

Thank Yous, 2020

From the time I came to Emmanuel, 3 ½ years ago, I have been so impressed by the quality of lay leadership in this parish. I've been in many parishes in my life, and I think we are particularly blessed in this regard. I am so grateful to everyone for all they've been doing during this pandemic to keep the church going and functioning so well. And particularly to keep us actually being the church, doing the mission of the church, not just trying to maintain ourselves. Thank you all for this.

One of my pleasures in my annual report is to thank people. I wrote a lot in my report but I'm going to highlight a few things here.

- executive. Carol MacDonnell, Donnie Cameron, Roxanne Petrossie and Liz Mahoney have been my rock and ever present help. They are wonderful people. We can all rely on them and we owe them a lot. A huge thank you to them all.

- The Food Bank was closed (by Feed NS) for one week at the beginning of the pandemic and since then it has been open. We owe a lot to Liz, Roxanne Jesso, Terry Langille, Barb Patterson, Dorothy Rudolph, Emma Garnet and Carol who have been working on behalf of all of us to reach out to our community, and taking some risks to do that. They've done a fantastic job. Thank you to all of you.

- Rebecca McEwen. I have got to know Rebecca much better this year as we worked together to figure out how to lead worship during the weirdest time of our lives. I am so impressed with her professionalism, her flexibility, her willingness to try new things. She is amazing and we are lucky to have her. And thanks to the choir, too.

- John Lawrence has been a godsend. You know he has been there coping with new technology and bad wifi and all sorts of things to get the service to you during the lockdown and until now. I know this has been stressful for him and I am so grateful for his perseverance. Thanks, John.

- Sarah Durnford always seems to say yes when I ask her to do some new thing and she does it well and she makes it fun. She organised the cleaners and they have kept the church sanitized throughout. She has also been doing most of the sanctuary guild work herself. We are so grateful, and grateful to those who volunteer to help her each week. I'm not even sure who they are but we also owe them a lot for keeping our church safe for us to worship in.

- Members of Parish Council have been very adaptable and I'm grateful to you all for your leadership and willingness to figure out new ways to do things.

- The church committees have continued to do their work behind the scenes:

- The Cemetery committee, chaired by Connie Backman, has continued to maintain the cemetery and its records.

- Vic Eisan, the caretaker, has managed to figure out all the changing rules for interments.

- The Property Committee, headed by Keith LeFrense, has kept the church in good repair and even done some needed renovations including bringing us up to fire safety code. He also checked the buildings regularly.

- The Spiritual Development Team has helped me with worship and study groups, and come up with some wonderful ideas, besides leading the Day of Enrichment before the pandemic started.

- The Pastoral Care Team has kept in touch with parishioners, even when we couldn't visit.

- Allen Johnson and the Safer Church Committee has kept our records up-to-date and made sure police checks were current.

- Our Licensed Lay Ministers have also been amazing, learning new routines for almost everything. The 3 LLMs in training completed their course over zoom and have been doing their on-the-job training under the most difficult circumstances, but they've been doing it very well. Many thanks to Carol, Liz, Betty Bowdridge, Allen, Barb and Donnie. And we hope to get Avon Fancy back when it's safe for him to come. But he led the Bible study until we had to stop.

- The greeters and sidespeople have also been great, in spite of all these new regulations, they still make everyone feel welcome in church.

- Thanks to our Synod delegates this year, Barb and Carol, who helped break new ground, and elect our new bishop, Sandra Fyfe in the first ever distanced synod.

- Kathy Melvin and her team have prepared 2 children and their families for baptism.

- Maureen Hubley and Lillian Ferguson have reviewed the books for 2019.

- Lillian has continued to prepare the bulletins each week we had in-person worship.

- The prayer group members learned how to use zoom so they could continue to pray for us all.

- Bev Lawrence took over organising the annual phoning and prayer ministry.

- Mother's Union, the ELF group and the Busy Hands Social Club all resumed meeting in the fall and, after a Christmas break for Covid, are resuming again now.

- Rev. Ed Coleman, who has been leading some very interesting and well received sessions in the church, both his Releasing Your Creativity workshops and his Inner Peace workshops, and has also taken a number of services for me, has been a great support. I am so grateful that he has joined our parish.

- I'm also grateful to my husband Charles, who has joined the church and the choir and is so supportive of me. I don't know how I could do this ministry without him.

- Some of you have not been able to exercise your usual ministries and I know this is hard for you. Thank you for your faithfulness and patience as we keep each other safe.

Did I miss anyone? I did! The counters! And the envelope secretaries! Both every important jobs. Thanks to you, too. We really appreciate what you do.