

ANNUAL REPORT - 1992

VESTRY MEETING

held on

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 1993

Order of Business:

1. Incumbent takes chair,
2. Opening Prayer
3. Appointing Vestry clerk (secretary)
4. Reading, correcting and confirming minutes of last meeting
5. Incumbents report
6. Wardens financial report (audited)
7. Wardens recommendations re Parish portion of Diocesan Outreach and other Diocesan requests for funds.
8. Adopting budget for ensuing year
9. Advisory Board Report
10. Envelope Secretary's report
11. Appointments and elections
  - a. Churchwardens
  - b. Lay members of synod (1 and alternative)
  - c. Envelope Committee and secretary
  - d. Parochial Tribunal
  - e. Advisory Board
  - f. Auditors
  - g. Other officers or committees
12. Report of parochial organizations : Outreach, ACW, Youth, Christian Education, Trust, Liturgy,
13. General Business
14. Adjournment

BISHOP

The Most Reverend Terence Finlay

INCUMBENT

The Reverend Christian Swayne O.H.C.

HONORARY ASSISTANTS

The Reverend Bruce Alton  
The Reverend Dick Johns

RECTOR'S WARDEN

Mrs. Yvonne Johns

PEOPLE'S WARDEN

Mr. John Gower

DEPUTY WARDENS

Stephanie Christakos  
Fred Addis

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Lynda Woolrich

CUSTODIAN

Steve Pealow

ORGANIST

Mr. Robbie Beaumont

TREASURER

Mr. Anthony Ruta

ENVELOPE SECRETARY

Miss Ida Brittain

LAY MEMBER OF SYNOD

Mrs. Adrienne Roffey  
Lynda Woolrich (Alternate)

## Rectors Report:

In today's Epistle (1 Cor 1:18-31) St Paul contrasts the foolishness of the Gospel and the wisdom of the world. The wisdom of the world is all that is established, customary, traditional, in Culture and Religion (Jews and Greeks in Paul's imagery) - and the foolishness of the Gospel is the new insight, the Spirit lead change. The common experience is that generation after generation, change is experienced first as foolishness. Universal male suffrage, votes for women, abolishing slavery, workers rights, all were foolishness in their day. Women priests, gay rights ... there is always an established wisdom and there is always a foolishness challenging it.

I don't know if our age is faced with more foolishness than most or not. But certainly we do seem to be challenged on every front with new foolishness. In the political, economic and social/cultural arenas our world is changing out of recognition before our eyes. Religion and St John's parish life are not exempt from any of this, and we find ourselves caught up in the foolishness of Christ.

We have in some measure risen to the challenge. A regular Bible study is now in place. We produced a parish statement on sexuality for the Bishop, We have received some new members, There is a committee on Evangelism beginning to function. The Sunday School is firmly established and functioning smoothly and the youth group is growing. But there is still a long way to go.

Financially we are dependant on reserves set aside in past prosperity. This is correct for the present moment, but only if we use this opportunity to address how we will support our life and ministry in the new age coming. Every business in the country is facing the same challenge.

A few years ago we established a Day care center in our basement as a non profit outreach project. The day care is successfully non profit, balanced delicately at break even - which is a great achievement. We owe a vote of congratulations to the Staff and Board members who have made this work so quickly successful. With the Day care and the various AA and guide groups that use our basement that space is in close to maximum usage, all non profit. The same is NOT true of the upstairs space, and we have taken steps to look at a more creative use of this space.

St John's is within the size range of some 85 % of all N. American parishes. But the small parish may be as endangered as species as the Corner Grocery and the Family Farm. Evangelism and membership growth must be a priority in our planning. Our mission statement as produced under Gerald Robinson's leadership gives us a clearer understanding of who we are; we have a solid core of committed and hard working members; there is an almost unlimited potential in our immediate neighborhood; It is time to get moving.

Today's Gospel Beatitudes list foolishnesses by which we enter the blessedness of God. Spiritual simplicity, Repentance, Humility, Obedience, Mercy, Single Heartedness, Peace Making, Suffering with the Oppressed. These are the ways of the Christ, the antidote to the folly of the world's wisdom.

Let us remember with gratitude those members of the Parish who have kept the faith and entered into rest during the past year:  
 Margaret Chambers,  
 Lorene Garrett,  
 Leslie Shoebridge

Marriages 3  
 Baptisms 5  
 Burials 3

Attendance:	1992	1991
Ash Wed	35	43
Maundy Thurs	65	60
Good Fri	94	99
Easter	171	191
Pentecost	76	123
Christmas Eve	112	96
Christmas Day	30	40
Average	77	93

ENVELOPE SECRETARY'S REPORT

January, 1992, 88 sets of envelopes were issued. During the year 9 sets were not used and some were partially used. Some members of the congregation give quarterly or annually but do not want to receive envelopes. They are issued a receipt at the end of the year.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Ida Brittain

**REPORT ON COMMITMENT CARDS FOR 1993**

This report has been prepared on the basis of commitment cards returned. Commitments for 1993 contained in cards returned (with 1992 comparison)

Returned commitment cards for year	<u>1992</u> 36	<u>1993</u> 31
Total of commitments from returned cards	\$37,466	\$32,514
Projected commitment decrease 1993 over 1992 - \$4952.		

