



2015  
Annual Vestry Report

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## Opening Hymn – Unto Thy Temple, Lord, We Come

*Rockingham*

Unto thy temple, Lord, we come with thankful hearts to worship thee, and pray that this may be our home until we touch eternity;

The common home of rich and poor, of bond and free, and great and small; large as thy love for evermore, and warm and bright and good to all.

And dwell thou with us in this place, thou and thy Christ, to guide and bless. Here make the wellsprings of thy grace like fountains in the wilderness.

May thy whole truth be spoken here, thy gospel light forever shine, thy perfect love cast out all fear, and human life become divine.

## Archbishop's Pastoral Letter to Vestries, 2015

To the Clergy, Churchwardens and Parishioners

### **My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

As you gather today in the annual vestry meeting of your parish or congregation, I want to express my gratitude for your faithfulness in living out our diocesan mission to *Worship* God, *Proclaim* the Gospel and *Embody* in word and action the reconciling love of Jesus. The Area Bishops and I are especially thankful for the leadership of the clergy, churchwardens and officers of your parish. I am deeply mindful of the prayer, “*grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil*” and that is so true of our life together as members of the Church. Thank you!

This year we have witnessed an almost unprecedented humanitarian crisis as the world's refugee and near-refugee population has surpassed 50 million people. The generosity of responses from so many is heartening. More than 40% of our parishes are in the process of sponsoring a refugee family either directly or in joining with other parishes or faith groups in assisting in a sponsorship. The Diocese has made a grant of \$500,000 available through the Ministry Allocation Fund to support congregations in reaching out. Details of this grant will be circulated in the next few weeks.

I have asked Vestries to consider a motion about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report on Residential Schools. “Answering the Call for Reconciliation”, a booklet prepared by our Social Justice working group, gives a concise background to the issues. This is an important matter for our Church. Many indigenous people are Anglican. The Anglican Church had a major role in residential schools. We have been given a mandate by our Lord to be agents of healing and reconciliation. However you decide to deal with the motion, I hope it leads to wide discussion and action in your parish.

In my Charge to Synod, (see [www.toronto.anglican.ca/2015/11/13/archbishops-charge-to-synod](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/2015/11/13/archbishops-charge-to-synod)) I took as my theme “things old and new”, a recognition that we need both to honour and use, to the best of our abilities, the excellent resources of our Anglican tradition. As well, we need to think and work outside the box, to find new and creative ways to respond to God's call to mission in our own neighbourhoods. Not one or the other; both are required today.

This requires us to be “*encouraging and continually re-centering the community in which we know that both the resources of stability and the risks of change come from the Spirit.*” “Re-centering” is critical. It is remembering what is at the heart of it all: God's unquenchable love for the whole of Creation revealed in Jesus Christ.

I have a continuing concern that we deepen our own understanding of our faith in Jesus Christ and our ability to speak of that faith reasonably and confidently, and to give voice “to the hope that lies within us” as St. Paul writes. I hope that you will find ways in your parish (or even better, working with other congregations) and on your own, to pursue that this year. Bible studies, discussion groups, book clubs and prayer circles are opportunities to gather and practise articulating the joy of a life that is rooted and grounded in Christ.

May you have a productive Vestry Meeting today and may you find this to be truly a Year of Grace.  
Yours faithfully in Christ Jesus,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "+ Colin R. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'C'.

The Most Rev'd Colin R. Johnson Archbishop of  
Toronto



Diocese of Toronto  
Anglican Church of Canada

January 2016

My dear people,

Once again it is time for the annual vestry. I want to express a heartfelt “thank you” for all those who have toiled for God’s reign in your parish. Thank you to incoming, outgoing and continuing officers. Thank you, priests and deacons. Thank you to all those who give time, talent and treasure.

Alongside the Archbishop’s pastoral letter, let me communicate more specifically about the York-Scarborough Area. Your Area Council has been considering the impact of a 13-year study which provides data on attendance, offerings and the number of givers for every parish in the Diocese, including yours. The picture is sober but there are also points of encouragement. We have been discussing the implications of this study at our meetings and I have been invited to different parishes to make presentations about it. Surprisingly, the typical reaction is not panic but gratitude – people are empowered to take action once they have solid information.

Ministry among Mandarin-speaking newcomers is an exciting development in the Area. Adding to the existing ministry of the two Chinese churches, Mandarin ministries under the umbrella of New Hope ministries have taken root at St. Paul, L’Amoreaux, St. George on Yonge, the Cathedral, and St. Bartholomew; and in fact is now spreading beyond our Area. St. George has reported that 75% of their baptisms are from new, Mandarin-speaking Christians. One particularly moving example of impactful ministry occurred around a tragic suicide. When the parents came from China for the funeral, they were so moved by the support shown that the father requested to be baptized at St. George that Sunday.

Grants disbursed through the Area Council work to support ministries in parishes as well as programs. Two significant appointments from Area Council have been our youth animator, Jillian Ruch, and a chaplain for retired clergy, Bishop Patrick White. The Council also gives bursaries to Anglican youth entering university, as well as sponsoring Area events, including the Clergy and Church Musician Workshop this past May.

But it is no denying that ministry is challenging and can be discouraging. In his book *Good to Great*, author Jim Collins introduces something called the “Stockdale paradox”. General Stockdale was the highest ranking American officer to be imprisoned in the infamous “Hanoi Hilton” during the Vietnam War. But the starvation, humiliation and torture he endured did not break him. On the contrary, he rallied his troops to keep up morale and instituted a sophisticated communication system. Many prisoners survived the ordeal under his leadership. When he came back, Jim Collins interviewed him about the cause of his resilience. He replied, “You have to believe that your cause will prevail, and I was confident that we would be freed.” So hope is a factor. “But what about those who did not make it – did they share a common trait?” General Stockdale replied, “Oh, that's easy, [they were] the optimists...who said, 'We're going to be out by Christmas.' And Christmas would come, and Christmas would go...And they died of a broken heart.”

The Stockdale paradox requires holding a firm faith in our cause together with an utter realism about the obstacles we face. Our Easter Faith informs us that Christ's work is finished and God's reign advances inexorably. But we are still in Lent, and we need to tackle the tasks in front of us and not deny real obstacles.

As you begin a new mandate for your parish, as we move through Lent towards Easter, let us trust God and hold together this paradox. God bless you in your proceedings and your ministry

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross symbol and followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

The Right Reverend Patrick Yu  
Area Bishop of York-Scarborough  
Bishop Suffragan of Toronto

**Christ Church Deer Park**  
**Minutes for Vestry**  
**February 22, 2015**

Opening Hymn (Let All Things Now Living), Prayer, Announcements

- Cost of lunch is approximately \$8/person, there are small baskets at the tables for contributions toward lunch
- Vestry Reports, Financial Reports and the Narrative Budget are available at the front of the room

2) Appointment of Vestry Clerk – Emily Chatten

- Note of thanks to Barbara Marwood for past service as Vestry Clerk

3) Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of February 23, 2014

Moved by Bob Shea and seconded by William Jackson.

Carried.

4) Acceptance of 2014 Vestry Report

Moved by Bob Reeves and seconded by Michael Butler.

Carried.

5) Financial Report given by Rick Varkey

a) Financial Report for 2014

- Provided by Maureen A. Parry Professional Corporation
- A good and accurate reflection of CCDP's 2014 financial year
- It was noted that the Management Team met with the auditor and reviewed the statements in detail
- 2014 Congregational giving fell short of budget
- Noted 2014 as the “Year of Bequests” where 5 people donated \$126,000.00
- Expenses for 2014 were in line or slightly under budget, with a net deficit after interest and transfer of funds to accounts of \$0.0

b) Motion proposed by Rick Varkey to Accept Audited 2014 Financial Statements

Seconded by Bob Reeves

Carried

c) Motion proposed by Rick Varkey to Appoint Maureen A. Parry Professional Corporation as Auditors for 2015

Seconded by JR Thornton

Carried

6) 2015 Operating Budget given by Rick Varkey

- With consideration to 2014 actual budget, 2014 actual results and CCDP current needs
- Revenue is comprised of givings and other income generated
- For 2015, it is based on 2014 plus a 2% increase
- Total revenues are projected at \$838,000.00, down 7% from 2014

