

**The 223rd Report to Vestry
Sunday, October 25, 2026**



*The Cathedral
Church of St. James*

DIOCESE OF TORONTO
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

**A symbol of God's presence
and love in the city**

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The College of Bishops Pastoral Letter to Vestries, 2026

to be read or circulated on the Sunday of the parish's annual vestry meeting



To the clergy, churchwardens, and parishioners of the Diocese of Toronto,

Beloved Siblings in Christ,

*"So they cast [the net], and now they were not able to haul it in because of the quantity of fish."
– John 21:6*

God's goodness to the Diocese of Toronto amazes us every day. As your bishops, it is our joy and privilege to bear witness to the rich blessings, the varied gifts, the talents and skills, the sacrificial generosity, and the deep faithfulness of the Body of Christ in this Diocese. Every parish and community, and the many devoted Anglicans who make them up, inspire us. It has been a natural response for us to "Lift Up Our Hearts" in a spirit of gratitude and encouragement in 2025.

The very first Call of our Cast the Net visioning process was a Season of Spiritual Renewal. We heard over and over again that our Diocese is hungry to know and love God more deeply. During the season, more than 40 workshops were offered, geared to priests, deacons, lay leaders and people desiring to deepen their spiritual lives, hone leadership skills and discern God's call. We held five "Lift Up Our Hearts" worship services: at St. James Cathedral; All Saints, Whitby; Trinity, Streetsville; St. James, Orillia; and St. Paul, Bloor Street. Large crowds gathered to worship, sing and pray for the renewal of the Church. Each one was a moment of grace and joy. The Season of Spiritual Renewal officially draws to a close with the end of the season of Epiphany 2026. Now a small group gathers to discern how we continue to grow disciples, enhance ministry and form servants of the Gospel, building on the foundation of what has been offered. Stay tuned!

The Netminders is a group of clergy, lay leaders and staff who continue to help parishes engage with the Cast the Net Calls and to bring them to life in each community. Every parish was invited to choose three or four Calls from the 20 – those that reflect the ministry that they are a part of now or hope to be in the future – and to bring them to Synod for discussion and mutual encouragement. With each part of the Body engaging our common Calls in different ways, we move as one.

At the annual clergy conference last May at Trent University, our speaker, the Very Rev. David Monteith, Dean of Canterbury, offered reflections based on Jesus the Good Shepherd, an image that resonated with our clergy, particularly in this time of disruption and uncertainty. Our clergy work so hard at hauling in the nets, and we say to them now, to all our priests and deacons: we see you, and we are grateful to God for the ministry that you do. The annual clergy conference is always a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships and make new ones, and this year was no exception. It was also our joy to host smaller clergy retreat days in the spring and fall. These were opportunities for clergy to gather in deanery groups for Bible study, to hear from their bishop and archdeacons, to deepen fellowship with one another and to share a meal. We want to respond to Call #12 to "continue and enhance support for all ordained people" as they engage in vital ministry.

Regarding shared ministry, our partnership with the Diocese of Brasilia continues to flourish, now entering our third year of seven. Our motto, “Partners in Christ, united in mission” (Parceiros em Cristo, unidos na missão) is grounded in Calls #4 and #13 regarding our participation in God’s healing work and ministries of service in the world. Dr. Paulo Ueti from Brasilia and the Rev. Canon Dr. Christopher Brittain from Toronto offered an online bilingual study day on liberation theology for clergy and lay leaders of both dioceses last March. The Rev. Dr. Rodrigo Espiuka from Brasilia invited us to seek signs of resurrection in his keynote address at the Outreach Conference in October. Bishop Mauricio Andrade participated in our bishops’ Advent series in December. Looking ahead, we will welcome Dr. Paulo Ueti as our guest speaker at this year’s clergy conference, and we can’t wait to receive a delegation of Brazilian youth for the ReCharge Youth Retreat. We also hope a small group of Toronto Anglicans can visit Brasilia this year.

We are pleased to be moving ahead with our work on equity, decolonization, diversity and inclusion with the hiring of our new EDDI Advisor, Dilesha Stelmach. Dilesha brings a strong experiential and educational background in this ministry, centered around Ephesians 4: 4–6: “there is one body, one Spirit, one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father, Creator of all, who is above all and through all and in all.” With support from our HR department and the Bishop’s Committee on Intercultural Ministries, Dilesha is mindfully engaging, both practically and theologically, with our people – volunteers, staff, clergy – and with our infrastructure – policies, practices and the constitution and canons of the Diocese. She will be helping us to see the familiar in unfamiliar ways as we build up the ministry of every single beloved child of God in our Diocese.

To all our faithful people in so many vital ministries in our Church: thank you. To our hard-working churchwardens and treasurers, children and youth ministry workers, parish musicians, office administrators and envelope secretaries, altar guilds and custodians, ACW and outreach volunteers, and countless committee members: thank you. To our diocesan volunteers, members of Synod Council and participants on bishop’s committees: thank you. To the staff team at the Synod Office: thank you. Together we all make up the strong net of the Diocese of Toronto, and together, by following the ways of Jesus, we receive “more than we can ask or imagine” – so many blessings collected in our net that we are barely able to haul it in.

When the nightly news seems especially dire, when anxiety is pervasive and the future seems uncertain, God’s reign can feel far away. Yet our commitment to our baptismal covenant, our tenacious acts of faith, persistent resistance to the powers of evil, small but powerful acts of kindness towards our neighbors, and a deep, unshakable, unwavering belief that “the earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it” (Psalm 24) will carry us through troubled times.

Please pray for us, as we pray daily for you.

Yours faithfully in Christ Jesus,



The Right Rev. Andrew J. Asbil
Bishop of Toronto



The Right Rev. Riscylla Shaw
Suffragan Bishop of Toronto



The Right Rev. Kevin Robertson
Suffragan Bishop of Toronto

The Dean's Report

Dear friends,

As I write my report for our Vestry 2026, I feel a mix of joy, gratitude, excitement and responsibility. There is joy over the many good things we have experienced over the last year. There is much gratitude to staff, clergy and lay, to wardens and volunteers and members of this community, and to God who makes all things possible. There is excitement about what lies ahead. And there is a sense of responsibility, shared with the whole St. James Cathedral community, to lead wisely and for the long term so that the vision for this place might be fulfilled.

It has been wonderful this year to see the work with children and families continue to develop. The Children's Community Choir has been a big part of this, having completed its first year with a regular attendance of about sixteen committed singers. By the time you read this, we will have had our second annual Choir Camp. We continue to think about ways to involve the Choir in our liturgical life, recognizing that most of our singers are not regular churchgoers and so we need to take this gently. We have continued with playdates and family fun nights which have brought us into contact with many more residents of our neighborhood. I am grateful to Cara, Karyne, and Kristen who serve so effectively in this space.

Our music continues to be a source of inspiration under Tom's leadership. Our annual Messiah concert was a wonderful event, a sell-out again, and our musicians and singers offer liturgical music of the highest quality week after week. I am so appreciative of them. We continue to refine the 9am Worship Together service to meet its brief as an intergenerational service, and it has been encouraging to see new people coming along. We have added occasional family-orientated services at 1:30 pm on high days and holidays, usually with the Children's Community Choir participating. The Merry Moments services leading up to Christmas were well attended, especially after the Globe and Mail wrote such a lovely front page article about them!

The work of maintaining a historic building never ends. One major achievement this year was the long-awaited repair of the Cathedral clock, generously funded by a single donor. Soon we will have a comprehensive building condition survey which will provide the basis for a strategic plan for the building, ensuring it is 'fit for purpose' for future generations.

Our outreach programs – the Drop-In and the Refugee Committee – continue to do essential work with people who need and value their services, and our thanks are due to Kathy and Rebecca for their leadership. Our Canada Day BBQ was a wonderful event as ever, despite the heat!

We welcomed Geoff as our new Vicar and Sub-Dean, and it has been wonderful to see how he is already making a real difference here. Of course, we said farewell to Vicar Stephen this year with a grand celebration and a generous gift – thanks to those who contributed. And speaking of generosity, let me express my appreciation to everyone who gives to St. James Cathedral. Your godly stewardship makes the life of this place possible. A Vestry meeting provides an ideal opportunity for all of us to consider our own financial stewardship, and perhaps to begin to give, or to increase our giving if we possibly can. The vision of the Cathedral can only be fulfilled as all of us seek to offer our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to God's service here. In my remarks at Vestry, I will be sharing more about our developing vision and the six strategic priorities that flow from it. I look forward to seeing you there.

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (Jude 24–25)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Hance', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

The Very Rev. Dr. Stephen Hance
Rector of St. James Cathedral and Dean of Toronto

Note to Vestry - The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields

My ministry as Sub-Dean and Vicar of our Cathedral concluded on June 30, 2026, with my retirement after forty-five years of ordained ministry.

Thirty-three of those years were spent in our Diocese, including the last five years at our beloved Cathedral Church in my role as Sub-Dean and Vicar. I give thanks for the privilege of serving, sharing, learning, and growing alongside so many remarkable people, and for the encouragement and friendship of bishops, priests and deacons, both active and retired.

My sincere thanks are extended to our outstanding staff, whose love for our Cathedral is evident each day. Their support, both individually and collectively, contributed greatly to my joy during these past five years. I also thank the Cathedral community for your love, encouragement, farewell gift, and generous words on the occasion of my retirement. I remain deeply grateful for the many expressions of kindness and appreciation shown to Lucy and me.

My time at St. James Cathedral was marked by creative liturgical leadership, pastoral care, institutional resilience, and a deep commitment to justice, inclusion, and community engagement.

A central theme was nurturing worship that remained rooted in the Anglican tradition while creating space for new and contextually meaningful expressions of faith. Significant liturgical initiatives included the introduction of the Bob Marley Mass, Tenebrass, expanded commemorative and justice-focused services, enhanced use of the Chapel of St. James the Less, and broader lay participation in worship leadership. Together, these initiatives contributed to a worshipping community that became increasingly welcoming, participatory, multicultural, and intergenerational.

Much joy was found in accompanying parishioners through moments of celebration, grief, transition, and hope, while strengthening collaboration among clergy, lay leaders, diocesan partners, and volunteers. Digital ministry became an important extension of pastoral outreach through the regular offering of online prayers and reflections.

This period was not without challenge. Beginning ministry during the COVID-19 pandemic required adaptability, creativity, and resilience as the Cathedral navigated restrictions on worship and community life. Additional challenges included resistance to change and inclusion from a small segment of the community, as well as difficult interpersonal situations that required diocesan support and reinforced the importance of healthy governance, shared leadership, and clear boundaries.

These experiences taught me patience, resilience, and the importance of leading with both compassion and clarity. They deepened my appreciation for collaboration, institutional support, and the grace required to shepherd a community faithfully through seasons of uncertainty and change.

