

ST. JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH LEITRIM

VESTRY REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008



The Annual Meeting of St. James Anglican Church, Leitrim, will be held on Sunday February 22, 2009 at 12:30 pm. The meeting will be held in the church basement immediately following the service.

All supporters sixteen years of age or over at St. James Anglican Church, Leitrim are earnestly requested to be in attendance at the Annual Meeting. This is one occasion in the year when we meet together as a parish, and elect the officers of the church.

****** Please remember to bring this report to the Vestry Meeting.**

Baptisms

To each family who experienced a baptism in the past year we extend our continued support and prayers as a Christian community.



Kenneth Allan

Ambrosia Miriam Victoria Wootton-Mendelsohn

Victor William Charles Wootton



Jesus said "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven".

Burials

To those families who experienced the loss of a loved one



Marion Agnes Ramsden

Georgina Lillian Stewart

Oliver Gerald Stoner

"Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God".



Marriages

To those who have joined in Holy Matrimony

There were NO Marriages in 2008

"What God has joined together let no man put asunder"



Interment of Ashes

To those friends of ours who have passed into God's nearer presence

There were NO Interment of Ashes in 2008



"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

AGENDA

22nd February, 2009, 12:30 p.m.

| Activity | Description of Activity | Page |
|----------|---|--|
| 1 | Opening Prayer | |
| 2 | Signing of the Vestry Book | |
| 3 | Appointment of the Vestry Clerk | |
| 4 | Minutes of Annual Vestry meeting - Sunday February 24, 2008 (Karen) | 4,5,6 |
| 5 | Comparative Income Statement - 2008 (Mike Thomas Sr) | 7,8,9 |
| 6 | Ladies' Guild Financial Statement – 2008 (Karen) | 10 |
| 7 | Ladies' Guild Income Statement – 2008 (Karen) | 11 |
| 8 | Altar Guild Financial Statement – 2008 (Karen) | 12 |
| 9 | Comparative Balance Sheet – 2008 (Mike Thomas Sr) | 13 |
| 10 | Budget – 2009 | 14, 15,16,17 |
| 11 | Wood's Cemetery Financial Statement – 2008 (Glenn Clark) | 18,19 |
| | ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS | |
| 12 | Wood's Cemetery Report – 2008 (Glenn Clark) | 20 |
| 13 | Auditor's Report – 2008 (Glenn Clark) | 20 |
| 14 | Sunday School report – 2008 (Mike Thomas Jr.) | 21 |
| 15 | Ladies' Guild Report – 2008 (Karen) | 22 |
| 16 | Rector's Report to Vestry - 2008 (Margo) | 23,24,25,26, 27 |
| 16 | Statistics - 2008 (Margo) | 27 |
| 17 | Church Warden's Report – 2008 (Glenn and Vic) | 28,29,30,31, 32,33,34,35, 36,37,38,39, 40 |
| 18 | Pat Coulombe's Resignation Letter – Feb 24, 2008 | 41,42 |
| 19 | Stewardship Report – 2008 (Chuck) | 43,44 |
| 20 | Synod delegate's report – 2008 (Irene Collin) | 45,46 |
| | NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS (Margo and Vic) | |
| 21 | Report of the Nominating Committee - 2008 | 46 |
| 22 | Appointments – 2008 (Margo) | 47 |
| 23 | Servers Appointed | |
| 24 | New Business | |
| 25 | Adjournment | |

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING FOR ST. JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH, LEITRIM

FEBRUARY 24, 2008

Incumbent: Rev. Pat Coulombe

Present:

Irene Thomas
Mike Thomas Sr.
Mike Thomas Jr.
Karen McPeak
Pierre Coulombe

Sylvia Thomas
Chris Collin
Chuck Wootton
Glenn Clark

Evelyn Clark
Maureen Kemp
Victor Wootton
Janet Rennick

The meeting began at 12:35pm with a prayer read by Pat. Karen accepted the duty of Vestry Clerk and the minutes of the last meeting were reviewed, and no corrections were noted. Chuck made a motion to accept the 2007 minutes as printed, Irene seconded the motion, all were in favour. Carried.

Business arising from the minutes – none.

Financial Statements

The most important item to note is that the offerings were up by \$4,000. This reduced the projected deficit from over \$5,000 to the actual deficit of \$288.

Glenn noted that as there was a transfer from the General Fund to the Memorial Fund to cover the 2006 deficit, there should be corresponding entries in the income statement reflecting revenue and expense. Mike explained that this was corrected in his final financial statement, however the final version did not make it to print in time for the Annual Report. Therefore, there will be an amended financial statement attached to these minutes.

Mike is forecasting another deficit this year, however, the offerings are never accurately predicted, and so we hope that they will be up, and this will decrease the deficit. Mikey asked if we could bring back the thermometer chart to show the parish the projected target, and our monthly progress towards meeting the target. Mikey and his father will work on bringing that visual back to the parish.

Mike made a motion to accept the financial statements with the corrections as noted. Glenn seconded the motion, all were in favour. Carried.

Budget

We received a letter from the diocese asking for \$225 to help cover the cost of General Synod. Mike made a motion to agree to pay these extra funds, Pierre seconded the motion, all were in favour. Carried.

Mike made a motion for the acceptance of the budget as printed with the increased figure for Diocesan Maintenance, Mikey seconded the motion, all were in favour. Carried.

Reports

Maureen noticed an error in the report of burials in the parish. The name should be Peter Ramsden, not Ramsey. Victor apologized for this error. Glenn made a motion for the acceptance of the reports as printed, Maureen seconded the motion, all were in favour. Carried.

Nominations

Chris Collin expressed his desire to become a Synod Delegate. Victor explained that both members noted in the Annual Report had said they would be willing to step down if there was someone who wished to take their place, and so Chris will replace Chuck Wootton as one of our Synod Delegates. He will be added to the "Appointments" section of the Nomination Report. Pat thanked Chuck for all his years of service as a Synod Delegate, and Chris commended him for all his reports to parish over the years.

Pat noted that the auditor position should also come under the "Appointments" section of the report.

Mike made a motion that the members of Parish Council be accepted as elected, Karen seconded the motion, all were in favour. Carried.

Lay Administrators – there is no need for a vote to accept these names as they have all agreed to continue. Pat inquired as to whether anyone else would like to join in this ministry, no one raised their hand.

New Business

Glenn made a presentation for the idea of stained glass windows. He visited with St. Bernard's and took photos of their windows which were passed around. Their window project was part of a 50th Anniversary celebration, and donations covered the cost which was under \$2,500 per window. We have a parish member who is willing to make a significant donation to this project. Pat explained that this issue was brought up at Parish Council, and at this point in time it was agreed that we need to be cautious in proceeding with this expense at this time due to the instability of our situation right now. The diocese is recommending that we merge with Greely, however this is very much still under discussion. The

projected deficit also means we need to be sure we can pay for a priest before looking at large expenses.

Chris commented that we need to increase our members to be able to afford projects such as these. Glenn noted that even if we were to leave our current building, the windows could be moved to our next location. Maureen agreed that this is a time to be cautious with our spending.

Chris continued with the issue of increased membership by asking for a clear directive from Vestry, however Pat did not feel a motion was required in this regard as it is discussed regularly at Parish Council. Vic believes that everything that can be done, is being done in this regard. Pat commented that if everyone on the parish list would come to church regularly, we could easily have 50 people in church each Sunday.

Pat then read a letter from Liba Straznicky expressing her decision to leave the Anglican Church. She is not happy with the direction the church is taking, and so she has decided to leave.

Pat then proceeded to read us her letter of resignation. She is leaving the Anglican Church of Canada effective February 25, 2008, and will be relinquishing her license to the Bishop. She will temporarily be joining St. Alban's downtown, and will be requesting a new license under the Anglican Province of the Southern Cone.

Pierre made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:50pm.

Victor thanked Pat for her years of service. She will be missed here at St. James.

Comparative Income Statement 2008

**St. James Anglican Church
Comparative Income Statement**

| REVENUE | 2008-12-31 | 2007-12-31 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Offerings | | |
| Envelope (Including Par) | 31,439.96 | 37,101.96 |
| Bridlewood - Envelopes | 20.00 | 140.00 |
| Bridlewood - Open | 110.94 | 225.05 |
| Bridlewood - Bldg. | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Bridlewood Thanksgiving | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Initial | 16.00 | 10.00 |
| Open | 777.41 | 725.48 |
| Maundy Thursday | 55.00 | 50.00 |
| Shrove Tuesday | 140.00 | 86.78 |
| Shrove Tuesday - Auction | 190.11 | 113.45 |
| Ash Wednesday | 40.00 | 50.00 |
| Easter | 1,685.00 | 1,580.00 |
| Thanksgiving | 830.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Christmas | 2,635.00 | 2,439.00 |
| Memorial - Gerald Stoner | 100.00 | 1,945.41 |
| Memorial - Shirley Williams | 0.00 | 250.00 |
| Youth Group | 0.00 | 216.00 |
| World Vision | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Lawler Garden Donations | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Alpha | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Interest Earned | 5.48 | 6.46 |
| P.W.R.D.F. | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Hymn Book Donations | 800.00 | 0.00 |
| Flower Donations - Altar | 200.00 | 0.00 |
| General Donations | 21.84 | 198.28 |
| History Books Income | 200.00 | 690.00 |
| BAS Prayer Books | 0.00 | 25.00 |
| Booklets - Case for Easter | 66.30 | 63.10 |
| Lenten Cards | 88.22 | 240.00 |
| Lenten Boxes | 19.16 | 44.02 |
| Mothers Day Breakfast | 0.00 | 58.00 |
| Miscellaneous Income | 0.00 | 0.53 |
| Ad vent Cards | 0.00 | 68.00 |
| Yard Sale Income | 1,511.30 | 1,808.66 |
| Calendar Sales | 95.00 | 0.00 |
| Ladies Guild Donations | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Altar Guild Donation | 191.42 | 0.00 |
| GST Rebates | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | 42,238.14 | 50,635.18 |
| Building Fund | | |
| Bldg. Fund Offerings | 828.85 | 825.00 |
| Bldg Fund - Ladies Guild Donations | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL BLDG FUND | 828.85 | 825.00 |

