all of your contributions. Your critical thinking and legal expertise have been most helpful. I know you are looking forward to a much deserved rest from your responsibilities as a Warden at St. Mary's. I hope that in time, when a position is available that interests you, that you will again offer your gifts and talents.

In closing, I offer two prayers suggesting that we each use them regularly in our individual times of devotion and prayer. They are in the service found in the BAS for the thanksgiving of a parish. As we pray more and more for our shared life here at St. Mary's, we will know more and more the presence of God's Spirit in our midst, and be empowered to grow in our faith, our relationships with God and with one another and ultimately in the ministry we share together here.

Almighty God, watchful and caring, our source and our end, all that we are and all that we have are yours. Accept us now, as we give thanks for this place where we have come to praise your name, to ask for forgiveness, to know your healing power, to hear your word, and to be nourished by the body and blood of your Son. Be present always to guide and to judge, to illumine and to bless your people. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, from living and chosen stones you prepare an everlasting dwelling place for your majesty. Grant that in the power of the Holy Spirit those who serve you here may always be kept within your presence. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. Amen.

*Mark Kinghan, Incumbent*

## Wardens' Report

Two thousand six at St. Mary's was a year of rebuilding and reassessing priorities. After a very difficult year financially in 2005, we experienced a significant turn around in 2006. St. Mary's opened the year with a large accumulated deficit of close to \$61,000, but the staffing and administrative cuts made in 2005 paid off and not only did we balance the budget in 2006, but the Parish was able to pay down a substantial portion of the deficit ending the year with a deficit of less than \$10,000.00. It is great to be able to report such a positive piece of financial news. Thank you to everyone who supported St. Mary's over the past year.

We were successful in our application for a Ministry Grant to help fund a part-time Lay Assistant position. This position was ably filled, first by Dan Graves for the first six months of the year and then by Karen Hatch. We have indeed been blessed to have had two such capable and talented lay assistants.

The Victorian Order of Nurses has been pleased with the success of the Parish Nursing program at St. Mary's and so has agreed to continue funding Susan Rodger's position. Again we are blessed by the gifts that she has and continues to bring to this position.

In the spirit of rebuilding and reassessing, St. Mary's has embarked on the Natural Church Development (NCD) programme. A survey was conducted to determine both the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the parish. The strengths are now being leveraged to improve those areas in which we are perceived to be weak. Thank you to the NCD Committee for guiding us through this process.

This fall the Stewardship committee hosted the second annual Steak-in. Once again it was a great success. A fun and delicious evening was had by all ages. Thank you to all of the members of the Stewardship committee and the many subcommittees who made the event the great success that it was.

These are just a few of the events that made up a very busy year. Many other events such as the Bazaar, Over 50s events, the parish picnic, bible study sessions and youth events took place and will be reported on elsewhere in these pages. It was a very good year.

I would like to thank all of the other wardens with whom I have worked over the last couple of years, Lyle Mills, Bob Williams, Diane Robertson and Alison Huber and most recently Geoff Chandler and Kola Deru — it has been good working with you.

The future at St. Mary's is looking good; it is time to move forward and to build on the much stronger foundation that has been laid this past year.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the wardens

*Judy McAdam*

## Deacon's Report

There have been no overseas medical volunteer trips this past year nor trips to the medically underserved North, for a number of reasons. However it is hoped that we will go overseas this year, possibly Peru, Honduras or India, with an organization called Medical Ministries International. This is a very efficiently run Christian organization which arranges to send medical/nursing personnel for short periods all over the world, including Africa, China and Armenia. I have been on a number of missions with this organization and they have been invariably enjoyable and educational.

I have been asked to mentor a diaconal discernment committee in a downtown church, situated in a very poor area of the city. There is a crying need in this part of the city for diaconal ministry. I hope and pray that I will be able to contribute to their discernment process. I have recently read an article in the newsletter of the North American Association of Deacons entitled *Why Deacons?* The author quotes the Archbishop of Recife in Brazil who stated "When I reach out to the poor, I am called a saint, but when I ask why they are poor, I am called a communist." The archbishop is identifying a strong bias in all countries against acknowledging the presence of poverty among us and an even greater bias against about thinking about the causes of poverty. The tendency is to label the poor lazy or weak of will. All thinking people recognize that the causes of poverty are far more complex. Deacons exist to identify and help the poor and forgotten, the sick and the helpless, to analyze and point to solutions, and to engage the church in responding to the needs of the poor and sick and marginalized, not only in our diocese and our country, but also in all the world. I pray that I remain healthy enough in the coming years to be part of this diaconal endeavour for a long time. God bless.

*Derek Davidson*

## Lay Pastoral Assistant

I began as the Lay Pastoral Assistant in September 2006 and I have learned a great deal in this capacity. As the Lay Pastoral Assistant, I officiate and/or assist at the monthly York Central Hospital services and every other month at Brookside and Hilltop. I have enjoyed worshipping with the individuals in these communities and getting to know each of them. These services also give me an opportunity to preach extemporaneously or with point form notes (something I am not yet doing at St. Mary's).