I remain hopeful about the Cathedral's future. Encouraging signs include the Cathedral's effective outreach ministries—especially the Drop-In, Foot Clinic, and Refugee Committee—growing engagement with younger attendees and families, positive relationships with the Islamic community, and the dedication of lay leadership, clergy, and staff. The Cathedral's strategic downtown location also continues to offer opportunities for outreach, witness, and service.

Finally, your kindness and support reminded me that ministry is never a solitary journey. It is shaped by relationships, sustained by shared faith, enriched by moments of joy and laughter, carried through seasons of pain and grief, and upheld always by God's abundant grace made known through community.

I close with the final words from my last homily: "The Church's most powerful witness is not what we say about Jesus, but how we love, live, and serve as a community shaped by what Jesus said."

The Sub-Dean and Vicar's Report

It has been a full and fruitful time since I joined you here at St James' Cathedral in mid-May. This early season of my ministry is an opportunity to meet people, get to know the congregation, the community we serve, the various aspects of our dynamic Cathedral ministry and grow into the role of Vicar and Sub-Dean which has many aspects to it, particularly oversight of the many and diverse Cathedral liturgies, Diocesan liturgies, pastoral care, formation, and working with the Dean and our colleagues to further the vision and mission of this community.

Since May, there have been a number of events and services to highlight:

- Celebration Service and Reception for the exceptional ministry of Canon Stephen Fields;
- York Group lunch and presentation on the liturgical seasons;
- Canada Day Cathedral Community BBQ;
- Service to honor the National Day of Prayer for Truth and Reconciliation;
- Patronal Festival and Emancipation Service with special guests and the dedication of the commemorative plaque;
- Service and reception to celebrate ministry of the Rev. Matthew Waterman on his final Sunday;
- Trivia Night Fundraiser to support the Drop-In;
- Blessing of the backpacks;
- Blessing of the animals;
- Sunday, October 4th at 4:30pm – Evensong to celebrate Faith Works and my installation as Sub-Dean and Vicar;
- Sunday, October 18th at 4:30pm – Evensong to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women.

This fall, I am assuming leadership of the Lay Pastoral Visitors team and the Scripture Circle, ministries that the Rev. Matthew led. The Ministry Council will be starting up again. We had a meeting in the late Spring and have decided to enter a time of reflection to determine how this group may help to support the diverse ministries and people involved at the Cathedral, including Readers, Intercessors, Visitors, Greeters and the Drop-In. There are many moving parts here and the Ministry Council could play a helpful role of support.

The Cathedral has a full schedule of weddings. Many of the couples are not parishioners, but they do express a strong interest in our parish life. We are planning a wine and cheese reception to bring these couples together in the hope of fostering a relationship with them beyond their wedding ceremony.

Looking ahead, Remembrance Sunday is November 8th.

We will have a special Stewardship Focus on November 15th, 22nd, 29th with the First Sunday of Advent being Commitment Sunday. Of course, the full schedule of Advent and Christmas services is before us and I look forward to sharing that season with you as we strive to shine the light of Christ in the city.

I conclude with an expression of deep gratitude for the very warm welcome I have received.

Thank you to my colleagues, Dean Stephen, Canon Stephen Fields, Canon Kristen, and Fr Matthew for your generous support.

Thank you also to the lay staff in our music ministry and in the office who have been patient and kind in helping me settle in.

Thank you to our tremendous team of Sextons whose dedication to SJC and the care they give help to make this a wonderful place to be.

Thank you to our volunteers, especially those who serve the Friday Drop-In Meal Program which is a vital ministry at SJC, making a huge difference in our community.

Thank you to the Wardens and congregation for your support, prayers and faithfulness – I look forward to getting to know you more and welcome your thoughts on ministry at the Cathedral.

It is an honor to serve as Vicar and Sub-Dean and with you, worship and proclaim the love of God in Christ.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Canon Geoffrey Sangwine
Sub-Dean and Vicar

The Canon Missioner's Report

It is such an honor to be a part of the St. James Cathedral community in this season. There is much cause for both celebration in the present and hope for the future, and I hope that you feel the Spirit moving here too.

For those who may not know, the Canon Missioner's role focuses on evangelism. While I share responsibility for the daily life of the Cathedral alongside my clergy colleagues, I pay particular attention to building connections with our neighbors and helping newcomers find their place in the Christian story.

Outreach to children, youth, and families was identified as an important priority even prior to the addition of this position, and we have made tremendous progress in the past year. I'm so grateful to my ministry colleagues Karyne Whalen and Cara Halpin for their work in this area, and I encourage you to read their reports. Together we form a children's ministry team that both supports current St. James families and opens the door for new engagement.

I'm happy to report that our combined efforts have been effective. In an average month we now have contact with more than 30 families who were not connected with the Cathedral before autumn 2025. Special events have drawn in even more: the 30-minute Easter for Everyone service, followed by our annual egg hunt, was second only to the Choral Eucharist in Easter Day attendance. A special Merry Moments with the Children's Community Choir and the recent Blessing of the Backpacks also attracted considerable numbers. These successes show that there is an appetite for family-friendly liturgical experiences, and we will continue to look for opportunities to meet this need.

As we strive to become a hub for arts and spirituality, I had the opportunity to collaborate with other parishes in hosting Signs of New Life, an art show featuring the work of artists who participate in various drop-in programs in the Diocese. This event supported artists directly by providing a venue for sales and also raised awareness of these important ministries. We also welcomed Indigenous musician Jonathan Maracle for a special service of evening prayer and the Kairos Blanket Exercise as we commemorated the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Thank you to Dayna Nelson for all her work initiating and organizing this weekend event.

I'd also like to issue a special thanks to our Doors Open volunteers! You did a tremendous job showing our guests how special this place and community are.

I could add so much more to this report (Worship Together, the Being Anglican formation series and pre-Confirmation retreat, our Canada Day collaboration with the St. Lawrence Neighborhood Association, among others), but allow me to say this: I'm grateful to each of you for the ways you shine Christ's light for our neighbors, and I look forward to continuing the journey together.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Canon Kristen Pitts
Canon Missioner

The Churchwardens' Report

As we arrive at Vestry 2026, we reflect on the blessings and successes of the past year at St. James Cathedral.

The Children's Ministry has gone from strength to strength under the capable leadership of The Rev. Canon Kristen Pitts, Cara Halpin, Director of the Children's Community Choir, and Karyne Whalen, the Children's, Youth and Family Minister. We are grateful to our clergy and staff for their leadership in imagining and implementing new outreach activities, such as monthly gatherings for parents and children in the downtown area, community BBQs, blessing of the backpacks, Easter egg hunts and children's community choir concerts. We were delighted when the Globe & Mail provided excellent publicity for the Cathedral with an article celebrating the success of our 'Merry Moments' services at Christmas.

A new liturgy was introduced at 9:00am and has enjoyed increasing interest and attendance. The welcome ministry is one that is done particularly well, and we are encouraged by increased attendance across the 9:00am, 11:00am and 4:30pm services.

The Cathedral clock was repaired and we are grateful for the donation of funds in support of this work from a local resident.

Successful farewell events were held for former Vicar, The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields and The Rev. Matthew Waterman in gratitude for their faithful service to the Cathedral. Wardens served on the selection committee for our new Vicar, The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine, and warmly welcomed him to our community.

A letter was drafted on behalf of the Dean and Cathedral community opposing the construction of an extremely tall tower at 23 Toronto Street and signed by the Dean and Bishop. Concerns included shadow impact on the Cathedral as well as on St. James Park which is enjoyed by many of our parishioners and neighbors. The project was ultimately approved for a zoning amendment by Toronto City Council.

Our Cemetery Manager made meaningful connections with the Cabbagetown Business Improvement Area, particularly for the cemetery's Remembrance Day service when representatives from the federal, provincial and municipal governments were in attendance, along with representatives from the St. George's Society.

Regular tours with volunteer parishioner guides were initiated and are ongoing. Wardens have served in leadership roles on a variety of committees and initiatives, including Finance, Property, the York Group, Council, Ministry Council, Sides People, Greeters, Communion Ministers, Readers, Intercessors and Lay Pastoral visitation.

We have continued to work closely with the Executive Director on the examination of financial patterns and trends, and accountability. We look forward with gratitude to the blessings and challenges of the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McKinnon, Rector's Warden and Sandra Mowat, People's Warden

Budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2027

CATHEDRAL AND CEMETERY COMBINED BUDGET

	Year ended JUNE 30, 2026 ACTUAL	Year ended JUNE 30, 2026 BUDGET	Better (Worse)	Year ending JUNE 30, 2027 BUDGET	% CHANGE OVER PRIOR YEAR	
					ACTUAL	BUDGET
CATHEDRAL						
Revenue	2,244,007	2,437,803	-7.9%	2,365,400	5.4%	-3.0%
Expenses	2,601,677	3,028,244	14.1%	3,034,820	16.6%	0.2%
<i>Net Cathedral Deficit</i>	<i>(357,670)</i>	<i>(590,441)</i>	<i>39.4%</i>	<i>(669,420)</i>	<i>87.2%</i>	<i>13.4%</i>
CEMETERY						
Revenue	1,295,510	1,520,296	-14.8%	1,520,000	17.3%	0.0%
Expenses	1,028,811	1,235,602	16.7%	1,257,845	22.3%	1.8%
	266,699	284,694	-6.3%	262,155	-1.7%	-7.9%
Interest on Project Loans	(87,798)	(90,000)	-2.4%	(90,000)	2.5%	0.0%
Transfer to Capital Reserve		(38,400)	-100.0%		0.0%	-100.0%
<i>Net Cemetery Surplus (Deficit)</i>	<i>178,901</i>	<i>156,294</i>	<i>14.5%</i>	<i>172,155</i>	<i>-3.8%</i>	<i>10.1%</i>
COMBINED CATHEDRAL & CEMETERY						
<i>Net Combined Surplus (Deficit)</i>	<i>(178,769)</i>	<i>(434,147)</i>	<i>58.8%</i>	<i>(497,265)</i>	<i>178.2%</i>	<i>14.5%</i>

