

Convening Circular
St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church
Napanee Ontario
Vestry Meeting 2023



Agenda

1. Incumbent takes the Chair. (Canon 13, Sec. 12).
2. Opening prayers;
3. Appointing Vestry Clerk (Canon 13, Sec. 12); Sharon Yeomans
4. Confirmation of the minutes of last annual meeting
5. The report of the Incumbent upon the condition, progress and needs of the parish
6. Presenting and adopting Church financial reports with auditor's certificate attached, or, report of the qualified financial individual. In presenting the Church financial reports, the Churchwardens shall report on all major issues relating to their duties which have arisen or been dealt with since the last annual meeting—Chris Yeomans, Peter Cory and Bill Russell
7. Adopting a budget for the ensuing year: Bill Russell
8. Envelope Secretary's report: Sharon Yeomans
9. Appointments and elections: a) Churchwarden: Rector's Warden, Chris Yeomans; People's Warden b) Deputy Churchwarden c) Lay Members of Synod: both Valerie Smith & Fran Koch have allowed their names to stand for reelection, Susan Withers as alternative d) Envelope Secretary, Sharon Yeomans e) Auditor Breanne Bradshaw, CPA, CA f) Other officers or committees: Parish Advisory Council.
10. Presenting reports of all organisations
11. General business, business arising from minutes
12. Adjournment

The Church of St. Mary Magdalene
Napanee, Ontario
Minutes, Annual Vestry Council Meeting
February 27, 2022

This year, due to COVID restrictions, our annual vestry meeting is part of the 10:30 am worship service. The service and Annual General Meeting are being broadcasted live via YouTube. Those watching from home are welcome to type questions into the YouTube chat or call into the church and using a speaker phone at the church the person may speak to the Vestry Council directly.

Father Richard Hetke circulated the sign-in sheet and all that are eligible to vote at the meeting signed in.

1. Our service began with an Opening Hymn, opening prayers and a Celebration of the Word.

2. Appointment of Vestry Clerk

Sharon Yeomans was appointed by the Wardens as Vestry Clerk.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 2021 meeting were circulated before the meeting. From the minutes, Father Richard highlighted the work Mark Hauser has done with the broadcasting of the worship services on YouTube

MOTION: Moved by Keith Chapman, seconded by Jacob Ellens that the minutes be accepted as printed. APPROVED.

4. Rector's Report

Fr. Richard circulated his report before the meeting. From his report, Fr. Richard highlighted the work being done on a church mission and visioning plan. This is a work in progress. Fr. Richard highlighted the work of The

Rev Dave Donovan, Honourary Assistant and the work of Kristal McCance as Child and Youth Worker.

5. Financial Report

Bill Russell presented the financial reports for 2021. Bill announced that Breann Bradshaw has been appointed as auditor of the financial records again this year. Bill circulated the financial reports before the meeting. The Vestry Council was welcomed to ask questions regarding the 2021 Financial Report. Michelle Hauser pointed out that our receipts for 2021 were higher than budgeted and that this point should be celebrated.

MOTION: Moved by Fran Koch, seconded by Michelle Hauser that the financial report for 2021 be accepted as printed. Approved.

Bill Russell circulated the 2022 Budget before the meeting and asked the council for questions regarding the budget. Bill addressed clarification for all the questions posed. There were multiple questions regarding the Children and Youth budget decrease.

MOTION: Moved by Chris Yeomans seconded by Keith Chapman that the budget be approved as printed. Approved. 3 Opposed.

6. Envelope Secretary Report

Sharon Yeomans had nothing to report. Keith Chapman thanked Sharon Yeomans for her work as Envelope Secretary.

7. Appointments and Elections

Rector's Warden – Chris Yeomans – Appointed

People's Warden – Peter Cory - Elected

Deputy Rector's Warden – Mark Powell – Appointed

Deputy People's Warden – Wray Harvey – Elected

Synod Delegates – Valerie Smith, Fran Koch, Susan Withers(alternate)

Parish Advisory Council

Ex Officio Members Elected Members

The Reverend Richard Hetke, Priest Laura Clair Chris Yeomans, Rector's Warden Sharon Yeomans Peter Cory, People's Warden Susan Withers, Synod Delegate Alternate Mark Powell, Rector's Deputy Warden Wray Harvey, People's Deputy Warden Bill Russell, Treasurer Valerie Smith, Synod Delegate Fran Koch, Synod Delegate

MOTION: Moved by Fran Koch, seconded by Dianne Alkenbrack that the Parish Advisory Council members be accepted. APPROVED.