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| TOTAL REVENUE | 43,066.99 | 51,460.18 |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| EXPENSES | 2008-12-31 | 2007-12-31 |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Cost of Priestly Services | | |
| Remuneration - Incumbent | 20,826.34 | 31,446.00 |
| Honorarium - Substitute Priests | 1,282.00 | 612.00 |
| Discretionary Fund | 200.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Priestly Services | <u>22,308.34</u> | <u>32,058.00</u> |

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Diocesan Support | | |
| Equalization | 318.00 | 318.00 |
| Maintenance | 8,925.02 | 7,299.96 |
| Church Mission | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Insurance | 678.00 | 657.96 |
| Misc Diocesan Credits | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Diocesan Support | <u>9,921.02</u> | <u>8,275.92</u> |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Building Fund Expenditures | | |
| Renovations | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Furnace | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Basement Floor | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Air Conditioning | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| GST Building | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Bldg. Fund Expenditures | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| General Expenses | | |
| Conferences | 447.00 | 205.00 |
| Outreach (Donations) | 420.00 | 475.00 |
| P.W.R.D.F. Donations | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Residential School | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Advertising | 2.53 | 45.55 |
| Flag Pole & Flags | 0.00 | 119.85 |
| Church Calendars - For Sale | 73.00 | 0.00 |
| Worship - Including Honorariums | 424.00 | 447.36 |
| Sundsy School | 531.68 | 650.97 |
| Parish Development | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Memorial Fund Transfer | 0.00 | 1,920.99 |
| Lawler Garden | 0.00 | 179.41 |
| Perpetual Light | 0.00 | 688.19 |
| Capital Purchases | 339.21 | 204.20 |
| Hydro | 2,519.20 | 2,388.65 |
| Telephone | 780.47 | 728.14 |
| Internet Services (Data Processing) | 309.04 | 310.54 |
| Water | 42.45 | 56.91 |
| Postage | 83.26 | 87.86 |

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| History Books Expense | 150.18 | 812.80 |
| Stationary Supplies | 277.20 | 263.93 |
| Bldg. Mtce. Supplies | 93.87 | 173.54 |
| Bible Study Material | 115.96 | 0.00 |
| Maintenance & Repairs | 683.86 | 796.41 |
| | 2008-12-31 | 2007-12-31 |
| Face Painting Supplies | 0.00 | 100.00 |
| Yard Sale Expenses | 183.40 | 279.76 |
| Flowers | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Celebrations, Gifts, etc. | 308.36 | 336.36 |
| Groceries | 0.00 | 55.38 |
| Rent | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| World Vision Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Bank Charges/Interest | 88.00 | 87.71 |
| Candles | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Host | 20.29 | 0.00 |
| Wine | 20.90 | 0.00 |
| Flowers Altar | 116.44 | 0.00 |
| Hymn Books | 806.98 | 0.00 |
| GST General | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total General Expenses | <u>8,837.28</u> | <u>11,414.51</u> |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | <u>41,066.64</u> | <u>51,748.43</u> |
| NET INCOME | <u><u>2,000.35</u></u> | <u><u>(288.25)</u></u> |

Ladies' Guild Financial Statement 2008

Bank Balance December 31, 2007 6,240.49

Receipts

Offerings 55.40
Bank Interest 2.12
Donation 100.00
Turkey Supper 3,329.01

Total Receipts 3,486.53

Total Revenue 9,727.02

Expenditure

St.James Church 1,000.00
Church School 131.38
Supper Expenses 1,226.10
Bank Charges 27.00

Total Expenditures 2,384.48

Surplus 2008 7,342.54

OS Cheque #8 Cleared Jan.4/08 1,000.00

OS Cheque #9 Cleared Feb.20/08 440.69

Bank Balance December 31, 2008 5,901.85

Summary of Assets

Bank Balance at December 31, 2008 5,901.85

Canada Premium Bond Series 52 4,000.00

Total 9,901.85

Ladies's Guild Income Statement 2008

Balance Forward **4,799.80**

| | | | Receipts | Expenses |
|-------------|----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Date | Cheque # | Description | | |
| Jan. 31/08 | | Service Charge | | 2.25 |
| Feb.29/08 | | Service Charge | | 2.25 |
| Mar. 31/08 | | Service Charge | | 2.25 |
| Apr. 30/08 | | Interest | 1.01 | |
| Apr. 30/08 | | Service Charge | | 2.25 |
| May 30/08 | | Service Charge | | 2.25 |
| June 30/08 | | Service Charge | | 2.25 |
| July 31/08 | | Service Charge | | 2.25 |
| Aug. 29/08 | | Service Charge | | 2.25 |
| Sept. 30/08 | | Service Charge | | 2.25 |
| Oct. 1/08 | 10 | City of Ottawa - Greely Hall | | 383.56 |
| Oct. 31/08 | | Interest | 1.11 | |
| Oct. 31/08 | | Service Charge | | 2.25 |
| Nov.3/08 | | Turkey Supper | 3,329.01 | |
| | | Cash Paid to Tammylee - Groceries | | 200.00 |
| | | Cash Paid to Ron Stuart - Signs | | 30.00 |
| | | Collection (2 meetings) | 26.00 | |
| Nov.6/08 | 12 | Debbie Donoghue - Turkeys | | 453.62 |
| Nov. 13/08 | 13 | Karen McPeak - Groceries | | 158.92 |
| Nov. 28/08 | | Service Charge | | 2.25 |
| Dec. 29/08 | | Donation - Ramsden Family | 100.00 | |
| | | Collection - Oct. & Nov. | 29.40 | |
| Dec.30/08 | 11 | St. James General Fund | | 1,000.00 |
| | 14 | Karen McPeak - Church School | | 131.38 |
| Dec. 31/07 | | Service Charge | | 2.25 |
| | | Total | 3,486.53 | 2,384.48 |
| | | Net Income 2008 | | 1,102.05 |
| | | Surplus 2008 | | 5,901.85 |

ALTAR GUILD FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2008

Ledger Balance, December 31, 2007 440.85

Receipts

:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Contributions from Ladies' Guild | 0.00 |
| Contributions from Flower Donations | 110.00 |
| Proceeds from Sale of Calendars | 0.00 |
| Interest earned | 0.00 |
| Reversal of cheque dated Nov. 8, 2005 | 0.00 |
| Total Receipts | <u>110.00</u> |

Expenditures:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Flowers | 101.57 |
| Calendars | 0.00 |
| Wafers/Palms | 30.40 |
| Candles | 117.18 |
| Wine | 51.15 |
| Stationery | 0.00 |
| Bank Charges | 10.45 |
| Other (Linens) | 48.68 |
| Transfer to St. James General Account | <u>191.42</u> |
| Total Expenditures | 550.85 |

Surplus (deficit) 2008 -440.85

Balance per General Ledger, December 31, 2008 0.00

Balance per Bank, December 31, 2008 0.00

Note: Responsibility for the financial activity of the Altar Guild is being handling by St. James General Account.

Comparative Balance Sheet - 2008

| ASSETS | 2008-12-31 | 31-Dec-07 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cash & Equivalent | | |
| General Fund Allocation | 13,984.36 | 12,409.15 |
| Ottawa Centre Deanery | 240.57 | 0.00 |
| Building Fund Allocation | 2,515.69 | 1,686.84 |
| Building Fund - Investments | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Memorial Fund Allocation | 350.00 | 250.00 |
| Memorial Fund - Investments | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Youth Group Allocation | 12.82 | 432.82 |
| World Vision Allocation | 87.46 | 53.25 |
| Total Cash | <u>17,190.90</u> | <u>14,832.06</u> |
| | | |
| Accounts Receivable | | |
| G.S.T. Receivable | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| G.S.T. Receivable 2008 | 138.74 | 222.45 |
| P.S.T. Receivable | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Receivables | <u>138.74</u> | <u>222.45</u> |
| | | |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u><u>17,329.64</u></u> | <u><u>15,054.51</u></u> |
| | | |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| | | |
| Liabilities | | |
| Accounts Payable | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Payable World Vision | 87.46 | 53.25 |
| Payable Ottawa Centre Deanery | 240.57 | 0.00 |
| Payable P.W.R.D.F. | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Accounts Payable Misc | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Accrual for Microphone | 85.00 | 85.00 |
| Total Liabilities | <u>413.03</u> | <u>138.25</u> |
| | | |
| EQUITY | | |
| | | |
| Net Worth | | |
| Total Prior Years Equity | 14,916.26 | 15,204.51 |
| Current Earnings | <u>2,000.35</u> | <u>(288.25)</u> |
| Total Equity | <u>16,916.61</u> | <u>14,916.26</u> |
| | | |
| TOTAL EQUITY | <u><u>16,916.61</u></u> | <u><u>14,916.26</u></u> |

