



**THE VINE: SPRING EDITION**  
**GROWING TOGETHER**

**OUR MISSION**

Proclaiming in word and deed the good news of God in Christ and equipping one another to grow in faith as disciples of Jesus...

**WORSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP**

through prayer, Bible study, Lenten courses, music, newsletter articles, Sunday School, prayerful doodling, presentations, cemetery stewardship...

**SERVICE AND FRIENDSHIP**

shared meals, charitable giving, community engagement, games galore, coffee hour, gardening, visiting, youth group, planning a sign...



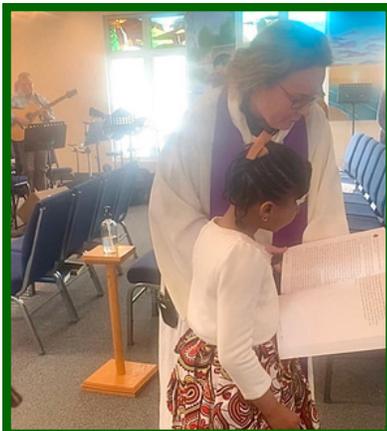
March Party for Children and their Grown-ups

**A COMMUNITY INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT TO FOLLOW JESUS**



Anglicanism 101

**ENHANCING OUR FAITH DEVELOPMENT**



*"To [my children] the Church is a place of love, acceptance and inclusion and I love that so much for them...the church, [is] the Jesus they see and you couldn't show a better example of Christ's love."*



**PARISH LIFE ON SHROVE TUESDAY**

## FROM THE PULPIT

### PREAMBLE FOR THE SERMON CONVERSION ON THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY - FEB. 9, 2025

The story of Jesus' call to the first disciples, as told by Luke, is full of drama with a miraculous catch of fish that threatens to break the nets and sink the boats but I want to draw your attention to the moment just before the miracle – the moment that Simon, in spite of how tired he must have been; in spite of knowing how futile it would be; in spite of his own superior expertise in the art of fishing; the moment that Simon let down the nets because Jesus said so.

The problem with stories is that we only record the good ones – the ones with action and drama. We don't bother with the story of the night Peter and his friends just spend on the lake with no fish to show for it. We jump to the story with the miracle.

We all know the story of Rosa Parks who refused to give up her seat on the bus and sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott – but we don't know the stories of all the other Black people who, for the previous century, had been bodily protesting racial segregation on transit in the United States – Elizabeth Jennings Graham, Charlotte Brown, Ida B. Wells, Homer Plessy, Adeline McBean.

We know the story of Alexander Flemming and the dramatic, accidental discovery of penicillin – but not the stories of the scientists – Florey, Chain, Heatley and others – who did the painstaking work of turning the discovery into something usable.

We know the story of Julian of Norwich and her visions but don't know the stories of so many other women who shared her call to a life of prayer and witness as anchorites without the glory of a vision – or at least the opportunity to write a book.

We know the big stories but we need to remember that following Jesus is mostly the slow, steady part – with only flashes of brilliance and transformation.

Simon let down his nets, tired or re-energized; resentful or hopeful – and a miracle happened. His faithful obedience resulted in a transformation of his life – and not his alone, as his journeys with Jesus became the lifelong work of building the church.

And we know that, even after a miracle, the years that followed were filled with many, many nights of bringing up empty nets. We catch glimpses of the frustration and the exhaustion and the worry in the stories of the Gospel and we know them from our own experience of the imperfection of the world.

But nonetheless: we let down our nets.

What does this look like in your life? In our parish life?

## CONNECTING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

An increasing number of children and teens have been engaging with St. Helen's in a variety of ways – worshipping on Sundays, attending Sunday School, preparing for baptism, volunteering, looking towards confirmation, gathering for video game parties and children's programming.

As a parish, we are called to walk with these young people as they grow in faith. **How are you, as an individual, called to share in this sacred responsibility?**



## BAPTISMAL CANDLES



## RENTALS AT ST. HELEN'S

So far, in 2025 we have raised over \$6000 through:

- 6 recurring rentals (weekly, monthly, or seasonally)
- 5 occasional rentals, including
  - 2 elections
  - 1 wedding reception
  - 1 concert
  - 1 worship service for St. Elias Orthodox Cathedral

This is an increase of over \$3000 from the same period last year!

Thank you to Joanne Henderson and the Property Committee for coordinating and supporting this work!



## A LOOK AHEAD

### I INTEND

*I Intend* is a spiritual formation program that helps participants take a deep dive into stewardship as it relates to their whole life. St. Helen's will be launching *I Intend* in September, with months dedicated to thinking about the way we steward the environment, our time, our treasure, our mental and physical well-being, and our talents. Worship, speakers, and small groups will help us prepare personal statements of intention, grounded in a process of discernment and prayer.

Watch for the invitation to facilitator training this June.

## PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS... ON A SIGN!

At the last Vestry meeting, we decided it was time, once again, for St. Helen's to have a sign. We want to increase our visibility and our ability to communicate who we are and what we are up to on this beautiful corner of Prestone Drive.

A team was formed and is hard at work. We are developing plans for a sign that includes a digital display for maximum flexibility as well as a beautiful static display that will incorporate an image of a vine along with our name and address.

**We want people to know that this is a place of life and love, rooted in God and growing in faith, and open to all.**

You can make a donation to the sign project via Canada Helps (link on our homepage at sthelens.ca) or by cheque (made out to St. Helen's Anglican Church).



*Our new vine will be something like this one but probably not quite the same.*

## FAREWELLS AND HELLOS

We will send the Rev. Stephanie McWatt off with gratitude for her time with us on July 27<sup>th</sup>. She will be missed!



We will welcome the Rev. James Duckett into our midst at his first service with us on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

# FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

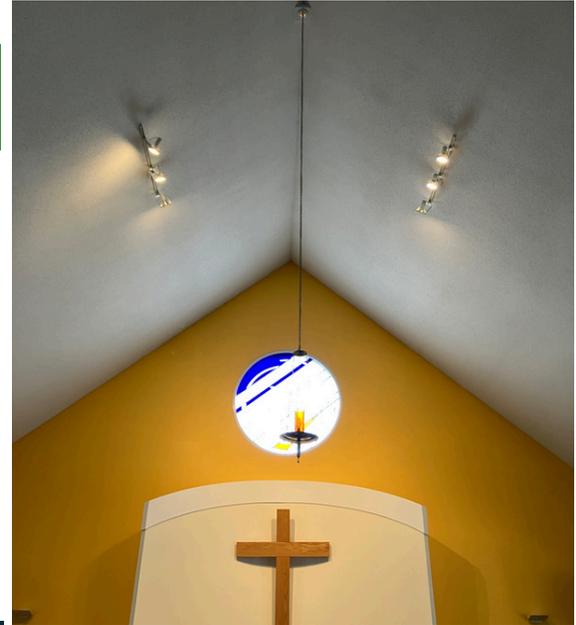
BY LOUISE GARRAHAN, TREASURER

As your treasurer, I'm pleased to share that our spending remains under budget for the first part of the year. While our income is a little behind where we'd hoped, we're still on track overall.

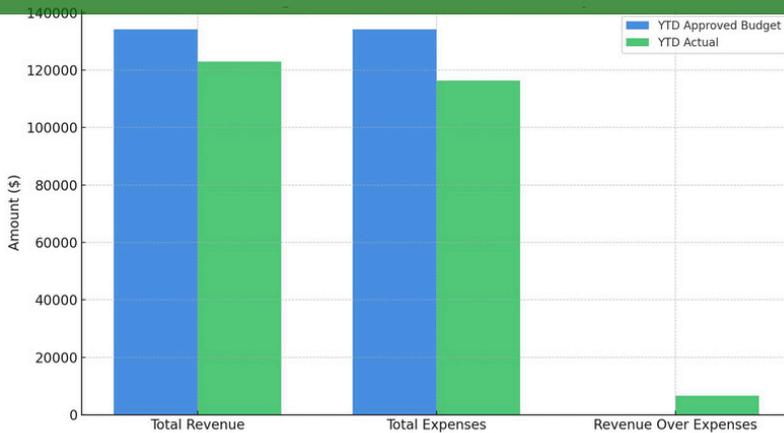
Thank you for your continued support, especially for the generous gifts received during Lent and Easter.

## ONGOING ECOLOGICAL INVESTMENTS TO OUR PROPERTY

Installing LED spotlights above our altar is one step towards making our lighting more energy efficient.



### FINANCIAL SUMMARY MARCH 2025



### Summary of Yearly Identifiable Member Donations

Donations	Donors	Amount	% of		Cumulative Total	
			Donations	Members	% Donations	% of Donors
10 Largest member donors	10	99,910	25%	6%	25%	6%
Next 15 (over \$4,500 to 7,000)	15	84,845	21%	8%	46%	14%
\$3000 to \$4500	32	79,236	20%	18%	66%	32%
\$1800 to \$3000	19	61,884	15%	11%	81%	43%
\$1000 to \$1800	38	47,110	12%	21%	93%	64%
Less than \$1000	64	27,476	7%	36%	100%	100%
	178	400,461	100%			

## IN NUMBERS

- 1 Wedding
- 1 Baptism
- 2 Reaffirmations
- 3 Funerals
- 1 Pancake Supper
  - 16 kg beans
  - 25 kg of sausages
  - 160 people
- 11 Holy Week services
- 266 worshippers on Easter Sunday

Last year, our parish family showed strong support through a wide range of giving levels. While most donors gave at modest levels, every contribution helped us meet our ministry goals. A small number of households gave larger gifts, which made a big impact on our financial health.

We are grateful for every donor—your generosity sustains the life and mission of St. Helen's.