8. Reports Received:

Moved by Laura Clair and seconded by Jacob Ellens that the reports contained in the Annual Vestry Convening Circular be received as printed. APPROVED.

9. New Business

As a result of the discussion regarding the budget the following motions were made:

MOTION: Moved by Michelle Hauser that the parish form a Financial Stewardship Committee to look at collections and fundraising. Seconded by Jacob Ellens. Approved

MOTION: Moved by Michelle Hauser that a committee be struck for Children, Youth and Family Ministry in the parish. Seconded by Cortwright Christian. Approved.

10. Adjournment

Cortwright Christian moved for the meeting adjournment at 12:15pm. Seconded by Keith Chapman. APPROVED.

11. Our service concluding with the singing of a hymn.

2022 Warden's Report

As we embark on a new calendar year at St. Mary Magdalene, Napanee, it is beneficial to look back to the previous year to celebrate the positives and come up with plans to improve areas that still need Work.

Returning to some semblance of normalcy after COVID was greatly welcomed. Although we did our best during our COVID isolation to maintain the bonds of our Christian family through phone calls and online services, the in-person experience of worship and fellowship was greatly missed. The return of in-person interactions came with precautionary measures, such as masking, social distancing and the temporary suspension of the common cup, but our church community was understanding and we all did our best to protect one another.

One priority of 2022 was to build and rebuild relationships with one another. Returning to in-person worship helped to rebuild relationships. The addition of a monthly parish potluck supper helped further the rebuilding of fellowship between old friends and helped build new relationship with newcomers to our parish. These evenings have been fulfilling for our social relationships with fellow parishioners as well as filling for our bellies with great food!

As directed from our 2022 Vestry meeting, new committees were formed. The Children and Youth Committee has been working diligently to provide Christian education to our young people. This group has been continuing the good work of our Child and Youth Worker, Kristal McCance. Although Kristal retired as a formal staff person in June 2022, she is still actively involved in youth ministry now as a volunteer.

Another new committee created from last years' vestry meeting is the Stewardship and Fundraising Committee. This committee has been working behind the scenes trying to strengthen our financial situation. The committee has worked on getting seasonal letters and giving envelopes out to parishioners on time, educating on the benefits of pre-authorized givings, introducing online methods of giving financially to the church, as well as applying for funding and grants from various funding sources.

Another welcomed addition to our parish programming is the Harmony Music Lounge. This came about as a result of conversations held at our last vestry meeting. This program is fulfilling a need in our community while being a blessing and mission to our parish family. This program has started to build relationships with the high school, community support organisations, local businesses and most importantly, the young people of our community. We are offering a safe and loving environment for the youth of our community where they can learn and enjoy music. The benefits of this program are already evident and God only knows the seeds that have been planted because of this program and how they will blossom in the future.

The Kathleen Kennedy Music Scholarship has been joyfully received and supported by many in our parish. This scholarship will encourage students between the ages of 12-16 to participate in music programs, such as our choir. These students will commit to participating in the music programs of the church on a regular basis. Participants will offer their musical talents to the parish while learning from our talented church musicians. At the completion of the semester, participants will receive a financial scholarship to support their education in music. At the time of writing this report, we have five young participants entering the scholarship program.

Our parish Green Group has been working diligently, educating our parish on environmental issues as well as identifying and implementing solutions that will make us a more environmentally friendly place.

They have taken on the huge job of researching alternatives to our aging and ailing heating system and have already started some fundraising to eventually install a new, environmentally friendly heating system. Watch in the Spring for their tree-planting initiative which is a response to Bishop Michael's tree-planting challenge.

These are just some of the exciting things that have happened around our parish in 2022 and they continue to grow into 2023. As the wardens of St. Mary Magdalene, Napanee, we wish to thank you for all you do to help make St. Mary Magdalene parish the warm, inviting, supportive and worshipful place that we have all come to know and love. Thank you for

continuing this great work. If you want to get more involved in these exciting ministries but don't know where to start, contact us, the wardens, or Fr. Richard and we will be pleased to help you find the ministry opportunity that is right for you.

Again, thank you for your gifts of time, talent and treasure that you so freely give, and we look forward to the opportunities God has in store of our parish in 2023.