Cathedral Budget

	Year ended JUNE 30, 2026 ACTUAL	Year ended JUNE 30, 2026 BUDGET	Better (Worse)	Year ending JUNE 30, 2027 BUDGET	% CHANGE OVER PRIOR YEAR	
					ACTUAL	BUDGET
REVENUE						
Offerings						
Stewardship	630,873	819,000	-23.0%	660,000	4.6%	-19.4%
Open	96,782	80,000	21.0%	98,000	1.3%	22.5%
Other	80,825	150,000	-46.1%	100,000	23.7%	-33.3%
	808,480	1,049,000	-22.9%	858,000	6.1%	-18.2%
Rental Income	713,613	722,500	-1.2%	814,000	14.1%	12.7%
Other income						
Bishop Snell Foundation	212,500	190,000	11.8%	220,000	3.5%	15.8%
Other	94,255	75,400	25.0%	49,400	-47.6%	-34.5%
	306,755	265,400	15.6%	269,400	-12.2%	1.5%
Investment Income	415,158	400,900	3.6%	424,000	2.1%	5.8%
Total Cathedral Revenue	2,244,007	2,437,800	-7.9%	2,365,400	5.4%	-3.0%
EXPENSES						
Clergy	496,827	510,080	2.6%	488,600	-1.7%	-4.2%
Music	272,113	362,100	24.9%	345,200	26.9%	-4.7%
Property	989,341	1,068,732	7.4%	1,092,220	10.4%	2.2%
Rentals	36,699	153,500	76.1%	146,900	300.3%	-4.3%
Administration	554,888	623,931	11.1%	652,500	17.6%	4.6%
Communications	86,352	113,800	24.1%	115,500	33.8%	1.5%
Christian Education	22,269	41,300	46.1%	36,200	62.6%	-12.3%
Outreach	106,734	114,800	7.0%	117,700	10.3%	2.5%
Diocesan Allotment	36,454	40,000	8.9%	40,000	9.7%	0.0%
Total Cathedral Expenses	2,601,677	3,028,243	14.1%	3,034,820	16.6%	0.2%
Deficiency of Revenue over Expense	(357,670)	(590,443)	39.4%	(669,420)	87.2%	13.4%
Special Purpose Revenue	159,295	400,000	60.2%	200,000		
Special Purpose Expenses	(159,295)	(400,000)	60.2%	(200,000)		
Interest on Guarantees						
Deficiency of Revenue over Expenses After Exceptional Items	(357,670)	(590,443)	39.4%	(669,420)		

Cemetery Budget

	Year ended JUNE 30, 2026 ACTUAL	Year ended JUNE 30, 2026 BUDGET	Better (Worse)	Year ending JUNE 30, 2027 BUDGET	% CHANGE IN BUDGET OVER PRIOR YEAR	
					ACTUAL	BUDGET
REVENUE						
Crematorium Income	432,779	628,796	-31.2%	585,600	35.3%	-6.9%
Grounds Income	578,622	651,500	-11.2%	646,200	11.7%	-0.8%
General Income	109,835	104,000	5.6%	119,700	9.0%	15.1%
Investment Income	174,274	136,000	28.1%	168,500	-3.3%	23.9%
Total Cemetery Revenue	1,295,510	1,520,296	-14.8%	1,520,000	17.3%	0.0%
EXPENSES						
Salaries & Benefits	532,496	664,400	19.9%	655,343	23.1%	-1.4%
Office & General Expenses	220,306	236,900	7.0%	237,300	7.7%	0.2%
Grounds Expenses	150,719	187,000	19.4%	217,900	44.6%	16.5%
Crematorium Expenses	125,290	147,302	14.9%	147,302	17.6%	0.0%
	1,028,811	1,235,602	16.7%	1,257,845	22.3%	1.8%
Surplus (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expense	266,699	284,694	-6.3%	262,155	-1.7%	-7.9%
Interest on Project Loans	(87,798)	(90,000)	2.4%	(90,000)	2.5%	0.0%
Surplus (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses After Interest	178,901	194,694	-8.1%	172,155	-3.8%	-11.6%
Transfer to Capital Reserve		(38,400)				
Surplus of Revenue over Expenses After Transfer	178,901	156,294	14.5%	172,155		

Organization Reports

The Altar Guild

This Ministry is responsible for the maintenance and preparation of the altars and their furnishings.

Mission Statement:

To attend to God's House carefully and reverently, with dedication and loving attention to detail.

Background:

Up to seven years ago, the Altar Guild Ministry was running with 3–4 members per duty on a weekly basis (about 18 members including substitutes). With the passage of time, especially after the pandemic, some members moved away, some have moved to nearby churches, and some have aged so that they are no longer able to be involved, which increased duties for the remaining few members. Advertisements have been placed with a view to attracting new volunteers at different times, with meeting times changed to accommodate as many as could join but with no success. At this time, in order to ensure the survival of the Altar Guild, there is an urgent need for new volunteers. There are just two people involved – Minette von Bieberstein, who single-handedly, lovingly, and reliably cares for all linens, and Yosola Sholagbade–Adeoye, who carries out the brass polishing and candle waxing activities.

What is involved:

The beauty, elegance, and grace of all the Altars and their surroundings are maintained, both at the Cathedral Church of St. James and St. James–the–Less chapel at the cemetery, by preparing and decorating them appropriately for every service. Linens are washed, ironed, and mended, and the Sanctuary, Eucharistic vessels, and all textile materials are cared for. Brass & silverware are polished, glass domes cleaned, dusting and removal of stains and wax are carried out, as well as other tasks as may be directed by the Vicar.

Palm Sunday 2026:

Members and parishioners turned out to form *"30 Happy Hands"* creating 1000+ beautiful palm crosses for distribution at the Palm Sunday services.

Thanksgiving Harvest Table 2025:

It was an honor and a privilege to be invited to decorate the cathedral for the Thanksgiving services.

Altar at St. James–the–Less chapel located at St. James Cemetery:

Monthly services are now being held at the chapel on Wednesdays; additional volunteers to accompany Minette von Bieberstein and David Grant to care for the altar are warmly encouraged, especially any who reside near the cemetery. Grateful thanks are extended to Tenzin Wangchok for accommodating the sporadic schedule, helping with supplies, and making physical access to the building possible.

The Altar Guild is suffering a dearth of volunteers and urgently requires assistance from other parishioners. To learn more about this Ministry, please contact the Cathedral office at 416–364–7865 and connect with the Vicar. The Altar Guild page on the Cathedral website may also be accessed for more information.

Respectfully submitted,
Yosola Sholagbade–Adeoye
Chair

The Carillon Bell Ringers

The carillonneurs routinely take turns to play the carillon after the 11:00am service on Sunday and whenever the Change Ringers are unavailable, as well as for weddings, funerals and special occasions when requested.

Our dedicated group includes Cynthia Bracewell, Nancy Conn, Judith de Swaaf, Victoria Jamieson, Annie Odom, Joanne Short, Karin Tari and Quentin Toderick.

Respectfully submitted

Annie Odom

Carillon Coordinator

Children's Community Choir

The Children's Community Choir began its inaugural season with a Choir Camp during the final week of August 2025. Approximately thirty children attended, spending the week learning music, building friendships, and preparing for a joyful recital that was presented for parents on the final afternoon. A very special thank you to Choir Camp volunteers Emily Hamilton, Susan Ida Boucaud, Sheila Mattar, and Murray Halpin, who kept everyone safe and engaged. Musical guests Thomas Bell, Liz So, The Rev. Matthew Waterman and Karyne Whalen were also much appreciated.

Following the camp, the choir launched its regular Saturday morning rehearsals in September with a dedicated group of twelve enthusiastic young singers. Throughout the year, it was wonderful to see the children grow musically and in confidence.

In December, the choir participated in its first community engagement by singing at one of the Merry Moments services, sharing their music with the congregation and visitors during the Advent season. Similarly, on Easter Sunday, the choir contributed their music at the new Easter for Everyone family-friendly service.

In May, the choir was invited to participate in a collaborative event at the Young People's Theatre on Front St. This exciting opportunity allowed the children to perform alongside other young musicians and experience a larger artistic community.

The choir concluded its first season with a Spring Concert in June, presenting a varied selection of repertoire learned throughout the year. It was a wonderful celebration of the children's hard work, enthusiasm and musical growth, and an encouraging beginning for what we hope will be many successful seasons to come.

We express gratitude to piano accompanist Karri Yano for her outstanding work at both Saturday morning rehearsals and performances. Her musical skill, reliability, and wonderfully caring nature enrich every aspect of the choir and are greatly appreciated.

Finally, heartfelt thanks go to dedicated volunteer Emily Hamilton who generously gives of her time on Saturday mornings. From warmly greeting the children and contributing thoughtful ideas to supporting the choir in countless ways, her kindness and commitment make a meaningful difference.

Respectfully submitted,
Cara Halpin
Children's Community Choir Director

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

The purpose of our Children's Ministry is to encourage children and youth to know God, connect with each other, our leaders and our church family and to grow in their faith.

Our young people along with their families are vital and valued members of our church family. We welcome all children and invite them to take their places at the heart of our community. Everyone is welcome. We have a regular community of 6–10 children with many visitors joining us on Sunday mornings for Sunday school. Our children are not only building relationships but are also encountering Jesus.

The children contribute to the life of the Cathedral in small ways which make an impact such as bringing up the Elements for communion, helping to read during Advent, joining the procession on special festival days and making Christmas cards and Valentine's Day treat bags for our Drop-In clients.

I would like to thank our previous Sunday School volunteers Mary Hopperton, Marie Crostas, Joy Chuckwuezie, and Susan Ida Boucaud. Without the committed support of Melissa Erskine and Peggy and Pat Crowther at our Family Fun Nights, our Children's Ministry would not be as vibrant. We are blessed to have parishioners who are willing to use their talent and time in serving in this important ministry at the Cathedral. We thank the sextons for their assistance during the course of the year.

In addition to the Sunday School program, we have been offering monthly Family Fun Nights. These have included themes such as The Great Lego Build Off, Country Jamboree, PJ Party & Movie Night and the Beach Party with waterslide on the west lawn. We have been averaging 15–20 children along with their parents each month. The parents living near the Cathedral are grateful to have these events available for their children and to call the Cathedral their church home.

It seems our Easter Egg Hunt has now become a tradition for the surrounding community. The first Easter Egg Hunt attracted approximately 150 children and over the next 3 years we have attracted 300–400 people who attend this event. We are extremely grateful to all our volunteers and to the clergy and staff for their part in making these events a success.

Other events included *The Ash Wednesday Diocesan Youth Day of Exploration 2025*. Fifty teenagers from across the Diocese attended; and in 2026 during inclement weather, we hosted eleven children and their leaders. On Good Friday, there were fifteen children in attendance at our afternoon program. During Blessing of the Backpacks, the children always enjoy bringing their backpacks to church to receive a special blessing and prayer from the clergy.

It is an honor to serve the children of St. James Cathedral.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karyne Whalen
Children's, Youth and Family Minister

Drop-In and Outreach Program

I appreciate this opportunity to share the achievements, supports, and partnerships that continue to make the Drop-In and our outreach programs a caring and welcoming place for our guests and neighbors who need a helping hand.

By the Numbers:

Our volunteers and community partners make it possible for us to provide practical support and a welcoming place for our guests throughout the year.

- Meals: Weekly nutritious meals, 7297 meals served on Fridays and July 1st,
- Volunteer visits: 1,344
- Average volunteer commitment: 4.75 hours per visit
- Clothing distributed: 527 pieces
- Books provided: 1,454
- Good Food Box: 271 subsidized boxes ensured that participants could access fresh and nutritious food.