Youth ministry is a part of my Lay Pastoral Assistant "duties" and so I continue to co-lead Dinner and Devotions with the youth in the parish and although the group is small, we continue to enjoy making dinner and eating together, watching a

show (usually a Joan of Arcadia episode) and talking about the theme of the show and how it may be relevant in our own lives. I also continue to oversee the serving ministry which was discussed in a different report.

I had the pleasure of leading two baptismal classes: one in November which was held over two nights and one in January which took place one Saturday morning. The November classes were small and I prepared two families for the baptism being held in December. The January class was much larger, preparing seven families for their journey. It's a real honour to be a part of their journeys and to see how God is working in their lives.

In December, I had the opportunity to lead one of the Advent services in which we observed compline with anointing. These candlelit services have quite quickly become one of my favourite services because they are a wonderful opportunity to spend some quiet time with God, away from the busy-ness of the season and I have to say that Matt Baer's piano playing adds so much to the service that whenever he plays I feel like my soul is lifted to Heaven. Thank you Matt for sharing your wonderful gift with us.

Finally, I have had the opportunity to meet with some of you personally and I will never be able to express how grateful I am for having been invited into your lives and I look forward to meeting with more of you in the months to come.

Blessings,  
*Karen Hatch*

## **Student Intern**

I began my student internship at St. Mary's in September 2006 and I have been enjoying every aspect of my ministry here. As you know, I am also the part-time Lay Pastoral Assistant but this role will be discussed in a separate report. As a student, I have been involved in our worship services, I have preached regularly, facilitated a Bible Study, led the Advent, Christmas Eve and Epiphany children's talks and attended various meetings to see how the "business side" of the church functions.

I have enjoyed the opportunities that I have been given to be involved in many aspects of our worship. It has been a privilege leading the prayers of the people, canting the psalm and preaching God's Word. I look forward to our bi-weekly Bible Study on 1 Timothy which, sadly, is quite rapidly coming to an end. I had never led a children's talk before coming to St. Mary's but I had such fun getting to know the children, wondering what they were going to say (and what my response would be) and sharing God's message of love with them. I am looking forward to the remainder of my studentship here at St. Mary's. Special thanks to Mark for challenging me and giving me incredible opportunities for growth. Part of the requirements of my studentship is to have a teaching parish commit-

tee evaluate me, support me and offer me guidance. Special thanks to: Rhelda, Rick, Wendy, Alice, David & Laurel for their encouragement and continued support.

Blessings,  
*Karen Hatch*

## **Church School**

After a very shaky start to our School year, I would like to acknowledge and thank the following volunteers who have accepted the challenge and stepped up to the plate to nourish our young people spiritually.

They are: Miriam and Folusade Deru, Iris Murphy, Jeanette Knowlton, who make up the committee with Vera Briggs (JK & SK), Ron Smit, Sandy Stockall, Chris and Tamre Deru, Brian Hatch and David Hunt doing the actual teaching, all under the guidance of the Church School Co-ordinator, Kathryn.

Our first job as a committee was to establish where and what we needed to grow the Church School. We have examined the job description and are in the process of making some changes to better the performance of the teachers. We are in the process of drafting and sending out a newsletter that will belong to the youth of St. Mary's as well as a letter to be sent to all families with young children to come and see what we are all about. As a committee along with the teachers we are preparing theme related programs that will enhance the growth of our young people spiritually. Some of these themes have been teaching of the parables, Advent, Epiphany and many other wonderful stories and crafts. The Grade 5+ have been watching great videos and having open discussions while enjoying popcorn and fellowship. We are in need of further volunteers to enhance our small teaching and committee, as well as craft supplies, ie. Film canisters; pins; pegs; google eyes and sequins just to name a few. We will be asking the congregation for donations towards this important ministry. If you feel the calling to help in any way please contact any one of the above mentioned parties.

We had a very successful Christmas pageant that everyone enjoyed. It truly was a gift from the Church school to the congregation. Thank you to Joan Chandler for supplying the costumes and helping dress our little performers along with David and Krystyna MacDonald. Thank you to Joan Connolly for taking some photos which we hope to display shortly.

As our little pageant was a great success we are looking into doing another before the end of the Church School year which will be mid June.

Finally, welcome back to the Bunker and Read families and two new families, the Gammage and Smelzner families. We currently have twelve young people registered for JK to Grade 4 and a similar number for the Grade 5+ group.

We are looking forward to a busy and prosperous year for 2006—2007 Church School year and will keep you posted on what we are up to and all the fun your children are having in learning about Jesus and their own spiritual growth.

Submitted on behalf of the Church School Committee by  
*Kathryn Knowlton*

## Care & Study Groups

St. Mary's Care and Study Groups came to an end, at least in their present form, in the Spring with the retirement of Dorothy Parker as leader. The group of about twenty people that had concluded their study of the Gospel of John met one last time in May for a pot luck lunch. The mood was of sadness mixed with gratitude for Dorothy's leadership which took Care and Study at St. Mary's to a very high level.

