

# 2025 Vestry



February 23, 2025 | 12 Noon

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# DEAN'S LETTER

Dear Beloved Friends in Christ,

*"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!" (Isaiah 43:18-19).*

As I reflect on the past year at Christ Church Cathedral, I see God's hand moving among us in powerful ways. Lives are being changed. Worship is deepening. Community is growing. Service is expanding.

We are not the same Cathedral we were a year ago—because that is the nature of the Gospel. It transforms.

## **Worship: At the Heart of Who We Are**

At the very core of our life together is worship. And what a year of worship it has been!

Our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services saw the largest attendance in years:

### **December 24th in-person attendance**

1 PM – ~600 people

4 PM – ~750 people (with ~200 turned away!)

8 PM – ~850 people (again, another ~200 turned away!)

11 PM – ~700 people

### **December 25th**

289 in-person and 225 on-line

That's thousands coming to celebrate the birth of Christ—so many that we are already exploring ways to make more room next year, perhaps with outdoor speakers or video.

But our worship extends far beyond Christmas. Every single week, people gather in this sacred space to meet God.

### **Sunday Worship**

8 AM Eucharist – 1,557 people over the year (avg. 28.8 per week)

10:30 AM Eucharist – 11,783 people in person (avg. 236 per week), plus 6,535 online (avg. 133.4 per week). Total 10:30 AM Sunday Attendance (in-person & online): 269 per week.  
St. Brigid's (1:30 PM) – avg. 18 in person, 42 online: 60 per week.  
Compline – avg. 54 in person, 44 online: 99 per week.

### **Midweek Worship**

Thursday 7:30 AM Eucharist – 691 people over the year (avg. 15 per week).  
Weekday 12:15 PM Eucharist – 1,988 people over the year (avg. 8.4 per day).

These numbers are not just statistics. Each person represents a story, a life, a faith journey. Every time we gather—whether it's a grand festival service or a quiet weekday Eucharist—we are participating in God's transforming work.

And we see that transformation in the growing number of baptisms:

Six baptisms in November  
Nine baptisms at the Baptism of the Lord in January  
Six more already scheduled for the Easter Vigil

We continue to see high numbers of weddings, baptisms, and new members joining the Cathedral. These are all signs of vitality and growth—signs of a community where people are encountering Christ.

### **Service: The Gospel in Action**

But worship does not stop at the church doors. True worship leads to service—and at Christ Church Cathedral, service is at the heart of who we are.

This past year, **our Maundy Café served 12,191 meals to some of the most vulnerable people in our city.** That is 12,191 times that someone was met with hospitality, dignity, and nourishment—both physical and spiritual.

At the same time, our Cathedral continues to be a place of refuge. Refugees, those experiencing homelessness, people struggling with addiction, and others on the margins continue to find their way to our doors. We welcome them not just as guests, but as Christ himself.

And the need is only growing:

The drug overdose crisis continues to take lives at an alarming rate—192 deaths in March alone, or **6.2 people per day dying of overdose in British Columbia.**

The housing crisis remains dire—**Vancouver is now 92nd out of 94 global cities for affordability**, with **home prices 12.3 times higher than median household income**.

These are not just statistics. These are people—our neighbours, our siblings in Christ. And the call of Jesus is clear: **love your neighbour. Feed the hungry. Shelter the homeless. Proclaim release to the captives.**

**This is why we serve. Because our faith is not just about what happens in the pews on Sunday—it's about what happens on the streets, in the shelters, in the hospitals, in the margins.**

### **Transformation: The Spirit Moving Among Us**

Through worship and service, God is transforming us—individually and as a community.

We see this in our music ministry, which has been revitalized under Dr. Neil Cockburn's leadership. Our Sundays at 4 series—Choral Evensong, Holden Evening Prayer, Taizé, and Broadway Vespers—will continue to offer diverse and deeply moving worship experiences.

We see it in my strategic priorities, which I see as important in shaping the future of our Cathedral:

1. Proclaiming and Embodying the Good News
  - Creating worship that reflects Vancouver's diversity.
  - Partnering with groups like the BCR reservists for chaplaincy and outreach.
  - Expanding our digital ministry to engage more people.
2. Fostering Transformational Community
  - Raising up new leaders from underrepresented voices.
  - Offering baptism preparation, Bible studies, and courses on reconciliation and justice.
  - Advocating for housing, mental health, and addiction recovery.
3. Caring for Creation and Building a Sustainable Future
  - Making our Cathedral operations more sustainable.
  - Partnering with Indigenous communities on climate justice.
  - Offering education on environmental stewardship and nonviolence.

**This is who we are called to be. A church that worships deeply, serves boldly, and allows the Holy Spirit to transform us into the hands and feet of Christ in the world.**

### **Looking Ahead: A Future Filled with Hope**

*“Behold, I am making all things new.” (Revelation 21:5)*

That’s the promise. That’s the invitation. That’s what we are witnessing at Christ Church Cathedral.

Worship that brings people into the presence of God.

Service that extends Christ’s love to those in need.

Transformation that changes lives, both within and beyond our walls.

As we step into this new year, we do so with hope, with faith, and with the joyful anticipation of all that God has yet to do among us.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Thank you for your faith, your presence, your commitment to this Cathedral community.

May God bless you abundantly in the year ahead.

In Christ’s love,

Dean Chris

# AGENDA - Vestry 2025

1. Call to Order & Opening Prayer
2. Appointment of Vestry Clerk
3. Adoption of 2025 Vestry Agenda
4. Resolution of Thanks
5. Approval of Minutes of the 2024 Annual Vestry
6. Park Place Negotiation Update
7. Strategic Planning
8. Music Director's Vision
9. Reception of the Annual Report
10. Report of the Nominating Committee
11. Administrators of Holy Communion
12. Financial Reports
  - a. Adoption of 2024 Audited Financial Statements
  - b. Appointment of 2025 Auditor
  - c. Presentation and Adoption of 2025 Budget
13. Moment of Remembrance
14. Adjournment & Closing Prayer



# MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

## CHRIST CHURCH PARISH, VANCOUVER, BC ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

There were 75 parishioners registered for attendance with 83 people in attendance.

The Reverend Alisdair Smith evoked Colin Miles' 80th birthday. Everyone present sang Happy Birthday to him.

### **1. CALL TO ORDER & OPENING PRAYER**

The meeting was called to order by the Very Reverend Christopher A. Pappas, Dean & Rector of the Cathedral, at 12:06 p.m.

The Reverend Alisdair Smith led us in prayer followed by the Reverend Dixie Black, who asked us to maintain a calm mood during the meeting.

The Reverend Clare Morgan performed a religious song.

### **2. APPOINTMENT OF VESTRY CLERK**

Dean Pappas appointed Diogo Portela as Vestry Clerk.

### **3. ADOPTION OF THE 2024 VESTRY AGENDA**

MOVED BY: Kevin Smith

SECONDED BY: Mark Halyk

CARRIED

### **4. RESOLUTION OF THANKS**

Dean Pappas explained that the resolution was open throughout the meeting and anyone could raise a name that is worthy of thanks.

MOVED BY: Jane Hope

SECONDED BY: Hadani Ditmars

## CARRIED

These were the names raised:

- The Cathedral staff
- Rupert Lang and the Choir
- The greeters
- Kevin Smith and Jane Hope, retiring wardens
- The livestream crew
- The Healing Prayer Ministry
- The Reverend Areeta Bridgemohan's return
- Douglas Yee
- The Maundy Steering Committee
- Ian Birtwell
- Vanessa Ho
- Kathy Irwin's return
- Peter Roulston for the organisation of the Narthex greeters
- All those who work in the Children, Youth & Families, especially Lauren Odille Pinkney
- Kate and Nora, new parishioners
- Bill Orr for anchoring the 9:30 a.m. morning prayer group
- Douglas Yee (once again) for making the bells chime again
- The compline team
- Bill and Lorna Orr for organising the 7:30 services on Thursday mornings
- Sarah Nation for all her work in the Altar Guild
- Dean Pappas for getting to know the congregation and helping them to be better people
- The lay administrators
- All the servers
- Megan Otton for organising the servers
- The building staff: Ronald Tam, Moss Whelan, Shawn Warmington, Jeremy Smith, and Jeremiah Wakibi
- The Saint Brigid's and the 8 am congregations
- PWRDF committee
- Mark Halyk thanked the people who volunteered in the fundraising for PWRDF, for the dinner for children's ministry, for the music search committee, and for the pancake supper volunteers
- Ian Birtwell recognized Alisdair Smith for his leadership of the Men's breakfast
- Chris thanked the chaplains, 55 Maundy volunteers, the refugee committee, 135 Committee, volunteer receptionists
- Prayer link
- Carlos for his work while with us

## **5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 2023 ANNUAL VESTRY**

Chris Pappas clarified that all documents were uploaded to the Cathedral website. Carol Cook pointed out that not everyone has access to the website. The minutes were displayed using the projector so that everyone could examine them. Dean Pappas said that a copy would be sent to those who cannot access the website.

MOVED BY: Jane Hope

SECONDED BY: Kevin Smith

CARRIED

## **6. ACKERMAN'S GENERAL STORE**

Chris talked about his childhood in New England. Christ Church Cathedral is a place to do what Chris calls 'optimizing for the common good'. Christ Church Cathedral is a safe place for people of all faiths. Chris enumerated the problems that afflict our society (drug addiction, housing insecurity, the problems that newcomers and refugees face to adapt to Canada/BC).

Hadani suggested that a community meal should happen at CCC. Chris asked Hadani to take the proposition to Richard Sulkers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: As presented in the Annual Vestry materials

## **7. MUSIC SEARCH UPDATE & RECEPTION OF ANNUAL REPORTS**

Mark Halyk thanked the many people involved in the music search. There are amazing candidates. The Choir will participate in the choosing of the new music director. Mark will give updates on the selections after the March 16 meeting.

MOVED BY: Jane Hope

SECONDED BY: Holly McMillan

CARRIED

## **8. REPORT OF THE 2024 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Chris asked all the members of the Nominating Committee to stand up and thanked them. Kevin Smith spoke on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Biographies are available on the website:

#### LAY TRUSTEES 2024-26 (\* appointed)

- Rector's Warden: Michael Law\*
- People's Warden: Holly McMillan
- Assoc Rector's: Warden Mark Halyk\*
- Assoc People's: Warden Irene Pang
- Elected Trustee: Douglas Yee
- Elected Trustee: Gordon Matheson

#### OFFICERS

- Secretary to the Corporation: Jennifer Barr\* (2024-5)
- Treasurer: Terrence Clark (2024-6)
- Asst. Treasurer: Isabel Woo (Yung) (2024-6)
- Past Treasurer: Ian Birtwell

#### LAY DELEGATES TO THE 2025 DIOCESAN SYNOD

- Michael Law
- Holly McMillan
- Mark Halyk
- Irene Pang
- Gordon Matheson
- Douglas Yee

#### LAY ALTERNATE DELEGATES TO THE 2025 SYNOD

- Matthew Nichiporuk
- Penny Zhou
- Terrence Clark

#### PARISH COUNCIL AT-LARGE (1-year)

- Barbara Brown
- Anne Fletcher
- Byron Jang
- Matthew Nichiporuk
- Penny Zhou

#### MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE

- Andrew Bartlett (PWRDF Representative)
- Nicky Seppala (Coordinator of Lay Volunteer Ministries)
- Richard Sulkers (Home Groups)
- Jane Dittrich (Sorrento Centre Representative)
- Jane Osler (Stewardship Chair)
- Kathy Irwin (Screening in Faith Coordinator)

#### ENDOWMENT FUND ADMINISTRATORS (3-year terms, 3-elected plus Chair)

- Ian Birtwell (Chair) (2027)
- Mathew George (2025) [Elected in 2023]
- Harry Kim (2025) [Elected in 2023]
- Ted Chiasson (2027)

Rector's Designee: TBD

Trustees' Appointment: TBD  
Parish Council Appointment: TBD

MOVED BY: Kevin Smith

SECONDED BY: Jane Hope

APPROVED BY MAJORITY

Dean Chris highlighted that all ministries are important and participating in them takes a lot of effort and time.