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

17,329.64

15,054.5

1

Budget - 2009

| St. James Leitrim 2009 Budget | Actual 2006 | Actual 2007 | Forecast 2008 | Actual 2008 | Forecast 2009 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Receipts - General | | | | | |
| Envelopes (Including Par) | 33261.17 | 37101.9 6 | 37000.00 | 31439.96 | 35000.00 |
| Initial | 42.00 | 10.00 | 50.00 | 16.00 | 25.00 |
| Open | 894.21 | 725.48 | 500.00 | 777.41 | 500.00 |
| Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas | 4831.00 | 5519.00 | 5000.00 | 5150.00 | 5000.00 |
| Biblestudy material | 0.00 | 88.10 | 50.00 | 66.30 | 50.00 |
| Interest | 8.53 | 6.46 | 10.00 | 5.48 | 10.00 |
| Hymn Book Donations | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 800.00 | 100.00 |
| Flower Donations | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 | 300.00 |
| Donations - General | 334.04 | 176.44 | 200.00 | 21.84 | 21.84 |
| Youth Group Donations | 378.19 | 216.00 | 200.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Memorial Fund Donations | 1453.11 | 271.84 | 300.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |
| Ladies Guild Donations | 1030.00 | 1000.00 | 1000.00 | 1000.00 | 1000.00 |
| Maundy Thursday, Ash Wednesday | 87.75 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 95.00 | 100.00 |
| Shrove Tuesday, Dinner and Auction | 157.85 | 200.23 | 200.00 | 330.11 | 200.00 |
| Mother's day breakfast | 0.00 | 58.00 | 50.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Lenten, Advent cards | 0.00 | 352.02 | 400.00 | 107.38 | 125.00 |
| Bridlewood | 276.55 | 365.05 | 350.00 | 130.94 | 200.00 |
| Offerings | | | | | |
| World Vision Donations | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Altar Guild Donation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 191.42 | 0.00 |
| Miscellaneous Income | 35.00 | 0.53 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 |
| Operating Revenue | 42789.40 | 46191.1 1 | 45510.00 | 40431.84 | 42731.84 |
| Miscellaneous Events | | | | | |
| Yard Sale | 2302.87 | 1808.66 | 2500.00 | 1511.30 | 2000.00 |
| Calendar Sales | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 95.00 | 95.00 |
| History Book Donations | 3221.18 | 690.00 | 500.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| Total Misc. | 5524.05 | 2498.66 | 3000.00 | 1806.30 | 2295.00 |
| Events | | | | | |

Building Fund

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| Offerings | 904.00 | 825.00 | 1000.00 | 828.85 | 1000.00 |
| Ladies Guild Donations | 200.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Other | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Building Fund. | 1104.00 | 825.00 | 1000.00 | 828.85 | 1000.00 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------|----------|--------------|----------|----------|----------|
| TOTAL REVENUES | 49417.45 | 49514.7 7 | 49510.00 | 43066.99 | 46026.84 |
|----------------|----------|--------------|----------|----------|----------|

St. James Leitrim - 2009 Budget

| | Actual 2006 | Actual 2007 | Forecast 2008 | Actual 2008 | Page No. 2. 2009 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| EXPENSES | | | | | |
| C.O.P.S. | 29055.92 | 31446.0 0 | 32170.00 | 20826.34 | 29615.00 |
| Priest Honorarium | 625.00 | 612.00 | 780.00 | 1282.00 | 1000.00 |
| Discretionary Fund | 500.00 | 0.00 | 300.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| Total Priest's Expenses | 30180.92 | 32058.0 0 | 33250.00 | 22308.34 | 30815.00 |
| Diocesan Support | | | | | |
| Equalization | 318.00 | 318.00 | 318.00 | 318.00 | 318.00 |
| Maintenance | 3579.00 | 7299.96 | 8725.00 | 8925.02 | 8067.00 |
| Church Mission | 4555.92 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Insurance | 693.00 | 657.96 | 678.00 | 678.00 | 698.00 |
| Misc. | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 |
| Total Diocesan Support | 9145.92 | 8275.92 | 9821.00 | 9921.02 | 9183.00 |
| Building Fund Expenditures | | | | | |
| Renovations (SHED) | 586.16 | 0.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 | 2000.00 |
| Total Building Expenditures | 586.16 | 0.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 | 2000.00 |
| General Expenditures | | | | | |
| Conferences | 596.00 | 205.00 | 700.00 | 447.00 | 500.00 |

| | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Outreach Including Donations to Other Charities | 334.84 | 475.00 | 1000.00 | 420.00 | 500.00 |
| Advertising | 10.49 | 45.55 | 100.00 | 2.53 | 100.00 |
| Worship Including Honorarium | 543.57 | 447.36 | 800.00 | 424.00 | 500.00 |
| Christian Education | 592.77 | 650.97 | 600.00 | 531.68 | 600.00 |
| Parish Development | 59.76 | 0.00 | 200.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Capital Purchases | 277.52 | 204.20 | 300.00 | 339.21 | 300.00 |
| Hydro | 1979.59 | 2388.65 | 2400.00 | 2519.20 | 2500.00 |
| Telephone | 632.08 | 728.14 | 730.00 | 780.47 | 780.00 |
| Water | 51.31 | 56.91 | 60.00 | 42.45 | 60.00 |
| Internet Services (Data Processing) | 451.11 | 310.54 | 325.00 | 309.04 | 325.00 |
| Postage | 86.64 | 87.86 | 100.00 | 83.26 | 100.00 |

General Expenditures - Con't

| | 2006 | 2007 | Forecast 2008 | 2008 | Page No. 3 2009 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| Supplies, Stationary | 401.47 | 263.93 | 300.00 | 277.20 | 300.00 |
| Mtce. & Repairs | 665.79 | 969.95 | 500.00 | 777.73 | 500.00 |
| Celebrations, Gifts and Garden | 639.16 | 336.36 | 400.00 | 308.36 | 400.00 |
| Hymn Book Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 806.98 | 100.00 |
| Memorial Fund | 4179.61 | 843.18 | 250.00 | 0.00 | 350.00 |
| Yard Sale Expenses | 0.00 | 335.14 | 325.00 | 183.40 | 200.00 |
| Bible Study Material | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 115.96 | 100.00 |
| History Books Expenses | 3690.33 | 812.80 | 500.00 | 150.18 | 200.00 |
| Bank Charges/Interest | 0.00 | 87.71 | 100.00 | 88.00 | 100.00 |
| Church Calendars | | | | 73.00 | 73.00 |
| Host | | | | 20.29 | 25.00 |
| Wine | | | | 20.90 | 50.00 |
| Flowers | | | | 116.44 | 300.00 |
| Candles | | | | 0.00 | 100.00 |
| Linens, etc. | | | | 0.00 | 50.00 |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Miscellaneous | 290.33 | 219.86 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 |
| Total General Expenses | 15482.37 | 9469.11 | 9790.00 | 8837.28 | 9213.00 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 55395.37 | 49803.03 | 53361.00 | 41066.64 | 51211.00 |
| Operating Surplus or Deficit | <u>-5977.92</u> | <u>-288.25</u> | <u>-3851.00</u> | <u>2000.35</u> | <u>-5184.16</u> |
| Memorial Fund Income | 1316.80 | 271.84 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |
| Memorial Fund Expenditures | <u>-4179.61</u> | <u>843.18</u> | <u>1500.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>350.00</u> |
| Memorial Fund Surplus or Deficit | <u>-2862.81</u> | <u>-571.34</u> | <u>-1500.00</u> | <u>100.00</u> | <u>-350.00</u> |
| Woods Cemetery Income | 984.23 | 1186.23 | | 1377.44 | 1200.00 |
| Woods Cemetery Expenditures | 1344.31 | 1210.40 | | 1484.48 | 1200.00 |
| Woods Cemetery Surplus or Deficit | <u>-360.08</u> | <u>-24.17</u> | | <u>-107.04</u> | <u>0.00</u> |

WOOD'S CEMETERY Financial Statement - 2008

| | | | |
|--------------|--|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Revenue | | | |
| | Trust Fund Dividend | | 975.25 |
| | Offerings - Cemetery Service June 4, 2006 | Cemetary Service June 1, 2008 | 127.00 |
| | Interest Earned | Bank | 0.84 |
| | Interest Earned | GIC | 274.35 |
| | | Total Revenue | 1377.44 |
| Expenditures | | | |
| | Tree Removal | | 504.00 |
| | Cemetery Maintenance | | 560.00 |
| | Stationery Supplies | | 0.00 |
| | Equipment Maintenance | | 119.13 |
| | Bank Charges | | 27.00 |
| | GIC interest reinvested | | 274.35 |
| | | Total Disbursements | 1484.48 |
| | | Deficit | -107.04 |
| | Balance in Bank December 31, 2007 | | 1714.68 |
| | Deficit 2007 | | -107.04 |
| | Balance in Bank December 31, 2008 | | 1607.64 |
| INVESTMENTS | | | |
| | TD Redeemable GIC | Balance December 31, 2007 | 7295.93 |
| | | Interest Earned 2008 (Reinvested) | 274.35 |

Balance December 31, 2008 7570.28

Asset Summary as of December 31, 2008

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Bank Balance | 1607.64 |
| TD Redeemable GIC | 7570.28 |
| Trust Fund for Perpetual Care | <u>18377.96</u> |
| | <u><u>27555.88</u></u> |

Wood's Cemetery Report – 2008

There were no internments in Wood's Cemetery during 2008 however; Georgina Stewart (who died on December 26, 2008) will be buried during the spring of 2009 in the family plot.

There was a parish cleanup of the cemetery on May 3rd and the Cemetery Service was again held on June 1st. The Cemetery Service had limited attendance due to wet weather.

I wish to thank Tony Lombardo for continuing to maintain the cemetery during 2008. I also wish to thank those families who planted flowers in the cemetery.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Clark

Auditor's Report – December 31, 2008

I have carefully reviewed and examined the financial records of St. James', and also for the Ladies' Guild, Altar Guild and Wood's Cemetery. In my opinion, all fairly represent the financial status of each organization.

I wish to thank our treasurer, Mr. Mike Thomas, the Ladies' Guild treasurer, Mrs. Karen McPeak, and the Altar Guild treasurer, Mrs. Irene Thomas, for maintaining excellent accounting records and each is to be commended for this.

It should be noted that the Altar Guild financial records were consolidated into the St. James' records during 2008 and there will no longer be separate accounting records starting in 2009. The Altar Guild continues to remain an active organization.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn Clark
Auditor

Sunday School Report - 2008

2008 was a great year for the St. James Sunday School. We have a strong core of regularly attending children which really allows us to plan and carry out some great events and activities. I would like to welcome Margo and thank her for her valuable time with the children and also to welcome Paul and Elizabeth to our group. We are thrilled to have you! For a small Church we are truly blessed with a great group of kids, parents and teachers alike.