Note: 115 commitment cards were distributed for 1993  
 as against 130 for 1992

FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, WEST TORONTO  
DECEMBER 31, 1992

REVENUE INCOME SOURCE	BUDGET 1992	ACTUAL	BUDGET 1993
General Acct. Balance	0.00	as of DEC. 31, 1992	
<b>Collections</b>			
Envelope Givers	70000.00	54348.75	55000.
Open Collection	2000.00	1786.66	2000.
Easter	1200.00	1103.00	1200.
Thanksgiving	500.00	185.00	200.
Christmas	2000.00	1806.00	2000.
Lenten Offering	600.00	381.31	400.
General Donations	0.00	8649.00	0.
Memorial Donations	0.00	300.00	0.
Specified Donations	0.00	1933.57	0.
Church School	0.00	123.75	0.
Luncheon Donations	0.00	131.75	0.
<b>Fundraising</b>			
Bridgehead	40.50	1388.35	0. (keep 10%)
Fundraising for Boiler	4000.00	2984.58	4000.
Pennies	50.00	55.92	
<b>Bank</b>			
Bank Interest	150.00	569.97 (22.24)	0. Gen/tst
Bank Interest Prov. of Ont.	0.00	697.75	0. Trust
Equitable Trust	0.00	553.62	0. Trust
<b>Property</b>			
A.A. Contributions	5400.00	3569.00	4800.
From Dio. - House	8100.00	8642.42	8000.
From Dio. - Rectory	13600.00	11358.10	12000.
Interest from Day Care	9600.00	9288.18	8900.
<b>Expenses (monies that come in to help offset expenses)</b>			
Sanctuary	2000.00	1177.62	1200.
From Day Care	0.00	17901.05	0.
<b>In and Out</b>			
From Day Care - Principal	0.00	1384.02	0.
Faith-in-Action	0.00	2135.17	0.
Ferry Defense Fund	0.00	60.00	0.
Stop 103	0.00	1115.00	0.
Outreach	0.00	479.20	0.
P.W.R.D.F.	0.00	655.50	0.
Total Income for	124200.00	134764.24	99700.
Trust Monies		-3541.10	
General Account Income		131223.14	
Reserves (deficit)	17600.00	34305.20	32450.
	=141800.00	165528.34	132150.

DISBURSEMENTS	BUDGET 1992	ACTUAL	NET*	Budget 1993
<b>Monthly Expenses</b>				
Allotment	23300.00	23222.04		23300.
Fuel	2500.00	7976.20	2392.84	2500.
Utilities	2300.00	5666.37	2547.66	2600.
Maintenance	4200.00	5413.37	4606.50	4200.
Salaries	85000.00	84129.67	*****	84000.
Employer Costs	3700.00	3843.29		3800.
Post., Print., Stat.	3200.00	1634.23	1145.96	1800.
<b>Occasional or Quarterly</b>				
Advertising	500.00	283.86		300.
Capital	12000.00	19615.70		6000.
Sanctuary + Music	900.00	1914.78		900.
Christian Education	1500.00	733.22		800.
Miscellaneous	0.00	905.27		
<b>Yearly</b>				
Property Insurance	1200.00	3909.00	1172.70	1200.
Audit Fee	1500.00	0.00		750.
Bank Charge	0.00	26.75		0.
<b>In/Out</b>				
Day Care - F.I.A.		2135.17		
Defense Fund		60.00		
Stop 103		1115.00		
P.W.R.D.F.		655.50		
Special Outreach		904.90		
\$100,000 Loan		1384.02		
<b>Total</b>	<b>141800.00</b>	<b>165528.34</b>		<b>132150.</b>

Please note the NET\* figures are what the church actually paid after the day care had paid its share of the bills.

\*\*\*\*\* The York Rectory Fund contributed 5799.96 to the incumbent's stipend and is not included in the salary figure because it is only a paper figure.

## ANNUAL WARDENS REPORT

The budget and the financial report for 1992-93 raise a major concern for the parish in 1993. The wardens have discussed the current concerns, and would like to make some recommendations and comments for your consideration.

In 1991 we had a budget deficit of \$17,600. In 1992 we had a deficit of \$34,405.20. Of this deficit, \$32,535.70 was for building repairs and maintenance; \$24,826.94 was for the furnace and \$5009. was for the roof. In other words, all but \$1769.50 was for building maintenance and repairs.