- Budgeted expenses are generally appropriated at just over \$500,000.00, and comprised mainly of personnel
- Property, administrative and ministry costs are in line with 2014
- Diocesan Assessment is up 5.7% from 2014
- Property, no major capital repairs planned
- Total expenses are \$903,127.00, after expenses budget shows net deficit of \$64,436.00 after fund transfers net deficit for the year, \$49,436.00.
- In past years CCDP has been fortunate to be able to make up financial gaps through extraordinary giving

Question, David Moore: Deferred Revenue from Our Faith, Our Hope, 80% or 40%

Action: Return to David/Vestry with Answer

- a) Rick Varkey proposed a motion to accept the 2015 Operating Budget  
 Seconded by William Jackson  
 Opposed by: Phyllis Creighton, Elizabeth Nyburg and Walter Blackwell  
 Carried

#### 7) Elections

The following candidates were put forward for election

- a) People's Warden: Henry Zaluski
- b) Deputy Warden: Barbara Johnston
- c) Ministry Chairs:
  - i. Learning: Emily Chatten
  - ii. Hospitality: William Jackson
  - iii. Property: Kathleen Lindsey
  - iv. Rummage Coordinator: Maxine Henry
- d) Lay Members of Synod: Alan Rands, Kathleen Lindsey, William Jackson
- e) Alternate Lay Member of Synod: Michael Butler

No other candidates were put forward for nomination

A proposal to accept the nominations was put forward by Bob Shea and seconded by David Moore  
 Carried

#### 8) Rector's Appointments

- a) Rector's Warden: Carolyn Kearns
- b) ACW Chairs: Anne LeFeuvre & Joan Huycke
- c) Chancel Guild President: Maggie Symons
- d) Coordinator of 10:00am Lay Assistants: David Thornton
- e) Coordinator of 10:00am Sidespersons: Alan Rands
- f) Coordinator of 10:00am Readers: Jill McRae
- It was noted there was one Chancel Guild President only (compared to the two listed in the agenda)

#### 9) Management Team Appointments

- a) Treasurer: Rick Varkey
- b) Chairs of Financial Stewardship: Robert Hutchison & Innes van Nostrand
- c) Chairs of Trust Committee: Jill MacRae & Franck Perrin
- d) Archives Committee Chair: Jenny Rieger

10) "There's Life Here" - Rector, Kevin Robertson

- Face real and clear financial challenges
  - Also face challenges to engagement in the life of our parish community
  - Have undertaken a gifts inventory, please continue to discern the gifts God has given you
- Over the past year:
- Our congregation grew 2.1%
  - 2,540 people attended 18 Jazz Vespers services
  - 40+ hot meals were served at each community breakfast
  - 208 hymns were sung
  - The ACW contributed \$6000.00 toward Parish operations
  - 23 kids took part in our first Vacation Bible Camp
  - Our Facebook page got 108 likes in our first year in social media
  - There's 34 pages on [www.TheresLifeHere.org](http://www.TheresLifeHere.org)
  - 16 Parishioners are visited and served by the Congregational Care Team
  - There are 24 CCDP choristers
  - There are 15 in the team of sides people
  - The two clergy provide an estimated 30 hours a week of pastoral care
  - 21 kids attend Promiseland on average, and this year with YAL collected 157 items for the Churches on the Hill Food drive
  - YAL raised \$1,378.00 for AIDS by participating in the AIDS Walk
  - The Spring and Fall Rummage Sales raised \$18,824.00
  - \$67,143 collected in December
  - \$4,050, the increase in property expenses due to severe weather last winter
  - 17,920, the number of stitches in the Contemplative Knitting group's afghan
  - 8 baptisms last year
  - 14 funerals last year
  - 5 parishioners who remembered CCDP in their wills
  - 43, the average attendance of Church on Tap service
  - Thank you for your work, "There's Life Here"

11) Recognition and Thanks

- Barbara Johnston called to receive the Deputy Badge from Henry Zaluski  
Henry and Carolyn Kearns thanked Genevieve Chornenki for her tremendous contribution to CCDP and presented her with gifts on behalf of the parish  
Genevieve commented that serving as Rector's Warden was an excellent experience and would recommend it to any one; it was a wonderful opportunity to be of service
- Kevin thanked the members of the management team and staff who all work hard on behalf, of the parish
- Kevin also thanked Fred Graham for his musical leadership over the last two months, presented him with a gift and said that he will always be welcome at CCDP

## 12) Other Business

- a) Kevin introduced an item brought forward to parishes by Diocese of Toronto Social Justice and Advocacy Committee: “Taking Action on Climate Change 2015 Vestry Motion”
- We have been working on this in our parish as the result of a request for an energy audit as well as work undertaken by the “Opening Our Sacred Spaces” group
  - A sign up sheet is available for individuals interested in forming a group to work on this initiative

There was considerable discussion on the suggestions accompanying the Diocesan motion with mixed views expressed about the role of CCDP in the process.

Phyllis Creighton proposed a motion to hold a special vestry meeting to consider:

- (i) “we commit our parish to research and pursue options to reduce our parish carbon footprint over the next year, with a report on results to the 2016 Vestry”, and
- (ii) “we call on the government to introduce a tax on greenhouse gas emissions from both individuals and corporations, structured similarly to those implemented by British Columbia and Quebec, starting at \$50/ton of GHG emitted, and gradually rising”  
in April, after March Break and Easter (as suggested by Jenny Rieger)

Seconded by Elizabeth Nyburg

Defeated

Kevin reminded individuals interested in pursuing the climate change work further to add their names to the sign up sheet and Phyllis agreed to contact the individuals, coordinate their work and provide an update to Kevin on their activities.

b) Archivist – Jenny Rieger

Please hand in your papers for the year, especially wardens

## 13) Adjournment

William Jackson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by JR Thornton

Accepted

## 14) Closing Hymn – O Praise Ye the Lord

## Rector

Dear friends,

2015 was certainly an active year within our parish. Many of the great ministries already in place before 2015 bore even greater fruit over the past year. Our parishioners continued to be involved in important outreach work in our community and beyond. This included the Community Breakfast program on Saturday mornings, support of our Churches on-the-Hill Food Bank, ongoing funding of the Mama Jane's Centre in Uganda, and support for local programs supported by FaithWorks. Reaching out to help others in the name of Christ lies at the heart of our calling as a community.

Other ongoing programs included our ministries to children and youth. Under the leadership of Hilary Keachie, PromiseLand and YAL (Young Anglican Leaders) continued to take shape in new ways. We were also very pleased to host a Vacation Bible Camp for the second year in a row, which attracted families from our neighbourhood had not previously had a connection with our parish. Our ministries to children and youth are essential for our ongoing vitality as a parish, and we continue to make it one of our top priorities.

In the area of pastoral care, the clergy continued to be supported by the Congregational Care Team over the past year. This small group of committed, caring parishioners has had a tremendous impact in keeping us connected with our people who are no longer able to be with us on a regular basis. Members of the team fulfill tasks such as visiting parishioners in their homes, running errands for them, driving them to church, taking them out for coffee, and supporting their family members and care-givers.

Our primary focus as Christians is worship, and our liturgical life was robust this year. Our regular services included two Sunday morning services, Jazz Vespers on Sunday afternoons, Church on Tap on Friday evenings, and a quiet celebration of the Eucharist every Wednesday at 7:30 am. Each of these services offers a unique liturgical style, and wonderfully distinct communities continue to emerge at each of them. I am pleased to say that we offer "church" for folks from a variety of ages and backgrounds, and that diversity enriches our common life.

In addition to my responsibilities as rector of the parish, I also serve the wider Church in a few different ways. I am a member of the Diocesan Postulancy Committee, which interviews and mentors those who seek to be ordained; I serve on the Our Faith-Our Hope Allocations Committee, which helps to disperse funds that were raised during the 2011-2012 campaign in our diocese; and in September 2015, I was asked to serve as the Regional Dean of the Eglinton Deanery. I took on this role only after giving up some other extra-parochial responsibilities, because my primary role (and enjoyment!) is to be the rector here. Thank you for your support of my commitments outside the parish.

In addition to the many ongoing ministries, I want to say a word about some new developments that emerged within the life of our parish in 2015:

1. Staff Changes

In March, we were very pleased to welcome Matthew Otto as our new Choir Director and Organist. Matthew has made an invaluable contribution to our worship life and staff team, and has led the choir in new directions, including renewed membership. In June, we welcomed a new Assistant Curate – the Reverend Antoine Rutherford - who had been ordained a deacon in May. Antoine was on medical leave for the latter part of 2015, but we were grateful for the contributions he made while he was with us, and we look forward to welcoming him back in 2016.