## 9. LAY ADMINISTRATORS OF HOLY COMMUNION

A list of names to be approved by Bishop John as lay administrators of the chalice was presented as follows:

Marilyn Anderson	Andrea GailusHolly McMillan	Jim Riva	
Rejoice Anthony	Marilyn Hamilton	Jean Mickelson	Jacki Ross
Esther Aneke	Mavis Holm	Nura Mohammed	John Ross
Kevin Bespflug	Jane Hope	Carol Mundt	Chris Roulson
Ian Birtwell	Ron Jobe	Sarah Nation	Peter Roulston
Vincent Carey	Harry Kim	Jim Nesbitt	Susan Russell
Marion Carson	Amy Law	Matthew Nichiporuk	Claude St-Denis
Anne Christian	Sarah Lehman	Bill Orr	Frank Uy
James Conklin	Terry Love	Lorna Orr	Susan Wade
Carol Cook	Liz MacCausland	Dana Osborne	Kate Walker
Pamela Dalziel	Donna Marlatte	Jane Osler	Dorothy Watts
Heather Davies	Sondra Marshall	Megan Otton	Catherine White
Peter de Groot	Richard McAlpine	Penelope Peake	Donna Wong-Juliani
Hadani Ditmars	David McMillan	Murray Reinhardt	Abigail Zhang
Ed Friesen	Penny Zhou		

MOVED BY: Kevin Smith

SECONDED BY: Carol Cook

APPROVED BY MAJORITY

The Reverend Clare Morgan sang a song while Ian's computer was being connected to the projector.

## 10a. ADOPTION OF 2023 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Ian Birtwell apologized for some problems with the tax receipts due to a system change. Ian pointed out how the income from the funds is set up to support the Cathedral's ministries.

Ian expressed his thanks to Vanessa Ho and said that it was a pleasure to work with her.

Ian went through all the CCC funds, explaining how they work and what they are destined for.

Ian thanked the parishioners who continue contributing to the Cathedral ministries and Jeremy for his work renting the building/property.

Ian highlighted the role of inflation in CCC's financial situation.

Barbara Brown asked about the Park Place almost \$ 100,000 reduction. Ian explained the 40-year-old agreement between Park Place and CCC. The agreement will be reviewed this year by a negotiator team constituted by Ian, Kevin Smith, Dean Pappas, and a professional team.

Hadani Ditmars asked about a way to increase revenue from filming crews.

Approval of the Rolfe Benson audited financial statements be:

MOVED BY: Ian Birtwell

SECONDED BY: Kevin Smith

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

Appointment of Auditor:

This vestry meeting authorizes new trustees to appoint an auditor after review and in due course.

MOVED BY: David McMillan

SECONDED BY: Kevin Smith

APPROVED

### **10b. 2024 ANNUAL BUDGET**

Cathedral investments are directed by the diocesan treasurer.

Preliminary meeting: almost \$150,000 over the budget.

Ian addressed the Park Place agreement one more time.

Bill Orr asked about last year's deficit. Ian responded that any deficits are paid using the reserve funds. They are balanced out each year.

Motion to approve 2024 Annual Budget proposed by Trustees:

MOVED BY: Ian Birtwell

SECONDED BY: Jane Hope

CARRIED

Chris thanked Ian for his good work.

John Wade mentioned the need for friendly greeters who talk to visitors and newcomers at coffee hour.

## **11. MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE**

The Rev. Alisdair Smith led us in prayer for those who passed.

Moved by the Dean to close the Resolution of Thanks:

APPROVED BY MAJORITY

## **12. ADJOURNMENT & CLOSING PRAYER**

The Reverend Matthew Senf led us in our final prayer. The Reverend Christian followed with a blessing.

APPROVED BY VESTRY THIS 23RD DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025.

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The Very Rev. Christopher A. Pappas  
Dean and Rector

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Mr. Diogo Portela  
Administrative Assistant

# WARDENS & TRUSTEES REPORT

2024 afforded us the privilege of witnessing the workings of this vibrant community. We saw steadily increasing attendance at services, coupled with an ever more diverse worshipping community, celebrated by events sponsored by the Dean's Council on Diversity.

At our meetings we heard from staff members who described their work, its challenges, and its successes. Our many ministries continue to grow and thrive as recorded in their Vestry Reports. We encourage you to read them.

Our 135th Anniversary Year has had many unique events including a fancy tea party, hymn sings, and a commemoration of the laying down of regimental colours. We look forward to the final pizza, popcorn, and dancing party Saturday February 22nd.

Rev. Christian Okeke joined our community as curate in August. We are grateful for his insights and contributions, which include a lovely video of a carol sung in Igbo with the Rev. Clare Morgan.

We also marked the end of Rupert Lang's long tenure as Director of Music. We are thankful for his many years of service and for his contributions to the musical life of the Cathedral and the city. Thank you also to the choir for organizing a fitting tribute at the end of the year.

It has been a pleasure to meet and chat with parishioners and to hear queries regarding a wide variety of topics. We look forward to ongoing engagement with you in 2025.

Sincerely,  
Holly McMillan and Michael Law



# PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The 2024 Parish Council consisted of the Trustees: The Very Rev. Christopher A. Pappas, Michael Law, Holly McMillin, Mark Halyk, Irene Pang, Douglas Yee and Gordon Matheson; the Treasurer Terrence Clark, the Secretary Jennifer Barr; and the licensed and covenanted clergy of the parish: the Rev. Areeta Bridgemohan, the Rev. Clare Morgan, the Rev. Juanita Clark, the Rev. Kevin de la Mare, the Rev. Christian Okeke, the Rev. Matthew Senf, the Rev. Stuart Mennigke; and the at-large members Penny Zhou, Matthew Nichiporuk, Byron Jang, Barbara Brown, and Anne Fletcher.

The 2024 Parish Council met for approximately 3.5 hours each on June 1, 2024, September 7, 2024 and January 18, 2025.

The Parish Council business focused on receiving and discussing clergy ministry updates and getting updates from and planning for parish ministries and on community events. Topics discussed included the CATS Ministry, the Stewardship Committee, various Formation Activities, the Children & Families Ministry, the Music Director Search, Pastoral Care Ministries, 135 Anniversary activities (picnic, play, hymn sing, final gala), Cathedral Arts Ministries, Remembrance Sunday weekend events, Digital and Creative Ministries, and an extensive look at current and future plans in the Cathedral Music Ministries and at Rupert's farewell.

# CLERGY & STAFF REPORTS

## The Rev. Areeta Bridgemohan, Vicar

My guiding mantra this year has been: "Make room for the Holy Spirit." This past year has been a year of building and laying foundations.

### Pastoral care

Our lay pastoral care team has been growing in numbers and in relationship with one another. Last February, I led a full-day training on pastoral care with support from the Diocese to launch our home visiting ministry. We currently have 13 members of this pastoral care team, conducting about 8 visits a month<sup>1</sup>. We conduct both home communion visits and visits that don't involve communion at parishioners' homes and care institutions all over the Greater Vancouver area. I am blessed to work with a group of such caring and faithful people. As we continue to build our pastoral care systems, I am working on having regular contact with parishioners on meaningful anniversaries, like weddings, baptisms, and funerals. We have three members who have offered to write cards and call. As our clergy team has significantly changed, I look forward to continuing to strengthen our clergy team's role and coordination of pastoral care.

### Formation

#### **Pre-marital and baptismal preparation**

Rev. Clare and I led a 3-session premarital preparation offering for 3 couples preparing for marriage at the Cathedral. There were several gifts as a result of this offering: couples saved a significant amount of money, couples got connected to one another, and Rev. Clare and I had fun (hopefully the couples did too!). We are planning on leading another 3-session series for 3 couples this Spring.

I am grateful to have handed off the baptismal preparation process to two of my colleagues: Senior Curate, Rev. Christian Okeke and our deacon, Rev. Kevin de la Mare. Rev. Christian meets with the inquirers and Rev. Kevin prepares them to receive the sacrament and learn about the liturgy. We have had 15 baptisms since Jan 2024 (including that of my youngest son!). It is a privilege for us to welcome new members to the body of Christ and a sign of hope for the church at large.

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<sup>1</sup> Safe church guidelines require 2 adults per visit in a private home setting.

## **Sunday forums and mid-week formation<sup>2</sup>**

Upon Rev. Alisdair's departure last September, there were a few formation groups that needed new leadership. As a clergy team, we discerned that Wondering Wednesdays would end upon Alisdair's departure. The new leadership of the 40-minute forums includes Irene Pang, John Wade and myself. I have greatly enjoyed the process of planning, reflecting and discernment involved in the forum schedule. We have hosted very well attended forums. Since last September, we have hosted 10 forums, with an average attendance of 44 people. In December, we experimented with a forum after the 10:30am service, with lunch to learn about the history of music at the Cathedral to mark Rupert's retirement. We are considering offering more forums following the 10:30am service, to engage a broader spectrum of our congregation.

In the spring of last year, Claude St-Denis began to offer regular Tuesday evening scripture reflection. Bible study is a mainstay of a church's formation and there is no end to the richness of studying the sacred texts! We used that same evening online timeslot to trial an introductory theology 8-session series, which was regularly attended by about 14 people.

In January this year, we launched Anglican 101, with 8 sessions online with 2 in person meetings. We invited our sister Cathedral in Whitehorse to attend, as well as folks from all over the Diocese. We have had a wonderful response - with 50 registrants. Each session is led by different presenters, including clergy from around the Diocese. One fun spin-off of this program is that following an expression of interest by some youth, Rev. Jessica Schaap (Synod office) and Rev. Alecia Greenfield (St. Anselm's) will be offering confirmation preparation.

## **Children and family ministry**

At the beginning of last year, after Lauren's (our former Dir of CYF) departure, I gathered a small team to guide our decision making and discernment in this time of transition in this ministry area. I am strongly committed to children and family ministry, and am still asking for the Spirit's guidance for a vision of that ministry here at the Cathedral.

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<sup>2</sup> I prefer to use the word 'formation' rather than education. To me, formation refers to a broader process of planting seeds in our hearts, our minds and our souls in our journey of transformation into Christ's likeness.

Jennifer Hiebert and Tasia Pappas have been wonderful companions in this in-between time. We hosted a meeting for parents and children at the beginning of the year to hear their desires for this ministry. We have held off on hiring a minister in this role, as there are a number of unknowns with regard to budget, my capacity and the vision of the ministry. I feel we are now in a position to hire a part-time children's ministry assistant. We need to build the program and offer some consistent formation. I would like this assistant to offer primarily Godly Play for our children aged 3-10 years of age. I would also like this assistant to regularly offer service opportunities during our service time or following worship, to expand children's formation to include service to those in need.

### **Retreats**

One area of ministry that I am excited to practice more is designing retreats. I will be leading a retreat for Healing Prayer, Healing Touch and our Pastoral Care teams in February. The Cathedral has also booked the entire Rivendell Retreat Centre for the last weekend in June.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to be in ministry at Christ Church with you all and look forward to continuing to journey deeper in faith. May God continue to bless our ministry.

### **The Rev. Kevin de la Mare, Deacon for Diversity**

As a vocational deacon (if you don't know what that is, please ask me) my work is carried out both inside the church and out in the world. My work in the world is carried out as a risk manager at the Vancity credit union. I love working for an organization which remains firm in its commitment to social and environmental progress supporting initiatives related to climate action, reconciliation, financial inclusion, affordable housing, equity, and anti-racism. Thus, I am able to live out my diaconal vocation in a concrete way within the economic and business environment.

Within the church I have liturgical and other responsibilities. It is a blessing to serve at the eucharist on Sundays leading the creed and confession, preparing the altar for communion and, very importantly, dismissing us all to go back out into the world to love and serve the Lord. I have covenanted to preach approximately once every

quarter, and try, as your deacon, to maintain a focus on the church's mission in the world.