Our disbursements for the 1992 budget were \$141,800. and for the 1993 budget are \$132,150. You will see the major items are allotment and salaries.

The items that have decreased are collections and fundraising.

1) The wardens strongly recommend we apply to the trustees of the Property Fund to request reimbursement for \$29,835. for the boiler and the roof in 1992. We also strongly recommend that St. Johns pay its full allotment to the diocese for 1993.

2) The wardens are directing a letter to David Ptolemy, Secretary-Treasurer of the Diocese, outlining our financial status and stating that we may have to review our ability to pay our full allotment for 1994.

3) The wardens strongly recommend that the parish as a whole enter into monthly fund-raising events to be planned for seven of the months in 1993. The dance on February 13 will be the first event. Each event will be planned and hosted by a different configuration of people.

The budget as it is presented is a bare bones budget. And yet, the deficit is not going to go away. In the past we were able to build up a surplus every year. That is no longer happening. The Day Care Board is beginning to take responsibility for its own finances, however it is a non-profit organization and will not be a source of income for us. They are paying us interest, and will eventually pay back the principal on the loan from us, but that is not the same as regular income.

Our parish base needs to be broadened. We have made a good beginning with plans. Further, I would like to hear some concrete realistic positive ideas about "where do we go from here?" to broaden our base and to begin toward a small surplus every year so we can get on with our plans.

No single idea is too small. It's when we put them together with God's help tha they become bigger than we are.



St. John's Church, West Toronto

Report on Seminar on Space and Worship on Sunday January 17th 1993

At the seminar we discussed the mission or Ministry of our church. In the discussions it became apparent that for this community the Work of the People takes place outside the church itself. Our worship is in the church, but our work is in the world.

Some members have enrolled in changing the structures of society. Their ministry is the ministry of Justice. They practice a liberation theology. They seek peace, nourishment, justice, and fulfillment for all. This work shows up as support for the peace movement, for refugees, for the women's movement, for the oppressed, for all those marginalised by society. Their intent is to transform society, to create a world fit for the second coming of Christ.

Other people follow the ministry of Dedication, For some this consists of pursuing a vocation or career: teaching, healing, leading, guiding. For others this ministry expresses itself as living a decent life, as offering up one's daily work as a gift to God. This is a serving ministry; it finds expression in the ministry of Worker Priests.

In the Mandala diagram, these two ministries, Justice and Dedication, are linked through the Ministry of Contemplation. This ministry has a community focus on the wonderment of God. With our brothers and sisters we adore the Lamb, and praise God's holy Name. It gives us respite from the tensions and struggles of our work in the world. It restores our faith, and calls us into community.

The church building on Humberside can support this triad of ministries by providing space for community and by providing space for us to focus our concentration on the Sacrament. I believe these uses are equally important. We need a devotional space and we need social space. Our next task is to use our god-given creativity to see what needs to be done to accommodate these ministries within the limitations of our bricks and mortar.

Gerald Robinson



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT FOR VESTRY JANUARY 31, 1993

The Christian Education Committee provides a Sunday School program for 27 children ages 2 - 10 years, based on " The Whole People of God " curriculum. The children leave the service after the focus for about 20 - 30 minutes of instruction with volunteer teachers. There are 4 classes. Before returning for the Eucharist, the children have been learning the Lord's Prayer, in said and sung form. In an effort to get to know more parishioners, a " Win - a - Trip to Sunday School " Draw has been held on the last Sunday of the month. Weekly information appears in the bulletin to allow the parish and parents to follow-up on instructional material used in the classes.

Through the year, there are 7 unit planning meetings to organize each of the units of the curriculum. Special events have been organized as follows in 1992:

- Secret Pen Pal which ended on Easter Sunday
- A teaching Eucharist downstairs in Sunday school
- A Good Friday family service, followed by the video " Jesus Christ Superstar "
- Bring a Friend Sunday
- Church Picnic on the coldest ever Sunday in June
- Summer Sunday school with Nan Weston
- All Saints service and potluck lunch
- Advent wreathes at the Holly Tea
- Christmas Pageant and potluck lunch on Advent IV, followed by decorating the church

Several Events are being planned for the first part of 1993.

- Thinking Day for Guiding and Scouting
- Deanery wide Ash Wednesday program for children aged 6 - 13
- Good Friday family service

The Christian Education Committee provides a person to do the focus each Sunday. Adrienne Roffey organized the list of child servers for each Sunday. Sharon Barnes has coordinated the volunteers in the Nursery for children under 2 years.