*Donna Elnor*

## Youth Ministries

### Hang Time

Our junior youth group has continued to meet over the past year on Wednesday nights in Wrixon hall. Our group has gotten smaller over the past year — we now have about 5 youth come out — therefore since September we began meeting every 3 weeks. A real friendship has developed among this small group and there is always lots of chatter, laughter and fun at Hang Time. The sports and games are real favourites of the youth and the two leaders, Julie Hastie and Christine Shorrocks. We always have a great time, and get a real workout! Short devotions are included in the evening and great discussions follow. Outside of our Wednesday meetings, a family bowling night was had in the spring, a year end barbeque and a Christmas party for all the youth and families. All were very successful. Our thanks to Deanna Shorrocks, who is our youth volunteer at Hang Time.

*Julie Hastie*

### TGIF!

On Fridays, and sometimes in 2006 on Fursdays, St. Mary's youth grades 8—10 have gathered for fellowship at different locations: The Putting Edge, Pizza Hut, Richmond Hill Pro Bowl, outdoors for scavenger hunts, and monthly in the home of Karen and Brian Hatch for *Dinner and Devotions*. Joint parties with Hang Time, TGIF and their parents in May and December were enjoyed by all. In all this, our youth are guided in and challenged by Christian concepts and values.

*(For) Brian Hatch and Peter Huber*

## Sidespeople

The job of the sides person is to ensure the smooth running of the worship service: to hand out bulletins, prayer books as needed; assist and direct worshippers are required; count and record number of worshippers at the service. Another job of the sidespeople is to direct those taking communion, collect the offering, sort the envelopes and other donations into bundles and clean up after the service. St. Mary's has a great group of men and women who every 7 weeks show up and make sure the service runs smoothly. We are always looking for new members, if you feel the calling to help St. Mary's in this capacity you can speak to Peter Wheeler, Mark Kinghan, or me. There are job descriptions available and generally a hands on learning.

*Kathryn Knowlton,*  
Chair of Sidespeople

## Parish Health Ministry

This is the third year of the Parish Health Ministry. Optimal health in body, mind and spirit, is our primary concern. We've attended to physical health promotion through the Physical Activity Challenge, Walkathon, and blood pressure screening. Last year and this year, we've planned some physical activities such as the Mill Pond Walk, and different videos in Wrixon Hall to encourage families and parishioners to exercise together, and to have some indoor exercise opportunities when the temperature outside is so cold. Men's Health Breakfast, Getting Your House in Order, and CPR were programs to continue with health education. Education on various topics and the possible flu pandemic has been accomplished mainly through the bulletin board, posters and handouts. Planning for a possible flu pandemic and other possible emergencies that could affect us as a parish, and community has been on-going since May. A De-stressing Workshop, November 6 and handouts near Christmas provided tools to help us cope with the added stress that tends to come with the extra activities and planning around our Christmas celebrations. Articles on Depression, Alzheimer's and other dementias, as well as mental health promotion, and notification of the community resources that are available to help with anger management, divorce, cancer diagnosis, bereavement etc all promote mental and spiritual well-being. Derek Davidson, Elizabeth Lane, Sally White and recently, Julie Hastie make up our Health Cabinet. In order to meet the needs of the parish, we need your on-going feedback and ideas. Please approach any of us, at any time.

Pastoral visiting is a primary component of promoting health in body, mind and spirit. A dedicated team, visits homes, the hospital and nursing homes, bringing communion, anointing,

and the news of St. Mary's. Jan Mills, Rhelda Stockall, Gwen Halliday, John Emmanuel, Elton Doyle and Kathryn Knowlton, make up our team. We are presently trying to increase our number of visitors, so that we have more capacity to respond to any and all referrals. Jack Walker and David Semple are preparing to join us. I also do visiting to all these places, and do assessments and referrals. Over the past year, our new Prayer shawl ministry, has been a wonderful complement to our pastoral visiting. Many thanks to all who have made and prayed over these shawls.

*Susan Rodgers,*  
Parish Nurse

## **Prayer Support Group**

We are currently a group of nine people who pray for those who are in need of prayer. They are prayed for every day by each of us. Our mandate has been to keep a person on our list for a week, but we have found some need our prayers for a longer time and have kept them on. Others have been on and off for a year.

Our list differs from the one in the Sunday bulletin. We ask for a first name only and what the prayer is for, such as, illness, loss, troubles or grieving, etc. We pray for each person and their request, then leave them in God's loving care. His answers are not our answers many times. The Prophets in the Old Testament, the disciples and even Christ did not always receive answers they wanted, but it did not stop them from praying. It is our relationship with God that is important and that we are able to bring everything to him.

We have to remember to give thanks for what God has done for us. St. Paul said to be joyful always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Submitted by  
*Barb Mann*

## **Stewardship Committee**

During 2006 the Stewardship committee focused on Commitment Sunday and the sponsorship of the second Steak-in.

This year two very successful features were added to the popular event, a 50/50 draw and a silent auction. A near sell out crowd attended the October event which celebrated life at St. Mary's. In addition to the fun and fellowship this year's event contributed approximately \$6,000 to the church's bottom line. Many thanks to all of you who helped to make the evening a great success either by serving on one of the many committees or attending.