## 2. Communications

September saw the launch of our new parish newsletter – SPIRITUS. Our sincere thanks to Genevieve Chornenki and Henry Zaluski for taking on this new publication, which is so impressive. Never before have we had so many contributions from so many different people on such a wide variety of topics. We have also made inroads in the area of social media, particularly as we increase our presence on Facebook.

## 3. Refugee Sponsorship

In August, we were aghast to see the image of a young boy's body, washed up on the beach of the Mediterranean Sea, as he tried to flee the violence in his homeland of Syria. This image – among others – spurred the international community to act, and I am so pleased that we have been a part of that effort. In September, some 60 parishioners attended 2 congregational meetings to discern our response to this crisis. From that group, a steering committee of about 10 people led our sponsorship program. They worked tirelessly through the fall. In early 2016, we welcomed the Alkadri family, who has come to Canada from Syria via a Jordanian Refugee Camp. This is Gospel work in which we are engaged, and it would not have been possible without the leadership of the steering committee and the generous financial support of parishioners and friends of CCDP.

## 4. Property Enhancements

In June, we held a special Vestry meeting to release funds for the purpose of property enhancements. Over the summer, these renovations were carried out. Some were necessary because they addressed code issues. Others, such as new carpeting and painting in the church, were necessary to keep our church home in good repair. Thanks to the members of the Property Committee for overseeing these improvements.

## 5. Small Group Ministry

In October, a group of 8 parishioners began to meet regularly in one of their homes for a meal, prayer and study. This was something of a pilot project, and we hope there will be more small-group ministries in the coming year. These kinds of groups provide opportunities for faith to be explored and relationships to be built within the wider context of a large and busy parish like ours. Thanks to the Reverend Andrea Christensen for leading this ministry.

## 6. Natural Church Development

In June, the Management Team of the parish attended a presentation of a process called Natural Church Development. This led to a parish survey in November and a parish forum in early 2016, to analyze and discuss the survey results. I won't get into the details of NCD here, because you can read about it in the Natural Church Development Report. I do want to say how much I appreciate the work that has been contributed by the CCDP NCD Team, and the interest this process has generated within the parish as a whole. I believe this will lead us to become a stronger and more vital parish.

## 7. Stewardship

In November, our parish embarked on a Stewardship campaign to address a significant deficit in our Operating Fund. Thanks to the generosity of a small group of parishioners, we were able to significantly close the gap. Thank you to all those who responded so generously with "top-up" contributions. 2016 will again present challenges for our finances, so please think and pray and respond to the ways that you are able to support our parish in the coming year.

A large part of the success of any organization is its people, and we are so blessed with gifted leaders here at Christ Church Deer Park. Carolyn Kearns, Henry Zaluski, Barbara Johnston and Rick Varkey have done an outstanding job as members of the Management Team. Through 2015, we met regularly and communicated by email almost daily. We have been so very fortunate to have this group at the helm. In 2016, Carolyn Kearns retires from the Management Team. Carolyn has been an exemplary churchwarden over the past four years. Her passion for this place, combined with an astute understanding of how organizations work, has meant that our parish is functioning in ways which would have been inconceivable just a few years ago. We will miss her very much, but we look forward to her ongoing leadership in other areas of parish life.

We have also been guided by our staff team, consisting of Andrea Christensen, Antoine Rutherford, Paul Marritt, Matthew Otto, Hilary Keachie, Elisabeth Lunder, Denis Delisle, and a host of part-time employees. We have an exceptional staff, and our church is the envy of other multi-staffed parishes in the diocese.

Equally important are the many parish volunteers who are deeply committed to this place. They assist at the front desk, organize rummage sales and parish events, give leadership to worship, outreach, hospitality, communications, pastoral care, new initiatives, and so many other areas of parish life. Without them, where would we be?

As we look ahead to a new year, God invites us to live more fully into the ministries to which we have been called. What are your gifts, what are your passions, and how can they be best used to fulfill God's mission for the transformation of this community of faith, this neighbourhood, this city, and this world? May we rise with faith and courage to make the very best of the times and seasons that God has so graciously given.

*Respectfully submitted*

*The Reverend Canon Kevin Robertson*

## Management Team

2015 has been a busy year for all involved at Christ Church Deer Park. We have implemented a number of initiatives identified at last year's vestry meeting and added new ones to support our continued growth as a community. Some of the highlights are summarized following:

- **Added new members to our clergy and staff team.** In March 2015, we welcomed Matthew Otto as our new choir director and organist. Matthew has provided the choir and congregation with much appreciated music at our Sunday services and other special occasions. During the year he recruited a strong and talented group of new young lead singers who lead and support our dedicated volunteer choir. The Rev. Antoine Rutherford started his Curacy on June 1<sup>st</sup> and came to us from St. James Cathedral. In addition to his theological and pastoral responsibilities, Antoine's responsibilities include assisting in parish communications.
- **Responded proactively to the needs of our community.** Christ Church Deer Park has a long standing interest and commitment to community outreach. The Saturday morning community breakfast program funds raised by the ACW and distributed to various organizations, and our support of the Mama Jane's school in Africa are some examples of these initiatives. In September, upwards of 60 parishioners expressed interest in sponsoring a refugee family and have worked diligently since then to organize their efforts, fundraise and secure the needed supports to welcome a family. Our hopes and prayers have been answered with the arrival of a family of five. Stay tuned for the exciting news of their new life with us in Toronto. A big thanks to all who have worked so hard to make this dream come true.
- **Introduced a new initiative to support key strategic directions for CCDP in the future.** Members of management team are often asked about our strategic plan to guide the future of CCDP. With this in mind, during the summer we explored an initiative known as Natural Church Development or NCD. It is essentially a spiritual check-up for churches and we signed on in October. The ultimate objective of NCD is to guide us through a long-term process of reflection and growth by focusing on the quality of our church experience to enable us to be the best we can be. *Passionate spirituality* has been identified as a key area of focus for 2016.
- **Improved our processes for working with volunteers through the consistent implementation of the "Screening in Faith" program.** Following up on the 2014 *Spiritual Gifts Inventory* exercise, we have implemented the Diocesan policies and processes required for engaging volunteers in the work of our parish. This work has included the development of a comprehensive data base of all our volunteers, preparation of job descriptions, and mandatory and voluntary training.
- **Continued our commitment to financial stewardship as a key priority.** Throughout 2015, Management Team and the Stewardship Committee continued to focus on parish finances. The Committee was refreshed with a number of additional members and has been meeting regularly since the fall. Communications, both verbal and written, were provided at regular intervals and a push to top up 2015 givings resulting in an additional \$61,000 contribution to help reduce our deficit. The narrative budget developed in 2014 has been continued in 2015 and explains expenses and revenues in a way that everyone can understand. Financial stewardship will continue to be a priority in 2016.

*Management team is the group of lay volunteers and clergy that works collaboratively to look after the secular affairs of the parish. Under the canons of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, the Incumbent, rector's warden, and people's warden—sometimes referred to at Christ Church Deer Park as "corporation"—have ultimate legal authority, but management team is broader than that and include the treasurer and deputy-warden. Management team members have complementary skills and experience, and work in a collegial way for a common goal, namely the best interests of the parish as a whole.*

- **Continued services and programs that began in 2014.** Last year, we reported on two new initiatives that were offered as pilots in the hope that they would become sustainable and included as part of our regular activities. We are delighted to report that both the *Vacation Bible Camp* (held during August) and *Church on Tap* (held on the last Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m.) have continued in 2015, both stronger than during their initial start-ups. In addition, the *Congregational Care Team* was established in 2014 with a primary purpose of supporting the pastoral work undertaken by clergy. Keeping in touch with parishioners who may wish to be visited, taken to church or included in the life of Christ Church Deer Park are all important activities undertaken by this group. We are pleased with the interest and support shown for these programs both by our parishioners and others who are not regular members of our congregation.
- **Strengthened our communications efforts.** Last year, we launched a redesigned website, upgraded our computer system and improved our social media access through Facebook and Twitter. This past year has seen us continue all of these modes of communication as well as adding a quarterly newsletter, *Spiritus*, which has been very well received and features contributions from a broad cross-section of our parishioners. In addition, we have modernized our telephone answering system, making it easier to speak directly to clergy and staff. We owe a big debt of gratitude to all of the volunteers involved in our communications efforts as it requires, time, patience and in some cases some technical expertise.
- **Continued our focus on diversity.** One of the unique defining characteristics of Christ Church Deer Park is the wide range of interests represented in the parish. Regardless of the category – age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, household status and gender identity to name a few – we strive to be a community that welcomes and celebrates the richness our diversity brings. Often there are trade-offs to be made with respect to preferences, needs, and accommodations, but there is no question that our community benefits from its inclusiveness and Management Team continues to hold diversity as a hallmark of who we are at Christ Church Deer Park and strives to wherever possible to meet the varying needs and interests of our parishioners.