Sincerely

Chris Yeomans Peter Cory Wardens

Incumbent's Report, 2023

Two major events took place in 2022. Kristal McCance, our paid half-time youth and family coordinator retired. We had a nice celebration with her, and reflected back on her years of service at St. Mary Magdalene. We are so grateful that despite retirement, Kristal's enjoyment and service to our youth (and in other areas!) continues almost seamlessly. It's a reminder that these ministries were/are more than a job but a calling for her. Thank-you to the dedicated volunteer youth leaders in our Parish and to Laura Ann Drake, from Faith Mission in Napanee They all provide a vibrant youth ministry!

To Michelle Hauser for bringing forth motions demonstrating concerns for youth ministry and also stewardship and then running with both ideas in 2022 through a variety of committees, working with our wardens and treasurer and youth committee and also, of course, spearheading the Harmony Lounge music program at the church. Harmony Lounge is an outreach providing free music lessons and a place for teens and younger children to express their musical gifts using resources provided and our church building and volunteers. Michelle has

provided reports for all the ministries so I will let you read those. On behalf of the congregation we want to thank her for all the work she has put into these programs!

To Chris Yeomans for seeing a need for increased fellowship, especially coming out of lockdowns, thank-you for starting the monthly Fellowship nights which have had a great response!

To AnnaRuth Osborne, our dedicated choir and music teams, we are grateful for all you add to worship to our church!

To Fr. David Donevan whom I'm grateful to work with as a partner in ministry and friend. I'm grateful for what Dave brings to the congregation in worship leadership, a gentle approachable presence and the work he is doing with his contemplation group that is appreciated.

To a whole bunch of unnamed people that continue to encourage, reveal their generosity in a variety of ways, and most importantly, pray for me in my ministry, thank-you very much! St. Mary Magdalene is really blessed with a good congregation and some gifted leaders. Thanks be to God!

In 2022, we said farewell to active member Jean Elliott who won the order of Niagara (medal) for her years of service to her congregation in Hamilton ON and continued that spirit of service when she joined our congregation. Jean attended regularly at the mid-week and 8 AM services and continued her services as a dedicated lay reader for us.



We said farewell to active member Gary Holmes for whom church was an integral part of his life since he was a boy. Gary was a regular member of our 8 AM service and active in so many different practical ways in the church. An avid sports fan, volunteer in the community and loving husband, dad and grandfather, Gary will be missed!



And as of this writing we said farewell to active member Mabel Hutchison. Active in so



many ways on Altar Guild, cleaning the church, spearheading church dinners, ACW member, and volunteer in the community in many ways. Mabel was not afraid of hard work and helped her husband in their ownership of the Richelieu Hotel and also building houses through Richelieu homes with husband Jim! Mabel spent her last years at Helen Henderson Place in Amherstview and will be missed!

I continue to serve as Regional Dean of the Quinte Clericus which involves organising and running monthly meetings of local Anglican clergy, dealing pastoral issues, and along with the other three Deans, consulted by the Bishop and other Diocesan leaders in a number of ways. Through that I

am also part of clergy installations. I serve on the L&A County Hospital Chaplaincy team and receive emergency calls for our local hospital. I continue to serve as one of three representatives from the Quinte Deanery on Synod Council and attend monthly meetings. I also continue to serve as priest-in-charge for Holy Trinity church in Plevna which involves one or two Sundays leading worship and chairing an annual meeting for that parish and tending to emergency calls.

I am and always have been very active in the Ministerial (gathering of churches in the community) of the community I serve. I provide worship services to Nursing Homes and hospitals when asked.

In 2022 I officiated at eleven funerals and one baptism. I led longer Bible studies this year on the Song of Solomon, Job and Romans. Our Saturday morning group continues to thrive with learning, fellowship and great discussion over God's word. I see Bible study as one of the important ministries of any church, which may not draw large crowds, but I trust there is a "trickle down effect" where people who participate, learn and are changed by God's Word, have a positive impact on the congregation as a whole.

If you can believe it, a small portion of 2022 we were still in lockdown due to Covid. It was our fourth (and by God's grace), final lockdown, lasting from Dec. 24, 2021 to Feb. 13, 2022. This has had a number of impacts on our congregation including a decrease in worship attendance (in person). When you add online worship attendance (it is hard to tell how many of these "hits" are repeat views or single views) we actually have roughly the attendance pre-Covid. I understand some might still have fears around attending in person, but we do need to encourage those who haven't rejoined our community in person, that it is safer to attend a church service

with fellow Christians than it is to buy groceries or eat a meal at a restaurant.