Volunteers – The Heart of the Drop-In:

Our volunteers are truly the engine behind the Drop-In. Their time, energy, kindness, and commitment ensure that our weekly meals and special celebrations are possible. We are very grateful to all volunteers including parishioners, who give generously of their time. Throughout the year, volunteers help make special meals for celebrations such as our Canada Day BBQ, Good Friday, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's gatherings, creating welcoming occasions where our neighbors can enjoy a good meal and a sense of community.

Programming:

The Drop-In continues to offer a wide range of practical supports in addition to weekly nutritious meals, including subsidized Good Food Boxes, library, foot care clinic, New-to-Me clothing, and personal care items. We have also expanded our supports through harm reduction services and Navigators, who help participants understand and access the many programs and resources available to them.

Agency Partners:

Our agency partners play an important role in helping participants connect with needed supports, including access to additional services and resources. We sincerely thank our partner agencies – Foodshare, Second Harvest, The Toronto Drop-In Network, African Partnership Against Aids (APAA), Sherburne Health, the City of Toronto and the Rotary Club – for the time, care and energy they bring to this work.

Corporate Support:

We are fortunate to have a diverse group of corporate teams who regularly provide volunteer hours. Many have gone a step further by providing financial support, in-kind donations and equipment that help make our kitchen more efficient and allow us to prepare meals for as many as 180 people on busy Fridays. Their generosity makes a meaningful difference. We are supported by Ecclesiastical Insurance, some departments at RBC, Coca Cola Canada, IPSO, CIBC, and the Metropolitan Convention Centre.

Grants:

This year, the Drop-In received a grant from Faith Works to help secure our Foot Care Clinic. We are deeply grateful to the Grants Committee for this support which ensures that Dr. Minh can continue to help participants regain mobility and independence, thereby making everyday life more manageable. Thank you for your part in ensuring that everyone has a place at the table.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Biasi – Outreach Manager

Education for Ministry

For many Christians the life of faith is one of openness to curiosity and wonder. They wish to know more and to explore with company. The core of Education for Ministry is about finding your way of hearing and answering God's call to life and service through the way of Jesus.

The program ensures a wide range of perspectives concerning faith and spiritual questions. Participants are exposed to scholarly commentary on both Old and New Testament Scripture, methods of theological reflection, practices of prayer and worship, and a Christian learning community of robust companionship.

St. James Cathedral hosted a full EfM seminar group this year with 12 participants and 2 mentors from parishes across the diocese. Now in its 12th year, the Cathedral group has graduates who are small group leaders, food bank managers, Spanish language Christian radio hosts, drop-in centre hosts, deacons in 5 parishes, but most importantly people committed to incorporating in their lives the kindness and teachings of Jesus. We hope to encourage more members of St. James Cathedral to participate in the program in the coming years.

Creative forces have been at work for several years to produce a new curriculum for the over 50-year-old international EfM program. The student guide with a wide variety of supplementary materials is now available to participants online. In addition to the 4-year program, called Classic EfM, there is a new one-year Wide Angle program for folks who would like to sample the 4 years of study in a single year. Participants from both programs meet together on alternate Saturday mornings from September through May in a seminar discussion group.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Kysela and Mary Hopperton
EfM Co-mentors SJC 2026

Finance Committee

After an interval, the Cathedral's Finance Committee was reconstituted in the Fall of 2025. Volunteer members include John Hansen, Ted Hawken, Arthur Lau, Chun Lo, Jim Sidorchuk, Kate Uchendu, and the Rector's Warden fulfilling the role of Chair. Susan So, Executive Director, is the staff lead and meeting organizer, and the Dean is an ex-officio member of the Committee.

The Committee met regularly over the last year, reviewing the monthly financial statements for the Cathedral and the Cemetery operations. This past fiscal year, the financial performance has exceeded expectations, with a deficit significantly lower than budget. Revenue from four key sources – offerings, rentals, investments and cemetery operations – remained stable throughout the year. At the same time, expenses were kept below budget through prudent financial management. As a result, the year-end operating deficit was lower than budget by more than 50%.

Investments continued to be made in capital improvements and spending took place for major repairs to maintain and enhance the Cathedral and Cemetery properties. During the year the Bell Tower HVAC system, the sump pump and a hot water tank were replaced; upgrades were made to the computer systems bringing these up to current operating standards; the Cathedral sound system was upgraded and repairs were made to the Bell Tower clock.

The Cathedral's investment fund grew by more than 13% during the fiscal year. While this performance was encouraging, the Committee determined that, as part of its fiduciary and due diligence responsibilities, it would be prudent to review the Cathedral's investment advisory and portfolio management arrangements. Interviews with potential managers are in process, including the current provider, in order to determine how well the Cathedral is served and whether a change in the portfolio advisor is indicated. This project will be completed in Fall, 2026.

Sarah McKinnon
Committee Chair

Gardening Committee

The Gardening Committee works throughout the spring, summer, and fall seasons to beautify the surroundings of the Cathedral and Cemetery.

At the Cathedral Centre we maintained the perennial bed, the alpine currant hedge and the yew hedge. After consultation with the Property Committee, efforts to maintain creeping thyme in the rectangles located in the walkway have been abandoned, in favor of a hard surface which we hope will be installed soon. During the autumn 2026 we have divided and re-planted the perennials in the bed in front of the Cathedral Centre and have also refreshed the daffodils.

At the Cemetery, in addition to maintaining existing plantings, we planted two large beds behind the chapel with shrubs. Virginia creepers were planted along the length of two fences.

Members of the Committee include Debra Solomon, Michael Quaglia, Bill Crook, Anastasia Shamco, Sandra Mowat, and David Mowat. New members will always be warmly welcomed.

We thank Jim Kotsifas and the sextons at the Cathedral and George Vrozos and staff at the Cemetery for their ongoing support.

David Mowat
Chair, Gardening Committee

Lay Pastoral Ministry

The St. James Cathedral Lay Pastoral Visitors team includes Sandra Mowat, Charles Klassen, Elizabeth Hartman, Nick Tunnacliffe, Leslie Derbecker, David Grant, Peter Dawes, Daisy Pittis, and Laurie Weiss. In the last year they have contributed substantially to the pastoral care of our congregation.

Last December they helped to lead the Blue Christmas service offering support to those experiencing grief during the Christmas season.

At Christmas and Easter, they signed approximately 200 cards which were sent out to parishioners and staff as an expression of care and encouragement.

The LPVs regularly visit with parishioners who are experiencing pastoral needs of varying duration, from a short hospital stay to more permanent stays in long term care, both by telephone and in person.

The group has grown this past year in their sense of vocation and competency, and a few have come forward to be licensed as communion ministers and lay anointers.

Over the summer, they have been training in pairs to administer communion to members of the community who are not able to attend our Eucharist services on Sundays.

The Rev. Matthew Waterman
Associate Priest (until August 31, 2026)

Music

We have been generously blessed by beautiful music throughout the year which has been supported by many kindnesses, often unseen and unacknowledged. I should like to begin by recording our thanks to all those who have enabled music to flourish this past year. The support of our clergy, staff and musicians who have all been unstinting in their time and gifts has been greatly appreciated. The music for three services each Sunday, a Tuesday organ recital, or a concert before a full cathedral: all these involve countless administrative tasks and seemingly endless rehearsal time. Thank you on behalf of all the community for your gracious assistance.

The Cathedral Choir, singing for both the 11:00am and Evensong services, has sung beautifully throughout the year. The choral repertoire has balanced quintessentially Anglican selections with music in a more creative, contemporary idiom, including a greater number of pieces by Indigenous and Afro-centric composers, giving expression to both our tradition and our future. We have sung well over 300 anthems, mass settings, and so forth, without including service music! I am personally most grateful for each of the choristers' unstinting support and abundant talent.

We have been most fortunate to have had Jean-Paul Feo at the organ bench each Sunday. JP has played with great creativity and heart, and leads our hymn singing superbly. Joshua Duncan Lee, as the Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar has demonstrated a formidable technique, commitment, and eagerness to learn. Cara Halpin has been an absolute joy to welcome into our musical community; her choral direction, steady presence, and support in so many ways has been invaluable. Thank you all for your music.

The provision of music for the Worship Together service is gradually assuming its own winsome identity. The St. James Singers, a small group of dedicated musicians who have offered their services unstintingly, have led the sung parts of the service with unswerving loyalty. We have introduced a wide range of new music, including songs from many global traditions. I am personally most grateful – as we all are – for their music, time and energy.

St. James Cathedral is still the only venue in the city to offer weekly organ recitals, a commitment which we intend to maintain. During the past year, we welcomed forty outstanding performers from across the province and abroad to present music showcasing the great versatility of the cathedral organ. These concerts have been much appreciated by a dedicated and very healthy audience.

David Briggs presented an improvised accompaniment to the movie *The Phantom of the Opera* with his inimitable panache to a sold-out audience in October.

Our beautiful organ would benefit from a judicious restoration in due course.

In November, we presented our second music Open House, on St. Cecilia's Day, with an open rehearsal in the morning, and singing for the midday Eucharist.

Our presentation of *Messiah* in December is becoming an important fixture in the cathedral calendar. It was again sold out, and we opened the afternoon rehearsal to those who were unable to come in the evening. The combined musical forces of the Cathedral Choir, the Chapel Choir of Trinity College, a fabulous orchestra, and soloists made for an evening to remember. Our deepest gratitude is offered to the cathedral staff, ushers, and our many generous patrons for helping to bring this music to life.

The last twelve months have represented a year of steady growth, not only in quality of our music-making but also as a musical community. We have firmly re-established our Anglican musical identity, which is integral to St. James Cathedral, and begun to explore how God's gift of music can offer endless possibilities for a healthy future.

Respectfully submitted, Thomas Bell – Music Director and Organist.

The Nine O' Clock Stewards' Ministry

The St. James Cathedral 9:00am Greeters team is comprised of the following members:

Melissa Erskine, Jasmine Veinot, Susan Jose, Tola Agunbiade, Sterling Mancuso, Irene Bailey, Bob Hart and Rob Haines, Bassel Dick and Paul Melville–Gray, and Sarah McKinnon.

Nearly half our team has begun serving in the past year, and all have worked together to maintain a spirit of welcome and hospitality at our *Worship Together* service.

The Rev. Matthew Waterman

Associate Priest (until August 31, 2026)

Property Committee

The Property Committee met regularly this year and has been actively engaged in matters relating to the care, maintenance, and stewardship of the Cathedral, Cathedral Centre and Cemetery.

Mandate:

The committee's mandate is to support and advise the Corporation, Management and the Property Manager on building-related projects and property matters.

Activities during the past year:

Over the past year, the Property Committee has provided an advisory role regarding several significant projects including:

- Repair of the Cathedral tower clock
- Refurbishment of the Esdaile Room in the clock tower

Both projects were made possible through generous private donations.