Of course, like most other religious organizations operating in today’s increasingly secular environment, Christ Church Deer Park has its challenges. Greatest among these are maintaining our beautiful but aging physical facility and grounds, increasing our financial givings in order to operate debt-free, providing pastoral care to an increasingly aging congregation, providing worship services that reflect the diverse interests of our parishioners, and being relevant and valued in our neighbourhood community. With the help of all parishioners, management team remains committed to addressing our many needs and to acting in the best interests of the parish as a whole. In this way, the actions of all of us will demonstrate that “There’s Life Here!”

We are proud of our parish over the past year and excited about the year to come. The tremendous commitment and hard work of our clergy, staff and volunteers is our biggest asset and we recognize and appreciate their many contributions. On behalf of the management team, thank you for your prayers, support and good wishes.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Carolyn Kearns  
Rector’s Warden*

*Henry Zaluski  
People’s Warden*

*Barbara Johnston  
Deputy Warden*

*Richard Varkey  
Treasurer*

## Associate Priest

The beginning of a new year, in the church, in the world, and in our personal lives, always merits some reflection. It is not so much a time of making new resolutions, but rather, space in which to ponder how things have gone over the last year and review personal and congregational growth.

A new year is a good opportunity to look at what guides our thoughts and decisions each day, to look at the people we are and the people who we want to become before God.

As I review this past year, I recall the most encouraging and the most horrific world events that have taken place in 2015: the Paris Climate Accord, the ISIS Terrorist Strike on three continents and the Refugee Crisis, just to name a few. Closer to home, I try to look for ways in which we can allow our lives to receive greater meaning and to find ways to remove obstacles that resist it. I ponder how and when hope has sung in our days. I think back and recall who and what gave me strength and where enthusiasm ripened or died on the vine.

I see so much change and growth everywhere I look at CCDP. Last Lent the parish came together for a fascinating discussion on “The Global Village”. A study which focused on how to engage in dialogue with people of other faith traditions. This year, we will be studying, “**The Book of Job: When Bad Things Happened to a Good Person**” by Harold S. Kushner. In this book, Rabbi Harold S. Kushner examines the questions raised by Job’s experience, questions that have challenged wisdom seekers and worshippers for centuries. In the study, Kushner asks questions such as: *What kind of God permits bad things to happen to good people? Why does God test loyal followers?*

The ACW will dive into **The Red Letter Christians: The Words of Jesus for Today’s World** by Colin McCartney and Tony Campolo. Our vision for Christian Education at CCDP, programmes which include Advent Studies, Lenten Studies, guest speakers and Reading Theology continue to bring parishioners together in order to build authentic fellowship as well as facilitate a better understanding of living in loving relationship to our Living God. I extend my profound thanks to Emily Chatten for her willingness to lead, organize and research the materials for our *Reading Theology Group* and for her generous assistance with all our studies. What a pleasure it is to work with the faithful!

This past year, Mary Kay Brown and I organized our first CCDP Small Group pilot project. For six weeks during October and November, seven of our parishioners came together every Tuesday evening at a Mary Kay’s home on St. Clair Avenue for dinner, study, discussion and prayer. Below are a few comments about this exciting new ministry initiative:

*“Earlier this fall, over a period of six weeks, seven of us met as a small group to reflect on the words of Jesus “Red Letters”.*

*We are thankful and blessed that our very own Rev Andrea C. initiated and effectively led the Small Group Ministry. It brought us closer to The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and how to understand the Word of God. It also provided us the opportunity to nourish our bodies with the many culinary delights prepared by the group, and our souls by engaging in discussions on the words that proceeded out of the mouth of the man called Jesus.*

*For us, the greatest benefits were building bridges with fellow Christians who shared personal experiences, some of which were never shared before; listening to different perspectives; and discussing thought provoking topics such as materialism, spiritualism and homosexuality.*

*The small group meetings were really effective and we would encourage and recommend others to participate in the same experience - what it really means to live out the words of Jesus in this material world!*

*We hope this meaningful initiative will continue with others so that they too can also be blessed by it." Anita & Mervyn*

*"At the outset we would like to thank God for this opportunity, and congratulate you and the other participants for making this group ministry a reality.*

*As discussed earlier, on the closing day, the small group ministry has certainly been beneficial to us in many aspects. It has helped us to revisit the basics, delve a little deeper into some of the red lettered verses and understand them in today's context. The topics were simple, thought provoking and an excellent point to start with. It has been a good learning experience in terms of understanding the participants and their experiences. The group size was ideal and we remained focused on the task.*

*We would like to appreciate the efforts taken by you in organizing the event and in bringing people together despite their busy schedules. Our thanks also go out to Mary Kay for generously opening up her home for this small group ministry." Judith and Emmanuel*

*"The small group ministry sessions provided a rare opportunity to share with others of faith our understanding of some of Christ's teachings and how they were impacting our daily lives. It encouraged me to reflect more deeply on scripture, to read more, to pray and re-evaluate my own behaviour.*

*You were an excellent leader because you encouraged everyone to speak freely; there was never any implied judgment and we all felt comfortable expressing our views and weaknesses.*

*It was an important learning experience for me which will have a lasting impact." Mary Kay*

I would like to extend a special thank you to Mary Kay Brown, both for her generous hospitality and her passion for sharing Christ with others.

Visioning is something that continues to be incredibly important to the life and ministry of God's church, and it is of utmost importance to us as clergy and staff. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, last year, Kevin brought our staff team together for a Visioning Day at the Cathedral. The purpose of this gathering was so that we could pray, laugh and discern God's plan for CCDP. Out of our discussions came some of the most magnificent music this year, an abundance of ideas for Christian Education, for taking on Natural Church Development, and for our Children's formation and ministry. Our planning also included the design and implementation of an Instructed Eucharist for the PromiseLand and YAL youth. It is so important to share with our youth *why it is we do what we do* in church on Sunday mornings! How incredible it is to pass on this incredible gift that we've been given. Thank you, Hilary, for the incredible work that you do for our children and youth!

While Hilary meets weekly with our youth in both PromiseLand and YAL, our babies and toddlers are thrilled to meet with their beloved Teuta Shurdha in "**The Nest**" Nursery. Teuta is truly a gift to CCDP. Her knowledge and experience with young children is exceptional, but it is her love of God that she shares with each and every child in her care that really excites us. Teuta's ministry to our little ones is such a blessing! Thank you, Teuta!

Along with study, it is important to acknowledge how important our pastoral visits are in the life of the community. Every month, Kevin and I continue to provide communion to the faithful lot at Belmont House. What a delight it is to see and hold the hands of the special and wise residents that make their way to the Activity Room on the first Thursday of every month to receive the reserved sacrament.

The clergy are not the only ones who visit those who are not able to worship within the community due to sickness or age. We have a wonderfully faithful and tireless team of parishioners who have been given the gift of compassion and love, and who serve on our **Pastoral Care Committee**, Chaired by David Moore. Every couple of months we come together in order to discuss who requires a visit by the clergy, and whose loneliness is subsided by the care and concern of our larger team when they visit. A very special thanks to all our Pastoral Care Team Members who have provided a multitude of visits this year to those “in need” within our congregation. God bless you.

When I am not ministering at CCDP, I continue my work on Area Council Budget Committee for our Bishop Patrick Yu. I really enjoy this work, and delight in the regular meetings of our fellow Anglicans within the Diocese.

As servants of Christ, we continue to take faithful steps forward in some of the more challenging, but important Diocesan initiatives, such as **Screening in Faith**. This is a priority for the safety and life of our CCDP family. This past year, we appointed a new Screening Officer, Edna Quammie. Edna has done a magnificent job of writing letters to parishioners, requesting that they update their training and police checks for all those involved in high risk ministries. We have organized Sexual Misconduct Training days in partnership with our neighbouring churches, as well as created a database to keep our secured files up to date. I am so thankful for the work that Edna has done, and for the support of our wardens in this process. Our promise is to keep working to ensure that CCDP is able to offer safe and healthy ministry to all of God’s people!