In 2023 I will be starting a new Confirmation Program, First Communion program and God willing, a Saturday night worship service. Isolation is one of the bad effects of our life in Covid lockdown. One of the things I've been taking advantage of as things ease up in 2022 is getting together with some creative, thoughtful members of our congregation and doing some brainstorming for new ministry ideas. Our pet blessing service came out of that. Some of the planning for VBS, grad service, and youth came out of that. Planning around a Saturday night service came out of that. In 2023 I will continue to take advantage of that. Thank-you for your trust in me and especially for your prayers. May God continue to bless us in this new year together.

In Christ, Richard+

St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church

STEWARDSHIP & FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

VESTRY REPORT

At the 2022 SMMAC Annual Meeting, it was moved to establish a Stewardship & Fundraising Committee to provide leadership and guidance to the church in a variety of areas including financial resource development.

Members of the Committee

Michelle Hauser (Chair)

Anna Marie Beeton

Mark Hauser
Sharon Hetke
Bill Russell
Chris Yeomans

The Committee met monthly from April to June and then as needed for the balance of the year. Areas of work included, but were not limited to:

- Terms of Reference

The Committee worked diligently to establish Terms of Reference for the scope of work. Three primary responsibilities were approved:

1. Leading communication with the congregation about all aspects of financial stewardship;
2. Identifying funding opportunities to ensure the church has the resources to fulfill its vision;
3. Building a vision and setting goals for the year ahead that seeks to inspire, ask, and thank.

- Members' phone-a-thon

The Committee developed and implemented a members' phone-a-thon to touch base with members of the congregation who had not yet returned to in-person worship.

- Fundraising & Resource Development

The Committee reviewed and made recommendations on a number of fundraisers and grant opportunities in an attempt to begin to coordinate fundraising activities for the parish. These included:

- *Say Yes! to Kids* & Sing, May for The Heard & Morningstar

- All in for Youth Fundraiser & Sale, Wayne & Linda Brown June for VBS
- Ministers Fund Outreach for Graduation Sunday
- Diocesan Reach Grant Intake, June 1, \$5,000 for Harmony Lounge

Supporters' Letters & Financial Reporting

The Committee worked to make sure all of the seasonal supporters' letters were distributed on time: Lent/Easter, Fall Letter and Advent/Christmas Letter. This included attempts to revitalize how financial reporting is presented to the congregation (see excerpt below). These letters, with special donation forms, included opt-in opportunities for Pre-Authorized Giving.

Figure 1 Sample of visual reporting for Spring appeal to congregation.

- Harmony Lounge & Music Club

In the absence of a Steering Committee for Harmony Lounge & Music Club, the Stewardship Committee has provided direction and accountability on fundraising and resource development, including approvals to apply for additional grants to community funders.

St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE

VESTRY REPORT

At the 2022 SMMAC Annual Meeting, it was moved to establish a Children, Youth & Family Ministry (CYFM) Committee to provide leadership and

guidance to the church particularly in light of Kristal McCance's retirement and needing to transition back to a volunteer-led program.

Members of the Committee*

Laura Clair (Chair, Inception to August)

Anne Alkenbrack (Chair, August to Present)

Michelle Hauser (Secretary)

The Rev. Richard Hetke

Peter Cory (Warden)

Mark Powell

*Where appropriate the Committee invited special guests to attend various meetings.

The Committee met monthly from April to October and areas of work included, but were not limited to:

- Parish Listening Sessions

Reviewed feedback from and made recommendations arising from parish listening sessions held in March. A report was issued to the congregation and posted to the website. Listening sessions included a consultation with the youth themselves. This feedback helped to inform the development of numerous activities throughout the year including the development of the Youth Lounge which is now a shared space with the Harmony Lounge & Music Club.

- *Say Yes! to Kids* Fundraiser

Developed a plan of action for the spring *Say Yes! to Kids* community concert and fundraiser to benefit The Heard Youth Annual Trip & Morningstar Relief Mission High School Lunch Program.

- Screening-in-Faith

A volunteer screening training session was held in June with app. 10 participants whose screening was brought up to date. Many of these individuals were able to support VBS as a result of their renewed training.

- Vacation Bible School

Developed and implement a plan of action for the Rocky Railway VBS helped August 15 to 19 which was well-attended and well-supported by adult volunteers form the parish as well as youth mentors.