In addition, the committee met regularly to provide advice and guidance on a number of repair and maintenance matters, including:

- Replacement of the sump pumps in the Cathedral basement and on-going investigation of flooding in the basement
- Roof repairs necessitated by the severe winter conditions
- Accessibility of the Cathedral and Cathedral Centre
- Elevator repairs in the Cathedral Centre

Comprehensive Property Assessment:

Most recently, the committee has been working on the development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a comprehensive assessment of the Cathedral, Cathedral Centre and Cemetery. This study will be an important tool in establishing priorities and developing a long-term plan for the care and maintenance of these properties. It will help to identify the most pressing needs, assist in prioritizing future projects, and support informed planning and decision-making over the coming years.

The Property Committee looks forward to continuing its work in support of the Cathedral and its facilities and to assisting management in maintaining these important properties for future generations.

Respectfully submitted,

The Property Committee

John Hansen

Bob Hart, Chair

Jim Kotsifas

Don Solomon

Scripture Circle

The St. James Cathedral Scripture Circle consists of a longstanding group of parishioners who generally meet on Wednesdays at 11:00am for fellowship and discussions on Scripture.

Over the last year, homilies from the Sunday prior to our meeting have been distributed so that those who are visual learners or want to review the content on their own time may do so before the meeting; at times, questions have been composed to be sent to the preacher in advance as they prepare to preach on the upcoming Sunday after our meeting. The discussions have tended to be wide-ranging and spirited while remaining relevant and respectful.

The Rev'd Matthew Waterman
Associate Priest (until August 31, 2026)

Servers and Sacristans Guild

The Servers and Sacristans Guild of the Cathedral is pleased to welcome The Rev. Canon Geoffrey Sangwine, our new Sub-Dean & Vicar. We also said goodbye to The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields as he retired as Sub-Dean & Vicar, and The Rev. Matthew Waterman.

The Guild of Altar Servers and Sacristans plays an integral role in the operation of the various services at St. James Cathedral. It is made up of a dedicated group of volunteers of all ages from the congregation who have been baptized and confirmed. We welcome university students from various colleges in Theological / Divinity studies, who assist us while learning the basics of the roles we undertake during the services. We always welcome new members of any age.

Most members of the Guild are both Sacristans and Servers who work each Sunday throughout the year to assist the clergy, and to ensure the smooth operation of each of the services (8:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am, and 4:30pm). In addition to our regular Sunday liturgies, we also assist at more than four dozen special services including festivals, evening lectures, weekday liturgies, and seasonal liturgies (Christmas, Holy Week, and Easter).

We also serve at all Diocesan liturgies presided over by the Bishop of Toronto in the Cathedral. We have an outstanding team which willingly responds to fill in at the last minute when necessary.

Duties of Sacristans include setting up the sacred vessels, vestments, and books before the service, and ensuring that the Sanctuary, Chancel, Vestry, Sacristy and their contents are maintained in good order for each service. After the service, the Sacristans clean all areas and wash the sacred vessels.

Altar Servers assist the clergy as Crucifer, Acolytes, Epistle Server, Gospel Server, Thurifers, Boat Person, Duty Server, Sub-Deacon, and Master of Ceremonies. The duties of the Altar Servers are as follows:

Crucifer: carries the cross and leads the procession; Acolytes (usually two) carry the torches on either side of the Crucifer; Gospel server: removes the missal (Altar Book) before and during the censing of the altar and closes/opens the altar rail at Communion; Epistle server: helps the Deacon set the altar during the offertory; Duty server: oversees the smooth running of the service, carries the thurible, censes the Clergy and Congregation, rings the Sanctus bells during the consecration of the elements, and directs the movement of the various servers throughout the service; Boat person: carries the incense boat alongside the duty server during the blessing of the incense in the thurible; Sub-deacon: holds the gospel book during its reading and assists in the serving of consecrated wine to the congregation during communion. Chalice Bearers for Holy Communion are licensed by the Bishop of Toronto for a period of three years at the request of the Dean and Churchwardens.

The Servers and Sacristans Guild currently has 12 members who fulfill the various roles in the liturgies of the Cathedral. If you are interested in learning more about serving, please speak with a member of Clergy.

We thank all our members for their continuing dedication to serving God and the Cathedral.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Seddon ODT., Head Server & Sacristan, Verger, and Chaplain to the Bishop of Toronto

Leslie P. Laing, Scheduler of the Servers

Sides People

The sides people serve at the 11:00am and 4:30pm services; at special services throughout the church year such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter; at funerals as well as at several Diocesan services. They are a most loyal, committed group. Our ministry involves greeting, assisting and in general, making parishioners and visitors alike feel comfortable, welcome and safe.

Some changes have been implemented this year. While Wairimu Nduati and Lou Nettleton continue to serve as co-coordinators, three additional co-coordinators (leads) have been added. Zanafar Ramoutar, Yvonne Odhomi, and Justin Day capably oversee, on a rotating basis, the 11:00am services and other special services. This sharing of responsibility has certainly reduced individual burdens and has proven to be most efficacious.

There are 6 teams of sides people consisting of 5 or 6 members each. On a scheduled rotating basis these teams serve at all the 11:00am services. Sides people are invited to volunteer at Evensong services and at all other special services where they are needed, and are slotted into the schedule according to their availability. This year has run very smoothly due to the willingness of our cohort of devoted sides people to support this very important responsibility.

We are most thankful for all sides people: Billie Anne Robinson, Carleen Adler, Barbara Hirst (alternate lead), Quentin Toderick, Shawn Thorpe, Mary Hopperton, David Gates, Ed McBride, Kate Uchendu, Don Solomon, Susan Glover, Bill Benson, Dorothea Merritt, Joan Peters, George McNeillie, Sandra Mowat, Kiyen Diba, Endoh Emmerencia, Christian Kingsmill, Joe Cairns, Robert Coates, Warren Brubacher, Jeff Abraham, Philip Day and Sarah McKinnon.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of our wardens: Sandra Mowat, Sarah McKinnon, Bob Hart, Richard Harrop, Stanley Baptiste and Christoph Pike. In addition, the sides people are very thankful for the support of our sextons, in particular Tenzin Wangchok.

Respectfully submitted,
Wairimu Nduati and Louis Nettleton
Sides People Coordinators

St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church, Regent Park

2025 was yet another remarkable year in terms of financial growth. At our 2025 Vestry we had projected an offertory income of \$185,000 — a \$20,000 increase over our 2024 budget. At the end of the year, we had exceeded our budget by just over \$15,000 for a total of \$200,815. When we remember that the total offertory income in my first year (2013) was just over \$54,000 we can see just how much growth there has been. As of early 2026 we received the final \$10,000 tranche of our five-year tapering Diocesan MAF Grant. Over the preceding five years our growth had either matched or exceeded the amount of the taper. It is a remarkable achievement, for which we are grateful both to God and to one another. More growth, of course, is needed; lost rental income during the geotechnical survey of the basement and rising costs present new challenges. When we consider how far we've come in a relatively short time in our parish's history there is every reason to think that God will be as generous to us in the future as he has been in the past.

Over the course of the summer and fall of 2025, and continuing through early 2026, we have had a remarkable number of newcomers to the parish. Between my first Sunday back from my sabbatical and Christmas, hardly a Sunday went by on which we didn't have at least one newcomer, and very often as many as five or seven. Some of these were, of course, visitors from other parts of the world, many of whom (remarkably) had heard of St. Bart's from friends or from searches online. Many others, however, were local, and many have remained and joined the congregation. Beginning in the fall of 2025, and continuing into 2026, I taught adult catechesis on Sunday mornings. Several recent newcomers joined the group, with others expressing interest in joining after Easter. Two catechumens receive Baptism at this year's Easter Vigil, both of whom will receive Confirmation at the Bishop's next visit. Since Easter one other catechumen has enquired after Baptism at next year's Vigil, and one other newcomer has enquired after Confirmation. All of these constitute a remarkable group of learners, and I've enjoyed not only teaching them, but also getting to know them.

Two seminarians—one from Wycliffe College and one from St Michael's College—undertook field placements at St Bart's during the past year. Both became regular members of the servers' guild and became involved in parish ministry in other ways (e.g., accompanying me on visits and at funerals). The student from St Michael's taught a 5-week class on Prayer of the Heart in the Carmelite tradition, focusing on the chapters on prayer of recollection and prayer of the heart in St Theresa of Avila's Way of Perfection. These classes took place between Friday Evensong and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and were intended to encourage participants to explore not only theoretically but also practically the transition from vocal prayer, through mental prayer and prayer of recollection, to acquired contemplation. There was a wide interest in the parish and attendance was excellent.

Thanks are due to our bishops, Andrew and Kevin, to my colleagues in ministry, the Rev'd Canon David Brinton, OGS, the Rev'd Canon Geoffrey, the Rev'd Canon Beth Benson, and The Very Rev'd Dean Hance. Special thanks are due, of course, to Father Brinton for covering my sabbatical leave at no small sacrifice. Kevin Forrest, our Diocesan Administrator, has continued to offer sage advice and clear leadership. Miles Nagamatsu has been always on hand to offer clarity about our finances, overseeing all financial matters in the parish and along with Marlone (Sandy) Dawkins, tracking our income week to week. Thanks are due also to members of the parish executive and advisory board. Finally, thanks are due to my administrative assistants, Kerry Dickson and Serena Li, who have kept our 'virtual office' running like a well-oiled machine.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Walter Hannam

Vicar, St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church, Regent Park

St. James and Community Refugee Committee

Over the past 18 months the Refugee Committee has been busy with its ongoing support of Edmond who arrived in October 2025, as well as with the sponsorships that continue to await processing and acceptance by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

Edmond arrived from Algeria where he had spent three years as a refugee, having fled from Cameroon. He grew up in Chad, had been studying to become a priest in a Roman Catholic seminary. Edmond was able to find shared accommodation within walking distance of the Cathedral.

From the earliest days after his arrival in Toronto, he has attended Sunday church services and was accepted into the Anglican communion during the Vigil service on Holy Saturday in April 2026. Edmond has been diligent in attending ESL classes and hopes to begin studies at Collège Boréal in September towards becoming a practical nurse.

The committee has two outstanding applications for sponsorship; one for Behrad who awaits in Izmir, Turkey and Johnny's family who are in Uganda. We are unsure of how long it will take for IRCC to render decisions with respect to these applications.

The committee held a walkathon in September at the Edwards Gardens. It was a beautiful day and participants enjoyed the stroll through the park in support of our fundraising efforts.

The committee continues to have a storage facility in West Toronto and offers space to the Holy Trinity Refugee Committee to store furniture in support of their work.