In other news, after a very successful series of confirmation classes, I was delighted to attend the Diocesan Confirmation service at the Cathedral last spring where both Jeremy Hogg and Hilary Keachie were confirmed in the Anglican Church! For our confirmation class this year, we will be joining with Grace Church on the Hill, once again, in order to form a collaborative class for our upcoming Confirmation Service and Episcopal visit on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

I thank Kevin, our Rector, for his ready and strong spirit, his inspired ways and for his compassionate heart for our God and for the people of Christ Church Deer Park. It is a pleasure and delight to serve with our ministry team, Paul, Hilary, Elisabeth, Matthew and Antoine, as we carry out our mission in this place. Many thanks as well to those involved in our Lay Readers ministry (thank you Michael and Margaret!) and to those who faithfully discern and deliver the Intercessions on behalf of our congregation. I have enjoyed working with you this past year.

In the midst of the exciting ministry that is happening at CCDP, it remains my goal to continue to build authentic community and loving relationships. It is also my continued joy to pray for, and help foster our community to come to know and deepen their relationship with Christ, who is our very foundation.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*The Reverend Andrea Christensen*

## Choir Director and Organist

At Christ Church Deer Park, music is an integral part of our liturgies. Since my arrival in March 2015, I have been impressed with our choir's great contribution to the life of this church community. As Choir Director & Organist, it has been humbling to continue building on the rich tradition of music at CCDP.

In 2015, the Choir of Christ Church Deer Park collectively dedicated over 3360 hours to its ministry. With a volunteer core of 17 members, plus the support of five professional choral leads, our choir continues to reach new levels of musical excellence. A number of initiatives have been developed to make this possible:

1. **Choral Leads:** We have put together an outstanding team of choral leads based on three criteria: superb vocal prowess as a soloist and chorister coupled with excellent musicality; strong musical leadership skills and commitment to collaboration; and pedagogical understanding of the voice as an instrument. Due to financial constraints we have reduced our section leads to five positions; however, the quality and level of music-making has not suffered. In a collaborative effort by the Management Team, the Rector and myself, choral lead contracts were drafted and implemented, specifying job descriptions, performance accountability, and remuneration. I am confident that this system will guarantee the highest possible calibre from our choral leads. On a personal note, I wish to thank and acknowledge our wonderful professionals, all of whom have Masters degrees in voice performance and have busy performing careers: Lauren Crowther (soprano), Julia Barber (mezzo soprano), Conrad Siebert (tenor), Bradley Christensen (baritone), Michael Uloth (bass).
2. **Pedagogy:** I am deeply committed to developing the gifts of our singers through music education and faith-formation. The overall choral tone has benefitted from increased attention to voice pedagogy within the rehearsal context. Choristers are taught healthy vocalism (developing their resonance and voice placement), musicianship, and aural skills. The rehearsals also strive to educate choristers in the role of our music in the liturgical context.
3. **Repertoire:** Remaining firmly rooted in the rich treasury of Anglican choral repertoire, we have also incorporated contemporary sacred choral music. In an attempt to build-up and animate congregational song, we have incorporated a number of new mass settings, psalmody, and hymnody. With our OneLicense account, we can reproduce such music in our Orders of Service to ensure community involvement. I thank Kevin and Andrea for allowing me the opportunity to, from time to time, introduce and teach new music to the congregation prior to the service.
4. **Music Library:** Upon my arrival, I discovered the music library to be disorganized, outdated, and dysfunctional. Thanks to the great efforts of Emily Chatten, Su Laine Varkey and myself, the library and music office have been re-organized and properly catalogued. Emily in particular has volunteered countless hours to digitizing and updating our catalogue system. We now have over 1000 titles in our library and we are slowly adding new works and replacing damaged music.
5. **Planning:** Music repertoire lists are available to our choristers by liturgical season. Our choristers are encouraged to take home their music and practice independently. I have been impressed with their openness and commitment to learning new repertoire and dedicating time outside of the rehearsal context to this ministry.

On November 8, 2015, The Choir of CCDP in collaboration with The Choir of Grace Church On-the-Hill and Timothy Eaton Memorial Church Choir presented Maurice Durufle's *Requiem* at Grace Church. This collaboration was the first musical partnership between these Churches On-the-Hill, with all proceeds going to the COTH Food bank. We look forward to strengthening this ecumenical relationship to present future concerts.

Lastly, it was with great delight that I worked with our young people from PromiseLand this past November and December in preparing them for the Christmas Pageant. Our children and young adults did a fantastic job and I was very pleased with their singing. I look forward to future opportunities.

On a personal note, I wish to thank Rev. Kevin Robertson, Rev. Andrea Christensen, Paul Marritt and Hilary Keachie, the Management Team, choristers and community for their continued enthusiasm and support of our music programme. I look forward to our continued collaboration to further enhance the congregational life at CCDP.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Matthew Otto*

## Director of Children and Youth Ministry

Every Sunday morning, 15 to 20 kids between the ages of 4 and 14 gathered together in the Chapel of St. Nicholas for stories, creative play, songs and drama. The kids were inquisitive, thoughtful and welcoming to new families. A strong sense of friendship and community has developed over the past years in PromiseLand and it's encouraging to see the kids continue to play – board games, cards or just running around – following our formal time together.

The PromiseLand programme followed the Christian Calendar, and we marked the major Holy Days and Seasons together (on our felt, colour coordinated liturgical calendar). The kids had been so excited and inspired by the Labyrinth the year before that we decided to undertake this Lenten practice once again. We built quite a complex Cretan 7 circuit Labyrinth using stones, tea light candles and branches. At the center, we placed a large wooden cross, a candle and water from the Holy Land. Every Sunday, we spent some quiet moments walking the Labyrinth and chanting Ubi Caritas (their favourite!), Bleibet Hier and Venite exultemus Domino. Lent began with a very well attended Family service following the Pancake Supper and ended with a solemn and moving Good Friday Stations of the Cross walk through the church. On Easter morning, 44 kids celebrated the Risen Christ a special Scavenger Hunt where they encountered Mary & Salome, John, Peter, the Angels and Mary Magdelene (played by our wonderful teens!), ate “Resurrection rolls” and collected symbols of this most amazing story.

During Eastertide, we explored the Parable of Jesus. We used *Godly Play* stories and materials to discover why parables are so precious, ask questions about their layers of meaning and think about why Jesus used such stories for his teachings. In September 2015, Gavin Keachie covered my maternity leave and engaged the kids with the narratives of Creation.

A major highlight of 2015 was our annual Christmas Pageant. The kids and teens worked tirelessly (and enthusiastically!) throughout November and December including making many of the props and attending extra music rehearsals with Matthew Otto. For the first time in many years, we had a real baby Jesus, played by my son Emmett, and the kids and teens were absolutely incredible with him. I heard such positive feedback about the pageant – the use of more traditional carols, the beautiful duet by Mary and Elizabeth, Joseph playing peek-a-boo and the adorable shepherds and sheep.

From August 24-28<sup>th</sup> 2015, Christ Church Deer Park also ran our second annual Vacation Bible Camp. We transformed Elliott Hall into wilderness of Israel and journeyed with young David as he fought giants, tricked King Saul and learned hospitality from Abigail. We had an amazing group of 27 participants, including 4 teen Leaders-in-Training, and 8 adult leaders. The week was full of wisdom from the Prophet Samuel, lively outdoor games including “Capture the Ark!”, making harps and paper mache masks and hiding from the ever lurking King Saul.

Young Anglican Leaders continued to be our youth leadership programme for teens in middle and high school.

Throughout 2015, YAL participated in weekly “Lunch & Learns” where we practiced how to serve in liturgy, created a YAL band featuring guitar, clarinet and vocals and had discussions about challenging Biblical texts. We also had monthly social events including a MasterChef competition, watching “Evan Almighty” and going skating. Our major community action in 2015 was making and serving a hot breakfast to those in need at the Community Breakfast once a month. In May, we also spent a day volunteering at St. John’s Mission where we learned about Orthodox traditions, toured their amazing center (including the delicious bakery!) and served lunch to over 30 guests.

In the winter, we teamed up with Grace Church-on-the-Hill and offered a six-week confirmation programme for teens. We followed the “I will with God’s Help” curriculum and had inspiring conversations about saints, the Apostles’ Creed and how to be a “good Samaritan”. We participated in the Diocesan Confirmation on Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> at St. James Cathedral.