In September I was asked to assist in the preparation of candidates for baptism. Baptism preparation sessions were held in September and November 2024, and again in January 2025. The largest group was the January session; 19 people attended in preparation for the 9 candidates baptized on January 12, 2025. Baptism preparation consists of a preliminary meeting with Father Christian and two preparation sessions which I lead in the weeks just prior to the baptism.

I was also invited to become a member of the leadership (known as the "squad") for the men's breakfast. I have enjoyed getting to know the leadership as well as the many men who attend. Conversations are always very stimulating.

I have continued in my role as chaplain to the Dean's Council for Diversity and Multiculturalism and begun my role as chaplain to the Stewardship Committee.

I am deeply grateful to serve in this community and have been blessed by your encouragement and support.

I give thanks to God for you all.

## **The Rev. Clare Morgan, Pastor to St. Brigid's & Associate for Digital Ministry**

In January of 2024 I took on a new role at the Cathedral: that of digital minister, assuming responsibility for our social media, as well as trying to build an online and digital community.

After consulting with the outgoing comms director Alicia and Ben Dobyms (pianist to St. Brigid's and all-around digital/online expert), I followed their advice to focus primarily on creating content for Instagram, while having Facebook (a platform where most of our engagement was driven by long term members of the Cathedral) function almost as an "internal bulletin board." I also created a Cathedral TikTok and made some content for that, and engaged with Threads. Some of my initiatives were weekly illustrated prayers, live streamed Daily Office rites (Evening Prayer and "Prayers in the Loft" at 11am on Wednesdays), smaller campaigns of shared images

and quotes geared toward particular seasons such as the Season of Creation and Advent, ICYMI (“In Case You Missed It”) short clips of the previous Sunday’s sermon, carousels (collections of photos) from Sunday mornings, and #todayssermoninone, where I would try to distill the Sunday sermon to one quote or thought (shared on Threads). I also made both a Holy Week and Advent video series. The former featured members of our clergy team talking about the special liturgical offerings given throughout the week as well as brief explanations. In Advent I offered a series primarily on YouTube called “Cradle Songs,” which featured several people from our community and the diocese sharing carols that had special meaning to them, and then singing them together in front of the Woodward’s creche set.

One of the other projects of the year, spearheaded by Ben Dobyms, was the creation of a Discord server, which we called SQUID (Super Queer Union of Inclusive Devotion), a gathering place for people affiliated with affirming churches across the Pacific Northwest. With the establishment of this group came two new community offerings: Sanctuary D&D and Drag Communion. Sanctuary D&D is a Dungeons and Dragons campaign held in both Christ Church Cathedral and Shaughnessy Heights United Church, led by Ben and other community members, which has seen phenomenal success and built new friendships and connections beyond the walls of our shared churches. Drag Communion is a liturgical offering first held at Shaughnessy Heights United Church in partnership with ministry leads there, and featured a communion service hosted by local drag queens, including the Cathedral’s own Byron Hanson in a debut role as Bona Seraphina. The pilot event, held in October, packed Shaughnessy Heights Church and the livestream of that service boasts one of their highest view rates, with people tuning in from all across North America and then immediately getting started on their own versions of the rite. We plan to host another event, incorporating feedback from that pilot program, in Eastertide, still at Shaughnessy Heights United Church. All will be welcome.

In June I used my study leave to travel to Turkey with Illuminated Tours, an organization founded by my friend and teacher Omid Safi (a professor of Islamic Studies at Duke University), where my husband and I immersed ourselves in the life and history of the region, engaged in interfaith dialogue with new Muslim friends, and were privileged to learn from prominent Sufi teachers, including Esin Chelebi (direct descendant of Mevlana Rumi), and Cemalnoor Sargut.

My work as “priorix” with Sanctuary of the Arts (an online contemplative arts-based community hosted by St. Hildegard’s Sanctuary) continued, and I participated and helped with a variety of workshops. In addition, I produced a couple of podcast episodes before the “abbess” (the Rev. Melanie Calabrigo) and I found ourselves at the point where we needed to take a break and regroup. We are getting ready to explore what new offerings we may be able to provide in 2025.

Alongside all of these things I have continued to walk beside St. Brigid’s, the Sunday afternoon congregation, which began meeting for fellowship and games more frequently after tentative re-calibration throughout this strange post- (but not really) pandemic era. A highlight was the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, hosted by members of St. Brigid’s, which featured a delicious repast provided by the inimitable Mark Halyk and others, and conversation. I also continued to provide chaplaincy to the Morning Prayer on Zoom group, the Tuesday evening Centering Prayer group, and the Labyrinth guild, including opening the year as musical guest alongside my dear friends Eda Ertan and Masa Kateb (and partnering with them for a beautiful interfaith labyrinth walk in April called “Connecting Hearts” which featured music and prayers from Rabbi Laura Duhan-Kaplan and her husband Charles, and Bishop John Stephens).

Finally, I was very happy to once again offer Teilhard de Chardin’s “Mass on the World” and “Songs for the Road to the Cross”, both in Holy Week.

Special thanks and endless gratitude to Ben Dobyons, the St. Brigid’s discernment group, our lay staff, and my clergy colleagues for their kindness, patience, advocacy, and resiliency during a challenging year of change in this place. With prayers that God’s will of love may be revealed more and more as we all journey together.

## The Rev. Christian Okeke, Senior Curate

- Baptism - 10 People prepared for baptism (Baptized) and 7 more candidates currently being prepared. Among these 17 persons are 5 new converts to Christianity. Six Bibles were gifted to people.
- Maundy Cafe: Average of 85 clients ministered to every Monday, Thursday and Friday.
- Average of 10 Volunteers interacted with.
- Fellowship for African descents in Christ Church started on October 29, 2024

- Currently - 37 members in the group
- Funeral Services presided: 3
- Renewal of Marriage vow presided: 1
- Mid-day communion - Presided over an average of 8 people every week. Witnessed growth and consistency among the participants.
- Pastoral visits: 2
- Pastoral phone calls: 5
- Pastoral counselling provided, and prayers: 8 persons at the church office
- in addition, presided and preached in Sunday services and other occasional services as assigned.
- It was interesting getting to know the congregation, and a learning curve building work rhythm around the Cathedral.
- 

### **The Rev. Matthew Senf, Assistant to the Dean**

- I continue a regular rota for preaching and presiding at both morning services on Sunday and midday mass (4th Wednesday of every month)
- I provide the rite of reconciliation (confession absolution) for 1 hour before mass every 4th Wednesday
- I continue, in a reduced role, my chaplaincy to the Men's Breakfast and as part of the leadership team at their semi-regular meetings
- I continue in my chaplaincy role with the Healing touch Team and Healing Prayers Team and just this last weekend participated with Areeta+ in leadership of a retreat which was a great success
- I have been seconded to the CATS team by Sondra to provide some MC and leadership to a series of visioning meetings that they are holding this month and next.
- I continue to carry on pastoral care of our congregation both in person, over the phone and digitally
- I continue to participate in in the planning of and collaboration with my colleagues in various special liturgies for seasonal occasions and high feasts
- I continue to be deployed by the Dean to special services and will meet with a family to plan an upcoming funeral today

### **Kathy Irwin, Director of Operations**

2024 marked my return to the Cathedral and I was delighted to see so many familiar faces, and meeting some “new to me” faces as well! This community has grown and deepened in wonderful ways since 2020.



A large part of my role is to support our operations team. I directly support the Maundy Café, Building Operations, Events, Finance & Administration. This means filling in for staff when they are on vacation, empowering and coaching members of our team, and being a resource, support and a sounding board, as well as drafting operational policy.

Each member of our team supports ministries at the Cathedral in different ways. Two examples of how I was able to support ministries in 2024 include: providing behind the scenes support for the CATS Anglican Foundation grant and providing supporting information for the Stewardship Committee's annual campaign.

I am also delegated to administer Screening in Faith within our parish. We have made good strides to ensure that all of our staff and volunteers within the targeted ministries have police records checks and the necessary Creating a Safe Church Environment courses.

It's a pleasure to be in service alongside you during this exciting time in the history of the Cathedral. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers and donors who make this all possible.

## **Lane Wyness, Maundy Café Manager**

It is all about the volunteers, GVFB and donations from the parishioners in 2024.

The GVFB has been a great donor to the Maundy Cafe in 2024, providing approximately 16,040 lbs in food donations (estimated cost of \$57,423.20) and a \$2,000 grant. Maundy Café would look a lot different without this donation, which goes a long way to help to keep our costs to approximately \$2.69 per meal.

Fifty volunteers selflessly gave of their time to serve 16,620 meals made with care to "nourish the body" in 2024 (3 days a week for 10 months). Meals were served with a friendly smile, a kind word, and a listening ear, all with live music from hymns, show tunes, ABBA and yes, even Led Zeppelin played on the piano.

Three times a week our clients are seen and heard in a society that would often overlook and pass them by, so the volunteers also provide "nourishment for the

soul” to our clients. With this "good" our volunteers provide, they have created different communities: amongst our clients themselves, between our clients and the volunteers, and amongst the volunteers themselves, often creating a “family kinship”.

They care for one another.

This is a recipe from the heart that I am sure will continue into 2025.

## Diogo Portela, Administrative Assistant to the Dean

Last year, I introduced several improvements that streamlined workflows and enhanced efficiency in our church operations. One major initiative was implementing Trello to track workflows, improving organization and collaboration, especially in weddings and funerals.

With the support of Ben Dobyne, who set up InDesign as our primary tool for bulletin creation, I optimized the creation process, cutting production time in half. This transition not only made bulletin design more efficient but also contributed to a significant reduction in paper use by shortening its length and incorporating digital alternatives to limit printing.

Additionally, I played a key role in strengthening our reception team by interviewing and selecting new volunteers. The newly selected volunteers — along with our long-time ones — helped ensure that the reception desk was consistently staffed, providing front-line support by answering phone calls, responding to emails, and assisting visitors whenever possible. This solved an issue that was a source of continuous complaints from the congregation before I started working at the cathedral.

In collaboration with the clergy and the Director of Operations, Kathy Irwin, and with valuable input from the many members of the congregation, I refined the Chronicle newsletter submission process, making it more structured and efficient. As a result of these collective efforts, the newsletter and some parts of the website were updated and/or reformatted, improving readability and engagement to better serve our community.

## Vanessa Ho, Senior Finance Administrator

2024 presented significant financial challenges. The Cathedral could not balance the budget. To address this shortfall was a priority, so a stewardship committee stepped in during the year. Thanks to her leadership, Jane Osler and her team provided strategic oversight and guidance. After many weeks of focusing on the drive for the “Deficit Challenge and the 13th-month Gifts”, the response from the generosity of our donors has been a cornerstone of support during the last year, enabling us to maintain critical operations despite financial constraints. Together, we were making a lasting impact.

Amid these challenges, we were delighted to welcome back our new Director of Operations, Kathy Irwin. Her wealth of experience at the Cathedral and leadership skills, coupled with her sense of humor, have already had a positive impact on our team and operations. Her presence brings renewed energy and confidence as we navigate these financial hurdles.

Special thanks go to our new Treasurer, Terrence Clark, whose fresh perspective and dedication have been invaluable in updating the Cathedral’s financial position to the Trustees. I also want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our past Treasurer, Ian Birtwell, for his continuous community involvement and support.

Finally, thank you to our incredible volunteers and generous donors! Your support and dedication make all the difference. We couldn’t do it without you!

### **Jeremy Smith, Events Coordinator**

It has been wonderful to welcome a wide variety of musical acts to Christ Church Cathedral, from choirs and electronic ambient artists, to jazz groups. It was fantastic to be a part of both Early Music Vancouver's annual Summer Festival for another year, and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's Day of Music. We were also lucky enough to have had some filming at the Cathedral this past year which is always exciting!

### **Shawn Warmington, Building Manager**

The building department hired two casual custodians this past year to add flexibility and coverage as needed—welcome to the team Jack and Joseph! Primarily they have helped cover the Maundy Café and concert shifts, though there have been opportunities in opening and closing the building, and for support shifts during

memorials, weddings, and other events.