Commitment Sunday was held on October 29, 2006. The commitment forms allow individuals to make a commitment to St. Mary's in both time and money. The financial pledges are ex-

tremely helpful to the Wardens for budgeting and planning purposes.

Looking forward to 2007 the Stewardship committee will focus on promoting all aspects of Christian stewardship likely with a particular focus on supporting the roof campaign. The committee is also looking for a few new committee members and a chair person. If you are interested in serving in either of these capacities, please speak with either Mark Kinghan or a warden.

Respectfully submitted  
*Judy McAdam*  
Stewardship Committee

## **Heritage Fund**

The founding purpose of the Heritage Fund is to:

1. perpetuate the parish of St. Mary's Anglican Church and mission in Richmond Hill and the broader community, through financial support and stewardship, and
2. assist in the repair, renovation, maintenance, and enhancement of the parish building as may be required from time to time.

Two thousand and six was a productive year for the Heritage Fund. Up to \$25,000 has been committed to match funds donated to the Chapel Restoration Committee. To date, \$10,000 has been given. The Heritage Fund has also committed \$25,000 to match funds towards the new church roof. During the spring, we will launch a Legacy Gifting Program.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Heritage Fund Committee: Rick Sulker, Maggie Veltheer, and Karl Lashley, who have generously donated their time and talents.

Thanks to all who supported the Heritage Fund during the past year and please consider it in your future personal planning.

*David Stockall*  
Heritage Fund Committee

## **Parish Life Committee**

The purpose of our committee is to help strengthen and build the community of St. Mary's through fellowship events. In 2006, our Parish Life Committee was made up of the following members: Barb Amadori, Liz Baer, Julie Hastie, Lorraine Kisch, Ruth Wilton and Linda Wightman.

Last February we prepared and served a light lunch at Vestry.

In June we organized the annual Parish Picnic. We extend a great thank you to Flavia and Ernest Redelmeier who hosted this event at their home. Although the games and races for children and adults were a fun addition to the afternoon, regrettably they put our rector out of commission for a month or so.

In October Parish Life helped the Stewardship Committee in a

small way by setting up and serving at the Steak-In.

In October our committee gave some assistance at the Bazaar by setting up for the luncheon and coordinating the servers.

Finally, in December we hosted the second annual Christmas lunch. It was well attended and everyone enjoyed the food, music and fellowship.

Margaret Baldassarre coordinates the teams of Sunday morning greeters. Thank you to Margaret and all our greeters who meet us each Sunday with a friendly smile, handshake and words of welcome.

Thank you to Dorothy Kellett and Dalene Smeets who do such a great job of organizing the Sunday morning coffee teams. They recruit parishioners to serve on the teams, set up the duty schedule and make sure that coffee supplies are on hand every week. Also, thanks to everyone who served on a coffee team during the year. Your time and commitment play an important role in the life of St. Mary's.

Your Parish Life Committee looks forward to planning or assisting with new events in 2007.

*Linda Wightman,*  
Chair

## Music at St. Mary's

2006 — Another good year for Music at St. Mary's.

This year our numbers have grown in the Senior Choir. Laurel Potter has joined us in the Alto section (although that move was probably last year as I think about it) and now Eric Potter has also joined us in the Bass section. We also recently have had Ann and Barry Shorrocks with us — which is great. Welcome back!

The choir continues to provide excellent leadership in our worship services. Thank you all very much for your continued efforts and dedication to Thursday nights and Sunday mornings. I know the commitment is significant. The congregation really appreciates your hard work and musical talents.

Special thanks to Erica Mayhew for providing wonderful solo trumpet work and accompaniment for anthems. You do a wonderful job. And your work as music "secretary" is outstanding too. Without your help, I'm sure the files would be so disorganized that we'd never find anything. I really appreciate your help.

I'd like to thank Matt Baer for providing his usual superb piano music for the Lent and Advent Wednesday evening services. I'm often told how much people appreciate what he does and what he brings to those services.

Our psalmists do a terrific job of leading us week after week on Sunday mornings in the psalms. Thank you all, and especially for the "short notice" you often get. You're all very accommodating and understanding. And thanks also to our soloists and

instrumentalists. As always, wonderful, moving and much appreciated.

In December the choir visited Brookside Retirement Home once again. It's always great to be there and to listen to the wonderful singing from the residents. We enjoy bringing some cheer into their Christmas season.

Music adds so much to our worship at St. Mary's. I'm honored to be able to be a part of this ministry. And thank you all so much for your support and wonderful comments. It means a lot to me. As I said last year, I love listening to the wonderful singing at St. Mary's from my "perch" in the loft. I'm not sure other churches can boast of such heart filled and energetic singing.

Until next year,  
*Murray Baer*

## The Ministry of Serving

In September 2005, I began working with the servers, replacing Jeff Potter who left the position in order to attend University. On November 6, I held a training session followed by lunch for all who attended (parents included).

The session concentrated on the roles of the Crucifer, the Acolytes and touched on the Communion Server position. Members were reminded that arriving at least 20 minutes before the service is important. This gives them an opportunity to meet the other service participants, in the chapel for prayer, before the service begins.