The committee will be considering a sponsorship application in Fall 2026 with a likely arrival in 2027. In the absence of further donations, the committee has sufficient funds to support a single individual only. As its work will cease without further funding, the committee will be developing a fundraising strategy.

Respectfully submitted,
St. James and Community Refugee Committee

St. James and Community Refugee Committee

August 24, 2026

St. James Community Refugee Committee Revenue, Expenses, Future Commitments and Funds Available as of May 31, 2026 Unaudited

	Current June 2025 - May 2026	October 2024 - May 2025	Total Since inception in 2015
Revenue			
Donations	\$ 6,737	\$ 14,636	\$ 238,394
Donations in 2021 for Afghan refugees			57,300
Received in trust for Sixth sponsorship			30,000
Cathedral		8,890	8,890
Bequests			25,000
Walkathon 2023			13,620
Walkathon 2024		630	5,665
Walkathon 2025	5,375		5,375
	<u>12,112</u>	<u>24,156</u>	<u>384,244</u>
Expenses			
Sponsorships			
First: single man from Iran, 2016			21,303
Second: family of five from Syria, 2017			47,762
Third: First refugee's teenage child, 2018			22,696
Fourth: single mother and child from Cameroon, 2020			33,328
Fifth: Fourth refugee's older child, 2023			11,504
Sixth: family of four from Eritrea, 2023			35,028
Seventh: single woman from Afghanistan, 2023			34,448
Eighth: mother of Afghan family already in Canada, 2024		11,201	24,539
Current:			
Ninth: Johnny, family reunification, Uganda		2,140	2,365
Tenth: Behrad, single man from Iran, currently in Türkiye			285
Eleventh: Edmond, single man from Chad, October 2025	11,469		11,469
Committee expenses, mostly transporting donated furniture			11,996
Total spent as of May 31, 2026	<u>11,469</u>	<u>13,341</u>	<u>256,723</u>
Revenue over Expenses	\$ 643	\$ 10,815	\$ 127,521
Less: Future Financial Commitments as of May 31, 2026			
Ninth (Johnny, family of five reunification, family is in Uganda)	(6,635)		
Tenth (Behrad, single man from Iran, currently in Türkiye)	(64,715)		
Eleventh (Edmond, single man from Chad, arrived October 2025)	<u>(14,088)</u>		<u>(85,438)</u>
Remaining uncommitted and available funds, May 31, 2026			<u>\$ 42,083</u>

The St. James Cathedral Guild of Change Ringers

The St. James Cathedral Guild of Change Ringers comprises approximately 28 change bell ringers, including learners, novices, and experienced ringers. As a ringing band we have been able to have eight, ten, or 12 bells ringing for Sunday mornings between the 9:00am and 11:00am services, and for some of the special services throughout the calendar year.

Part of the strength of the Guild lies in the dedication of some of our expert ringers who teach the new ringers on Wednesday in the early evening. Change ringing is not a skill that is acquired quickly. It involves continuous practice and many hours on the end of the bell rope before it is mastered, and even when you think you have learned it all, there is always more to learn – which keeps it interesting! We are always looking for new recruits and will be pleased to give tours of the tower and bells to anyone who is interested. We would be so happy to have members of the congregation join our guild!

This year, we held tours on both days of Doors Open weekend, welcoming more than 150 people. They learned about the bells before they climbed the belfry steps, and then watched the ringers, even trying pulling a rope themselves.

The 12 Cathedral bells hung for change ringing are the largest such ring of bells in Canada, and ours is one of only seven towers in Canada with change ringing bells. Bell ringing enthusiasts strive to ring on 12 bells, and as such, we often host ringing events for North American ringers, as well as international visitors throughout the year.

The biggest piece of news from the tower, in collaboration with the Cathedral, was the replacement of the HVAC system in the ringing chamber as well as the renovation of the room below the chamber, named after one of the original members of the guild, J. Michael Esdaile. The renovation was also made possible by a major donation from Judith Hunt, one of our ringers who has sadly passed away. The room has undergone a major facelift, and we cannot wait to make good use of the room for our learners, create a wonderful library, and also to make a space for a “dumbbell” on which to practise.

The Guild of Change ringers is both pleased and honored to participate in the life of the Cathedral and to be a voice of its presence in the surrounding community.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Jillian Ruch, Tower Captain

St. James Cemetery and Crematorium

St. James Cemetery & Crematorium continues to serve as an important ministry of The Cathedral Church of St. James, providing compassionate care to families while preserving a sacred and historic place of remembrance in the heart of Toronto. Throughout 2025/2026, the cemetery maintained its commitment to excellence in bereavement services, grounds stewardship, and community engagement.

Operations and Service:

During the past year, St. James Cemetery & Crematorium provided interment, cremation, memorialization, and bereavement services to hundreds of families across the Greater Toronto Area. Our professional staff remained dedicated to delivering respectful, dignified, and personalized support during times of loss. The cemetery and crematorium continued to uphold the highest standards of care, regulatory compliance, and customer service.

Grounds and Heritage Stewardship:

The cemetery's historic landscape and monuments remain a significant heritage asset. Ongoing maintenance programs focused on tree care, pathway improvements, monument preservation, and seasonal landscaping enhancements. These efforts ensure that St. James Cemetery remains both a place of reflection and an attractive green space for visitors, families, and the broader community.

Financial Performance:

The cemetery and crematorium continued to operate on a sound financial basis, benefiting from stable service demand and prudent financial management. Investment in perpetual care funds, infrastructure maintenance, and operational improvements helps ensure the long-term sustainability of the cemetery while supporting the ministry and mission of the Cathedral.

Community Engagement:

St. James Cemetery welcomed visitors for historical tours, remembrance events, and educational programs which highlight the rich history of Toronto and the many notable individuals interred within the cemetery. These initiatives strengthen community connections and increase awareness of the cemetery's cultural and spiritual significance.

Looking Ahead:

In 2026/2027, priorities include continued investment in capital asset purchases of grounds equipment, and stormwater capture engineering along with asphalt road repaving, grounds maintenance, enhancement of digital records and customer services, long-term infrastructure planning, and ongoing support for environmentally responsible burial and cremation practices. The cemetery will also continue exploring opportunities to expand memorialization options while preserving the site's historic character and sacred purpose.

Acknowledgements:

We extend our sincere thanks to the dedicated staff, volunteers, Cathedral leadership, Cathedral Wardens, and Board members whose commitment and professionalism make this ministry possible. Their efforts ensure that St. James Cemetery & Crematorium remains a place of compassion, remembrance, and service to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

George Vrozos

St. James Cemetery & Crematorium

The York Group

The York Group is a long-standing organization which is based upon the terms of the Brock Bequest established in 1939, and which has oversight by the Dean and Churchwardens. Remaining true to the history of the group, all women parishioners are considered members and all parishioners – both men and women – are warmly welcome at our events. The group is governed by an Executive Committee composed of Sandra Mowat, Chair; Barbara Hirst, Vice-Chair; Daisy Pittis, Treasurer; Susan Ida Boucaud, Secretary; Laurie Weiss, Membership Coordinator and Marge Yearwood and Yvonne Joseph, Members-at-Large. The mission is to unite women of the Cathedral for the purposes of promoting charitable support and educational events, i.e. senior women's ministry along with the encouragement of fellowship.

Over the past year several events were supported: an AGM was held in November with the Dean speaking about '*What I learned from the Church of England*'; The Rev. Matthew Waterman spoke to us about how he discerned his calling to the priesthood and the evolution of his faith; our wonderful staff stepped in last-minute (due to a cancellation) to present about how cybersecurity is managed in the Cathedral offices; several Executive Committee members attended the World Day of Prayer service on March 7th, 2026; Will Postma spoke to us about the important work of Alongside Hope; and very early in his tenure our Vicar and Sub-Dean, The Rev. Canon Geoffrey Sangwine presented on '*The Colors of the Church Year*' demonstrating the liturgical colors and engaging in wide-ranging discussion over which lunch was shared. The group also met occasionally for weekday worship followed by a bagged lunch and time of fellowship.

Standing charitable donations were established annually for the St. James Cathedral Drop-In, the St. James & Community Refugee Committee and St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church Food Programs. Donations were also directed to Street Haven for their Senior Women's Social Group in Regent Park, as well as to Alongside Hope – part of the former PWRDF – for world hunger.

Sincere thanks to Dean Stephen Hance for his ongoing support, to our Vicar Geoffrey Sangwine for engaging with us so early in his tenure – and so effectively, and in particular to the York Group Executive Committee members for their commitment and presence at meetings, events, and special services and for their responsible discernment of a number of worthy charitable causes.

Sandra Mowat

Chair

York Group Executive Committee

Young Adults Group

The St. James Cathedral Young Adults group meets regularly over a meal for fellowship and growth in the faith around God's word.

This past year we have studied Paul's Letter to the Galatians in detail, culminating in a retreat with the theme "*Boasting Only in the Cross*" on Toronto Island.

We welcomed new members to the group this year, some of whom were baptized at the Easter Vigil; and we also said farewell to some members of the group who moved on to other cities.

This summer we have continued to meet and studied chapters 11 and 12 in the Letter to the Hebrews.

We look ahead with anticipation to another year of fellowship, friendship, food and growing faithfulness.

The Rev. Matthew Waterman
Associate Priest (until August 31, 2026)

**Annual Vestry Meeting (222nd)
Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 12 noon**

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth Hartman (Vestry Clerk)

1. Land Acknowledgement

Father Matthew Waterman gave the Land Acknowledgement.

2. Opening Prayer

The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields offered the opening prayer.

3. Appointment of Vestry Clerk

Motion to appoint Elizabeth Hartman as Vestry Clerk: Moved by Christian Kingsmill; seconded by Wairimu Nduati / Carried

4. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the Agenda: Moved by Kate Uchendu; seconded by David Gates / Carried

5. Minutes of the 221st Annual Vestry Meeting on March 1, 2024

Motion to approve Minutes of Vestry 2024: Moved by Nick Tunnacliffe; seconded by John Hopperton / Carried

6. Dean's Report

I have just finished my first year as Dean and it has been an enjoyable one.

I am referring to my notes now to highlight those many successes:

- It was encouraging to see the numbers for the Christmas Services
- The generosity shown during the Stewardship campaign
- The financial position at the end of the year
- The continued work of the Outreach, Refugee and Drop-in Committees
- The renewal of the Snell Lectures with many in attendance and can look forward to National Indigenous Bishop Chris Harper in June

Now for the plans for the upcoming year

- We are now accepting applications for the Director of the Children's Community Choir.
- This year we are developing a plan to deal with the structural and internal needs of our buildings. This year is the assessment of the needs, not the work.
- The clock will be fixed.
- A six-week trial has started today on the distribution of Communion. It has been done to ease congestion and for security. Please respond by dropping an email, good or bad.
- A working group is in place to help find ways to refresh the 9 AM service. More information will come.
- As always there is a focus on financial stability and getting to a place of financial security.