Due to the winter of 2023 feeling colder inside than usual, there was some concern for our heating system. Thanks to a dedicated team effort and the contractors we rely on regularly, we've been able to restore reliability to our building, and there is a framework in place as to what direction we could move towards when there is a decision to replace the current system. Information has also been gathered over the year for longstanding projects that we aim to see fulfilled, which will restore interior and exterior spaces.

The biggest project of note was the installation of a new cooling tower. Otherwise, 2024 has been a year dedicated mainly to upkeep and cleanliness—we are aiming to keep our standards high as there has been an increase in events at the Cathedral. Work has begun in the women's washroom to update the space, and this summer will see the usual return of outside efforts to upkeep our wooden benches. Christmas at the Cathedral had a higher turnout from previous years and that is in itself a reason to celebrate.

# MINISTRY REPORTS

## Justice Education and Advocacy Ministry (JEAM)

In 2024, JEAM continued its focus on fundraising and collecting donated household items to support Shiba's family, the Mohammadis from Afghanistan: Mom, Dad, 7 children and youths, now aged 8 to 27 years of age. A subcommittee, Rescue Shiba's Family (RSF) support group, assumed this work. The family, within months of their arrival, enrolled in ESL classes (the LINC Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada program) and continue to take courses most evenings and on the weekend, to advance their education and integrate more easily.

By December 30, 2023, \$44,846.34 or 75 % of our goal had been raised and the family had a fully furnished house and kitchen. Parishioners in 2023 donated new pots and pans and cutlery sets and found friends about to move who donated tables, chairs, dressers, vacuum cleaners, bicycles, fabric and numerous other material goods that delighted the family and made them feel so welcome in this country. Chris Ellison donated his moving truck and crew to deliver a heavy glass-topped dining room table; both Marvin Westwood, retired Rev. Andrew Pike, David Kellett, Neale Adams and Ros Kellett donated their time and vehicles to move donated items from the storage garage in the home of Margery Kellett out to Maple Ridge.

On February 24 Saturday the Mohammadi family treated four of us from the Rescue Shiba Family group (Shannon, Neale, Ros, the Rev. Kathleen Schmitt) to a sumptuous dinner and we sat on carpeted mattresses on the floor, Afghan style!

Over the year 2024, Shannon Muir and the REST Regional Ecumenical Sponsorship Team provided Dad Mohammed with an industrial sewing machine and he started furniture cover repair projects. The RSF donated several sewing machines and mother and daughter started sewing tunics, shirts, dresses and cloaks. All continue attending local educational institutions and learning English, and the older ones are pursuing career education. In December Dad Mohammed passed his written driver's test, following his three older daughters who passed their tests in the previous month! They share a car on loan to them from a Canadian Afghan friend.

Further fundraising efforts were undertaken. Bill Orr & Ros Kellett sent out direct Appeal letters to potential donors both within the congregation and beyond to our

other networks of friends. A new pamphlet was created by Neale and Shiba to emphasize the family's needs for ongoing funds. The Rev. Margaret Marquardt organized a May 25 BBQ picnic to raise funds and build community between the 10 family members here in Canada and parishioners. This was a huge success, helping us raise more needed funds (over \$1000 raised) and giving more social support to the family. Mark Halyk was instrumental with his Safe Foods Handling certificate and knowledge of how to use the outdoor burners!

By June 15, 2024 the family were financially self-sufficient, a great success for the cathedral and them, all within the one year of sponsorship. The eldest son, Nawab, and third daughter, Hawa, a gradually gained full time employment at Royal City Upholstery in Surrey over the summer of 2024. Second daughter Latifa was hired by the local Canadian tire store for part time work, mostly on the weekends.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding of August 2022 we promised to raise 56,425.00 and to support the family and their basic needs for 12 months, ending June 15, 2024. By July 15, 2024, we had raised \$53,619.56, 95% of our goal. Since then, some parishioners kept giving, others outright gifted the various expenses owed to them back into the fund so that a further amount of \$1,174.48 was leftover and sent on to REST. In summary, \$54,794.04 was raised or 97% of our Goal. Thank you to ALL of you who were able to contribute, either with money or homeware and clothing donations or time served. YOU made this work!



The Rescue Shiba Family project officially ended in October, after the final meeting with Trustees and Wardens at that time. The website has been taken down and the Fund removed from the cathedral donor site. However, some of the core group have maintained contact with the family and have expressed an interest in starting an Education fund for the Shiba family. Three daughters (Latifa, Saheba and Zainab want to get medical worker

qualifications and we know BC is short of nurses – practical and licensed! Young

Mustafa wants to be an airplane pilot. This is a project to be worked on at another time!

THANKS to the core group on the RSF team: the Rev. Margaret Marquardt, Neale Adams, Lorna and Bill Orr, the Rev. Ed Schmitt, the Rev. Kay Schmitt, Jennifer Anger, Nura Mohammed, Kevin Besphlug, Hannah Lupton and others who came when they could. Thank you for the leadership and support provided by the Very Rev. Chris Pappas and the office staff, especially Vanessa Ho and Kathy Irwin. THANK YOU for your service.

Submitted by Rosalind Kellett

## Stewardship Committee

Thank you to all who gave their resources to the Cathedral this past year. Your commitment to this place and our programs through gifts of time, talent and money are greatly appreciated.

First a review of our overarching goals:

- Engage Cathedral members and friends in order to deepen their sense of belonging and commitment to the life of the Cathedral by connecting with them “where they are at”.
- Provide tailored opportunities for the congregation to plan for, pledge and most easily give of their time, talents and money.
- Build awareness and understanding of the Cathedral’s financial needs and need to plan annual budgets.
- Establish a standing Stewardship Committee with on-going plans and key performance metrics.

While we did not start up until late spring, we had big plans with some very positive results. Here we list the various initiatives undertaken along with our decisions and results to date:

1. An annual campaign to raise awareness and promote congregational pledging and giving toward the 2025 budget.
  - A 66% increase in the number of people making a pledge with 20+ individuals new to the Cathedral making a pledge.
  - A further 100+ continued with automated giving.

2. A campaign to address the \$93K gap in 2024 operational expenses vs revenue through special contributions.
  - Total amount received \$68.8K – 74% of goal with contributions from all 2023 and 2024 trustees and additional generous individuals.
3. Special appeals to augment opportunities to make financial gifts.
  - Separated financial appeals from the pastoral letters from the Dean.
  - Opted out of a Thanksgiving appeal as it would conflict with other appeals (Decorations, annual pledge Campaign) and focused on a special year-end appeal.
  - Year-end appeal generated \$12.1K from 27 parishioners – bringing us to 86% of the deficit campaign goal.
4. Developing opportunities to increase engagement and revenues from the community.
  - RBC provided volunteers for a day and donated \$5K for Maundy Café.
5. Make it easier for visitors to make donations.
  - Introduced the TipTap donation system in the narthex in late August and generated ~\$3K from 318 individual donations.
6. Undertake data analysis to better understand giving patterns and opportunities, specifically in relation to on-line giving.
  - Ongoing database clean-up and data analysis providing input to Stewardship activities.
7. Understand and recognize the value of our volunteers.
  - Hosted a well-received Wine & Cheese for leaders of ministry groups to thank them for their leadership and introduce them to the annual campaign.
  - Ongoing work to identify the amount of time given by volunteers to the Cathedral.
8. Communications to increase awareness and understanding of our resource needs.
  - Wrote updates for the weekly Chronicle newsletter and incorporated the financial situation in the year-end appeal letter.

And a thank you to Helen Williams for bringing forward a poem written by Ellen Clark-King that was used during the last Restoration and Renewal campaign and which we have updated to the here and now. We offer this updated version for use by the Cathedral and look to make it available as a bookmark, hopefully enticing visitors to make a donation.



A Stewardship Poem for  
Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver

*God of our forebears*  
treasured and remembered,  
God of our honoured ancestors, parents, all our relations,  
God of all children and grandchildren, now and yet to be.

Our lives flourish, deeply rooted in this  
rich garden of our Cathedral Church.  
Our faith blooms, nourished by  
traditions of liturgy, music, prayer and community.

As we restore and renew,  
growing in knowledge, faith and love,  
our gratitude deepens

for the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Musqueam peoples  
who stewarded these lands for millennia before,

and for those who built and cared for this place of solace  
and sanctuary, now in our hands for safekeeping.

Bless our gifts of time, talent and funds as we steward this  
Cathedral Church, so that all we do will glorify  
Your name and keep this sacred place  
well-tended, strong and beautiful for all those yet to come.

With thanks and gratitude for this Cathedral community.

Submitted by Jane Osler (chair) on behalf of the committee: Shadrack Badia, Jennifer Barr, Ian Birtwell, James Conklin, Kevin de la Mare (Chaplain), Emily Pritchard, and Derrick Sekizivivu.

## Volunteer Lay Ministry

My name is Nicky Seppala and I am the current coordinator of the Volunteer Lay Ministries.

Over the years Christ Church Cathedral has had and continues to have a marvelous history of people volunteering in different ministries also in supporting the work of the clergy. You may not realize how important this support is to the work of the church. This level of commitment is vital. In Ephesians chapter 2, verse 10 we hear that: "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them". When we volunteer we are living this out.

The Lay Ministries participate in the work of Christ in the world in many ways:

- preparing and serving meals, laying and cleaning tables, playing the piano with the Maundy Café ministry
- washing and ironing altar cloths, polishing the vessels used in the liturgy services
- baking the Eucharistic bread
- placing and refreshing the floral arrangements for every occasion
- greeting visitors each weekday between 10am and 4pm
- greeting visitors to the 10.30 a.m. Sunday service, smiling whilst offering you a service bulletin, guiding you to a seat, picking up anything you may leave behind and making sure it gets into the Lost & Found box!!
- baking the cookies and brewing coffee and tea for the gathering following the 10.30am Sunday service.

The list goes on! As we hear in 1 Peter Chapter 4 verse 10: "As each has received a gift, use it to serve another, as good stewards of God's varied grace".

A volunteer might describe themselves as someone who offers their time and effort, especially helping other people, willingly and without payment. A volunteer might say that they have "fun", that they've met new friends or rekindled old friendships, that they feel less stressed than usual and that they feel a sense of purpose. Many might say that in volunteering they receive much more than they give.

We are in need of volunteers in a number of Lay Ministries. It does not matter how much time you have available or what skills you feel you might need but do not possess; every one of you has something that you could offer. In whatever we do, we do it for God, as we hear in Colossians Chapter 3 verses 23 and 24: "Whatever you

do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive an inheritance as your reward”.

I can be reached via email at [volunteer@thecathedral.ca](mailto:volunteer@thecathedral.ca). If you wish, you can complete an online Volunteer Application Form found at [thecathedral.ca](http://thecathedral.ca).

Thank you to all our current and future volunteers.

Submitted by Nicky Seppala

## Prayer Link

Established approximately 30 years ago by a group of Christ Church Cathedral parishioners. It was formed by their belief that the practice of ongoing, community, intercessory prayer was a necessary ministry. Though invisible, but still vital, their prayers uphold the collective prayers of the congregation in worship.

The people being prayed for are communicated to the 33 members of the Prayer Ministry through weekly, updated emails and listed as Prayers of Thanksgiving for the Life Of, Prayers of Thanksgiving for the Birth Of, Prayers for Those Undergoing Treatment for Cancer, Prayers of Wellbeing and Prayers for those in Long Term Care. Prayers are also included for those who are "shut in" and consequently are unable to attend worship in person. The prayers are ongoing, weekly and intentional. The names of those being prayed for are listed for three weeks, unless otherwise requested. All information regarding requests for prayer can be found on the Christchurch Cathedral website and submitted via email or telephone.

All of the submitted information is confidential - neither the ministry coordinator nor members of this ministry discuss or share this information.

The members of this ministry pray however and whenever they choose. There is no "length of term" as in other Cathedral ministries.

Anyone interested in joining this ministry should contact the Cathedral Dean or the Vicar.