This year we have welcomed one new member into this ministry and unfortunately, yet understandably, lost two members who have decided to take a well-deserved break.

As always, new members, age ten or above, are welcome to join us in the Ministry of Serving. I hope to hold at least two training sessions each year and training is always available upon request. The next training session will concentrate on the "Communion Server" position and will be held before the summer.

It has been an absolute privilege working with the youth in this ministry. They are dedicated, intelligent individuals who genuinely care about the Ministry of Serving and each week they manage to remind me of the importance of being youthful.

Many Blessings,  
*Karen Hatch*

## Property Committee

As many of you know our Chapel was built in 1872 and the rest of our buildings date from the 1960s. The roof on the main church is now 50 years old and well past its "best before date". Buildings as old as ours require ongoing maintenance and this is the work of the Property Committee.

The committee's efforts can be split into organizational work and maintenance work. The organizational part of the committee's efforts includes scheduling maintenance on the furnaces, elevator, plumbing, electrical systems and the physical structure. The committee is also responsible for requesting quotations from outside contractors, reviewing these quotations, making recommendations to Parish Board and the Wardens, ordering the work to be done and inspecting the completed job. The maintenance part of the Property committee's work involves all types of "handyman" jobs around the church and the rectory. These jobs include everything from grounds maintenance, to building walls, repairing drywall, replacing plumbing fixtures, replacing ceiling and floor tiles, electrical work and changing light bulbs.

Over the past year the Property Committee has completed many tasks including: spring cleanup, building a wall for archives, building a shelf extension for the microwave in the kitchen, numerous repairs in the space occupied by York Professional day-care and in the space used by the VIP day-care, repairing cracks in the cement by the front entrance, paving the laneway to repair the large potholes, repairing and cleaning evestroughs, adding photocells to the outdoor light controls, repairing stair treads, replacing emergency lighting in Wrixon Hall, organizing the work to add panic bars to all of our doors, dealing with the heating system and the alarm system, installing a new phone system with voice mail, meeting with the Fire Department inspector and the health department inspectors, replacing toilets and fixing drains at the rectory and getting quotations for the new roof on the main church.

The current committee consists of Charlie Mills, Don Halliday and Geoff Chandler. Without the dedication and effort of Charlie and Don, St. Mary's would be forced to hire outside companies to do the work and we would consequently be spending a lot more money on maintenance of our buildings. Thank you to Charlie and to Don for spending many hours doing the handyman chores around the church and the rectory. Our aging buildings keep the Property Committee busy.

Our buildings account for about 41% of all the money we spend in a year and in 2006 this amounted to about \$138,000. The property committee has a large responsibility and not enough people to help share the load. Like many committees at St. Mary's, the Property Committee is in desperate need of more helpers. If you are handy with a hammer, paintbrush, plumbing wrench, trowel, rake (or any other tools for that matter) then we could use your help. If you want to learn how to work with tools and do regular maintenance jobs then you are also welcome as many hands make light work. If you don't want to "get dirty" then you can help with the organizational work of the committee. We need people to get on the phone and ask for quotations, organize contractors and deal with inspectors.

Everyone is welcome on the Property Committee, young, old, male and female. Lets all work together to make St. Mary's buildings the best they can be.

*Geoff Chandler*

## **Women of St. Mary's**

The Women of St. Mary's had a fairly good year, we had the Treasure Sale in the spring, Pot Luck Dinner, and the Bazaar in November. Last year we handed out \$7,800.00, some going to refurbish the kitchen, some towards the purchase of new small tables to replace the broken card tables. We have not solidified the plans for this year yet.

*Lorna Giles*

## **Archives Committee**

St. Mary's Archives collection continues to grow and we are grateful for all those who have donated items over the year. Perhaps the most exciting news, however, is the fact that our storage space has almost doubled as the result of some carpentry work at the top of the stairs in Wrixon Hall. We wish to thank not only Don Halliday and Charlies Mills for sharing their expertise in this area but also those who tidied or sorted, thus helping us to move items to our newly designed storage area.

In February we arranged an in-house display of banners, photographs and papers from our collection in honour of National Heritage Day. The large Girls Association "friendship quilt" drew considerable interest as parishioners sought to identify autographs of individuals who had embroidered blocks for this fund-raising project from the mid 1950s. The larger community-wide National Heritage Day events are planned every second year.

In May we were pleased to be part of the interment services for Lewis Arnold Zeller. He was the great-grandson of our benefactor, John Robert Arnold, and in compliance with his wishes and our agreement with the family the interment was finalized. Mr. Zeller was enormously proud of his Arnold connections. His daughter Betsy told me that he often brought his family to Richmond Hill and to St. Mary's to retell the history of the family's connections with early Richmond Hill. It was a pleasure to meet Mr. Zeller's family and several photographs of these Arnold Family descendants were taken by Joan Connolly for inclusion in our Archives. There has been some discussion about making an "Arnold Corner" in the area of the plots, so that we can promote interest in this unique part of our Parish's history.