The teens also demonstrated incredible maturity and dedication by regularly volunteering in PromiseLand and the Nest, serving as crucifer, acolytes and/or readers and taking on leadership roles with the Easter drama, Christmas Pageant and Vacation Bible Camp.

Another amazing year! The kids and teens of Christ Church Deer Park should indeed be proud of their learning, personal development and commitment to social action.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Hilary Keachie*

### **Anglican Church Workers (ACW)**

The ACW ladies met every Tuesday, some for friendship, others quilting and sorting jewelry. Lunch is at noon where announcements are made and following that is bridge.

Activities during the year consist of taking part in “World Day of Prayer”, and during Lent a series of lectures on Tuesdays. We helped out with the Rummage Sale, volunteering to help sort and sell. The highlight of the spring is the Annual Luncheon. Summer is quiet and then in September helping again with the Rummage Sale and in November the Christmas Fair which involves a lot of people. The year ends with our Christmas lunch with lots of carol singing and friendship.

Money raised by the ACW goes to the Church and Outreach.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Anne Le Feuvre, Joan Huycke*  
*Co-Presidents*

### **Challenging Christianity**

*Challenging Christianity* is an open adult discussion group which meets at lunch-time, on the second Friday of the month, during the Fall and winter, to exchange views on current challenges to Christianity from contemporary culture, e.g. over Christmas practices, and from Christianity to contemporary assumptions, e.g. re separate denominational worship. Topics are decided on by those present each month. Regular average attendance is between eight and twelve.

*Respectfully submitted*

*Peter Slater*  
*Chair*

## **Chancel Guild**

Chancel Guild Members “ensure that all services are carried out in decency and order”

The members have carried out their services in an excellent manner. The brass, silver, linens and candles have been kept in excellent condition. A special mention should be made of the contribution of Sandy Crane who launders the linens each week, with the exception of the large altar cloths which are looked after by Cathy Thomas.

The members look after decorating the Church at Christmas and also at Easter.

Jim Mclean deserves an honourable mention as he looks after all the liturgical supplies and tends to any repairs that are needed for the "liturgical vessels" over the year.

The flower arrangers are also members of the Guild and their arrangements over the year are always admired by all. The small brown envelopes help to defray the cost of the flowers at Easter and Christmas.

Thank you to all the members for your dedicated work for the Church.

Any ladies or gentlemen who would like to spend a quiet hour in the Sacristy doing God's work would be very welcome.

*Respectfully submitted*

*Maggie Symons  
Chair*

## **Community Breakfast**

Now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year, the Community Breakfast continues to run 3-4 Saturdays a month, serving a hot breakfast of oatmeal, sausages and scrambled eggs. We served over a 1000 guests, from all over the city (Steeles and Bayview to Lansdowne and Bloor). All are very appreciative of the safe environment, fellowship and the good food. Thank you to a dedicated group of volunteers, the YAL group (pick up one breakfast a month) and Peter, Robert, John, Ann, Nicholas (on his trips home from university), Mary Kay, Joyce, Joan, Edna, Deirdre, Michael, Walter, Elizabeth, Julie and Vickie who rise and shine for 7 am Saturday.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Anne Larkin  
Coordinator*

## **Congregational Care Team**

The dedicated team of volunteers listed below have met 6 times in the past year. Before each session we give thanks and praise for the commitment of our group and others in our church community who give care and comfort to those of our parish in need ,and ask God to sustain us with his Grace.

During the year we have been in touch regularly with 23 parishioners offering friendship, church news, shopping, transportation, and counseling. The welcoming smiles and words of appreciation are an incredible motivation to us all. We work closely with Andrea Christensen to exchange information on those of our parish in need. Our work would be destroyed without total

confidentiality.

This year we have had Tony vanStraubenzee and Cathy Thomas leave our team. I would like to thank them both for their help in the formation of our group and their empathy and care for those they contacted. William Jackson joined our group early in 2015 and has been wonderfully diligent and caring in reaching out to his contacts.

My admiration and thanks go to the following loving and caring people on the Congregational Care Team: Margo Bowen, Maggie Symons, Edna Quammie, Bob Reeves, William Jackson, Ann Larkin and Andrea Christensen.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*David Moore*

*Chair*

## **Diocesan Synod**

The 156<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod for the Diocese of Toronto was held in Richmond Hill on November 13 and 14, 2015. William Jackson, Kathleen Lindsay, and Al Rands attended on behalf of the parish as lay members, and Canon Kevin Robertson and Andrea Christensen attended as clerical members. Jenny Rieger attended as an appointee of the Bishop.

Several important motions were put before us for consideration. Synod approved one motion to name ten new canons and another to abolish the mandatory retirement age for clergy. A motion to allow non-synod members to be on various diocesan and synod committees was approved as a way of expanding the expertise available to the committees. The budget for the upcoming year was approved along with a motion to amend the timeframes for the election of bishops. However, a motion to reduce the size of Synod on the basis of economy was defeated.

At intervals throughout the business parts of the meetings, we were inspired by “Missional Moments” where we learned about the good works that various parishes are carrying out in their communities to meet the real needs of their friends and neighbours. The parishes conducted the activities on their own initiative or through a combination of FaithWorks or other grants.

Finally, elections were held for General Synod 2016, and Canon Kevin Robertson was among those chosen to participate and vote.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*William Jackson*

## **Hospitality**

Hospitality is a ministry at Christ Church Deer Park that lets us get to know each socially and allows us to honour and celebrate milestones such as the baptism of a child, the ordination of a curate, or the receipt of a special award by one of our members.

Hospitality is alive and well at Christ Church Deer Park. By way of example, over the course of the year, volunteers from our 10 AM Sunday Eucharist served up over 100 urns of coffee (at 35 cups to the urn), 156 pots of tea (at 5 cups per pot), 70 jugs of lemonade, and too many cookies to count!

Potlucks and special events (parish forum, Vestry etc.) were also well looked after by many volunteers who willingly stepped up to assist in making these events a success.

Thanks to all who helped out in the past year and a warm welcome to any newcomers who would like to get involved with this ministry.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*William Jackson*

## **Memorials Committee**

The Memorials Committee assists the Rector and Management Team in the design and purchase of memorials in the parish. There were no memorials in 2015.

*Respectfully submitted*

*Joan Huycke*

*Chair*

## **Natural Church Development**

*What is Natural Church Development?*

Natural Church Development (NCD) is essentially a spiritual “check-up” for churches: a process by which a parish can assess the quality of its church experience and identify opportunities for growth and renewal.

The premise of NCD is that healthy, growing churches share a number of common quality characteristics. These characteristics were distilled from surveys of approximately 1,000 churches in 32 countries independent of a church’s denomination, theology, ministry model, liturgical style or size. NCD is an objective, evidence-based tool by which we can measure how evident these characteristics are at CCDP relative to other churches and identify opportunities for growth and development.

The foundation for the process is the NCD survey, which provides a snapshot of how evident the quality characteristics are for a particular church at the time of the survey. From the survey results, a church’s least developed quality characteristic – its Minimum Factor – becomes the initial focus for identifying opportunities for growth and development. The analogy that NCD uses is a barrel of water: a barrel will only hold as much water as the shortest barrel stave allows – by lengthening the shortest barrel stave, the barrel will hold more water.

There have now been approximately 90,000 surveys carried out under the NCD process, including by over half the churches in the Diocese. The Diocese recommends the process and supports it by providing us with a NCD coach, who helps guide the process and acts as a resource for the NCD team.

*Why is it important?*

The ultimate objective of NCD is to guide churches through a long-term process of reflection and growth by focusing on the quality of our church experience, so that each church is the best church it can be. The findings from the NCD process will provide us with strategic direction and focus our efforts in identifying opportunities for growth and renewal at CCDP.

*What have we done and where are we going?*

A group of parishioners took the NCD survey last November. The results show that a number of the NCD quality characteristics, such as *Gift-based ministry*, *Empowering leadership*, and *Inspiring worship service*, come quite naturally to us. Others, such as *Passionate spirituality* and *Need-oriented evangelism*, do not come as naturally to us. People can see the results on our website.

Based on the survey, our Minimum Factor – our least developed quality characteristic – is *Passionate spirituality*. Consequently, the NCD team has been focusing since the survey on trying to find reasonable ways to heighten our consciousness of prayer and of our own personal experience of Jesus. This has included engaging with the Parish at the Parish Forum on January 10<sup>th</sup> and soliciting ideas on how we can effectively develop this aspect of our church experience.