We follow the "Season's of the Spirit" curriculum which leads us through a Biblical story and then further explores the story's message with themed crafts and activities. It is a great guide for a small, multi-age group like ours because it offers the teachers many choices, allowing us to mold the basic outline into something that will work for us. The kids really get into the lessons, asking great questions and dazzling us with their creativity with the craft activities.

We held a number of special events this year. In March we had a very successful bake sale in support of World Vision. The sale of the pretzels that the kids made along with donated baked goods from the congregation raised enough funds for a pair of turkeys for a needy family and for school supplies for an entire classroom! In May, our Mother's Day Breakfast was its usual success. Big thanks to the kids and to Debbie O' Brien for pulling it off.

Our Christmas Pageant was amazing this year. In just four short weeks the kids wrote the script, learned their lines, practiced their songs, and designed their costumes and the set. Huge thanks to the kids for their patience and hard work and to Mike and Elizabeth for their help.

A Big thank you to Claude, Tad, Sandra, Karen, Elizabeth, Vic and Mike for their teaching and for their help on Sunday mornings. Thanks to Pat and Paul for their time with us. Thanks to Chuck for filming our Pageant. Thanks to the Ladies Guild for our Christmas presents. Thanks to the congregation at large for supporting all of our efforts.

We have some interesting things planned for 2009 and I encourage anyone interested to join us on Sunday mornings and see what we are all about. I guarantee you will learn and have fun!

Mikey Thomas
St. James's Sunday School Superintendent

Ladies' Guild Report 2008

Our turkey supper had many strikes against it this year, but we were saved by hard work and collaboration with another church.

Thanks to Ann

Gregory we discovered just one week before the dinner that the Greely Community Centre no longer provided dishes. Our ladies quickly went to work and were able to provide me with the name of the person at Our Lady of the Visitation, who had purchased the Greely dishes from the City. The contact at Our Lady of the Visitation was more than happy to help, refusing to accept a donation for their church, and allowed us to borrow all the dishes we required so that our dinner could go ahead as planned. We had many of our regular workers who were ill, or busy helping family that was ill, and so I'd like to thank everyone for pitching in and making the dinner another success.

After a special joint meeting with Parish Council, we unanimously decided to move the turkey supper in 2009 to the new hall being built by Our Lady of the Visitation. The Greely Hall has been reserved in case the new hall is not ready, however we would like to give our support to a fellow church, and their new facility promises to be superior to the Greely Hall.

Sadly we lost Marion Ramsden this year. The ladies gave their time and prayers to help her and her family during her palliative care period. We then hosted a luncheon following the funeral, and the family made generous donation to the Guild in appreciation.

Many thanks to all the ladies on the Guild, especially Debbie Donoghue. I cannot thank her enough for all her support. Looking forward to next year and the challenges it will bring.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen McPeak
President

RECTOR'S REPORT 2008

St. James Anglican Church Leitrim

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

It was warm and sunny one day last August when an announcement saying that the Reverend Paul Donison would be leaving St. James' Leitrim to go to the Parish of Morrisburg-Iroquois-Riverside Heights. Two questions immediately sprang to my mind: who is the Reverend Paul Donison? (I'd never heard his name in this Diocese before), and more importantly, what will become of St. James' Leitrim?

An email to the Archdeacon Ross Moulton, the Bishop's Executive Assistant, and a meeting with him followed. The Archdeacon Chris Dunn and the Wardens, Glenn and Vic, met with me late in September and we all agreed to the Bishop's appointing me as Priest-in-Charge (Part-time), effective October 5, 2008. The parish had decided not to immediately hire a new Priest Half-Time, but left that decision until this Vestry meeting.

I met Paul Donison in November when Marian Ramsden died, and I learned that she had wanted him to preside at her funeral. On November 5, 2008, we celebrated a Memorial Service for Marian. Marian had a home at St. James' and a family, and at the time of her death the loving dedication of the parish in caring for one another in times of great need became clear. May she rest in peace; may light perpetual shine upon her.

Paul graciously returned to the parish to celebrate Marian's Service. He had been Priest-in-Charge of St. James' from soon after last year's Vestry meeting, when the Reverend Pat Coulombe announced she was leaving. Having read Pat's announcement, it is my firm conviction that this Vestry meeting will be relatively innocuous. I have no dramatic announcements to make today!

Paul responded this past week to my request to submit a few lines to this report. Here's what he said:

Monika, Anabel, Sophie-Jane, and Erika, and I loved our time at St James Leitrim.

I celebrated and preached on Sundays, did some visiting, attended council meetings, celebrated the monthly Bridlewood Eucharist, attended some of the after church lunches, attended the auction/yard sale/bbq, celebrated at the annual cemetery service, and loved the parish picnic (and got soaked at it too!).

Assisting you with Marion's funeral was an honour.

We were blessed by our time there, and continue to hold that community in prayer.

Paul was a vital support in this parish's interim time between Pat's leaving and my coming, and

I give thanks to God that he was available to fill-in during what must have been a tumultuous time.

Since coming to St. James' I have found the Wardens, Glenn and Vic, to be reliable, steady and welcoming officers of the church. Glenn's knowledge of the history and people of St. James is something I rely on frequently. Vic excels at the interminable task of bulletin creation. I have asked Glenn to stay another year as Peoples' and Vic another as Rector's Warden.

Sunday by Sunday, the Altar Guild does a tremendous job cleaning and setting up for our Divine Services, and I am grateful to Claude and Elva, to Mikey and others who have regularly assisted with the children's church, the Sunday School. Vera and Irene bring the gift of music to our liturgies; beautifully. The Readers, Intercissors, and those who have assisted at Holy Community are faithful ministers of the Church. Our Servers are beginning to take on a larger Acolyte role, and I am thankful for the people who have offered to come on,

and to Maureen Kemp, who has retired from her position as lay administrator. With Vera, Maureen was with me serving communion more often than anyone during my first three months in the parish. Thank you, Maureen.

Monthly events, like White Gift Sunday and the service at Bridlewood, are ways that we reach out to the community around us, serving those who need our help. These events are graciously supported by teams of dedicated people. Thank you. Our monthly Parish Council meeting is healthy, and becoming more prayerful. Mike, our Treasurer, has added more lines to the budget, as we'll see in this Vestry Report. The finances of the church are well looked after. Annual events I have had the pleasure to attend include the Heritage Thanksgiving sing-along (we are a fine group of singers!) and the Turkey Supper – a huge undertaking for the Ladies Guild and supporting cast. Carolling at Christmas was great – and though the “choir” got smaller by the end of the evening, the voices rang clear and strong!

More singing at Christmas was provided by the children, as they sang between the scenes of an inspired Christmas pageant on Advent IV. I won't forget the scenes: our little Star, angels and wise ones; cow and shepherds; Amanda as Mary grinning as she held the baby “Jesus.” Mikey and the children are to be commended for a great performance, after three weeks of sometimes chaotic rehearsal (or so I heard!)

We have, since the beginning of January, been using new Common Praise hymn books in the parish, and I thank everyone who donated to their acquisition. When the Bishop comes, on the day this Report is due, he has agreed to bless the new books. In Memoriam donation book plates, suggested by Anne (thank you!) will be coming soon.

The season of Epiphany ends on Shrove Tuesday. I invite you all to attend the pancake dinner that evening (February 24, 2009), and one of two Ash

Wednesday services: at 11:00 a.m. at Bridlewood, or 7:30 p.m. here at St. James. The following week, on Thursday evening, March 5, 2009, the Parish mid-week service and Bible Study will resume. Join us Thursdays in Lent, from 7 to 8:30 in the evening.

A Scripture Sentence for Epiphany from the prophet Habukkuk: *But the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.* (2:14 NRSV).

How might we at St. James' Leitrim flood the area with God's Glory?

How do we reach out and let the community know we're here and they are welcome to join us?

How might we be a more welcoming community?

These questions may be perpetual, but they can, when seriously considered and answered, make a difference to us and in the lives of people whom we invite, help, and welcome.

I have been blessed during my time at St. James, so far. Thank you for your welcome, your prayers and your caring service. May the coming seasons at St. James' bring us closer to God and to each other. May our faith and service be to the Glory of God, and in the power of His Holy Spirit. May your prayers be fervent and continuous. Thanks be to God. Amen.

A Prayer for (Our) Parish

BCP, pg. 43.

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully hear our prayers, and grant to this *Parish* all things needful for its spiritual welfare.

Strengthen and confirm the faithful; protect and guide the children; visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wicked; arouse the careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent. Remove all hindrances to the advancement of thy truth; and bring us all to be one heart and mind within the fold of thy holy Church, to the honour and glory of thy blessed Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Statistics

| Year | 99 | 00 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| Baptisms | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Marriages | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Funerals | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Confirmations | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Avg Weekly Attn | 29 | 28 | 32 | 31 | 31 | 27 | 31 | 33 | 28 | 28 |
| # Families | 49 | 37 | 41 | 37 | 39 | Unk | 47 | 40 | 28 | 38 |

Church Warden's Report – 2008

"The times they are-a-changin..."

Bob Dylan

The times they are-a-changin' indeed. No other year than 2008 has seen so many changes in the life and growth of our little parish. Some of these changes were good, some were sad, but ALL of them were monumental.

The Incumbent Saga:

The first impact was received on February 24, 2008 when the Reverend Pat Coulombe announced by reading a letter to Vestry, that she was resigning her license in the Anglican Church of Canada. (*We have attached her letter of resignation to St. James*). She felt that the differences in theology and doctrine between herself and the Anglican Church had become too much for her to accept. The major piece of those differences (there were others as well) was the topic of blessing same-sex unions in the Diocese and the Diocese's apparent willingness to accept them.