- Harmony Lounge & Music Club

The CYFM Committee was the original sounding board for the Harmony Lounge & Music Club and provided the impetus for a plan that was taken to Parish Advisory Council to demonstrate the synergies between better accommodating the church's youth (per listening sessions) and also reaching out to youth who are not currently members of the church, which was also a key learning from the parish listening sessions. Absent a Steering Committee for Harmony, the CYFM Committee has heard regular updates from Michelle Hauser, Program Co-ordinator, and helped to affirm that the direction of the program was appropriate and in line with learnings from the listening sessions.

- Revitalization of Church School

The Committee worked to develop a plan to revitalize Sunday Kids' Church. Progress has been slow: attendance has been variable—with on average 1 or 2 students and a high of 4 or 5—and the age groups have also been extremely unpredictable. More work needs to be done in terms of recommending a way forward for a consistent, reliable Kids' Church program.

- Programming Concepts in Development

- Lent to Easter drop-your-kids off program – something like an 8 to 10-week VBS on Sunday mornings where parents to do not need to attend.
- Leader-in-training Program for SMMAC's strong core of older youth (12 to 16)
- The development of a family-focused contemporary service – possibly monthly on a Saturday – designed to attract families who are not currently members of SMMAC.

Altar Guild Report 2021-2022

To date we now have ten members of the Altar Guild. Each member cleans up after the 10:30 communion service for one month at a time.

We rotate every 9 months. One member cleans up after the Wednesday service each week. Richard has been setting up and changing the colours of the frontal altar coverings.

New members are always welcome.



God bless, Miriam McKeown
613-354-3452

Annual Music Report, 2022



Our purpose, as church musicians, is, through music, to assist and lead our congregation in worship of God with both heart and mind. In attaining this goal, we have rotated leadership, and offered a varied programme of traditional hymns and contemporary songs.

In the spring of 2022, a small section of the choir resumed afternoon rehearsals and in September, full choir began rehearsing on Thursday evenings, 6:30 until 7:30. Thanks to Mark Hauser and his team, a new

microphone, installed above the chancel, allowed the choir a singing position in its former location in the choir stalls.

We are grateful for our talented music team. Our lead musicians, Sharon Hetke, Chris Yeomans, and AnnaRuth Osborne have rotated leadership for the 10:30 Sunday morning worship service, and our choir has faithfully led congregational singing. In May, under the direction of Michelle Hauser and AnnaRuth, the choir collaborated with a variety of musicians in a fund raising concert. In November, the choir led in a service of Evening Prayer. In December, the choir and members of Harmony Club took a service of Lessons and Carols to the Anglican Church on Wolfe Island, a heart-warming experience.

We thank the following singers and instrumentalists for their cheerful and capable participation: Mark Hauser, Margaret Robertson, Valerie Smith, Fran Thurlow, Rosemary Trowhill, AnnaMarie Beeton, Stefanie Brochocki, Marie Hetke, Laura Clair, the Clair sisters, Matt Alkenbrack, Jeff Posterski, Sue and Lily Marriott.

We are grateful to Michelle Hauser for the vision and planning she devoted to the cause of choral scholarships. The Kathleen Kennedy Choral Scholarship was established, and through immediate fund raising activities funds became available. And so we anticipate new life in the choir membership this coming year. Four candidates are registered for the spring session, February through April, 2023.

In Christ, AnnaRuth Osborne, Music director

St. Mary's NextLevel Men's Group Report for Vestry 2023

By Rob Marriott



MEN'S GROUP

Since starting our covenant group in 2015 and integrating new members in 2018, our focus is to ensure that we support each other in our spiritual journey together as we meet each week (on Thursday nights). This means guiding each other into relational Christianity and following Christ as a band of brothers who are committed to seeing each other pursue the things of God. Our NextLevel covenant group has become an indispensable lifeline as we support each other and hold each other accountable to walk in God's word. During the past year, we have explored numerous topics which included The Basics of Christian Life, Christian Character, Feeling Peace and Contentment, Book of Jude, God's Love, and Be a Godly Man. The members of this group include Wray Harvey, Kevin Alkenbrack, Mark Powell, Greg Moulton, Paul Clair and Rob Marriott. If there are questions about joining or starting a NextLevel group please see www.nextlevelministries.ca or ask Rob Marriott.

PWRDF Parish Rep Report 2022



PWRDF

The Primate's World Relief
and Development Fund

“Praying with PWRDF” has continued to be an oasis of cool clear water and nourishing food for my soul, and a welcome pause from my

busy-ness. We meet once a month now by Zoom on the second Thursday afternoon. We listen to wonderful music and inspiring speakers, read scripture, and above all engage in corporate prayer.

