

Wardens Update Fall 2023

St Andrew's has been operating relatively smoothly so far in 2023, especially with the help of many in the congregation. Our outside garden and grass cutting teams spent the summer keeping the grounds looking good. We had a very nice welcome back BBQ lunch on September 17, attended by a good mix of our congregation. As we enter October our full list of programs and activities are back. Check out the weekly newsletter for details. Our first big event is the Fall Sale on Saturday Oct 14. We still need more volunteers to help set up Friday night Oct 13 and help with the sale Saturday morning. We are also looking forward to welcoming back the Orpheus Choir on December 10th for their Christmas concert.

At the beginning of August, we were pleased to hire Emily Pettengell to be our new Parish Administrator. She is currently working 3 days per week and will be increasing her hours this fall. While we now have a very capable parish administrator, we still need volunteers to help out. Andrew and Emily are currently swamped with work. Many of our regular volunteer help have been away or ill these past few weeks. We need volunteers to help everything run smoothly, we cannot put it all on Andrew and Emily! If you are willing to volunteer to do some work around the church or in the office this Fall and Winter, please let Emily know.

Financially, so far this year, the church has been able to keep our expenditures in line with our budget, even with ever increasing costs. However revenues are about \$15,000 lower than we expected, including a 11% drop in regular donations. This has resulted in our revenues being lower than our expenses by \$6,000 as at the end of August.

Revenues do not come in evenly during the year and are dependent on the timing of various donations, from memorial gifts to regular givings. Please take a moment to review your donation plan for 2023, (the envelope secretary will be sending an update of your givings to date shortly) for it is only with your support, that we will be able to return our revenues to the expected amounts, over the final 3 months of the year.

One concern we do have is that we did not pay for a Parish Administrator, until August, and with a return to having a salaried person, we will have to ensure that our revenues are sustainable and at least meet our 2023 budget. We will be providing our annual Stewardship information in November but looking forward to 2024 we will certainly need more revenue in order to operate and provide the services we currently do.

Thank-you for your help and support and may God bless each of you.

Respectfully submitted.

Stuart Allan, People's Warden

Cathy Barnes, Vicar's Warden