I have really enjoyed working with Diane Robertson and the other members of the Chapel Restoration Committee. This is a determined, focused and hard working group! Our Committee

was especially pleased to participate in their “Spires of Richmond Hill” stationery project. A beautiful pen and ink sketch of our Chapel spire, together with those of the Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, Richmond Hill United Church and the original spire of St. Mary Immaculate Roman Catholic Church has been reproduced in this very popular fund-raising project. The sketch was drawn by Thomas Brown in the early 1960s and was incorporated into a Christmas card. A copy of this card was donated to the Archives in 2004 by Canon James O’Neil. Sales have been brisk and a second printing is now in place.

The Archives Committee and The Chapel Restoration Committee also worked closely together to celebrate Richmond Hill Heritage Day on Saturday June 10th. We chose a floral theme with arrangements and decorations by members of the Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society and our Altar Guild. Flavia Redelmeier demonstrated the art of floral arranging throughout the day and we were delighted that the well known local artist, Susan Chater, agreed to display her beautiful floral paintings. We welcomed a slow but steady stream of visitors, many of whom found our location a great place to “recharge their batteries”, away from the noise and confusion of the street. This venture is well worth the effort as it allows us to showcase our rich heritage and offer hospitality to our community. One individual mentioned that he had “walked by the Chapel a thousand times and had always wondered what it was like inside”. I was tempted to mention that we are open on Sundays!!

Finally I want to express my sincere appreciation to all who have donated items to the Archives – and there have been many. These donations have enriched our collection and I am heartened by the fact that you are remembering us in our efforts to preserve our Parish history. On a personal note I must also thank the other members of the Committee – Joan Connolly and Dave Hunt. Their ongoing support, patience and enthusiasm for this Committee have been greatly appreciated over the year.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Norman McMullen,*  
Chair

## **Chapel Restoration Committee**

The Chapel Restoration Committee has continued to promote the need for repairs to our beautiful historic chapel. We continue to receive donations from parishioners towards our fund raising, for which we are very grateful.

In the fall the committee became aware of the Town of Richmond Hill Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 for façade improvements to businesses facing Yonge Street. The Committee prepared a proposal for submission to the Town. If we are suc-

cessful, the Town will only pay out this \$10,000.00 after we have completed the improvements to the outside of the chapel. We need to raise a further \$30,000.00 plus, to take advantage of this grant money!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the committee, Ted Bunker, Lorna Giles, Jane Horrocks, Norman McMullen, Flavia Redelmeier, Rhelda Stockall and Jack Walker for their hard work and dedication to this project. When we formed this committee we realized it would be a long-term and often difficult commitment. We have come to realize that “eating the elephant” can be very tough!

Respectfully submitted  
*Diane Robertson*

## **Serving Ministry**

Our serving ministry continues to be an important ministry for those who are 10 years of age or older. Being a server can be challenging because it requires the individuals to be independent yet able to work as a team. The members of this ministry reflect these requirements beautifully. They help each other when needed and are continuing to learn (as I am) the art of “doing something with conviction” when something isn’t going smoothly. Lai Oyekanmi, Michael Fleming and Eric Kasoyaga decided to take a break from serving – thank you guys for your dedication to this ministry over the years. We welcomed two new members to the team this year: Chris McGregor and Paulina Agyeman who both served for the very first time on Christmas Eve – incredibly courageous!

Victoria Pegg continues to be the server who travels the farthest to keep her serving commitments. She arrives from England and serves at every Christmas service, returns to school and re-appears for the Holy Week and Easter services. We look forward to her safe return from England.

We held a training session in November and while the group was small, it was a dedicated group who seemed quite interested in the role of the “Deacon”! We practiced the duties associated with Crucifer, Acolyte and Communion Server, walked through the service several times and enjoyed lunch together.

It continues to be a great privilege working with the youth in this ministry. Thank you all for your commitment! If you are interested in joining the team of servers and are 10 years of age or older, please speak to me.

Blessings,  
*Karen Hatch*

## Envelope Secretary

Introduction: 2006 saw the implementation of a new piece of software for use by the Envelope Secretary. This software, ChurchReg, is more “user-friendly” than the previous software and it is also reasonably compatible with the office printer while the old software was not. The process of implementing new software gave the envelope secretary the opportunity to update the parish records and accurately ascertain which envelopes were still in use. As a result of updating the envelope records, envelope numbers were reorganized and reassigned for 2007. A choice of monthly or weekly envelopes was also made available for 2007.

### 2006 Yearly Statistics:

Regular, PAP and Open donation categories only:

Total envelopes in use:	192*
Total PAP:	43*
Total Open repeats:	17
<b>Total Active donors (2006):</b>	<b>252</b>

\* Some parishioners gave by both PAP and envelopes in 2007, but they were counted in the category in which they gave the greater amount.

Envelope numbers retired during 2006:	8
New envelope assignments during 2006:	14
Average donation/year:	\$937.49
Median donation/year:	\$571.00

See also the givings distribution table at the foot of this page.