If I accomplish nothing else as your Parish Rep this year, I wish to encourage you to subscribe to this program by googling www.pwrdf.org. You will also discover all the amazing projects that PWRDF supports – right here in Canada and around the world, and hopefully be inspired to contribute financially.

Respectfully submitted, Valerie Smith

Harmony Lounge & Music Club VESTRY REPORT: JANUARY 2023



March to April 2022

A series of Listening Sessions (see reverse for a relevant excerpt) were held with members of the congregation and with SMMAC youth on the future direction of ministry and outreach to children, youth, and families. The report was carried forward on two fronts: program development through the new Children, Youth & Family Ministry (CYFM) Committee, and resource development through the Stewardship & Fundraising Committee.

May to June 2022

By June, the Committees had put forward a plan that was affirmed by Parish Advisory Council, to launch an outreach program focused on an after-school music program and to pursue funding through the Diocese of Ontario Reach Grant.

July to August 2022

With \$5,000 from the Diocese of Ontario Reach Grant for new outreach projects, the summer months were spent renovating and furnishing the new spaces to host the after-school music program.

September to November 2022

The Fall session of Harmony Lounge & Music Club was launched and attracted 34 students engaged in a variety of activities on Tuesdays and Thursdays including:

Group voice classes

Group guitar classes

Band ensembles: Rock Band and Instrumental Music

P.A. Day enrichment program

Private music lessons in a variety of instruments led by Co-op students from NDSS

December 2022

Planning for the Winter Session and additional fundraising—including significant grant applications to sustain and expand the program for 2023—began.

January 2024

We are awaiting news of additional grants of up to \$25,000. There are 56 students registered for the Winter Session.

Excerpt from the report on Listening Sessions

PART II: OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY

“The more active you make your church as a building as a public place, the more likely there will be some spillover.”

“The pandemic has been ruinous to kids’ mental health—there are all kinds of possibilities for us to serve young people in the broader community.”

Observation: While it was generally agreed that the church not “bite off more than it can chew” there was total unanimity across the listening sessions that outreach to young people, through any number of possible programs, should be a priority.

Partnerships

Exploring partnership with schools for after-school-hours programs is an excellent idea. If we could create a youth-focused space—one that includes food, fun, safety—parents will love this, and it can become part of their family routine.

Possible Programs

Music enrichment programs

Learning hub with after-school help: engage older students as mentors in addition to volunteers from the church and community.

Healthy lunches for students

Intergenerational program: cooking, crafts, knitting/sewing

Arts & crafts club: at least one parishioner has volunteered to start this.

Seasonal music and arts camps – summer/March Break/PA Days. We could be a co-op partner for the Arts & Culture SHSM program.

Host a youth drop-in centre in our space.



Report from SMMAC Greengroup for the year 2022.

Of note: a motion was passed at our annual vestry meeting in early 2019 - that the church discontinue the use of all single use plastics ie: plates, straws, bottles, cups, etc.

In February 2022 an energy audit of SMMAC was done by Dr. Ian Kilborn - outlining areas of attention - to be 'fixed' prior to investigating the purchase of a new heating system for our church.

To date 4 vents in the Nave of the church have been insulated to stop leaks. Weather stripping has been requested around all the doors to the outside. Upper Canada Fuels has been sent to SMMAC to replace the remaining 2 steam traps as per the energy audit suggestion.

The Napanee Fire Dept. has done an inspection of the large kitchen range hood/vent in December and declared it to be 'unnecessary for our needs. We are now looking into ways to cover/seal it from drafts.

On July 9th we installed 2 rain barrels to assist with the upkeep of our gardens around the church grounds.

By August we developed a prayer for Climate Change to be said/read at each service.

Our priest Fr. Richard Hetke makes it a point to either walk or ride his bicycle wherever he needs to go within the town limits and only uses his car for emergency/or long distance travel.

We are a young group - newly formed this past year - and we are 'a work in progress'. As we continue to address the suggestions made by Ian Kilborn in our energy audit - we forge ahead with fund raising projects.

Needless to say - our goal is: a new, greener energy heating system for our church. This will take time and money. A few fundraising projects are planned for this coming year.

Meanwhile we take the simple, small steps that will help us to achieve our goal, and that set by the Diocese - to reduce our carbon footprint by 2030 - by 50%. We see ourselves as a resource of information and leadership for our parishioners and for our greater community.

Submitted by Susan Withers