To those of us close to Pat over the preceding months, this decision came as no great surprise. Indeed, if there was a surprise at all, it was that she managed to hang in there for such a long period of time. This decision, in the end, was inevitable. Pat had confided to us that her relationship with the Diocese had degenerated to the point that she jumped with fear every time the Diocese called or she got a lump of fear in her throat every time a letter from the Diocese arrived. Dismissal and letters of reprimand were always on her mind. How any human can exist in those conditions is beyond us, but Pat persevered for several months or longer. Even with her resignation, Pat thought of St. James. While other parishes were dragged into the press under similar circumstances only weeks earlier, Pat hung on long enough to make sure that we did not face this bad publicity. For this, we will always be very grateful to Pat.

The departure of Pat obviously left us in a bind and she knew and felt bad about it. We were left very apprehensive, as previous workings of the Diocese to handle this kind of situation could best have been described as "*not in the highest priority*". St. James has gone many times over the years without an official Incumbent or Priest-in-charge. To be fair, this is not always a Diocesan fault. Trying to find a minister that will accept only half-time work is not easy.

You can only imagine our surprise when a call was received from the Venerable Chris Dunn of the Ottawa Centre Deanery the very day Pat's letter of resignation was delivered to the Bishop's office. He informed us that he had a person in mind for St. James to replace Pat. After we picked ourselves off the floor, he arranged a meeting between the Reverend Paul Donison, and us. Both of us met with Paul and Archdeacon Dunn at St. James that very week.

Paul Donison, it turns out was working full time as the chaplain at Asbury College. This reminded us of a former rector, the Reverend Todd Meeker who had held that same position some 10 years earlier. Paul has a wonderful wife Monica and three beautiful little girls, Anabel, Sophie and Erika. We were delighted and Paul joined us the very next Sunday. We had not missed a week without a minister!

Paul's tenure with us was wonderful. An incredible communicator; you found yourself driving to church Sunday morning looking forward to one of Paul's sermons. His ad-lib characterizations of situations in the bible story he was preaching about, kept us in stitches. He gave us new and clear perspectives and parishioners immediately took to him and his message. My favourite will always be the waking of Peter by an angel. He

could also play the guitar and sing. No folks I mean he could really SING. Of course, we were quick to learn of Paul's many talents and his prior history of working as an actor. His children's talks almost always involved his guitar. I believe the children loved it but I think it only fair to admit, that we adults probably enjoyed his singing with the kids just as much as they did.

It wasn't long before Paul began relating stories of his working at Ashbury College. A very politically correct organization, they kept asking him to not mention things like Jesus and God in his talks with the students. Huh??? Why did they hire an Anglican Minister then??? It wasn't long before this situation began to take its toll on Paul.

It was sometime in July that Paul informed us that he had resigned his position at Ashbury College so we knew the writing was on the wall. The letter we knew was coming from the Bishop's office arrived in early August advising us that Paul was being appointed as full-time Incumbent in the Parish of Morrisburg. Paul would commence his tenure there the first Sunday in September. Although, it was upsetting to hear this, we were clearly not surprised and we thank God for sending Paul to us, even if it was only for six months. In the end, although disappointed that Paul was leaving, it was reassuring and comforting to us that he now had a much larger audience to practice his ministry. The people of Morrisburg are very blessed to be receiving Paul and his family. Good Luck Paul and thanks for everything.

So, for the second time in 2008 we were without a minister. There was again quick action from Archdeacon Chris Dunn, but at a time of summer vacations, this became a little more awkward. We were again offered a new minister immediately and we were very thankful but we soon found out that the minister being offered was very experienced and with it, came a stipend that we clearly could not afford. With great reluctance and apprehension, we turned down the offer. This was a little unnerving as we had not done such a thing before and we were unsure how the Bishop's office would react to such a decision. In the interim, we were offered ministry for the month of September, and the Reverend Sharon Schollar looked after our spiritual needs while he attempted to find a more permanent replacement. Reverend Schollar was a wonderful minister with a great deal of experience.

So, here we go again, back to square one. For the third time in 2008, the Venerable Chris Dunn was asked to perform his magic. How many times can we go to the well?

It was at this time that members of Parish Council began questioning the status of the Reverend Margo Whittaker. We had met Margo a couple of times through Pat and we found her to be a young, energetic, enthusiastic and likable minister. Someone with two school age children may be interested in a half-time position, just maybe. At our parish council meeting in September, all of us to a person agreed that a perfect choice for us was the Reverend Margo Whittaker. Why don't we suggest her to Chris Dunn? Why don't we call her and see if she would be interested?

In the end, it was decided that although our choice was definitely Margo, it would be better to leave the decision to Archdeacon Dunn. He had been wonderful up to that point and perhaps if we prayed enough, he would come up with Margo without our interference. I guess there was a fear in many of us, that if we approached the Diocese with this suggestion, that it might prejudice their decision. Apparently, Pat had suggested Margo to the Diocese for St. James as her replacement. So, we sat and

waited for days for Archdeacon Dunn to give us a call. On all of our minds however was Margo! Margo! Margo!

Finally we received the call. He simply stated that he had a suggestion and was wondering how we felt about the Reverend Margo Whittaker. Two things immediately popped into my mind when he suggested Margo:

Wait at least 3 seconds BEFORE you say YES and

For God's sake don't kiss him!!!

We were absolutely delighted! Margo began her tenure with us the first Sunday in October. Our fourth minister for 2008! The times, they really were-a-changin'.

Margo and Michael have two children, Elizabeth and Paul. Both are older than Paul's girls and in school. So the thought of how they would take to St. James immediately jumped into our heads. Would they like it at St. James? Would they feel at home here? As it turns out we didn't have to wait long.

Margo's first Sunday with us was the first Sunday in October and was our coffee hour after church. I (Vic) had positioned myself all alone at the end of one of the tables and was waiting for everyone to come down. Then all of a sudden this little sweetie came up to me and asked me, a person she had never seen before in her life, if I would mind buttering her bread for her as the butter was pretty hard and difficult to spread. She asked me un-apologetically like it was the most natural thing in the world. I buttered her bread (*it turns out hard butter on bread is not my specialty either*) and gave it back to her. She thanked me and walked away eating it.

A small thing, yes, but it answered our questions about how they would take to St. James. Apparently they considered themselves part of St. James the second they had walked through the door. A quick glance at her brother certified that he was of the same mindset as he was laughing and joking with the other children and adults he had never met before. In our minds, it appeared that they were home.

I can't help but wonder where we, as adults, lose that wonderful ability to simply accept without reservation or fear, new people and new environments. When does it happen? I don't know but I am truly thankful to once again witness that very pristine and innocent lack of fear and trepidation again. Being involved many years with youth groups and ball teams and the like I have repeatedly stated, that if you want to know what causes children to act the way they do, good or bad, look no further than to the adults that are leading them. In this case both Michael and Margo have done a wonderful job with these two well adjusted, happy and healthy children and we look forward for them being with us for years to come.

BTW: To the little sweetie who thanked me for buttering her bread;

THE HONOUR WAS ALL MINE!!

Margo fit in right away and immediately starting having an impact. Her first task was to improve our pew bulletin. She worked tirelessly for the first few weeks re-designing the layout and format of our weekly document. In the end we have today, a much sleeker,

and easier to follow document than we have ever had. Likewise, she has also set out to improve the appearance of our website, something that is still a work in progress. But indeed, it is something that needs to be done as the website has been both antiquated and unattractive. Margo has also been slowly changing the liturgy and working with the organists to introduce new music and to coordinate the hymns with the weekly readings.

Her services at Christmas were wonderful. I especially enjoyed the one on Christmas Day. There were only three of us but it was as meaningful and as joyous as any of the others. I look forward to doing the same thing next year as well.

Margo was hired on a per diem basis and we are currently paying her for two days per week. The job is really more than this and even before Margo's arrival at the September parish council meeting, there was a motion approved suggesting that we work towards paying for a half-time Incumbent rather than continuing to pay ministers on a per diem basis. It was felt that this offered no stability in the longer-term. This was followed up with a further recommendation at the January 2009 budget meeting that Vestry approve a budget paying Margo as a half-time Incumbent with all the benefits offered by the Diocese beginning in March 2009. It was recognized that this would put significant pressure on the budget but it was felt that it is our responsibility to pay Margo properly for her ministry at St. James.

From all of us here at St. James we welcome Margo, Michael, Elizabeth and Paul. We cannot express adequately in words how happy we are to have you here with us.

The Thank Yous:

As all of you know, it has become a tradition in this report to take the time to mention many people who work tirelessly through the year to ensure St. James fulfills its moral, legal, financial and spiritual obligations. It may sound trite but without mentioning their contribution here it would be sad to think that many parishioners at St. James would never know about the length and depth of their contributions. That would be sad!

So, to that end we, the wardens on behalf of St. James thank the following people for their incredible contribution during this very traumatic and changing year of 2008:

Rob Clark for all the snow removal he did. We never have to worry about our parking lot being clear as Rob, like his father before him, always ensures it is ready for Sunday and on other days when we request it. It is interesting to note that Margo mentioned to me one Saturday afternoon that she had just left the church and that the snowplow had left a foot and a half snow bank in front of the parking lot. She was concerned that it would stop people from getting in on Sunday morning. I promised to make a call to Glenn to ask Rob which I promptly forgot to do. It didn't matter. Next morning the parking lot was already clear. Rob had already looked after it. Thanks Rob!

Beth Kelly for preparing and distributing all the envelope receipts for our income tax. All I can say is I only wish the Government of Canada was as efficient and as on time as Beth. Beth has graciously agreed to continue to do this for us in 2009. Thanks again Beth!

Ron Stuart-The Lion tamer. I know of no other chair of Parish Council who can get us through all the items on our agenda, with us all still being friends and getting us home at

a reasonable hour. Not an easy task. Ron also helps greatly at things like the Turkey Supper and the Yard Sale and does all those other little jobs (such as preparing roadside signs for the Turkey Supper) that nobody seems to think about, but magically he gets them done. Thanks Ron!