*Alison Huber,*  
Envelope Secretary

## Counters' Report

For over a year now we have had a dedicated group of fifteen counters divided into three groups that count once every three weeks. Our Monday counting team consists of Garry Bettridge, Nancy Martin, Sally White and Elsie Coulter. Our two Sunday counting teams consist of Dave Hunt, Emma Hunt, Christine Shorrocks, Lorna Giles, Ron Smit, Margaret Baldassarre, Julie Hastie, Betty Romanchuk, Jenn Collier, Geoff Chandler and Allison Chandler. Counting usually takes about 1½ hours and is a time of work and fellowship. New counters are welcome and training is provided.

*Geoff Chandler*

## Altar Guild

Once again I would like to thank all the members of the Altar Guild who have performed their duties so diligently over the past year. It is a special ministry of service where we prepare the altar for the congregation's encounter with God.

At present, we are still able to maintain a roster of five teams but have lost two members due to illness over the past year. We are in need of new members so if you would like to be part of this ministry please contact Dorothy Parker or myself.

The candles on the altar have been repaired so they now stand straight. We have changed our supplier of altar wine as of late 2006 and an order has been placed for a dozen new purificators as these do need replacing due to wear.

### 2006 Yearly Statistics — Givings Distribution

Yearly Range	Monthly Range	Envelope donors	PAP donors	Open repeats	% of yearly total given	Notes
\$6000 and over	\$500 and over	2			5.7%	
\$5000 - \$5999	\$417 to \$499	2			4.7%	Note 1
\$4000 - \$4999	\$333 to \$416	1			1.9%	
\$3000 - \$3999	\$250 to \$332	9	1		14.0%	Note 2
\$2000 - \$2999	\$167 to \$249	11	6		17.5%	
\$1500 - \$1999	\$125 to \$166	12	4		11.7%	Note 3
\$1000 - \$1499	\$83 to \$124	25	9	1	17.1%	
\$500 - \$999	\$42 to \$82	48	13		17.1%	
\$200 - \$499	\$17 to \$41	43	7	5	8.4%	
\$5 - \$199	\$0.41 to \$16	39	3	11	1.9%	

Note 1: Over 10% of St. Mary's regular envelope income came from 4 donors (4/252 = 1.6%).

Note 2: Over 25% (one quarter) of St. Mary's regular envelope income came from 15 donors (15/252 = 6.0%).

Note 3: Over 50% (one half) of St. Mary's regular envelope income came from 48 donors (48/252 = 19%).

I would like to thank once again Dorothy Parker for all her additional assistance, especially with the linen, and Barbara Mann who is our candle expert. My deep appreciation this year also goes to Joan Connolly our treasurer and wedding coordinator, particularly for all her help with our wedding preparations last May.

Respectfully submitted by  
*Sharon Hanns*  
Chair of Altar Guild

## **Outreach Committee**

The activities and programs by the outreach committee provide a conduit by which parishioners can contribute to the social mission of the church and can fulfill their charitable obligations as expressed in Christ's teachings.

The outreach committee is comprised of several parishioners of St. Mary's who donate their time and effort to coordinate the various activities of the Church. Membership in the committee is open to all interested parishioners and new members are encouraged and welcome. We are never short of ideas and projects as we receive information from PWRD, the diocese, both governments and tragedies throughout the world. We are a very small committee and given our energy and time we are unable to tackle large projects such as child poverty, homeless people and HIV/Aids in Africa. We need more members with a passion to make a difference in peoples' lives. God is offering you a wonderful opportunity. Please give your help.

Having a booth at the Richmond Hill Heritage Day celebration allows us to promote our committee and the Parish. The display featured information about our work with organic Fair Trade coffee and other Fair Trade products. While the sale of coffee, tea and handicrafts was brisk. We were given the opportunity to tell the people about St. Mary's Anglican Church.

We have continued with our loonie muffin sales, once a month, along with fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate.

Fair Trade products is part of our mission to help small growers in many countries. Coffee sold through co-ops allow the farmers to receive more money which helps to improve the quality of life of their families. All Fair Trade products are organically grown in the rainforest which protects the environment.

Donations at the coffee how help to support our two foster children: Puma-Bahadur Khrlu in Nepal, and Fernando Castillo Yandri in Equador. We receive letters from them regularly.

The toiletries we collect are given to LOFT and to the Krassman centre and Home Base in Richmond Hill. Hot drinks, socks, condoms are distributed and assistance is given to street youth by the LOFT personnel in a bus which travels from Richmond

Hill to Newmarket. Food items are collected for the local food bank. Used postage stamps are collected for the leprosy mission and eye glasses are collected for prescription identity and sent to third world countries. West Indian Christmas cakes were again offered for sale.

The parish's very generous response to the Christmas Family Adoption allowed us to help 19 families.

Our refugee program is for people who fear returning to their country of nationality. Through its refugee protection system, Canada offers safe haven to persons with a well founded fear of persecution, as well as those at risk of torture or cruel and unusual treatment or punishment. To date St. Mary's has sponsored two families from Afghanistan and one family of five from Sierra Leone, Africa.

We agreed to sponsor another refugee family from Sierra Leone. Soon after, we received word that the Barrie family would be coming to Canada. Later we heard that Ibrahim was tortured and beaten and his wife and oldest daughter were raped, beaten and brutalized. His daughter was then shot and killed. They and their two surviving daughters are have been in Guinea in a refugee camp; unable to go home and unable to become part of Guinea's society.