Submitted by Nicky Seppala and Helen Williams

## Thursday 7:30 AM Eucharist

The Thursday 7:30 a.m. Eucharistic Community has been meeting since the 1970's (more than 50 years!) We are an enthusiastic community (10-25 people) who come together each Thursday morning at 7:30 AM to celebrate the Eucharist and share breakfast afterwards. Presiders have been Priests from the Cathedral, St. James Church, and Bishop John+. Lay members take turns reading the Gospel, leading the intercessions, and serving at the altar. Following the service, we have a community breakfast of boiled eggs and toast with coffee in the Park Room. It is a long-standing tradition that the clergy prepare a festival breakfast on the Thursday prior to Christmas. We are a community of close friends and we are often blessed to have visitors from around the world. Our numbers continue to grow with the arrival of new people to the city and parish. We would be delighted to have you join us. Sleepers Awake!

Submitted by Bill Orr

## Morning Prayer [Monday to Friday mornings at 9:30]

Christ Church Cathedral's offering of the daily offices exists through the community of the Morning Prayer group who meet online using zoom and meet Monday to Friday from 9:30-9:55. The group came together through the establishment and success of a Lenten exercise at the beginning of the Pandemic in 2020. This community has grown over the past two years, with around 10 daily regulars and people who like to occasionally drop in. This online format works well for the community who log in from all over Metro Vancouver, to the Gulf Islands, the United States, and Europe.

The liturgy is lovingly crafted each day by members of the community, with unique prayers, canticles and saints' day celebrations that provide a depth of character to our familiar words of morning prayer. Reverend Clare Morgan is our Chaplain and new members are always welcome. For more information and how to join visit <https://www.thecathedral.ca/worship/weekday-services>

Submitted by Bill Orr

## Welcoming Teams

The welcoming teams for the Sunday 10:30am services and for Diocesan Liturgies and Festival/Special services had another busy year in 2024, and all served so faithfully and so energetically. I am immensely grateful to their unwavering commitment to greet and usher so devoutly, so cheerfully and with such passion for the mission of welcome and church hospitality at the Cathedral. The greeters are most often the first point of contact for people attending the Cathedral and capably handle so many goings-on behind the scenes during the services and in the Narthex. All four services on Christmas Eve in 2024 were completely full and into overflow seating, and the greeting teams performed tirelessly and admirably to accommodate all in attendance. Greeting teams also served in 2024 at the funeral mass for the Venerable Philippa Pride, at the Diocesan Confirmations liturgy, at the Order of New Westminster Investiture service and at numerous Evensong services. I lead Sunday 10:30 Week One and Week Four (and Week Five if there is one) and I'm very appreciative of Mark Halyk's team leadership on Week Two and of Bill Orr's leadership on Week Three. Three new greeters joined regular Sunday 10:30 welcoming team rosters in 2024, which was wonderful! The Sunday 8 a.m. service also has a very dedicated group of greeters, largely led by Jane Osler and Liz Hardy.

Submitted by Jane Dittrich

## Weekday Narthex Greeters

Each weekday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the Cathedral is open for an average of more than 150 visitors who are greeted and welcomed by teams of two volunteers carrying out the Cathedral's ministry of Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds.

These visitors come from near and far. They enter the church for many different reasons; to pray, light a candle, sit quietly in this spiritual space, admire the beauty of the building, ask questions, walk the labyrinth, and, for tourists, to visit one of Vancouver's oldest buildings. Many express their thanks and gratitude for the church being open.

This team of more than 20 volunteers, working in pairs for a 4 hour shift, receives training and is scheduled according to their availability. All who are interested in

participating in this ministry are welcome to contact Nicky Seppala, the Cathedral's Volunteer Coordinator.

## Cathedral Choir

For the members of the Cathedral Choir, 2024 was a year filled with emotion: gratitude for our community, joy in making music with Rupert, grief over his departure, anxious anticipation for the future, and honour to support our Cathedral family through song.

We shared many Sunday mornings rich with cultural celebrations, collaborations with amazing musicians, and deeply moving musical performances. Highlights included:

- A celebration of Black History Month featuring the glorious voice of Marcus Mosely
- Singing in Cantonese for Lunar New Year. Hopefully our pronunciation is improving!
- Joining with fiddle and bass in June to feel a bit more Quebecois for St. Jean Baptiste Day
- The Summer Festival in July, including a celebration of the long standing collaboration between Chor Leoni, Elektra, EnChor and the Cathedral Choir with Morna Edmundson conducting
- Exploring the origins and influence of "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott" in an early music spectacular (complete with sackbuts!) curated by Jacob Gramit and Lucy Smith for Reformation Sunday
- Performing Duruflé's Requiem in the context of Remembrance Sunday service with guest organist David Poon
- Experiencing an entire service of Rupert's compositions under his direction one last time (nicknamed Old Lang Sighs)
- Collaborating with the amazing Vancouver Youth Choir and Carrie Tennant for our Reign of Christ patronal festival

Beyond the morning services, we continued to build the congregation for our evening Compline service, particularly over the summer months. The choir also presented four Evensongs celebrating important occasions in the life of our parish:

- Candlemas and the kickoff of the Cathedral's 135th Anniversary

- March's Lenten Evensong featuring the music of Charles Villiers Stanford and showcasing our magnificent Kenneth Jones pipe organ
- Thanks to advocacy by Byron Hanson and Bruce Hoffman, we sang our first-ever Pride Evensong in the historically accurate month of June. It was a vibrant affair that embraced diversity and inclusion, resonating deeply with many in our community
- St Michael's and All Angels in September

Along with the services, we supported a number of special events throughout 2024 including:

- Hymnfest in May and Carolfest in December. Both events drew people from across the diocese, with Carolfest bringing in almost 200 people to sing Christmas carols together on a Sunday afternoon Perhaps we've started a new holiday tradition?
- the poignant Service of Lament addressing the opioid crisis in April
- Anne Fletcher's play "Duty Calls" where we added our voices from the audience
- The touching tribute to the beloved Herbert O'Driscoll – "Come and Journey"

We also honoured several friends, congregants, and members of the wider community at weddings, memorials and funerals throughout the year.

To support the Cathedral's search for a new Director of Music, the choir dedicated three distinct evenings in late May and early June, outside of our regular rehearsals, for the auditions of the shortlisted candidates. Understanding the significance of selecting a new Director who would shape the future of our musical direction, nearly every member of the choir made it a priority to attend and bring their focus and energy to each candidate's audition. A huge thank you to Byron Hanson from the choir and the search committee for handling all of the logistics for these auditions.

### **Honouring and Celebrating the Music Ministry of Dr. Rupert Lang**

In late July, Heather Pynn and Bruce Hoffman met with Rupert to brainstorm ways to mark his departure at the end of the year and honour his 38-year tenure as Director of Music. Together, they planned a series of events involving the choir, choir alumni, and congregation, culminating in **Voices of Gratitude** on December 15th, the traditional Joy Sunday of Advent.

In October, we revived the choir's traditional Thanksgiving dinner, which includes singing Compline before sharing dessert.

Knowing that the list of music Rupert wanted to conduct "one more time" exceeded the remaining Sundays, we organised **Sing the Bucket List** in November. The invitation went out to current singers and alumni resulting in nearly 40 people singing over 20 favourite pieces from both Rupert's and the choristers' lists. Supported by pianists Stephen Smith and Eric Hominick, we made a mighty sound together and enjoyed connecting with friends over a pizza dinner afterwards.

During Rupert's final Advent season with us, chorister and historian Stephen Wright presented a fascinating 40-Minute Forum on the history of music at Christ Church, neatly highlighting Rupert's longevity – 38 years! – as Director of Music.

Rupert's departure was featured in two consecutive episodes of CBC's North x Northwest, and on December 15th, Voices of Gratitude was "sold out." When one person attempted to scalp tickets on the North x Northwest Facebook page, we had to gently point out that the event was, in fact, free. Thanks to the donation of wine from the Seaforth Regiment, we could truly toast Rupert's accomplishments and wish him well.

Described by M.C. Alisdair Smith as a "sing-along kitchen party," Voices of Gratitude included heartfelt speeches, stellar musical arrangements by Jacob Gramit – including an incredible medley of Rupert's compositions – and guest musicians, featuring regimental pipes and drums, some of Vancouver's top studio musicians, including members of the rock group Trooper, and keyboard wizards Peter Allen and Bryn Nixon. The evening culminated in the presentation of the Canadian Music Centre's Barbara Pentland Award for Musical Excellence in recognition of Rupert's extraordinary contributions to Canadian music. Huge thanks go to the Cathedral's admin team and building staff, as well as the army of volunteers that helped!

Our final Thursday rehearsal with Rupert on December 19th was followed by social time and the presentation of gifts from the choir, including a beautifully curated photobook and a Kudoboard full of greetings from choristers and friends world-wide. On Advent IV, after the presentation of gifts from the congregation, the congregation and choir sang *690 on Burrard* with words crafted by Ivor Mickelson, Heather, and Bruce to honour Rupert.



The year 2024 was a remarkable chapter for Christ Church Cathedral Choir, marked by poignant farewells and joyous celebrations. We reflected on 135 years of rich history and celebrated the transformative contributions of Dr. Rupert Lang as Director of Music.

The choir's commitment to excellence and community shone through events like the Service of Lament, Pride Evensong, and Voices of Gratitude. As we bid farewell to a year of endings and new beginnings, we look forward to 2025 with hope and enthusiasm. Welcoming Dr. Neil Cockburn, we aim to build on the strong foundation laid by our predecessors. With unity and optimism, we are ready to create more beautiful music and cherished memories.

Submitted by Heather Pynn and Bruce Hoffman

## The Maundy Café

The Maundy Café is the Cathedral's food outreach ministry, serving people experiencing food insecurity. We serve freshly cooked, balanced meals on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

In 2024 we served 16,620 meals. Our total costs were \$62,260. The cost all in per meal was \$2.96.

Maundy Café continues to receive support from the Greater Vancouver Food Bank which enables us to keep costs lower. We are aware that the food bank has had, like many charities, an increase in demand and fewer donations which may impact our costs for 2025. We receive their support because we are a service using food to feed people in need.

Our volunteers, along with the Café's manager Lane Wyness, are the backbone of our service.

We have approximately 55 volunteers serving on 2 different shifts each meal day. An early shift of three volunteers works preparing the meals and another 8-10 serve the food to our guests. We are also blessed with three volunteer piano players. Maundy Café has also benefited from the pastoral support of the Rev. Christian Okeke.

Submitted by Holly McMillan

## Endowment Fund Administrators

2024 was a good year of returns for the Endowment Funds, coming off a difficult 2023 year when many needed grants could not be made. For the Funds held in the Diocesan Investment Fund (CTF) the Administrators increased the reserves to preserve buying power and to cover for difficult years. In 2024 the Administrators made grants to Parish Ministry, Maundy Café, totaling \$64,000, and conditionally up to \$92,000 if needed. They also held over to 2025 a grant for new Choir albs. For 2025, the Administrators are committed to exploring in detail the financial implications and prudence of a call for divestment from fossil fuel investments and will make recommendations to Trustees.

Submitted by Ian Birtwell

## Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care team is overseen by Vicar Areeta. With a team of 12 people that meets once a month, a schedule is developed for teams of two lay parishioners to visit shut-ins in the home, in hospital, and those in care. The lay ministers are commissioned at the end of the Sunday 10:30 a.m. Eucharist to carry the sacrament to parishioners.

The travelling communion kits are prepared by the servers and altar guild. When visiting with parishioners we chat, and share what events are happening at the Cathedral. In preparation for the Eucharist, we often ask if the parishioner has a favourite scripture which we can read during the service and invite them to participate as they are able. Sharing the Eucharist in a small setting with a few people can be a blessed and sacred experience for the parishioner and the visitors.

Pastoral visits are important for several reasons: They help shut-in parishioners feel that they are still part of the Cathedral community, even if they can't be there physically. These visits bring comfort to many who are lonely and isolated. Eucharist in a parishioner's own home affirms that when two or three are gathered, God is there with them.