The Ladies' Guild: Although not apparent at times, the work of the ladies and the Ladies' Guild is instrumental in the successful operation of St. James. In addition to organizing our most important fundraising events, the Annual Turkey Supper and the Yard Sale, they also help out with various parish luncheons and dinners and other outreach and help keep the church clean and tidy. A big thank you to Karen McPeak and all the other ladies involved.

Mike Thomas Sr.: Mike is our treasurer and our building superintendant. That declaration alone tells you of his massive contributions. They are both jobs we would have a very, very difficult time looking after if it was not for his efforts. Mike is also there at our Yard Sale, Turkey Suppers, parish council meetings and a host of other activities throughout the year. He is our guitarist at our Thanksgiving potluck dinner. He looks after various building repairs and spends a few restless nights each spring, when our sump pumps need to be monitored to prevent basement flooding. *(He is even pretty proficient at breaking into offices when a key is missing).*
Thanks from all of us Mike.

Mike Thomas Jr. (Mikey): Mikey is our Sunday School Superintendant and teaches Sunday school to our youngest Anglicans. He teaches them for a full half year even though he has no children of his own. He looks after the Sunday school pageant at Christmas time and the last two have been particularly memorable. Who will forget that priceless moment when one of the children loudly announced *'That's not Jesus, he's baby Sam'* as Amanda Higginson is proudly (and perhaps nervously) holding Sam Green in her arms in front of the congregation playing the role of Mary holding Jesus. Mikey is also right there with his dad when work is being done at the church. In addition, he champions our support for the Haitian child that we sponsor through World Vision.
Thanks for all your fine work Mikey!

Vera Guy and Irene Thomas, our Organists: Thanks to both of these fine ladies for providing us with the music we enjoy every Sunday. Many of you may not be aware that these ladies simply don't just show up and play hymns. They also work with the minister and depending on his or her wishes, they may need to research the church calendar and the weekly readings in order to pick appropriate music. Also, they must spend time practicing to make sure that they can lead us with confidence especially on those Sundays when new music or an unfamiliar hymn is being introduced. Thanks to both of them from all of us!!

Chuck Wootton: Anytime St. James needs someone to look after a new topic with gusto and selfless dedication; Chuck invariably steps forward to look after it for us. Be it as Synod delegate, serving as our Stewardship Officer, counting the weekly collection or simply using his van to transport something for us, Chuck always give his best effort. We are lucky to have him. Thanks Chuck!

Claude Leblanc: One the nicest and kindest persons we have ever met, Claude is our Sunday school teacher in the fall session, a Bible reader and a sideman who counts and

verifies our collection. A very valuable part of St. James. Thanks for all your efforts Claude!

Altar Guild: This is a group of ladies who work behind the scenes performing critical tasks without fanfare to make sure the church is ready each and every Sunday. I hesitate to name names for fear of missing somebody, but the guild does include Vera Guy, Irene and Sylvia Thomas, Beth Kelly, and Clara Stuart. We apologize if we have forgotten anybody who was involved during 2008. These ladies dress the altar as it pertains to the church year, make sure there is ample host and wine available, that candles are set and ready, purchase the altar flowers on special occasions, make sure that the altar linens are clean and that the nave and sanctuary of the church is clean and tidy. It always seems that it is these silent jobs that are most underestimated. Thanks from all of us ladies.

Debbie O'Brien: Every year Debbie and Larry O'Brien (not our mayor although a distant relative) open up their home to us for our annual church picnic. The time is always relaxed, friendly and enjoyable. The kids have a great time and the adults enjoy the fellowship and good food. I always get a wonderful kick out of seeing her baby turkeys. Debbie has also helped out with the Sunday school in preparing the Spring Breakfast each Mother's Day. Thanks Debbie!

Debbie Donoghue: Debbie performs one of those other little tasks that really nobody else wants, taking the minutes at our monthly Parish Council meetings. She is also a representative at Parish Council from the Ladies' Guild and conveys questions and answers back and forth. In addition, her husband Ken always seems to show up at the church when a special need arises. Thanks Debbie and Ken!

Tony Lombardo: For years, Rocco Lombardo, with the help of his family, looked after Wood's Cemetery with great diligence. Now that Rocco has reached his golden years, he has had to slow down and he has passed on the responsibility of cemetery maintenance to his son, Tony. We are so grateful that he has been willing to carry on keeping the cemetery grass cut for those unknown visitors tending the graves of family or those seeking out the final resting place of their ancestors. From all of us and from those visitors who come and go, Tony a very sincere thank you.

The Bridlewood Team: Due to our size, St. James' ability to do a lot of outreach in the community is severely limited. Thanks to the Bridlewood team of Clara Stuart, Vera Guy Debbie Donoghue and others from time to time, and of course Margo and her predecessors, we have been able over the last number of years to establish a ministry for the residents of the Bridlewood Retirement Home. Most of these residents are unable to get out to church on Sunday, so this ministry has become just as important to them as it has become important to us. The ministry simply wouldn't happen without the four ladies mentioned above. Thanks to all of you for doing this! After a year of uncertain timing, Margo has now re-established a regular schedule for our Bridlewood services, that being the 4th Wednesday of each month at 11:00 am.

Our Synod Delegates – We must not forget to thank our Synod Delegates for 2008, Irene Collin and Chris Collin. They perform an important task for St. James as they represent us and vote for us at the annual Diocesan Synod and any other special synods that are called. They attend the Synod meeting during October, participate in seminars, study the issues of the day including the Diocesan budget and other

sometimes-contentious issues such as the blessing of same-sex unions and vote according to their conscience. They then report back to our parish afterwards. They are the link to the larger church and for this we are thankful to both Chris and Irene.

Intercessors and Readers – A special thank you to Chris Collin who organizes and schedules the many people who are involved in this vital part of our weekly liturgy and a thank you to all those who read the weekly lessons and lead us in the Prayers of the People.

Lay Communion Assistants – We thank Maureen Kemp, Chris Collin, Vera Guy, Liba Straznicki who assisted our minister in serving communion at various times through the year and we look forward to those who will continue in this capacity during 2009.

Anne Gregory – A special thank you to Anne for taking on a special ministry that was falling through the cracks with all the turmoil during the year. She graciously offered to monitor our telephone daily to make sure that telephone messages are dealt with in a timely fashion, something that was not happening for sometime after the Reverend Pat Coulombe left the parish. We also thank Anne for joining Parish Council during the year and her very recent decision to become a lay communion assistant.

Charles Wootton Jr. – We just wanted to make it known that it has been noticed that Charles has helped out with the Sunday school on many occasions during the year. Thank you Charles. Also, this thank you extends to all others who assist in the Sunday school in any capacity and we know that there are many who do this from time to time.

Special Mention:

One of our sad duties that have evolved over the last number of years is to inform our parishioners in the bulletin of the passing of one of our own. Always a sad task but also obviously a very necessary one. This past year we lost a dear friend, Marian Ramsden.

We would watch over the summer and fall as Marian came to church, how her health was noticeably failing. During all this time she leaned on her daughter-in-law Brenda's arm as Brenda got her to the places she wanted to go, do the tasks she wanted to do and see the things she wanted to see. Brenda enabled Marian the dignity and independence of living out her remaining months in her own home. Each week as her steps got slower and slower and she seemed to get weaker and weaker she leaned even more heavily on Brenda's arm; an arm that never wavered or failed. There was no one in the parish who could have done for Marian, what Brenda did for her.

That kind of effort of love is rarely rewarded in this life. It is very comforting to know that when we have fought the good fight, given everything we have to give and there is nothing left to give, and all that is left is a short walk to the end; that there are still people motivated only by love and devotion, who will step forward, take us by the hand, put their arms around our shoulders and walk with us that final mile. We just didn't want Brenda to think it wasn't noticed. Brenda gave the greatest possible gift to Marian in her last days. Love!

We also wish to thank those in the congregation who extended a hand of help to Brenda during Marian's last days. This was indeed a difficult time for all involved.

Georgina Stewart (1911-2008)

It was with great sadness that we learned of Georgina's passing on December 26th at the age of 97. She was the oldest member of St. James yet virtually nobody knew her. She lived most of her life with her brother Ernest just two farms north of St. James. She had not come to church for decades, but in a way, the St. James' community was a lifeline to her in her latter years. Our own Graham Ritchie had helped out with Georgina's affairs, allowing her to stay at home as long as possible. She was also a major contributor to the church history as she offered memories going back earlier than anyone else. When she was young, she helped out playing the organ and she was active member of the Ladies' Guild. Georgina will be buried in Wood's Cemetery in the spring. Rest in Peace Georgina.

The Activities:

As usual St. James was full of outside activities this year as normally we always are.

Bible Study continued in 2008 beginning with Evening Prayer each Thursday night until we broke for the summer at the end of May. With all the changes of minister that took place during the year, we were unable to reconvene the group in the fall but Margo is hoping to restart a Bible Study at some point during 2009.

Our Shrove Tuesday auction and pancake supper on February 5th was a treat. Not that a lot of money is raised but the point of the dinner is really fellowship and food and we also get a kick out of the kids and their bidding wars, at least, when we are not doing more serious bidding for one of Vera Guy's 'luscious' Rum Cakes. Mike, move on, it's our turn in 2009 to win. Just kidding! . TAD did a wonderful job as auctioneer and everyone had a great time. Shrove Tuesday is only two days after Vestry this year (February 24th) so mark it on your calendar.

The Sunday school hosted a bake sale to raise funds for our sponsorship with World Vision in March and this is again scheduled for March 15th in 2009. This was followed by the Spring Breakfast also hosted by the Sunday school on May 11th. A special thank you goes out to Mikey Thomas, Debbie O'Brien and particularly the children for serving all the adults in the parish. This has become a tradition that we always look forward to.