With a great deal of thanks for their work and support, the following people are acknowledged as committee members and/or teachers:

Mara Nickerson, Adrienne Roffey, Anne Ruta, Maggie Pawson, Susan Rynasko, Pat Piron-Chen, Lynda Woolrich, Lucas Roffey, Catherine Pawson, Megan Waters, Maia Roffey, Judy Wolever, Tom Wolever, Marilyn Short, Susan O'Hara, Cathy Gower, Anthony Ruta, Nan Weston, Gavin Miller, Collin Nickerson, Sharon Barnes, Steve Hopkins, Elizabeth Wensley

Submitted by Mabel-Anne Waters  
Chairperson

## LITURGY COMMITTEE

The Liturgy Committee rejoices in the increased participation in the liturgy by all members of the parish.

In 1991 - 1992, members of the committee surveyed the whole congregation as to their interest in participating in the weekly liturgy. The response has been tremendous. Various methods to organize the weekly tasks have now settled to having co-ordinators volunteer for each Sunday. The co-ordinators then ensure that all activities are assigned.

In the spring of 1992, the whole congregation was also charged with the responsibility for music. A successful workshop, in November, with well-known Kelly Walker, confirmed this approach. Now we practice and practice every Sunday.

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee has once again been responsible for arranging the monthly Forums for St. Johns. We continue to seek topics that will not only interest the congregation, but will encourage us to take action, whether that action be singing in some sort of tune, raising money for the PWRDF, submitting a document on sexuality to the Bishop, or increasing our personal awareness of what it means to be a Christian.

After the Forum on sexuality, a parish working group was formed. The purpose of this group was to formulate a statement which would reflect the stand we at St. Johns take on the issue of sexuality. This statement is to be sent to Bishop Findlay, in an attempt to assist him in this area. The meetings of the group were informative, often disturbing, but I believe inclusive. Input from the parish was asked for and received. The statement has been prepared and will be read to the parish at the Vestry Meeting.

Though focussing mainly on the Forums, the Outreach Committee has also had a hand in some of the fundraising activities held this past year. The dance in January was successful and added some monies to the boiler fund. We are prepared to take on more money raising, but are even more interested in arranging activities which will draw more people into the pews on Sunday. The growth of St. Johns, both spiritually and physically is of great concern to us, and we invite those not already members of the Outreach Committee to join us.

I would like to extend a personal thank you to all those who give their time to the Outreach Committee, and to those who involved in the working group.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maggie Pawson  
Chairperson

A parish statement on sexuality

Today, Christians everywhere are being called to re-examine their attitudes towards sexuality and, specifically, towards homosexuality and homosexual expression. Discussion and study within our parish has focussed on the main sources of Anglican teachings -- scripture, tradition, and reason. We offer the following reflections as the present "mind of our people" -- the collective view, though probably not unanimous on every point, of our Christian community as we struggle to put human sexuality in the context of our experience of God's love revealed in Jesus Christ.

We affirm the 1978 statement of the Anglican Bishops of Canada in its social-justice assertions that "homosexual persons, as children of God, have a full and equal claim, with all other persons, upon the love, acceptance, concern, and pastoral care of the Church" and that such persons "are entitled to equal protection under the law."

We also affirm, from our experience of God's grace in our lives, that faithful sexual relationships, which support and enhance the procreation of children and their nurture in family and Church life, must be a continuing major focus of our pastoral ministry, both lay and clerical.

But at the same time, and from the same experiences, we believe that the primacy of the family is not threatened but instead enhanced by a full recognition and acceptance of the inherent privacy of sexual expression, in continuing faithful relationships, between equal and freely consenting persons. And we endorse the option of voluntary celibacy for the same reasons and in the same Christian tradition.

We believe that the Church has a teaching and pastoral role in such matters, not a regulatory or judgmental one: to promote and encourage faithful, loving, supportive relationships between persons as the proper fulfillment of their sexual choice and expression. Specifically, we accept and support such relationships between persons of the same sex, when sexual expression occurs in the context of a Christian ideal of fidelity and love.

Because of the principles expressed above, we believe that to require involuntary celibacy of homosexual clergy is to impose an inconsistent double standard. We urge a revision of that policy to give clergy the same understanding, respect and support that we extend to laity.

We believe it possible and even likely that the Holy Spirit is calling our Church to be prophetic, as it was several centuries ago in declaring the heterosexual expression of our humanity in a faithful, loving relationship to be no bar to ordination or functioning priesthood.

We hold gender and sexuality to be a gift from God and a source of great blessing, and we rejoice in the enrichment their diversity brings to our lives. We regret that too often they have become instead a source of division, discrimination and abuse. We are convinced that the real barriers to full acceptance, rather than mere tolerance, of homosexual persons are social and psychological rather than theological and moral. These barriers may well be signs of our rejection of grace rather than of allowing ourselves to be raised to new life in Jesus Christ.

We pledge ourselves to further reflection on these matters, in open conversation with all of our parish -- heterosexual, homosexual, and celibate -- and with the Church as a whole.