An additional ministry of Pastoral Care is writing to shut-ins monthly and on special occasions, like birthdays when we know the date. Handwritten letters and cards brighten up their day. Most letters and cards go directly to the parishioner; others are mailed to family members who bring them and read them to their loved ones.

If you feel called to either of these two ministries, please contact Vicar Areeta.

Submitted by Dorothy Watts & Helen Williams

## Altar Guild

This past year has seen some growth in the ranks of the AG for which we are very grateful. We have had five new members join our merry band and it makes it so much easier to be able to accomplish our duties. Many hands make light work. We still need volunteers to help with both the regular set up and laundry.

We bid a sad but sweet farewell to our dear Mary Lewis. She was a member of the AG for decades and will be missed for her kindness, sense of humour and loyalty to our ministry. RIP Mary.

Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas donations were generous enabling us to create beautiful arrangements with the edible decorations from our Thanksgiving service going to the Maundyq Café to help make delicious meals for our guests. Any annuals and perennial plants went on to decorate gardens. Your support allows us to utilize what we buy in more ways than one and we are glad to be able to do so.

We were able to recover the Christmas star and it now resides in its own safe place on the third floor.

We are also awaiting a new set of robes which have been ordered by the Dean. Meanwhile we are beginning the slow process of cleaning all the clergy robes and have a morning set up in February to repair our green set.

In February we are looking forward to the annual joint workshop and lunch with the servers. It is a good and joyful thing to spend one on one time with Megan and her team; we have so many overlapping duties that it is good to check in with each other, update any changes and get to know each other better. Claude St-Denis has kindly

offered to join us for the morning and brings a wealth of expertise to guide us through our exercises.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not thank Shawn, Jeremy and the building staff for their unending help in so many ways. They ensure we have the equipment we require, assistance when an extra pair of hands really makes a difference, and they try hard to work around our schedules. They are a blessing to us all.

Submitted by Sarah Nation

## Healing Touch

With 25 years of experience at Christ Church Cathedral, we continue to be grateful for our faith community and remain committed to offering healing, doing the work Christ called us to do.

In May we sponsored a Healing Pathway Phase One Workshop, met many new people in the healing community and added four new members to our team.

We had a plan to offer healing touch sessions to the Cathedral community between the two Sunday morning services and sometimes after the 10:30. We are pleased to report that we launched this offering in January of 2025.

Our nine practice sessions this year were held once again at the Cathedral in the Park Room. Having more of a presence in the Cathedral has been a good thing for us and we hope for the Cathedral as well. The building staff have been particularly helpful to us.

The new edition of our brochure has been in demand in the downstairs leaflet rack and in the narthex where visitors find it. We had to order a reprint and believe it is a helpful way to spread the word about our ministry.

In-person sessions have returned post COVID, and distance healing sessions continue. In 2025 we will once again have a joint retreat day at the Cathedral with the Healing Prayer Ministry and will also be joined by the Pastoral team. Our Vicar Aareta Bridgemohan will guide us.

Our commitment extends to offering to members of the Cathedral parish. Pastor Matthew Senf continues to be our wise and helpful chaplain.

Submitted by Kate Walker

## Lay Administrators

The Lay Administrators continue to bring their dedicated service to this important ministry. They are present whenever there is a Eucharist and serve with dignity and pride. I am grateful for each member of this ministry and thank each of them for their service.

Submitted Carol Cook

## 135 Celebrations Committee

The work of this committee is drawing to close as the end of the celebration is February 23rd. For the past 15 months the 135 years of the Cathedral's life has been celebrated in many ways.

December 23 2023 we marked the celebration for the first service - held in a store as there was no church yet, and in January 2024, we celebrated becoming a Cathedral.

A spring Hat parade and Cream tea in the Hall were wonderful community events. Hymnfest, in May, saw almost 90 people come out to sing their favourite hymns. We even had visitors drop in and enjoy the event. Thanks to Rupert and the choir for helping out.

Ian Birtwell presented on the renovation history of the Cathedral at a 40 minute forum.

The Parish picnic was another great community event .

In September we celebrated National Indigenous day with the Rev. Ray Aldred. Ray preached and presented at a 40-minute forum. His daughter Kat participated in the

forum and showed some of her Art work. Mark Halyk made bannock to share at coffee hour.

November saw Remembrance day events. Anne Fletcher's play "Duty Calls" was presented and well attended. This was followed by a service and ceremony honouring the presentation of the Colours to the BC regiment.

December brought Carolfest, another great opportunity for a community sing. Around 130 people attended and once again it was a big success —thanks again to the choir and Rupert.

Stephen Wright presented, at a 40-minute forum after the morning service, the history of music at CCC. Stephen has also written some snippets and has been invaluable in finding music from various landmark services which have been incorporated into our worship.

February 22nd is our final community celebration with a party upstairs.

There have been approximately 13 snippets of Cathedral history shared in the Chronicle - thanks to all writers.

Many thanks to the members of the 135 committee for all their work. Andrea Gailus, Fay Forrester, Ros Kellett and Ron Jobe.

Submitted by Carol Cook

## Coffee and Cookie Ministry

At present we have 8 dedicated coffee/tea servers who serve endless cups of either beverage following the 10.30am service each Sunday. During warm summer weather we serve outside on the patio. This is with gratitude to the Building Staff Jeremiah, Ron, Moss, Jacob, and Jack, who also set up and make the coffee and prepare the cookies on trays every week. When we have a special occasion worthy of a cake, they also set up plates, forks & napkins for the cutting and serving of this treat.

Chinese New Year is the only ethnic celebration where we do not have cookies, as this is a pretty lavish spread anyway!

For cookies there are 14 providers of either homemade cookies or packaged ones. If a person is too busy to bake or simply would rather contribute in this way, we gratefully accept their bought cookies.

Participants are many and varied. Children participating in Godly Play or with the child and parent group in the church, choir, organist, clergy, and the general congregation all enjoy this opportunity to socialize.

We always welcome new volunteers to this ministry of hospitality and community building. Please contact the volunteer coordinator or any of the servers to find out more.

Submitted by Diane Jeffries

## Alongside Hope (Primate's World Relief and Development Fund)

PWRDF has a new name: Alongside Hope: Anglican and partners working for change in Canada and around the world

The Parish PWRDF Working Group consists of Mark Halyk (Parish Coordinator), Lauren Odile Pinkney, Susanne Cruickshank, Pamela Mehmi, and myself ( I am also on the Diocese of New Westminster PWRDF Unit).

In 2023, the Working Group organized a dinner on Nov. 4/2023 at the Cathedral focusing on the "Communicarte Colombian" PWRDF, an ecological partnership regarding the Paramos (Moorlands), training young people and members of the community in communications to inform and empower farmers and the wider community of the ecological issues of the area and the importance of water protection. A local Colombian business founded by a refugee family: *Colombian Antojitos*, catered, and Mark a "chef of renown" added his own touch, along with the artistic touches of Pamela and Lauren. The dinner raised over \$2000.00. This partnership continues and more information can be found on the Alongside Hope website.

PWRDF Christmas cards: the donor receives a pack of cards (12) and a tax receipt for a \$25.00 donation. Thank you to all parishioners who regularly contribute to

PWRDF/Alongside Hope through the Cathedral and directly through the website. A monthly letter is sent from PWRDF/Alongside Hope monthly to anyone signing up.

The Diocese of New Westminster's PWRDF/Alongside Hope Unit has an annual meeting for parish reps. from around the diocese to give support and the Unit members are available. PWRDF annual Ride for Refuge is especially supported by CCC parishioner Jane Dittrich. Thank you, Jane. At this time, the Cathedral doesn't have a parish representative. It's a creative ministry and is a profound way to be part of engaging in justice and peace work together with others around the world. Alongside Hope works in partnerships around the world and only goes where we are invited. Empowering the local community towards systemic long-term change in resiliency is the main goal and also in collaborating closely with other partners on the ground. I'm glad to meet with anyone who would consider this ministry. There is support to do wonderful things "Alongside Hope" at CCC. Dean Chris would make the appointment.

Submitted by The Rev. Margaret Marquardt

## Intercessory Prayer

The Prayer Leaders are part of the 10:30 am. Sunday Liturgy and during other festivals. Most often they create the prayers, themselves drawing upon the scripture of the day, sensitivity to issues in the community and world, and discernment in prayer as they prepare. At Advent, and other special liturgies, the prayers are set.

Intercessory Prayer is an essential part of the liturgy in which the Leader offers prayers on behalf of the community as we seek God's guidance to live into what is prayed about. If any parishioner has a moment to extend appreciation or reflection to the prayer leaders, that would be welcomed. It isn't that they are asking for this. However, it is a ministry that brings the whole person forward as they offer prayers on our behalf. It also helps them know if they are bringing forward prayers that are a help to you or the community.

Each prayer leader is an appointment by Dean Chris. The Prayer Leader's Chaplain brings names forward to the Dean.



Thank you to Diogo Portela who in his work at the Cathedral organized the weekly rota earlier in the year and now to Susan Koppersmith who is kindly attending to this.

I had set 2 meetings early in 2023 both of which had to be cancelled. However, most of the prayer leaders were able to attend a meeting in September with Dean Chris, Deacon Kevin and Pastor Clair and myself with a reminder of the essential elements of being an intercessor. It was a time for the Prayer Leaders to ask questions and share their insights in this ministry with each other, as well as reflecting on prayer and what it is we are doing when we pray. Thank you to all parishioners in this ministry. If there is anyone who feels called to this ministry, please speak to Dean Chris or myself.

Thank you to Hope Sealy and Gail Edwards who stepped down this year. Carrying on in this ministry are: Susan Alexander, Kevin Bessflug, Anne Christian, Ivy Clark, Hadani Ditmars, Andrea Gailus, Michael Harding, Jane Hope, Byron Jang, Sarah Lehman, Matthew Nichiporuk, Bill Orr, Juan Carlos Riano Jaimes and Claude St Denis

Submitted by The Rev. Margaret Marquardt


## Healing Prayer Ministry


The Healing Prayer Ministry at Christ Church Cathedral has been in service for almost 60 years, originally started by Margery Kellett. The current format provides a prayer partner for the clergy celebrants at the Wednesday midday Eucharist, and a team of two for the alcove on Sunday mornings at the 10:30 am Eucharist during communion. Parishioners seem to appreciate the ministry and we watch and respond with a “pop-up” second team when needed.


Many thanks to The Rev. Matthew Senf who is our clergy support, and to all the members, current and past, who give of their time and prayer support to this ministry. We are aware that the words are not ours, they are God’s response to the people’s prayers and we are but vessels. It is a privilege to serve. Please, come pray in the alcove on a Sunday.


Submitted by Andrea Gailus


## Cathedral CATS (Climate Action Through Stewardship)


**a good year's work |  CATS 2024 in review**

**FUNDING**  
  
\$500 in donations  
\$1075 in-kind contributions  
external grant applied for

**EDUCATION**  
  
held 4 forums  
with 145 attendees  
supported a book launch  
& a DoNW event

**ACTION**  
  
installed two kiosk banners  
mounted a Lenten carbon fast  
created new bookmarks & brochure  
blessed cyclists  
engaged in strategic planning for CATS

**COLLABORATION**  
  
with other faith groups  
The City of Vancouver,  
The Diocese of New Westminster

**CONNECTION**  
  
through inspiring music and  
liturgies during Earth Day &  
The Season of Creation

Submitted by Sondra Marshall

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Christ Church Cathedral has had a prayer shawl ministry on and on over many years and we are so grateful to all the knitters who keep us supplied with beautiful shawls. Machine washable yarn is used to knit and crochet comfort and healing into the fabric of the shawl to wrap around the shoulders of anyone in need of a warm embrace. While knitting these, we keep in mind that the intention for what we hold in our hands will wrap comfort around someone (and we don't know who) - we knit love and prayers into every stitch. The shawls are blessed periodically at a Sunday service and stored in the office.

If you know of anyone who would like a shawl, or you wish a shawl for yourself, please call the office and arrange to either pick one up or have one delivered to you. If you are a knitter and interested in joining the makers, please call the office to contact Andrea, Megan or Kate for details.