The Frank and Elizabeth Lawler Garden was cleaned and planted during the week following Victoria Day and a special thank you to all who helped out. Each year, we are learning what is best to plant at each location in the garden and which flowers are not attractive to our resident groundhogs. The magnolias planted in recent years including the one planted in memory of Alan Gregory flowered very well during May. The area around the air conditioner, which had become unsightly and overgrown with weeds was planted with dwarf lilacs and snapdragons during 2008. It is all work in progress but hopefully getting a little better each year. One of the garden benches was damaged during the summer, probably by a city lawn mower and will have to be replaced in 2009. Parish Council has also decided to purchase a garden shed to store the BBQ purchased for the 2008 Yard Sale, any garden tools and the wheelbarrow as well as any surplus tables presently stored in the church basement. Hopefully this will all be in place by the 2009 Yard Sale.

Also during the last week of May, we had booked a booth at the Gloucester Fair to offer face painting to the children attending the fair as we had done for the last couple of years. This was being organized by Chris Collin. There were a few volunteers to help Chris but there were not enough who had provided a definite answer and as a result our participation was cancelled. We apologize to Chris for not providing enough support to make this valuable outreach ministry possible.

Our annual Wood's Cemetery memorial service was held on June 1st. Attendance was small but no doubt affected by rain during the morning and threatening weather at service time at 3:00pm. We were prepared to relocate the service to the church if it became necessary. Despite that, it was a pleasant and dignified event and hopefully our 2009 service will have better weather and attendance. Our service in 2009 will be held on the second Sunday of June, June 14th, allowing our keyboard player, Vera Guy, to attend her home church memorial service the week earlier. In addition, all the tombstones in Wood's Cemetery were photographed in October and placed on a grave marker website

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~snaylor/OntarioGraveMarkers/Gloucester/Woods/WOODS.HTM>. The notice for our 2009 memorial service was also placed on that website. This was an unexpected turn of events, although we were aware that genealogists have been surveying and photographing pioneer cemeteries in the Ottawa Valley and placing them on various websites for all to see. We welcome this opportunity for free publicity. On that same day, the third edition of our church and cemetery history was released to the public.

Our annual picnic was held at the home of Larry and Debbie O'Brien on June 22nd. We started with an outdoor service under the trees on the front lawn, followed by a potluck lunch on the veranda and games for all the kids and the young at heart that Debbie organizes for us every year. Guess who got the wettest blocking water balloons shot out by the three person sling shot? This game is always a hit with the kids. There is always so much food and an opportunity to relax with our friends in a peaceful country atmosphere. The highlight for many of us is always the trip to see Debbie's turkeys. They are always so cute. *Too bad they taste so good!!*

Our yard sale on June 28th was as big as ever and we made a good profit despite overcast skies, periodic light rain and 100% humidity. You should see the photos taken from a fogged up camera. I (Vic) treated myself to one of Marian Ramsden's paintings. I always love the yard sale and immediately head for the pie and desert table. With luck you can sometimes find a missed Vera Guy rum cake or a Glenn Clark desert. I wasn't that lucky this time but was able to snag a couple of pies, which I enjoyed to the limit. (*I think they were both gone by noon the next day*). In addition to the bake table, there were breakfast sandwiches, a hot dog and hamburger BBQ, strawberry (local strawberries this year) shortcakes with ice cream, a silent auction and the usual selection of books and other used items, big and small. The food was so popular that much of it was already sold out before some of the workers had an opportunity to eat. The Gloucester Historical Society also had a table until the rain forced them to close down.

Margo got a quick introduction to St. James as our annual potluck Thanksgiving dinner and sing-song took place during her very first week on October 8th. Food is always our specialty and singing those old songs led by Mike Thomas on guitar is something that we all enjoy. We caught Margo a little off guard with the lyrics to one of our favourites,

"The Seven Old Ladies" but she is a good sport and we all had a good laugh. Take that as your initiation at St. James.

Our annual Turkey Supper hosted by the Ladies' Guild was held on November 1st at the Greely Community Centre. This was the most successful one yet at our new location and we seem to be becoming better known in that area since our relocation. We are still having some issues with the timing of sittings as the 4:30 pm dinner still has lots of space while the 6:00 pm dinner was oversold and required extra tables to be setup at the last minute. With plans for a new parish hall at Our Lady of Visitation Roman Catholic Church to be built soon, it was decided at a joint Ladies' Guild and Parish Council meeting later in November that we would not make significant changes to our Turkey Supper until after the new hall becomes available. It was also felt that eventual relocation to Our Lady of Visitation would better serve our own community. The Ladies' Guild also faced a bit of a crisis as the dishes at the Greely Community Centre had been sold off and we were not notified of this until close to the dinner date. Quick action was required and dishes were borrowed with many thanks to Our Lady of Visitation.

St. James has been involved in Operation Christmas Child for several years now. This past year we sent 20 Christmas boxes to children in 3rd world countries. I know the people of St. James may not know the impact but it is great, believe me. We are also well known by the people organizing the operation for the Ottawa area. When I phone to get the drop off time, I'm always greeted with things like *"Oh Hi Vic, we were expecting your call"*. They know about St. James.

Our monthly lunch club (3rd Sunday of each month) and coffee hours (1st Sunday of each month) are a delightful time to simply get together and mix. It seems strange now but I remember a time when the people of St. James met only at church at 11:00 am and left promptly at 12:00 noon every Sunday. And that was it! Our Lunch Club has recently been moving towards supporting locally owned restaurants on a more frequent basis than in the past. A thank you goes out to all who have hosted Coffee Hours during the year and to those who have provided food and drink for our congregation on those Sundays.

The people at the Pavilion Food Bank are constantly telling us how much they appreciate the donations of food from St. James. Our contributions, though small, are all needed very much. They too, know about St. James. Remember your contributions on the first Sunday of each month.

As a World Vision Sponsor of a child myself, I cannot tell you how delighted I am that St. James is also looking after a child from the 3rd world. Of all the things we do in outreach, this has to be one of the most important. Mikey Thomas and the people of St. James are so responsible that we are always a year ahead in our sponsorship for this child. Remember your contributions to be placed in the World Vision can particularly on the second Sunday of each month.

The annual evening of Christmas caroling has now become a tradition to look forward to. It took place on Friday, December 19th and we sang at the Bridlewood Retirement Home to many of the seniors living there, at the Atriums Condominium (well advertised thanks to Ron Stuart) and at a few private residences. Our repertoire of favourite music continues to expand each year and provides an opportunity to sing just for the fun of it, bring joy to other people and to get off the commercial roller coaster of Christmas for a

few hours. This has become an important Christmas ministry at St. James' but why use such fancy terms? It is just fun to do it and hopefully we put a smile on a few faces.

In preparation for the bishop's visit on February 8th, 2009, many in the congregation got together to clean and apply a sealant to the tile in the church basement. This was long overdue as the tile picks up grime very easily particularly during the winter and it was hard to keep the floor looking presentable. As it turned out, the bishop's visit was postponed due to illness until March 8th, but a big thank you goes out to the many who helped out and particularly to Jennie Lee (Margo's mother) for suggesting the project and donating the materials to get the job done.

Concerns for the Future:

With the passing of Elizabeth Lawler on February 9th, 2009, we are all feeling a little blue these days. We have one soul and all encompassing wish for 2009; that we never have to read an entry from our pew bulletin that starts like this:

“It is with great regret that we inform you of the passing...”

We do **NOT** want to see any of those announcements in 2009.

What would be better is an announcement like the following:

“It is with great joy we announce the arrival of our newest Anglican...”
(That might be stretching it a bit though..)

Our finances are always a concern. It's never a topic we wish to spend a lot of time on but finances are a fact of life. They address the most basic of accounting principles. That if one has X number of resources; they really shouldn't be spending X + Y number of resources.

It seems every time St. James reaches or nears our goal of a break even budget; either one of us passes away or simply leaves the congregation. Obviously there is not much that can be done on either of those fronts. This is the normal cycle of all church congregations. What is encouraging is that we have up until this time at least, been able to absorb those losses with new parishioners, and a greater sense of giving from the rest of the parish. Still, running a deficit as proposed for 2009 leaves a significant concern. We definitely need more parishioners and more people moving to PAR would help immensely.

The “Great Debate” concerning the blessing of same-sex unions has been in a lull lately but no one should believe for a minute that this very tenuous issue has been resolved. It has already cost us one incumbent and a number of parishioners have left directly or indirectly because of this and related issues. There is no reason to believe that the damage is complete. How this will eventually unfold is anyone's guess. Our best resource right now is simply a lot of prayer.

One of the most major concerns we have at St. James is doubling up of responsibilities on so very few people. A quick look at the volunteer list at the end of the Vestry report will graphically indicate this problem. You will see the same names down in several categories. A loss of anyone of these people would put St. James and her responsibilities under enormous stress. The answer we believe is the same as it is for finances; we need more parishioners. Again we ask you to pray.

Another concern we have is that an enormous amount of our workload is done by people (*very dedicated people*) who for one reason or another can't seem to make it to St. James very often. We do not want to undermine their contributions because they are greatly appreciated, nor are we second-guessing their priorities. Hopefully some of these absent angels can find the time to take a Sunday off from their busy schedule and come and see us. To put it very simply, WE JUST MISS THEM!!!

There are also a few projects on the go at the present time. The most significant one is the proposal for a new memorial stained glass window to be placed in the middle window facing south. The theme will be 'St. James' naturally. The design of the window is still being worked on but there have been a number of people from within and outside the parish who have expressed an interest in contributing towards this project. Our goal is to have the window in place by June 2010, which from all research done to date, will be the 150th anniversary of the first service that was held in the current church building. There is also a desire to re-establish movie nights as a more regular event. One was held in the latter part of 2008 and the next one is scheduled on February 20th, two days before Vestry this year.