The NCD team will continue to engage with the Parish on how the NCD process is unfolding and solicit the Parish's views on any resulting initiatives for growth and development.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Chris Byers, Anita Chung, Tony van Straubenzee, Barbara Johnston, Carolyn Kearns Kevin Robertson*

## **Property Committee**

Our parish family sits in an inherited historical home and we have a responsibility to maintain the fabric of our worship home and encourage changes to meet the needs of the church of tomorrow.

Over the past year the Property Committee has proceeded with some much needed repairs at Christ Church Deer Park, I hope you have noticed and approve of the improvements to our parish home. This much-needed work has freshened up our space.

I would like to thank Paul Marritt, Director of Parish Operations who did much of the coordinating of the work done in the building. Thank you Paul.

In November 2013, Halsall Associates was engaged to complete a 10-year Capital Plan for Christ Church Deer Park so that priorities could be set and appropriate financial reserves developed. The report, delivered in 2014, identified a number of maintenance items. We are following the Halsall Report's recommendations on a need basis. After considering quotes from three companies, DJMcRae Contractors was chosen to co-ordinate and proceed with much of this needed work. The cost estimate for all the work was \$106,066, and money was transferred from the Reserve Fund to help facilitate the completion of these projects.

The first two items from the Halsall report were code issues. The first was extensions to existing interior stair guards in the stairwells. While this work had to be done, a decision was made to paint the atrium and replace the carpet on the stairs to Elliott Hall — a much needed improvement. The second code issue was new guards at the north window wells by the parking lot and guards or grilles at the south window wells. The work on the outside of the building was completed in the late fall.

Other work was undertaken. In the main church and entrance ways to the worship space, some sections of walls were flaking and plaster needed to be fixed and walls repainted. The main church carpet has also been replaced. The Accessibility Ramp at the Heath Street entrance has been repaired. Two trees, one that was dead and the other dying, at the back of the parish property were removed.

Two further items of work would not be noticeable to parishioners on a daily basis. One was repair and refurbishment of a section of floor in the Oriole Co-operative Nursery School and repair of tile floor at the bottom of the stairwell to the Community Hall Space. The other is the repair of one of the roof top furnaces.

The Property Committee has updated Ten Year Capital Plan, this assumes that the operations of the Church will continue at their current levels, including Ministries and Programs; building and facilities usage and Parishioner demographics.

The plan does not address possible broader Issues raised by a changing Strategic Vision: our Ministries; the number and characteristics of our parishioners; development opportunities of our property; nor a changing financial position. Such changes could have major impacts on the later phases of the Ten Year Capital Plan. The cost of all projects over the ten year period from 2014 to 2023 is \$1,211,490. As you can see these are serious numbers and provide fruit for thought on our own personal stewardship.

The Property Committee looks forward to the challenges of 2016, if you have any questions or suggestions, please speak to any of us.

Finally I would like to thank the members of the Property Committee: Walter Blackwell, Art Huycke, Al Rands and Andrew van Nostrand for their time and commitment to this important area of parish responsibility.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Kathy Lindsey  
Chair*

## **Refugee Committee**

Many members of the parish were moved by the desperate images of Syrians fleeing their war-torn homeland in the summer and fall of 2015. In response, special meetings were called on Sunday after the 10 o'clock service and we decided to investigate the possibility of sponsoring a refugee family. An interim committee was struck, and we contacted AURA, the Anglican and United Church Refugee organization which arranges sponsorships. We then distributed a questionnaire in October to members of the parish to gauge the level of support, financial and otherwise for such a project.

The overwhelmingly positive response, encouraged us to commit to a sponsorship through AURA. We proceeded with a fundraising campaign before Christmas which raised enough money to go forward with the sponsorship. The interim committee then became an official committee of the parish. Guided by the experience and wisdom of other sponsorship groups in the city, we assigned tasks to allow us to move forward with the details of settlement. On 4 January 2016, we were informed that we had been paired with a Syrian family of five. On 14 January we were given details of the family, who were living in a refugee camp in Jordan and we were told they might be arriving within the next six weeks. On Thursday 4 February we learned that the family would be arriving on Saturday. On Monday 8 February, members of the committee picked up the the Alkadri family from a hotel and took them to their temporary lodgings at De la Salle School, where they will be living until they move to an apartment in Thorncliffe Park on 1 March 2016.

The committee's chief work in 2016 is to ensure the successful integration of our family into Canadian life.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*John Godfrey*  
*Chair*

## **Sides Duty**

Every Sunday four of the parishioners participating in this Ministry, greet Service attendees and welcome newcomers, and, during the Service, present Offerings and manage the flow of those taking Communion.

The number of participants in this Ministry appears to be gradually decreasing and now numbers approximately 20.

We are always ready to recruit those who may wish to serve in this Ministry of welcoming

*Respectfully submitted*

*Al Rands*  
*Chair*

## **Spiritus**

It takes a parish to create a newsletter, and Christ Church Deer Park has done just that. Between September 2015 and January 2016, we produced three issues of Spiritus, and judging from the feedback, our newsletter is well received.

Spiritus is a form of ministry at Christ Church Deer Park where the gifts and talents of many people converge around a few simple principles:

- Spiritus is to be produced joyfully, as it represents an opportunity, not an obligation, for us to communicate with each other.
- Spiritus intentionally contains different voices. This is apt because Christ Church Deer Park is a community of people with different understandings of what it means to be Christian. Any parishioner, clergy, or staff person is welcome to contribute. There is no need for “permission” and no expectation of conformity.
- Spiritus is eclectic. It publishes reports, opinion pieces, educational items, and other submissions on topics that contributors are moved to ponder, investigate, or write about. It also blends religious and secular content. Some contributors choose to express their religious inclinations overtly. Others do not. Spiritus respects each person’s preferences.
- Spiritus will be published only three times in any twelve-month period: September, Advent, and Lent. This is to prevent the newsletter from becoming onerous for those involved in its production.

Every issue of Spiritus is a collaborative effort, from identifying potential issues and topics through to printing. On behalf of the parish, I recognize and thank all those who have contributed to the production of our newsletter including,

- Those who wrote for Spiritus and/or agreed to be written about. Developing an article and participating in the editing process take time—a lot of it. Being published also involves a certain amount of vulnerability. I admire the contributors’ courage and their willingness to expose to our scrutiny some of their innermost thoughts.
- Those who submitted photographs, which enlivened the newsletter. Theirs was time and attention well spent.
- Those involved in physical production—Paul Marritt, our director of parish operations, and the volunteers who assist him—whose work includes printing, stapling, folding as well as posting the newsletter on the Christ Church Deer Park website.
- The audacious Church Mouse, for those cheesy—I mean, cheeky—columns on parish life, as a result of which I now monitor my behaviour much more carefully!
- Those who read Spiritus, including parishioners who are unable to attend worship services due to ill health or other reasons. Your encouraging and positive feedback means a lot to us and makes us want to continue.
- To the wonderful Henry Zaluski who happily volunteers his professional time plus his visual and design skills. Without him, Spiritus would simply not be possible. Thanks to Henry—who works on the newsletter after hours or on his days off—our newsletter is readable, attractive, and visually compelling.

It is thrilling to be part of an activity at Christ Church Deer Park that brings people together while at the same time allowing them to be themselves. Thank you for the privilege of serving as the editor of Spiritus.

*Respectfully submitted’  
Genevieve Chornenki*

## **Stewardship Committee**

This has been a busy and revitalized year for the Stewardship Committee. We worked with a team that included committee members (Michael Baker, Pat Butler, Bob Hutchison, Innes van Nostrand, David Moore, Pam Taylor, and Richard Varkey), and volunteers (Tony van Straubensee, Bob Reeves, Barbara Johnston, Henry Zaluski, Carolyn Kearns, and Kevin Robertson) who together contributed to making some very positive strides this year, despite some challenging circumstances.

This year, the committee provided three phrases of stewardship. In the spring, we undertook annual written thanking and updating of CCDP donors. In the late fall, we undertook a comprehensive full parish solicitation (via presentations, letters, calls, and visits) with the goal of eliminating the 2015 deficit, and in early 2016, we did a further follow-up thank you to those members of the parish who contributed to the “top-up” request to eliminate the deficit.

In summary, these were the results of giving to Christ Church Deer Park:

- Regular giving (collection plate, credit cards, cheques, PACs): \$541,745 (\$521,597 in 2014)
- Legacies, Bequests, Memorials: \$32,131 (\$193,282 in 2014)
- Contributions to Refugee Program: \$44,146 (n/a in 2014) (Done by the Refugee Committee)
- Number of Donors: 378 (400 in 2014)

These numbers include the 37 members of the parish who responded to the top-up request and contributed an additional \$59,995 to their 2014 giving. This amount will increase by United Way

gifts to Christ Church Deer Park made in 2015 but booked in 2016. We are most grateful to these donors.