Submitted by Andrea Gailus, Megan Otton and Kate Walker

## Dean’s Council for Diversity and Multiculturalism

In 2024, the Dean's Council for Diversity and Multiculturalism excitedly championed cultural awareness and inclusivity through an incredible array of events and engaging initiatives. This journey truly showcased the Cathedral’s heartfelt commitment to recognizing, learning from, and honouring diverse heritages. Moreover, it created a welcoming space to embrace and elevate the presence of all cultures, especially those often overlooked, alongside the cherished Anglican traditions rooted in European heritage.

Notable examples of this mission included the launch of the **CCC Cultural Tea Bar**, two significant church-wide celebrations—**Africa Day on May 26** and the **Latin American Liberation, Love & Friendship Day on September 29**—and the introduction of **"Stories: Migration + Placedness" in the Chronicle**.

**The CCC Cultural Tea Bar**, launched in March 2024, hosted five events last year, each attracting approximately 100 to 110 participants. Each gathering centred on a distinct culture, providing an immersive experience with organic teas and refreshments that reflect environmental, cultural, and economic sustainability. The food gifted by the land beautifully reminds us of the divine blessings that nourish us both physically and spiritually since Creation, as generations of God's children have experienced. It serves as a lovely metaphor, connecting cultures and people with every sip and bite. This invitation to community allows us to explore our rich and diverse heritage, reflecting on the land that sustains us. Through this shared experience, we embrace kinship with those who differ from us, nurtured by cultural curiosity and discovery.

- A Taste of Persian’s “Nowruz”: The Start Of A New Spring (March 17)  
[www.thecathedral.ca/blog/cultural-tea-bar-presents-Nowruz-the-start-of-a-new-spring](http://www.thecathedral.ca/blog/cultural-tea-bar-presents-Nowruz-the-start-of-a-new-spring)
- A Taste of Lebanon (April 28, 2024)
- A Taste of India (June 2, 2024)
- A Taste of Taiwan (June 23, 2024)
- A Taste of Russia (December 29, 2024)
- A Taste of Mexico (Feb 16, 2025)

In conjunction with the above events, the Dean's Council of Diversity and Multiculturalism has gently introduced the **"Stories: Migration + Placedness"** series within the Cathedral's Chronicle, narrating the interplay of personal migration experiences, cultural identity, human longings, and faith journeys among several parishioners. Examples:

- Navid Gasnavi from Iran (published on March 13):  
<http://thecathedral.ca/blog/stories-migration-placedness>
- Pavel, Olesia, and David from Russia (published on April 18):  
<http://thecathedral.ca/blog/stories-migration-placedness--484>
- Dorothy and Anurag from India (published on June 20):  
<https://www.thecathedral.ca/blog/stories-migration-placedness--521>

One of the potential initiatives for year 2025:

(Tentative) A visionary proposal for fostering broader parish (or diocese) engagement: "Our People. Our Food Table."—a unique e-story and cookbook (with options for printed copies) that honours the rich tapestry of culinary traditions among our Cathedral's parish members. This initiative is deeply rooted in the exploration of personal histories, ancestral memories, and diverse cultures, inviting contributors to share not only their cherished recipes but also the poignant stories behind their heritage. We seek to cultivate a greater sense of community, inclusivity, and theological reflection by weaving together narratives of celebration and connections through cultural dishes and beverages. This concept will be further considered and developed at any forthcoming Dean's Council of Diversity and Multiculturalism meeting, where its implementation and potential impact will be examined in greater detail.

Submitted by Ivy Clark

## Proofreaders

Given that a report on bulletin proofreading (checking for grammatical, spelling, and formatting errors) would not be particularly useful nor exciting reading, I will instead comment on how the process of bulletin preparation changed in 2024. At the beginning of the year the cathedral had just undergone an administrative reorganization and the bulletin was being produced in Word by the Rev. Adam Dawkins. This was not ideal in terms of formatting; the decision was made to switch

to InDesign, a program specifically intended for page layout and publishing, which we previously used at the cathedral a number of years ago. The learning curve was quite steep, but with training from Ben Dobyns, our Administrative Assistant Diogo Portela now efficiently takes a template document produced in Google Docs and converts it into the finished bulletin we receive on a Sunday morning. The old computer term GIGO still applies (Garbage In/Garbage Out), so one of my duties is to pre-emptively proof the musical components as they are added to the template. The result may not yet have reached perfection (nothing short of heaven does), but we strive toward that goal and hopefully the congregation will have noted improvements in the quality of the bulletin compared to a few years ago.

Submitted by Stephen Wright

I have recently begun working with Diogo Portela, proofreading the weekly email Chronicle on a Thursday before it's sent out. I'm a retired English teacher and enjoy using my editing skills. There's not usually much that needs correcting, as he is very good at what he does, but I make sure the links are live and try to pick up any autocorrect errors.

Submitted by Megan Otton

Editor's Note: It's uncommon for us to shine a light on our volunteer proofreaders in our annual report. As one of them said to me, "I read and I correct." While we won't make them write a report each year, it's important to shine a light on their gift to all of us. Grammatically incorrect material with typographical errors is distracting to the message, and a poor reflection on our parish as a whole. Their work to help us minimize our errors is genuinely appreciated.

## Servers' Guild

The Servers worked hard this year, as always, to make the liturgies of the church year as meaningful as possible, while at the same time aiming to be as invisible as possible. We aim to allow the congregation to focus on the service and not on us. We are there every Sunday at the 10.30 Sung Eucharist, but we also staff the High Holidays, from Epiphany to Christmas, with extra hours needed especially for Christmas and Holy Week. We feel honoured and privileged to be able to do this work, and we very much enjoy it. We also serve for weddings, funerals (too many this year, sadly), baptisms, and diocesan services such as Ordinations and Confirmations, along with any other services we are asked to serve.

You might have noticed that some of us have been working together for a very long time, so long in fact that some of us seem to be able to communicate without speaking! We are a diverse group, with our servers ranging in age from ten to 72. I am so grateful for this close-knit group and proud of the work we do.

Thanks also to Claude St-Denis, the Parish Animator, who has lent his many skills for support and training.

We are always happy to welcome new members, so if you would like to join us either permanently or just to try us out, please get in touch with Dean Pappas.

Submitted by Megan Otton

## Readers Ministry

*"The good of a book lies in its being read. A book is made up of signs that speak of other signs, which in their turn speak of things." - Umberto Eco*

Do you remember those wonderful times in our lives when our Mom or Dad, or Grandma or Grandpa, or Aunt or Uncle read a story to us? It didn't really matter if we already knew the story, if we could name all the characters, or even if we knew how the story ended. It always seemed a little bit different, depending on who was reading it to us, but it was always very special!

So, it is with the Reading Ministry of this Cathedral. There are currently over 40 parishioners who volunteer their time and talent to be our story-tellers at the 10:30 service and at other special services throughout the year. They are the wonderful people who step forward each Sunday to read designated passages from the Old and New Testament. And while many of the stories are quite familiar to many of us, we will often gain new insights on old words, for different readers will inevitably offer different nuances in their telling of the same stories.

I encourage anyone who is interested in joining our dedicated team of story-tellers to make yourselves known to me, and before you know it, you may be standing at the ambo one Sunday morning offering a Biblical passage in your own unique way.

As Dr. Seuss says:

*"The more you read, the more things you will know.  
The more you learn, the more you will grow."*

Submitted by Donna Wong-Juliani

## Sorrento Centre

As with the previous year, Dean Christopher Pappas and I worked together throughout the year to plan 2024's edition of "Cathedral Week" at Sorrento Centre, the Anglican Church of Canada's retreat and conference centre located at Shuswap Lake in Sorrento BC. It was held July 21-27, and most who were in attendance from the Cathedral and from the Diocese of New Westminster attended the programming course led by Kerry Baisley ODNW and the Rev. Canon Dr. Richard LeSueur. I was thrilled that nine first-timers to Sorrento Centre from our Cathedral parish came that week! In addition to the Centre's scheduled programming and activities, Dean Chris and I planned a casual hymn sing-along, led an outing/trail hike to Margaret Falls, and held a social gathering and theology session (led by Dean Chris) at Shuswap Cider Co in Salmon Arm. We participated in morning worship in the outdoor chapel, booked the "Cathedral Week" dates for 2025 (July 20-26) as well as securing the Rev. Canon Dr. Harold Munn as one of the course leaders for that week. Dean Chris and I both also attended Sorrento Centre's Thanksgiving Associates Weekend.

Submitted by Jane Dittrich

## Digital Initiatives Report

### **Summary**

In January 2024, Dean Chris contracted me to help develop a digital community-building plan for Christ Church Cathedral. Working closely with Cathedral staff—particularly Clare Morgan—I developed, secured approval for, and piloted multiple initiatives over the course of the year. This report outlines our development timeline, pilot program outcomes, and guiding principles, then offers a vision for sustainable growth in 2025 and beyond. By innovating ways to connect with underserved communities, we aim to embody the Cathedral's commitment to inclusive ministry and fellowship.

### **Development – Spring 2024**

We began by formalizing a design philosophy for digital and hybrid community engagement.

Identify underserved needs within the Cathedral and adjacent communities.

Design events that meet those needs with a low barrier to entry.

Attract potential community leaders who could maintain high levels of engagement.

Maintain continuity through an ongoing digital communications platform.

By focusing on small projects with a large impact, we would find individuals who could help us create a healthy core community culture, who would then be positioned to model that culture and excitement for new members as we grew.

After much brainstorming, we settled on proposing and piloting the following programs:

Drag Communion – An ecumenical partnership with several local churches and organizations

Sanctuary Dungeons & Dragons – An ecumenical partnership with Shaughnessy Heights United Church

SQUID Discord server – A hub for regional spiritual and queer community

### **Approval – Spring 2024**

After developing our community-building strategy, Clare and I presented it to the Board of Trustees, who approved our key digital initiatives with enthusiasm. We especially appreciated the Board's nuanced understanding that by creating spaces specifically for marginalized groups, we fulfill the broader Christian call to love one another inclusively. Rather than excluding anyone, these programs intentionally invite and include people who have historically been left out.

### **Pilot Programs – Fall 2024**

Rooted in the Cathedral's tradition of compassionate ministry, these pilot programs embody longstanding Christian values of radical hospitality. Our goal is not to replace core doctrines but to broaden the Cathedral's ministry by inviting people who often feel left out. The following are highlights from our Fall 2024 pilot phase.

#### **Drag Communion**

Held at Shaughnessy Heights United Church on World Communion Day in October of 2024, this service featured ministry participants from the Cathedral and Shaughnessy Heights, as well as the Cathedral's Byron Hanson in his drag debut, along with three other drag liturgists, a 30-member choir, and an army of volunteers.



The sanctuary was packed with attendees, many of whom hadn't attended church in years. A large contingent of St Brigids members also attended, helping to set healthy community norms. A common quote heard from attendees was "If church were like this all the time, I'd be back every week." It was a deeply moving service that provided spiritual healing for numerous attendees, who spoke eloquently afterwards about how profoundly it affected them to have the sacredness of queer people centered in a Sunday morning service.

In addition to the physical participants, the online stream was viewed over 600 times and has attracted both national and international attention from leaders in queer spirituality movements. Churches in Montreal, Toronto, Idaho, and beyond have requested copies of the liturgy and educational materials created for the event to host Drag Communion of their own.

In preparation for the event, the hosting congregation saw an uptick in volunteers and an enriched sense of collective purpose. This demonstrates that ministry events centering marginalized people can not only meet specific pastoral needs but also invigorate the entire worship community.

Multiple local churches have also asked to host a Drag Communion from our team. The next Drag Communion is currently scheduled for April 27, 2025.

## **Takeaways**

By identifying a desire for spiritual connection among queer people who have been hurt by the church, creating an event with a name that instantly communicated to the target community that this event was centering them, and following through with a thoughtfully designed liturgy, we made getting the word out easy and drew a large crowd that is eager for the next Drag Communion.