My thanks go to the Vicar and staff, Wardens Kate Uchendu and David Gates, and the Cathedral Council for all their support. A reminder that the next Vestry Meeting is in six months, October 5, 2025.

Motion to accept the Dean's report: Moved by Sarah Rodrigues; seconded by Yosola Adeoye / Carried

7. Wardens' Remarks

As you can tell from the Vestry Report, we have wonderful and committed people at St. James:

- Kathy Biasi and her Drop-In team who served well over six thousand plates of food last year;
- The St. James and Community Refugee Committee – this November will mark ten years of helping people start new lives in this country;
- And these are just two examples of many.

- What I'd like to do now is to pay tribute to the people that we don't see on Sunday – the people who are behind the scenes, but who are critical to the continuing life, work and mission of this place. This includes
- Susan So and the administrative team: Andrea, Rose, Serena and Ludmila;
- Jim Kotsifas and his team: Raisa, Frank, Walter, Tenzin and all the sextons, and those responsible for live-streaming our services to those who can't be with us in person;
 - And, while physically out of sight but certainly not out of mind, George Vrozos and his team at St. James Cemetery.
- These are our “essential services” – the people open the doors, keep the lights on, make sure the service bulletins appear on time, and general and manage revenue so we can join together in worship – and they do such more.
- On behalf of the Wardens, to all who keep us “in business” – Thank you!

8. 2024 Audited Financial Statements

Summary of audited financial reports presented at vestry by Kate Uchendu

Our auditors provided an unqualified opinion on our audit meaning that they believe the audited reports are an accurate representation of St James financial position as of Dec 31, 2024.

Our statement of activities records our revenues against our expenses broken down by Cathedral and Cemetery. Combined Cemetery and Cathedral revenues exceed Cemetery and Cathedral expenses resulting in a net surplus. The Cathedral did not run a surplus and the Cathedral typically does not run a surplus. As a matter of fact, the Cathedral deficit is much smaller than usual and the Cemetery's improved performance was able to still provide us a surplus even after absorbing the Cathedral deficit. The Cathedral has historically run a deficit as our offerings and takings from the Event Centre are usually not enough to cover staff costs and building operating costs.

Motion to approve 2024 Audited Financial Statements:

moved by Ric Hillier; seconded by Chris Hillier / Carried

Yosola Adeoye expressed her thanks for the increased clarity of the presentation of the Financials in recent years.

9. Appointment of Auditors

It was recommended to retain the current auditors – Grant Thornton LLP.

Motion to approve appointment of Auditors:

moved by Colleen Cardillo; / seconded by David Mowat / Carried

10. 2025 Budget - The Cathedral Church of St. James

Overview: The budget for the first half of 2025 is based on a 12-month projection, pro-rated for seasonal activities. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase over the previous year was 2.0% in October 2024, with an annual average increase of 3.9%. The Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2025 is 3.1%.

Cathedral Revenue:

- Stewardship Offerings: Anticipated 5% increase due to enhanced education and donor base expansion.
- Designated Pledges: \$80K for Children's Choir and \$20K for website design.
- Bishop Snell Foundation: Estimated disbursement quota of \$190,000.
- Curacy Grant: \$30,000 from the Diocese.
- Event Rentals: Investment of \$25K in equipment; anticipated additional revenue of \$100K.
- Investment Income: Based on a 3-year average return.
- Overall Revenue: Projected to increase by 5% over 2024.

Cathedral Expenses:

- Staffing: Focus on sustainable operations, filling vacant positions, and cross-training.
 - New positions include Canon Missioner, Children's Community Choir Director & Accompanist, Operations Manager/Ministry Coordinator, Permanent Property Coordinator, and an additional full-time Sexton.
 - Salary adjustments for certain positions by 2–5%.
- Other Expenses: Increased insurance costs (9%), technical support, new website, and communications review.
- Mission Outreach: Budget of 2% of Stewardship Revenue.
- Overall Expenses: Projected to increase by 27% over 2024.
- Deficit: Projected 12-month deficit of (\$611,858); six-month pro-rated deficit of (\$501,069).

Cemetery Revenue:

- Crematorium Revenue: Commitment from a funeral home for 200 cremations annually; projected increase of 250 cremations.
- Grounds Revenue: Anticipated 10% increase in sales; continued sale of premium lots.
- General Revenue: Film rentals expected to continue.
- Investment Income: Maintained at 2024 levels.
- Overall Revenue: Projected to increase by 7% over 2024.

Cemetery Expenses:

- Staffing: Increased salaries to meet demand; partial year positions for crematorium operator and Grounds department.
- Utility Expenses: Increased costs and consumption.
- Maintenance: Resumption of deferred maintenance.
- Overall Expenses: Projected to increase by 15% over 2024.
- Surplus: Projected 12-month surplus of \$232,600; six-month pro-rated surplus of \$163,630.
- Interest Expense: Annual cost of \$90,000 for cemetery loan.

Overall Comments:

- Combined Budget: Operating deficit of (\$401,639) after interest for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2025.
- Funding: Reliance on unrestricted bequests and major donations to reduce the deficit.
- 3-Year Projection: Deficit expected to decline with increased cemetery operations.
- Cashflow: No immediate issues due to available funds, but a strong Stewardship base is essential.

Motion to approve 2025 Budget: moved by Bob Hart; seconded by Carol Kysela / Carried

11. 2025 Social Justice Vestry Motion: Protecting and Expanding Harm Reduction in Ontario

Motion – We, the parish of St. James Cathedral in the Diocese of Toronto, urge the Province of Ontario to reverse the planned closure of safe consumption sites in Ontario, and to lift the ban on the creation of new sites, in order to expand life-saving harm reduction services to Ontarians.

Keren Elumir, a nurse at the Moss Park Safe Injection Site on Sherbourne Street, spoke to this motion and provided information about the injection sites.

Two questions:

1. Barbara Hirst asked how the locations for the injection sites were chosen?

Karen said that the sites were chosen in the areas of the City that received the highest number of 911 calls.

2. Daisy Pittis asked, "What do I do?"

Karen provided a number of suggestions including visiting a site, writing to your City Councillor and MLA in your area. Our representatives need to know the names of those supporting this motion.

Motion to accept: moved by Mary Hopperton; seconded by Sandra Mowat / carried with one against

12. Organizational Reports

The Vicar made an addition to his report, thanking Bishop Colin Johnson and other Clergy who have supported our Ministry at the Cathedral.

Bishops

Apb Fred Hiltz
Bp. Peter Fenty
Bp. Kevin Robertson

Canons

Andrea Budge
Michael Burgess
David Brinton
Greg Carpenter
Edmund Der
Alison Dalby
Philip Hobson
Anthony Jemmott
Harold Nahabedian
Jesse Parker
Geoffrey Sangwine
Paul Walker

The Reverends

Leigh Kern
Leonard Leader
Kate Merriman
Shelley Pollard
Abraham Thomas

Archdeacons

Cheryl Palmer
Theodore Hunt

Motion to accept Reports: moved by Louis Nettleton; seconded by Don Solomon / Carried

13. Confirmation of Officers

The existing slate of officers have agreed to continue with their duties until the next Vestry Meeting, October 5, 2025.

Officers Appointed by the Dean

- Rector's Warden – Kate Uchendu (served 3 terms)
- Deputy Rector's Warden – Sarah McKinnon (served 1 term)
- Assistant Deputy Rector's Warden – Bob Hart (served 1 term)

Cathedral Council (5 appointments)

- Angela David (served 2 terms)
- Colleen Cardillo (served 2 terms)
- Carol Kysela (served 2 terms)
- Christian Kingsmill (served 1 term)
- Louis Nettleton (served 1 term)

Elected Wardens – 3 elected

- People's Warden – David Gates (served 2 terms)
- Deputy People's Warden – Sandra Mowat (served 2 terms)
- Assistant Deputy People's Warden – Mary Hopperton (served 1 term)

Elected Cathedral Council – 5 elected

- Denny Creighton (served 3 terms)
- Matt Jaeger (served 2 terms)
- Richard Harrop (served 2 terms)
- Sarah Rodrigues (served 2 terms)
- Stanley Baptiste (served 1 term)

Synod Representatives – 5 elected

- Ruth Davis (served 3 terms)
- Rob Haines (served 3 terms)
- Irene Bailey (served 3 terms)
- David Hedley (served 2 terms)
- Elizabeth Hartman (served 2 terms)

Alternate Synod Representatives – 2 elected

- Peter Dawes
- Marie Crosta

Parochial Tribunal (2 elected)

- Edwin Hawken (served 2 terms)
- Mary Jane Tuthill (served 1 term)

Motion to approve slate: moved by Rob Haines; seconded by Richard Harrop /Carried

14. Questions and Prayer

- Yosola Adeoye expressed her thanks for the return of the directives (Stand, Sit) during the services in the bulletins
- David Grant asked if there could be a meeting about the trial practice of receiving Communion during Lent at the foot of the Chancel steps.
- A three-minute time for personal Prayer closed the meeting.

15. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: moved by David Gates; seconded by Kate Uchendu

Next Special Vestry Meeting October 5, 2025

Special Meeting of Vestry
Sunday, October 5th 2025, 1pm

1. Land Acknowledgement: Projected on screen and read by Vicar Stephen Fields

2. Welcome & Opening Prayer: Dean Stephen Hance

- The Dean explained the need for the Special Vestry because of the change to the fiscal year-end. In future, Vestry Meetings will be held in October.

3. Appointment of Vestry Clerk: David Gates

- Moved by Christian Kingsmill; Seconded by Joan Peters; Carried.

4. Approval of the Agenda:

- Moved by Mary Hopperton; Seconded by Louis Nettleton; Carried.

5. Financial Report & 2025-26 Budget

- Executive Director Susan So presented the Unaudited Financial Statements for January to June 2025. Audited Financial Statements for the 18-month period of January 2025 to June 2026 will be presented at Vestry 2026.

- For context, she presented a comparison of Cathedral finances before, during and after the pandemic.

- The current financial picture is better than had been projected because of increase in Cathedral revenue through event rentals and investment growth and the lowering of expenses; the cemetery has underperformed financially but a major gift and several bequests have helped.

- Susan So thanked the Dean, the Wardens, her staff and all who contributed to St. James.

- Ted Hawken asked for an explanation of the Deferred Special Purpose Contribution. Susan So explained that this represented money provided for specific projects, in this case the funds from the Diocese for the renovation to the cemetery. The funds have been spent and will appear in future statements as a decreasing amount to show the amortization of the project.

- John Hansen asked if the investment gains are sufficient to cover the deficit. Susan So replied that, the deficit is covered because of our sizeable internally restricted funds, but those funds cannot be used to erase the deficit.