After many months of waiting, in December we received a message saying their case had been approved and on a very cold February 7, Abraham, his wife Asma, and their two daughters Fatmata and Mabinty arrived.

In bringing them to Canada, we need your help. Refugees are supported only by donations earmarked for refugees. One time designated donations by everyone in the parish could make this an easy reality. You could see the difference it makes in these peoples lives. God is offering you a wonderful opportunity. Your donations of furniture, clothing and other essentials are deeply appreciated.

I want to thank all in the parish for their support during 2006. Also, I want to thank the members of the committee for their help and encouragement.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Gwen Halliday*

## **Worship Committee**

The worship committee is made up of Murray Baer as organist, Sharon Bettridge as chair of Altar Guild, Erica Mayhew as choir representative, Kathryn Knowlton as chair of Sunday School Committee and Sidespeople, Karen Hatch as co-coordinator of Servers and Mark Kinghan as Incumbent. We meet each month except during the summer to discuss, plan, and debrief our services of worship here at St. Mary's. In par-

ticular, we focus on the observance and celebration of feast days throughout our liturgical year.

Over the past year we have regularly begun each meeting with a reflection on worship and what this aspect of our parish life is about. These discussions have focused us on the intent of our gathering together to pray, praise, offer thanks, hear God's word and celebrate the gift of our faith through the sacramental life of our tradition.

Natural Church Development provided us with some recent feedback, some of which we have been able to respond to, and other parts where we are unclear what is being asked for. We are always open to feedback from people about their experience of worship, both constructive and positive, both for week to week worship as well as festivals and Holy seasons we observe. As we hear your communication to us, we do what we can to make our worship more meaningful and inspiring than it already is.

Currently worship committee is made up of individuals who have a specific area of responsibility relation to our liturgical life. We would welcome members at large who have an interest in worship and would like to contribute to our parish life in this way. If you are interested in serving on worship committee, please speak to me or any of the members.

*Mark Kinghan, Chair, Worship Committee*

## Natural Church Development

As most parishioners are now aware, St. Mary's has been involved in a process of Natural Church Development (NCD) since June 2006, in order to evaluate the church's ministry and identify changes necessary for growth. The process is based on a model developed by Christian Scwartz, a Lutheran Pastor in Germany, after careful study of thousands of churches from many denominations, theological persuasions and cultural settings in several countries around the world.

The NCD Committee, with the guidance of Bill Benson from the Diocese of Toronto, has held a number of planning meetings and carried out necessary exercises in focus groups and open forums with parishioners. We conducted a survey of approximately 30 selected parishioners in late June, reviewed the results with the survey participants on September 17 and at a congregational meeting on October 11.

The survey results indicated that the highest scores were in the loving relationships. Indicators were that a number of areas needed improvement to promote growth. We chose to focus on making worship service more inspiring as this was one of the lowest scores on the survey.

This report summarizes the collective work done by the NCD Committee in conjunction with our advisor and the parishion-

ers of St. Mary's from the start in June 2006 through to December 2006. From the survey results and through feedback from the open forums/focus groups of parishioners, we have identified four areas that change is wanted or needed. The NCD methodology suggests using the areas with the highest scores, such as Music in our case, to support the areas of lower scores where there is need for greater change. We have summarized the areas where you want to focus and have listed them below indicating what changes have or will be made to ensure an increased spirit of inspiring worship at St. Mary's.

Your NCD committee will continue to meet on the items listed and to set up the next survey which should take place in the Spring or Fall of 2007 and become an annual event. The NCD committee welcomes continual feedback of both constructive and positive comments and you may address said comments as follows:

Ron Smit — *Sermons* — Mark Kinghan & Sermon Refl. Group  
Trevor Kimpton — *Service* — Worship Committee  
Kendra Hastie — *Youth* — Sunday School Cttee, Youth Leaders  
Flora Dogbe — *Music* — Murray Baer

It is only with your comments, support and understanding that we can start the changes that will make worship at St. Mary's more inspirational for everyone.

Please see NCD Chart opposite.

*Flora Dogbe, Kendra Hastie, Trevor Kimpton, Ron Smit, Mark Kinghan—The NCD Committee*

## Members of the Parish Family who died in 2006

January 4, 2006—James Hanns Wulckow  
January 20, 2006—Gwendoline C. Jackson  
February 3, 2006—The Rev. Warren Banting  
March 7, 2006—Viola Agatha Menzies  
April 5, 2006—Lloyd Edward Perryman  
April 13, 2006—Frank Savage Briggs  
June 14, 2006—Emily Victoria Belotto  
June 17, 2006—Jean Lillian Avery  
July 11, 2006—Helen Isobel Crwaford  
July 27, 2006—Irene May Clow  
July 28, 2006—Irene Green Chapman  
September 20, 2006—Florence Ida Hatton  
October 10, 2006—Audrey Walker  
October 20, 2006—Ralph Hawley Markham  
November 14, 2006—Anne Jane McKeage  
December 31, 2006—Robert David Allman