The hosting church, which spent four months in advance of the service holding educational events for members to prepare for the service, experienced firsthand the power of serving other people's needs in their space, rather than trying to attract more members to serve the church's internal needs.

The practical outcomes, as well as the deeply meaningful spiritual experiences that occurred within Drag Communion, have already led to new members and greater volunteerism within the hosting church.

### **Sanctuary Dungeons & Dragons**

Launched in September of 2024, the Sanctuary D&D pilot featured a storyline that emphasized moral decision making and ethical heroism within a world inspired by Greek myth. With gamemasters from the Cathedral and from Shaughnessy Heights, and players from not only those church communities but the broader Vancouver area, participants created bonds and friendships in the context of the Cathedral's sacred spaces.

Overall, thirty-six players participated in these ongoing sessions between September and December, far in excess of the ten players we had planned for. Thanks to volunteer gamemasters stepping up, we were able to meet much of that need.

### **Takeaways**

Because we know that Dungeons & Dragons has become immensely popular, and that many would-be players struggle to find games, we expected this pilot program would attract enough people to make it viable. We did not expect that we would have to close registration due to our volunteer team's capacity limits. These events have significant growth potential. Of particular note is that the ongoing nature of the storyline keeps people coming back into the Cathedral's space over and over again, where they are able to feel welcomed, comfortable, and that they are making genuine connections. Community is built through ongoing exposure to the same people and places, which is what this program is designed to do.

While not explicitly spiritual, the events clearly changed the perception of the church among many attendees, who were surprised and relieved by the warm welcome that they received by Cathedral staff.

### **SQUID Discord Server**

This community hub is the core element of our pilot program strategy. By organizing events and managing communication through this server, we create digital

continuity between physical events, allowing new connections and communities to stay in touch.

SQUID, while set up to meet the needs of people seeking queer spirituality connections and support in the lower mainland, has also grown and exceeded expectations in surprising ways. With sixty-five members already—again a higher number than we expected for our pilot programs—its core mission of providing a place for queer spiritual connection has clearly met a significant regional need.

Most significantly, Pacific Mountain Region Affirming Ministries (which serves BC and the Yukon for the United Church) is adopting SQUID as their online home for community and communication, with an onboarding training session set for them on January 22, 2025.

Numerous attendees from Drag Communion have also joined SQUID, as have the Sanctuary D&D players. The Cathedral’s St Brigids community has gathered there as well, in a space designed to build connections and showcase the Cathedral’s work serving the LGBTQ community.

## **Takeaways**

SQUID has grown faster than expected and clearly is meeting needs for various queer spiritual communities that have been unable to connect with each other in the past. By building larger regional networks and connections, we’re positioned to help queer people seeking community find churches across BC and the Yukon where they will be accepted enthusiastically as who they are.

The more that SQUID can serve as a digital comms component of real-world events, the more it will grow.

## **Design Philosophy**

Before moving on to proposals and needs for 2025, I'd like to share an updated version of our approach to building digital communities, based on the lessons learned from our pilot programs.

Our design philosophy centers on visible inclusion, respectful engagement, and shared leadership. When attendees see marginalized voices in leadership, trust and authenticity follow. Clear guidelines for respectful dialogue foster openness without alienating those who have felt unwelcome in the past. These principles guide every event and online platform we create.

Our goal is to ensure that all individuals feel welcomed and valued—especially those who have historically experienced exclusion or harm in faith-based settings. When we make our commitment to inclusion visible, we not only reassure specific marginalized groups of their welcome but also affirm to the wider community that these values apply to everyone. A sense of belonging is critical for every member, regardless of background.

Strong, healthy communities rely on leaders—both employees and community members—who prioritize the safety and dignity of all. They also depend on clear, actionable plans to address harmful behaviors. Without these safeguards, marginalized or vulnerable members may withdraw entirely, weakening the broader community and exacerbating divisions over time.

When people feel genuinely valued, they are more inclined to contribute their gifts and perspectives. Supporting marginalized groups enriches the community with diverse ideas, creativity, and active involvement.

Similarly, spaces like SQUID—the Cathedral's Discord server—are crucial for those who often face discrimination in larger contexts. Although SQUID was created with the safety of marginalized groups in mind, it also welcomes people from all backgrounds, avoiding an explicitly exclusive approach. This balance of prioritizing vulnerable members while remaining open to everyone builds a healthy, resilient church environment.

Our ongoing strategy is to encourage broad participation in all communal settings. Each service or space reflects different identities and needs, and understanding these nuances helps us better serve the entire Cathedral community.

By applying these principles to our next phases of growth, we can both create targeted events that serve targeted underserved needs, while also contributing more broadly to the diverse and vibrant life of the Cathedral.

## **Growth Opportunities**

In the fall and winter of 2024, our ability to grow and meet demand quickly reached volunteer capacity limits. It was clear that, while the ideas that Clare and I developed were working, we would need a plan to increase our capacity and resources to both meet those existing needs and to grow into serving other underserved communities.

Moving forward, we have identified the following growth opportunities:

- **Existing Programs**
  - Sanctuary D&D – We anticipate this could grow into at least 100 members, most under the age of 40.
  - Drag Communion – So many local churches want to host this service that we could be out every month in a new church and still not meet demand.
  - SQUID – This is growing faster than we expected. It’s the strategic glue that maintains connections between events.
  
- **New Proposed Programs** (all with an online component)
  - **Battle of the Organs** (partnership with RCCO and other area churches) – In-person and online interactive concerts designed to attract younger audiences
  - **Theme-Focused Half-day Retreats** (example: Queering the Bible) – By designing themes intended to resonate with underserved communities and identities, we can bring more people into the Cathedral and create connections across particular identities
  - **Sanctuary Board Game Nights** – all-ages events to help introduce families to the Cathedral as a welcoming space

We have a dozen more ideas, but these three appear most likely to help grow our physical and online communities across a broader range of needs and identities.

In addition to these concepts, there are also specific digital outreach initiatives that we can begin as our online community begins to reach large enough numbers to drive ongoing and active engagement, including Instagram livestreams, TikToks, more YouTube content, and beyond. Then, rather than dropping digital content into an ocean and watching it disappear, we'll have a digital community there to engage with and amplify our creations.

Growth at this stage requires labor, which is a challenge during our temporary budget shortfall. While we can likely continue with existing initiatives on a volunteer basis, we'll need help in order to grow.

I recognize concerns about investing in new initiatives during a budget shortfall. However, by focusing on sustainable expansion—using volunteer leadership, pursuing grants, and scaling up only when capacity allows—we ensure these programs maintain continuity responsibly.

I have begun identifying grants that could help cover our labor costs during the shortfall period. It may also be that it's best at this stage to continue in our Pilot phase for the spring/summer of 2025, until more financial or labor resources can be devoted to supporting a growth phase.

I recommend budgeting now for effective ways to commit resources to community growth once the budget shortfall has ended, including dedicated labor hours, event budgets, and organizational support. That will position us to move quickly on leveraging our pilot program metrics and outcomes into broader growth when time and resources permit.

Submitted by Ben Dobyns

# LAY COMMUNION ADMINISTRATORS

The following names, with the Dean's approval, will be sent to the Bishop for licensing in 2025:

Ian Birtwell

Kevin Bessflug

Carol Cook

Anne Christian

James Conklin

Heather Davies

Hadani Ditmars

Andrea Gailus

Jane Hope

Jobe Ron

Sarah Lehman

Sarah Nation

Sondra Marshall

Liz MacCausland

Donna Marlatte

Jean Mickelson

David McMillan

Holly McMillan

Nura Mohammed

Mathew Nichiporuk

Lorna Orr

Bill Orr

Jim Riva

John Ross

Jacki Ross

Susan Wade

Kate Walker

Peter Roulston

Dorothy Watts

Donna Wong Juliani

Abigail Zhang

Penny Zhou

Harry Kim

Junoh Bede

Esther Aneke

Rejoice Anthony

Vincent Carey

Pamela Dalziel

Terry Love

Megan Otton

Dana Osbourne

Claude St-Denis

Marilyn Anderson

Peter DeGroot

Mary Hamilton

Carol Mundt

Jane Osler

Murray Reinhardt

Frank Uy

Susan Russell

Michael Harding

Robin Tavender

Jennifer Ower

Cynthia Turley

Peter Schouls

Deborah Gault

Jan Miko

Chris Roulson

Susan Koppersmith

# REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This year the Nominating Committee consisted of Dr. Michael Law, Dr. Irene Pang and Mark Halyk.

Be it resolved that this Vestry accept the report of the Nominating Committee and record the election and appointment of the following members of the Cathedral Parish.

LAY TRUSTEES 2025-27 (1 Opening)

*Elected Trustee- Shehnaz Hozaima Cavey*

Continuing Lay Trustees [2026]

Rector's Warden Michael Law

People's Warden Holly McMillan

Assoc Rector's Warden Mark Halyk

Assoc People's Warden Irene Pang

Elected Trustee Douglas Yee

LAY DELEGATES TO THE 2025 DIOCESAN SYNOD (1 Opening)

*Shehnaz Hozaima Cavey*

Previously Elected Lay Delegates

Michael Law

Holly McMillan

Mark Halyk

Irene Pang

Douglas Yee

Previously Elected Alternates

Matthew Nichiporuk

Penny Zhou

Terrence Clark



PREVIOUSLY ELECTED/APPOINTED OFFICERS

Treasurer – Terrence Clark (2026)

Secretary to the Corporation – Jennifer Barr (2026)

Past Treasurer – Ian Birtwell (2026)

PARISH COUNCIL AT-LARGE (1-year)(5 Openings)

*Byron Jang*

*Matthew Nichiporuk*

*Penny Zhou*

*Claude St-Denis*

*Junoh Bede*

*Barbara M. Brown*

MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES [Appointed]

*Jeremiah Mwangi (PWRDF Representative)*

Continuing

Nicky Seppala (Coordinator of Lay Volunteer Ministries)

Richard Sulkers (Home Groups)

Jane Dittrich (Sorrento Centre Representative)

Jane Osler (Stewardship Chair)

Kathy Irwin (Screening in Faith Coordinator)

ENDOWMENT FUND ADMINISTRATORS (3-year terms)

Harry Kim (2028)

James Riva (2028)

Continuing

Ian Birtwell (Chair) (2027)

Ted Chiasson (2027)

Rector's Designee- TBD

Trustees Appointment- Holly McMillan

Parish Council Appointment- Penny Zhou

## Biography: Shehnaz Hozaim Cavey

Shehnaz has been a part of CCC's communal life for more than ten years, and has recently served as secretary of CCC's Parish Council, as well as CCC's Dean's Council of Diversity & Multiculturalism. Shehnaz carries with her experience gleaned from her past years of service as Vice-Chair of the West End's Community Centre Association, and her current role as Vice-Chair of CEBC - a BC service organization formed to support and advocate the needs of faith-based independent school employees and educators.

During the week, Shehnaz serves as a Humanities and Religious Studies educator at Surrey Christian Secondary, a vibrant learning community that she's been a part of since 2010. Outside of teaching, Shehnaz fulfills the role of Secondary Campus Employee Representative to the school's Board of Directors, and also works to raise awareness about issues that impact individuals and communities, both locally and abroad. Shehnaz is trained as a Civil Mediator, and incorporates principles of Restorative Practices in both her teaching, mediation, and community engagement.

While beautiful North Vancouver now serves as home for her and her husband, Mark, they spend many seasons and summers together with their family at home in Ireland, and many joy-filled moments with their best of furry friends, Daphne and Bessie, at home, here - the furrier of which you might've spotted visiting with attendees outside of CCCs doors from time to time.

# IN MEMORIAM

Margaret Florence Jane Taylor

Stephanie Ahern Carlson

Stephen Mostardi

Philippa Louise Pride

Drinda Gail Scott

Jeanette Schouls

June Mary Lewis

Moira Mowa Yeung

Joan Marta Lehman

Doris Flynn

Jackson Njuki Ng'ang'a

Poul Hansen

Winifred Mary Nowell