Well that's about it for this year. Another year in the life of St. James. We have been hit and hit hard but are still breathing. God willing, we will all be here as well this time next year, to do it all again.

Thanks to all of you for your ongoing support and many blessings during the upcoming year!

Vic Wootton, Rector's Warden
Glenn Clark, People's Warden

Pat Coulombe's Letter to Vestry – Feb 24, 2008

Announcement to Vestry
St. James' Anglican Church, Leitrim
24 February, 2008
Rev. Pat Coulombe

In the past few weeks our Anglican Church has been featured often in the news, both locally, nationally and internationally. In both the United States and Canada, there have been decisions made in many orthodox Anglican Churches to realign with other Anglican provinces coming under the leadership of the Primates of those provinces. This is not an easy thing to do.

The worldwide Anglican Communion has four instruments of unity that keep us together and that keep us Anglican. These are the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Anglican Consultative Council, the Primates and the Lambeth Conference. For the past several years now, each of these instruments, some several times, have asked the Anglican Churches in Canada and the United States to stop moving in the direction in which they are going. These two churches have not heeded the words nor the direction from the global Anglican Communion. Our Anglican Church of Canada has instead continued to walk further and further away from what it is to be Anglican; further and further away from the authority of Scripture; further and further away from God's will for our lives.

Because of the direction in which the Anglican Church of Canada is moving, I feel that I can no longer serve as a priest in this organization. My conscience does not allow me to continue on this path. I believe with all my heart and soul that a priest in the church of God is to lead people toward God and not away from Him; that we are to teach the truth of Scripture and not the tolerance of culture; that we are to see culture from the lens of Scripture rather than looking at Scripture through the lens of culture.

It is my duty at this time to inform you that this will be my last day with you. Tomorrow morning I will go to the Bishop's office and relinquish my licence and offer my resignation as incumbent of this parish. Shortly following that move I will be issued a licence by Bishop Don Harvey, moderator of the Anglican Network in Canada, under the jurisdiction of Archbishop Gregory Venables, Primate of the Anglican Church of the Southern Cone. I will still be an Anglican Priest and as an ordained, licensed priest of the Anglican Province of the Southern Cone, I will be recognized as such throughout the worldwide Anglican Communion.

I know that some of you will be surprised by my decision, maybe shocked, maybe angry. I am sorry that I could not give you notice of my departure but I feel that I did not have the freedom to speak freely. I could not be sure that anything that I said would remain in the parish and I think you would understand my preference of resigning rather than being fired or threatened with ultimatums, as before. Please know that when we had turmoil in the parish last spring it was never my intention to cause division. I simply wanted you, as adults, to have the right to think for yourselves and to speak for yourselves and to decide for yourselves.

At that time some of you were concerned that you would have to choose between me and the building. I asked you then and I beg you now, please do not choose either me or the building. Choose God and His truth. To do otherwise would be to break God's commandment, for no person or any building is to be an idol to any of us, if we are believers. However, I still encourage each of you to be informed and to be concerned about the direction in which the Anglican Church of Canada is going.

Last spring it was suggested that any of us who did not like what was happening in the church should leave quietly, without a fight. I am leaving quietly. I want my fight to be solely for the gospel of Christ and for nothing else.

I will try to make this transition as smooth as possible for you. I have asked Father David Lajeunesse to lead worship here for the next several weeks, up to and including Easter. Of course, this will have to be approved by the Diocese. They may have other plans.

I want you to know that this past three years have been very special for me and you have been special to me. Thank you for the love and support that you have shown me. If any of you have any questions about my decision or would like to talk about it, please feel free to call me at home. I do not think that this is the time to talk. We have just come through vestry and I know that this is the time when we are tired and just want to go home. Please pray for me and I will pray for you.

May God bless each of you.

In Christ's love and mercy,
Pat Coulombe+

STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2008-2009

Despite our size, St. James has maintained participation in just about all of the Stewardship Modules offered by the Diocese. A representative from St. James and/or the incumbent has attended the sessions. Tips, ideas, programs and available resources have been made known to Parish Council and some times to the entire congregation.

Stewardship has many facets, not just the raising of funds as had been the popular interpretation in days of yore. It is really an attitude relating to how we handle what God has put in our dominion. Recently I watched a Gospel songs-type video with interviews and commentary. They spoke to "freely giving our all"

something like this. "Once we establish an open channel for giving, what we give, and how much is between us and the Holy Spirit!"

We are not doing the Narrative Budget this year, but last year we saw the tremendous input of volunteer work that Stewards of the Parish (and that means everyone, even the Children and Youth) have contributed to St. James. As the Congregation grows, such a narrative budget will be useful to Parish Council and others in organizing committees and events.

Though the narrative Budget is not being produced, the "Narrative" part of it can still be valuable to Parish Life. You have already heard Tad Higginson, The Incumbents, Glen Clark and Victor Wootton make comments on Sunday Mornings expressing thanks/appreciation for the efforts of others. If you have been touched by any of our Ministries, as well as thanking God, you are encouraged to tell your "good story" to the Minister, the Wardens or, time permitting to the congregation on Sunday morning. If you are writing a Vestry Report, it is worthwhile including one of these "Good Stories". It helps give a picture of how we are doing collectively.

Although we somehow have a "Mission Statement" - To know Jesus and to make Him known- we have yet to state our "VISION", our objectives and detailed objectives. As we learned at the Stewardship workshop earlier this year, these tools are supposed to be "tweaked" each year after a fall session when we collectively take a look at our performance over the past year. Of course, with our small Parish most of this has been done via the Wardens, the Incumbent(s) and Parish Council. In the future, and as we grow, we will have, like other Parishes a "Stewardship Committee" to take over this responsibility.

The upcoming event is the Annual Diocesan Stewardship Conference on May 30, 2009. If you wish to become a member of the St. James Stewardship Committee ask the Minister and you will be able to attend. The Guest Speaker will be the Rev. Canon Dr. Harold Percy.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Stewardship program of the Diocese. This Graceful gift coming from God to our Parish through the Diocese has helped me tremendously in my personal life and I pray that what has already been relayed to our Parish and perhaps reflected back to other members of the Diocese will strengthen and help the Body of Christ, especially in our Parish, by orders of magnitude more.

Respectfully Submitted.

Charles W. J. Wootton.
Friends with Christ.

Synod Report 2008

Submitted by Irene Collin

The theme of the 2008 Synod was, “Look, I have set before you an open door...” (Revelation 3:8). A closed door on earth is followed by an open door in heaven, which provides us with the reassurance that the Church is a place of stability and security.

The Bishop’s Charge sets the one of Synod. Unfortunately, this year’s Synod differed from previous ones that I have attended in that the Bishop’s Charge was delivered on the Thursday evening rather than the Friday morning, which I had become used to. So I missed it. But I did read it, and was impressed with a few points, namely:

1. Highlights of the past year, including the welcome of new deacons, the partnership with the Lutheran Church at St. John the Divine, progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, plans for clergy and lay leadership development, and progress in the encouragement of stewardship, hospitality and communication;
2. Recognition of six people who were raised to the rank of Canon, including one lay individual, Judy Darling;
3. A re-iteration of the Millennium Development Goals and their importance; and
4. Following the motion of Synod 2007, a proposal that just one parish be allowed to bless “duly solemnized and registered civil marriages between same-sex couples, where at least one party is baptized”, with the intention that this be considered a trial and not to be taken as the universal adoption of such a practice.

Without the endless debates on the same-sex issue, this Synod seemed to be able to return to the business of strengthening our Church. Almost all of the motions were carried without dissension. There was no election since all were acclaimed. For me, the most interesting part of the Synod was the very informative historical lectures by Canon Dr. Douglas Leighton. If these are available on-line, they are well-worth a read. Another highlight was the many hymns between speakers, which were refreshingly well-chosen and beautiful. The people around me seemed happily surprised that so many good hymns could possibly be selected.

There was only one seminar time-slot this year, with five talks to choose from. I attended one on Lay Leadership Development. Although I was hoping to receive concrete advice to bring back to our parish, the speakers seemed to be in the development stages and not yet able to deliver a finished product. They provided many reasons why training is required as well as listing the various positions that need training, and they did offer library resources, but the focus of the talk was more of “we must provide leadership training” rather than “here is the training”. So I was disappointed.

On another topic, however, the displays were good and we had the usual updates from the various missions. I found some printed material from one of the display booths on extending hospitality to strangers, which may be beneficial to us.

Over all, it was a pleasant Synod experience and I hope that our diocese is on the right track to becoming stronger, and that we are all strengthened by heaven’s open door.

Report of the Nominating Committee for 2009

The following persons have agreed to stand for election to the offices listed below for the year 2009 and so are nominated:

1. Peoples Warden.....Mr. Glenn Clark
2. Deputy Warden.....
3. Members of Synod.....Irene Collin
Vic Wootton
4. Alternate Member of Synod.....
5. Auditor.....Mr. Glenn Clark
6. Members at Large of Parish Council.....Ron Stuart
Chris Collin
Anne Gregory
Maureen Kemp
Debbie Donoghue
7. Wood's Cemetery Representative..... Mr. Glenn Clark

Respectfully submitted,
Victor Wootton
Margo Whittaker
Glenn Clark

Appointments

- Rector's Warden.....Mr. Vic Wootton
Treasurer.....Mr. Mike Thomas Sr.
Envelope Secretary.....Mrs. Beth Kelly
Church School Superintendent.....Mr. Mike Thomas Jr.
Coordinator of Altar Guild.....Mrs. Beth Kelly
Building Superintendent.....Mr. Mike Thomas Sr
Editor and Publisher of Pew Bulletin.....Mr. Vic Wootton
WEB Master.....Mr. Glenn Clark
Telephone Secretary.....Ms. Anne Gregory

Servers for 2009:

Chris Collin
Vera Guy
Vic Wootton

Anne Gregory
Amanda Higginson
TAD Higginson