These results are terrific news. It shows that we *do* have the ability to address the financial needs of our parish. The results also illustrate the stewardship challenges that we have. Most significantly, we are losing members of the parish, including some of our most financially generous ones, through infirmity and death. While we are adding to the parish roster, the additions do not equal the losses, so congregational growth must remain a top priority. Also along this theme, the committee has identified the need to launch a more formal planned giving program, encouraging parishioners to consider arranging bequests to CCDP. This can be particularly important for more senior members of the community whose assets are healthier than their incomes.

Other future priorities include: making application to the Diocese to assist us in setting up a more fulsome system to better utilize technology for the annual stewardship campaigns; increasing the number of contributors using pre-authorized bank debit (credit cards are an expensive way to give, and periodic envelope gifts — while traditional and always welcome — are inefficient and unreliable); and more regular and effective communication with respect to stewardship. You will hear more from the committee in the future.

We would like to extend our great thanks to the members of the committee, our additional volunteers, the clergy and staff (Paul Marritt and Elisabeth Lunder) for their major contributions to CCDP through this important work. All of them pitched in, making calls, reporting and, in all cases, leading by example with their own stewardship commitments. They prove that we have a talented and dedicated pool of parishioners who are committed to enhancing our stewardship efforts and that a focused and orderly campaign can make a difference.

The overall objective of parish leadership — not alone but in collaboration with all members of the parish — must be to stabilize and secure our longer-term financial position. Financial stability in a modern congregation like ours requires that stewardship be “top of mind, all the time,” and we plan to build on our recent efforts to make that so. Of course, there are real challenges — including a weak economy — but finances ought not to be the biggest challenge facing a congregation like Christ Church Deer Park.

The stewardship committee plans to be busy in 2016. We want to stabilize where we are in funding our current programs and be ready to fund the new and exciting programs that are possible. The committee members are always available to discuss stewardship with you and welcome any help and contribution to the committee’s work that you can offer.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Bob Hutchison and Innes van Nostrand  
Co-Chairs*

## **The Churches on the Hill Food Bank**

Now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year, we served over 11,000 clients last year, our highest number in 5 years, providing over 110,000 meals. We continue to buy approximately 70% of our food (noting a 10% increase in food costs) with Daily Bread providing 20% and the balance coming from the participating churches, food drives and the community. A truly dedicated, committed group of volunteers come 1 to 2 times a week to once every 4 weeks to restock and repackage food, interview and/ or give out

food to the clients or make referrals to resources (ie. housing, clothing, medical) in the community from the Community Information Centre.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Larkin*

## **Trust Committee**

The CCDP Trust Committee oversees the investments of the various trust funds (see below) held by CCDP. The Committee is composed of five parishioners appointed by Corporation. Throughout 2015, its members were:

Franck Perrin Co-chair  
Jill MacRae Co-chair  
Robert Morrow  
Kathleen Kent  
Michael Butler  
Rev. Kevin Robertson, *ex-officio*  
Paul Marritt, *Director of Parish Operations*, staff support

The responsibilities of the Committee are as follows:

1. Engage an Investment Advisor to advise on the management of the Trust Funds in accordance with these Terms of Reference;
2. Evaluate the performance of the Investment Advisor annually. Such evaluation could lead to the replacement of the Investment Advisor;
3. Evaluate the performance of the Trust Funds at least semi-annually;
4. Review the Trust Funds for compliance with these Terms of Reference at least semi-annually;
5. Report to Management Team as requested and at least annually;
6. Report to the annual Vestry meeting;
7. Review these Terms of Reference annually, with any substantive proposed changes first being submitted to Management Team for comment; and
8. Carry out these responsibilities with the diligence, independence and objectivity reasonably expected of a volunteer committee.

The Committee met twice formally and twice informally (by email), focusing on matters such as:

1. Reviewing the performance of the portfolio and individual holdings with Bruce Moore CIBC, our financial advisor/stock broker, on a regular basis; and
2. Making any changes deemed necessary to the composition of the portfolio

The Investment Objectives for the Trust Funds are:

1. Preservation of Capital;
2. Provision of secure income for the operations of the Church;
3. Capital appreciation without undue risk;
4. Achieve an annual total rate of return on the funds that exceeds the rate of inflation by 3% over the most recent 4 years period; and
5. Achieve the specific investment policy for each of the Funds (see below).

## Description & Balance of the Funds

### **1. Endowment Fund: \$ 1,296,998**

The Endowment Fund was established in 1963 to receive gifts of money which were to be placed in approved investments to be selected and monitored by the Trust Committee. The investment income from the Fund may be used for such purposes as the Corporation sees fit. Such purposes would generally include any operating expenses of the Church. The capital of the Endowment Fund may not be withdrawn. Any investment income not used by the Corporation in any year shall be added to the capital of the Fund and thereafter may not be withdrawn.

*Investment Policy:* invest in long-term assets to generate current income whilst preserving capital.

### **2. 1870 Fund: \$ 220,912**

Established by approval of vestry on October 14, 2007. Investment income may be used for the operations of the Church. Any use of the Capital of the Fund above \$35,000 in any calendar year will require prior approval of Vestry. As at December 31, 2012, the 1870 Fund had a loan receivable of \$85,000 from Corporation. The original loan was for \$110,000.

*Investment Policy:* those funds not required in the current fiscal year should be invested in long-term assets to generate capital growth whilst preserving capital.

### **3. Woodcock Theological Fund: \$ 60,812**

This fund was created with a bequest from Canon Woodcock. No further contributions to this fund will be accepted. As Canon Woodcock did not specify how the funds should be used, vestry determined that income from the funds should be applied to theological education including the continuing education of the ministry staff of Christ Church Deer Park. Capital of the fund may not be withdrawn.

*Investment Policy:* invest in long-term assets to generate current income whilst preserving capital.

### **4. Ministry Funds: \$ 61,898**

This fund was created with a donation from a single parishioner. The funds are to be held pending agreement between the Rector and the donor on a suitable expenditure or expenditures.

*Investment Policy:* Maintain liquidity and preserve capital.

### **5. Rectory Fund: \$ 1,050,556**

This fund was created with the proceeds from the sale of the rectory. The funds are held and invested by the Diocese on behalf of Christ Church Deer Park. Currently the income generated is forwarded to Corporation to meet annual operating/programme expenses.

*Investment Policy:* invest in long-term assets to generate current income whilst preserving capital.

### **6. Re-Imagining Church: \$ 228,497**

## Performance of the Funds: 01/01/2015 - 12/31/2015

<b>Starting Value</b>	<b>\$ 1,886,344.60</b>
Inflows	\$ 202,957.88
Outflows	\$ -167,398.42
Revenues	\$ 56,454.05
<b>Ending Value</b>	<b>\$ 1,924,518.01</b>
<b>Performance – Net</b>	<b>0.221 %</b>

Notes:

1. The income from the Rectory Fund accrues to CCDP. The initial principal was generated through the sale of a residence previously purchased for the use of a previous Minister.
2. It is the policy of the Anglican Church of Canada that it is the ultimate beneficiary of all funds held by or on behalf of CCDP.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Franck Perrin and Jill MacRae,  
Co-Chairs*

### **Christ Church Deer Park 2015 Attendance Statistics**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>Average Weekly (total divided by 52)</b>
8:00 am	1,166	22
10:00 am	7,391	142
Afternoon	2,567	49
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,124</b>	<b>214</b>

Number of people in church at Easter Vigil/Easter Day (3 services) = **511**

Number of people in church on Christmas Eve/Day (4 services) = **612**

Average attendance at the Wednesday 7:30 am Eucharist = **16**

Average attendance at Church on Tap = **37**

Average attendance at Jazz Vespers = **135**

**Average Sunday attendance (includes all Sunday services) = 215**

**Average weekly attendance (all services except wedding & funerals) = 262**

**Closing Hymn** Let All Things Now Living *The Ash Grove*

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
to God the creator triumphantly raise,  
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
Love's banners are o'er us, God's light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light into Light.

God's law still enforces the stars in their courses  
and causes the sun in its splendour to shine;  
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
the deeps of the ocean in praises combine.  
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration a song let us raise  
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:  
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"