- Nick Tunnacliffe asked about the Wardens' Legacy Fund and how funds are withdrawn. Susan So replied that there was a policy created a few years ago to place unrestricted bequest money in this internally restricted fund, rather than use it for operating expenses. Decisions about disbursement of funds are made by the Executive.

- Acceptance of Unaudited Financial Statements Moved by Paul Melville-Gray; Seconded by Bill Benson; Carried.

- Susan So presented the proposed Budget for 2025-2026.

- She projected a 10% increase in Cathedral revenue, because of increases in visitor donations and rental sales, and an increase in Cemetery revenue because of sales and partnerships.

- However, a deficit is projected for 2025-2026 because the Cemetery revenue cannot cover the shortfall of Cathedral revenue and increased expenses.

- This situation is not alarming yet as internally restricted funds can cover cash flow, but finances will be closely monitored going forward.

- John Hansen asked if there was a line for marketing and business promotion. Susan So replied that these are included in the communications line as we do not have a separate budget for marketing.

- Richard Harrop asked if the identity of a major donor could be shared and how that money is to be used. Susan So replied that the donor wished to be anonymous, and the use of the funds would be approved by the Executive and the Cathedral Council.

- David Mowat asked if the assumption of increased revenue is optimistic and if there were plans to deal with the deficit. Susan So replied that the newly reconstituted Finance Committee is closely monitoring the situation and reports regularly to the Executive and Cathedral Council.

- The Dean offered a reminder of the Pre-Vestry Meetings for those who wished a “deeper dive” into the Cathedral’s financial situation. He thanked Susan So for all her work on the Financials and Budget.
- Acceptance of 2025–26 Budget Moved by Matt Jaeger; Seconded by Bob Hart; Carried.

6. Appointment and Election of Officers for 2025-2026

- Carol Kysela of the Nominating Committee, along with Don Solomon and Louis Nettleton, presented the slate of proposed officer, those to be appointed by the Dean and those to be elected.

To Be Appointed by the Dean

Rector’s Warden	Sarah McKinnon (one term served)
Deputy Rector’s Warden	Bob Hart (one term served)
Assistant Deputy Rector’s Warden	Christophe Pike
Cathedral Council	Angela David (two terms served)
Cathedral Council	Paul Melville–Gray
Cathedral Council	Carol Kysela (two terms served)
Cathedral Council	Christian Kingsmill (one term served)
Cathedral Council	Louis Nettleton (one term served)

To be Elected

People’s Warden	Sandra Mowat (two terms served)
Deputy People’s Warden	Richard Harrop
Assistant Deputy People’s Warden	Stanley Baptiste
Cathedral Council	Matt Jaeger (two terms served)
Cathedral Council	Bill Benson
Cathedral Council	Jane Rowan
Cathedral Council	Rob Haines
Cathedral Council	Zanefar Ramoutar
Synod Rep	Marie Crosta
Synod Rep	David Hedley
Synod Rep	Peter Dawes
Synod Rep	Daisy Pittis
Synod Rep	Billie Anne Robinson
Alternate Synod Rep	Joan Peters
Alternate Synod Rep	Zidan Murshed
Parish Tribunal Member	David Gates
Parish Tribunal Member	Sterling Mancuso

- Carol Kysela thanked all those who put their names forward for the various offices for volunteering.
- The Vicar raised a question about the purpose of the Parish Tribunal. David Gates responded that the Parish Tribunal’s purpose is to settle questions about Vestry membership.
- Acceptance of Officer Slate Moved by Nick Tunnacliffe; Seconded by Wairimu Nduati; Carried.

8. The Dean’s Comments

Over the last few months, we have put some flesh on the bones of what it means for us to be “A Cathedral fit for the city of Toronto.”

Just after Easter we welcomed Canon Kristen Pitts to be our Canon Missioner. She has got off to a brilliant start, engaging with people of our neighborhood, especially families with children, and I am excited about what lies ahead. Karyne too is continuing to build relationships with the families and children of our neighborhood, with another highly successful Family Fun Night just a week or so back.

We also appointed Cara Halpin to be the first Director of our Children's Community Choir. Cara led our first Choir Camp in August with around 30 children in attendance, and has now begun the rehearsals for the choir, with around a dozen at the first rehearsal. It's wonderful to see these plans taking shape after a long time of talking and thinking and praying and fundraising.

Also in the last month we have refreshed our 9am service, and I am grateful to the 9am Working Group who worked hard to get us to this point. 9am is now called Worship Together and has the aim of building on the long-established priorities of community and participation to increase access and inclusion still further, while remaining a recognizably Anglican Eucharist. We will continue to review and tweak Worship Together, not every week but over time, until we feel we have got it right.

I hope it will be clear that these initiatives hold together to increase engagement from the neighborhood with our Cathedral, particularly among young families. But I am sometimes asked why we are putting so much emphasis there. Here are three of the reasons.

One, because we know there is a need and an opportunity. We know from researching our neighborhood that there are many families with children here, although not many of them have previously been engaged with the Cathedral. We know this for example from the 400 people who came to our Easter Egg hunt earlier this year

Two, because organizations which don't renew themselves die. Newsflash – none of us are getting any younger. If we want the Cathedral to outlast us, then we have to particularly reach out to generations who are under-represented, not instead of but as well as our care for other age groups.

And three, because the love of Jesus compels us to reach out to those who are not consciously connected with him to share that love and engage them with our community. Remember it was Jesus who said, "Let the children come to me." That is what we are trying to do.

There are many other things that have been going on over the last few months, of course, but I think we are at a particularly exciting moment with our engagement with children and families and I hope and pray that will continue and grow over the year ahead. In addition, we have added several new members to our Lay Pastoral Visitors team. We have seen the work with young adults continue to grow and develop. The work of The Drop In continues and so does the work of the Refugee Committee, with the walk-a-thon just last weekend. Jacqui and I have been pleased to use the Deanery for hospitality many times over the last few months. And we have celebrated Matthew and Carol's marriage!

Now, before I start looking forward to what lies ahead of us, I want to let you know that I have agreed with the Bishop and the Corporation to take a sabbatical in 2026. Clergy are typically encouraged to take a sabbatical of three months every seven years or so. The purpose is to provide an extended period for refreshment and renewal. This can include travel, study, retreat, pilgrimage or time with family and friends. I know that previous deans have not availed themselves of this opportunity, but it is widely utilized elsewhere and encouraged for healthy ministry.

So looking forward, what does the next year hold?

As I said, we are moving into the implementation phase with some of the things we have been planning for a while. So we want to see the Children's Community Choir grow and find its feet. I hope before the next Vestry meeting comes along we will have been able to involve the choir in our worship, at least as a one-off, and perhaps had a recital for parents and friends to come to. We want to see the ministry with children and families develop further – Playdates, Family Fun Nights, as well as Sunday School.

We want to get the Worship Together 9am service right as far as we can. We are keeping that under review and listening to all the feedback – thank you if you have shared some. Every few weeks the clergy team will be talking about the feedback and making any changes we think are needed. Please do pray for this service. Invite anyone you know for whom it might be suitable. Come along and see what is going on. And if it isn't for you, remember that we have three other services, at 8:00am, 11:00am, and 4:30pm, all

of which are very traditional. Hopefully we can offer one service on a Sunday which is a bit different.

We will work on strengthening our pastoral care and our plans for discipleship and spiritual growth. I am delighted that we are in a position to add to our faithful team of Lay Pastoral Visitors under Matthew's leadership. This continues to be a priority for us. As opportunities for worship and learning we continue to offer Morning Prayer on zoom every day, Scripture Circle every week and Education for Ministry. And in the next year we will start looking seriously at how to develop our offer of groups and programs to help each of us grow as disciples of Jesus.

Our outreach work will also continue of course, with The Drop-In and the Refugee Committee, both of which do work which is often not seen but is hugely valuable for many people. I regularly hear stories from both these valuable ministries about the difference they are making in people's lives. Do speak to Kathy or Rebecca if you'd like to help with either of those.

On our building, we will be commissioning a comprehensive building survey so we can see what is needed in the next few years and put together a plan to take care of repairs and maintenance but also to improve the look and feel of the Cathedral. And yes, I know it needs redecorating. And we will get the clock fixed. Really. And I am very glad that we now have a Buildings Committee, chaired by Bob Hart, which is helping us with all this.

And then financially, well, we still have a way to go. I won't say too much about this because it is covered elsewhere in our meeting. But yes, we continue to run a deficit budget, and no, I don't feel comfortable with that. I am glad that we now have a renewed Finance Committee chaired by Sarah McKinnon to help with this. So, we will continue to work hard to develop our income from the cemetery, from building rentals, from investments, and from stewardship. And stewardship means us, what we give. Some of us give a lot. Some of us give a little. And a lot of us don't give anything at all.

So I want to encourage you – every one of us – to play our part.

Financially, if you are somebody who gives a lot, I want to say thank you. I want to ask you to keep going. And if you are in a position to, maybe you could increase what you give to at least keep up with the cost-of living increases and perhaps more.

If you're someone who gives a little, again, thank you. But could you review what you give too? If you give 2%, could you make it 3? If you give 3%, could you make it 5? Jacqui and I have sought to give 10% of our income throughout our married life. Some of you are doing the same. But could some more of us do that, give a full tithe of our income?

If you're someone who gives sporadically, maybe when you come to a service, could you start giving regularly through pre-authorized giving? That way we know what is coming in and can plan accordingly. And you don't miss a week if you are travelling elsewhere.

If you haven't left anything to the Cathedral in your will, could you join the many people in our community who have done that?

And if you don't yet give anything at all, could you start? We need you. Every one of you. Pre-authorized is best. One-off gifts are hugely helpful too. Whatever you can do. Not just because you care about this place and it needs your support. But out of gratitude to God for his work in your life.

All of us with a part to play. But that's not just about money. What about volunteering? Is there a ministry you might like to be involved in? What about The Drop In or Children's Choir? What about serving on a committee or the altar guild? It's a great way of putting your faith into action and making good friends here in the community as well as contributing to something worthwhile. And then, could I ask you to pray? Pray to grow closer to God, of course, but also pray for the Cathedral, that God will bless and protect and guide us we seek to serve God's mission and God's people in this place.

Amongst those who are stepping down from leadership roles in our community today are two people who have exemplified this for me. David and Kate have served as wardens here with distinction and dedication. They care deeply about this place. They have brought wisdom and challenge. They have worked hard and served with grace and love. We have been privileged to have them as Wardens, and I am privileged to call them friends. Please can we express our appreciation.

I'd also like to thank Mary Hopperton who has served as a deputy assistant warden for the last year and is stepping down today.

So that brings me to the end of my remarks. Thanks for listening.

8. Closing Prayer: Dean Stephen Hance

9. Adjournment of Vestry: Moved by Kate Uchendu

Vestry Registrars:

Mary Hopperton

Joan Peters

George McNeillie

Christian Kingsmill

David Gates

Bob Hart