



The Anglican Churches of Pictou County

Christ Anglican Church

2025 Annual Report

Agenda

Opening Prayer
Adoption of Agenda
Annual Meeting Minutes - 2024
Business Arising from 2024 minutes
Motion to Receive Reports
Pastoral Administrator's Report
Warden's Report
Property Committee Report
SAF'R Church
Statistics 2024
Financial Reports 2025
 General Fund Summary
 General Fund Detailed Report
 Budget 2026
 Consolidated Report
 Investments
 ACW Financials
 Cemetery Financials
New Business
 Parish Bylaws
 Licensing Eucharistic Ministers
 Discussion About Future Directions for Christ Church & ACPC
Elections
Motion to Adjourn

Christ Anglican Church Annual General Meeting Minutes Feb 9, 2025

Present: Jason Ferguson (by phone), Ruth Kingsbury (by phone), Aidan Kingsbury (by phone), Rev. Joanne Neal, Norm Ferguson, Loretta Armsworthy, Gladys Morgan, Gerry Mercer, Joy Ford, Ron Dunn, Stacey Ferguson, Carol Dunn, Julie Wynands, Dave Harrison

Rev. Joanne called the meeting to order and said a prayer.

Adoption of agenda: Ron made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Loretta. Motion carried.

Annual Meeting Minutes: Stacey made a motion to accept the minutes of March 2, 2024, seconded by Dave. Motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes: There was no business arising.

Highlights of Reports:

Pastoral Administrator's report: Rev. Joanne reported that she's been in the role for eight months. Her focus has been on team ministry, and she's working about 15 hours per week. Because she doesn't have as much time as she would like for pastoral care, pastoral care coordinators will be selected for each church. Read the Bible in a year challenge. The Liturgical Leadership Team (LLMs and music) have moved forward with some new approaches to ministry.

Warden's report: We were blessed to have the Revs. Sinclair until they moved back to Alberta. As the Rev. Joanne is a Deacon and therefore unable to lead the Eucharist, the Rev. Keith Denman has led Eucharistic worship once a month at ACPC joint services. This summer postulant Kent Gregory provided worship services. Average attendance is 17 for Sunday worship plus one or two watching the livestream and 10 to 20 people watching the recordings of the service each week. We have attempted, unsuccessfully, to rent out the rectory. Thank you to the LLMs for their hard work. The congregation has participated in many mission and outreach projects, including food bank, meals for Viola's Place, school supplies and mitts for G.R. Saunders, snacks for the 5th floor and palliative care at the Aberdeen Hospital, pillowcases for palliative care, quilts for Roots for Youth, and prayer shawls.

Property committee: Ron reported that the refurbishment of the rectory was completed, and we were able to house a postulant for the summer. The steeple is weather-tight but the damage is not completely repaired.

ACW: ACW has not had any regular meetings and have had only two receptions. The annual Christmas Tea and Sale was held, and Social Sundays will continue once a month.

SafeR Church: This concerns the safety and well-being of the people who attend church and use its facilities. Information about this training can be found on the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island website.

Statistics 2024: 6 deaths, 1 confirmation

Financial reports: Ron reported that there is one error and one change from the printed reports. The error is the closing value of the investments, which should be \$107,607.98. The change involves the ACPC apportionment, which increased \$100 between the time when the reports were printed and the AGM. The starting balance was \$38,527.14, with general revenue of \$79,176.02 for a total of \$117,703.16. Total expenses were \$98,490.42, which included \$50,000 transferred into the investments. The balance as of Dec. 31 was \$19,212.74. The budgeted income for 2025 is \$69,990 and the budgeted expenses are \$70,052. Bequests from the Mildred Irvine Foundation and the Hilda Hoegg Foundation totalled \$35,000. The closing balance of the investments at the end of 2024 was \$107,607.98

Cemetery Financials: Gerry reported that the income comes from the interest on perpetual care from the Diocese, which was \$7,078.22. No plots were purchased. Expenses included repairing three headstones (\$1,610) and maintenance (mowing) for a total of \$6,920.45. The bank balance as of Dec. 31 was \$14,688.03. The value of the investments is \$63,720.68. There are 30-40 plots left in the cemetery.

Julie made a motion to accept the reports, seconded by Jason. Motion carried.

New Business: There was no new business.

Goals: At last year's AGM, Rev. Lee suggested setting goals for the year. Some suggestions were installing an electronic sign to make people aware of services and events, establishing a coffee bar, and doing more outreach in community.

Elections: The slate of candidates presented:

- Warden: Gladys Morgan
- Members at large (three-year terms): Loretta Armsworthy, Jason Ferguson, Margie England
- Members at large (one-year term): Ruth Kingsbury

Ron made a motion to elect the candidates as presented, seconded by Carol: Motion carried.

- Treasurer: Dave nominated Ron as treasurer, seconded by Stacey. Motion carried.

Diocesan Synod will take place in May in Antigonish. General Synod will take place in June to elect a new primate. Stacey made a motion to put forward Gladys Morgan and Loretta Armsworthy as nominees for Synod delegate from Christ Church, seconded by Ron. Motion carried. (Synod delegates [two] will be elected by ACPC council.)

Motion to Adjourn: Gerry made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and it closed with saying the Grace.

Pastoral Administrator's Report 2025

I have often thought that God seems to answer prayer in one of four ways: *yes, no, wait a while, and I have a better idea!* While we reflect on the 25 years that ACPC has been a federation of churches, it is perhaps time to wonder if God has different ideas for our future?

Like other Anglican churches across Canada, we find that our congregational populations are shrinking. At the same time, expenses seem to be rising quite dramatically: expenses for heating, insurance, and overall maintenance of our heritage buildings. With shortages of clergy in many dioceses around the country, including our own, I am very aware that my upcoming retirement as your deacon and pastoral administrator creates a gap in our ministry team. However, I do feel quite strongly that God is calling me in other directions. And perhaps God is also calling ACPC in other directions? The diocese is sending a small team to Pictou to imagine possibilities and to discuss our future on February 27 and 28. More details will be forthcoming.

Over the past year, we have worked hard to ensure that our LLMs are equipped with supports for leading worship and for preaching. Additional work will be done in this area over the coming weeks. As well, we have recently completed training seven people to become Eucharistic ministers who will be able to conduct Home Communion services as well as provide reserve sacrament to people in hospitals and in nursing homes. Another couple of people will be completing the training shortly. This is an important development for ACPC because it means that we will be able to significantly expand this ministry to those who are unable to be with us in person.

The Bishop has recently appointed Reverend Jeanne Hunter of St. George's to be the Archdeacon for our region. As well, the Bishop is actively seeking someone to become Regional Dean. These two people will work

together to support our region and will be important resources for ACPC as we move forward. This will also give us closer ties to the Bishop and to the diocese.

While I am retiring from ministry, I do hope that you will continue to think of me as a friend to Christ Church! Thank you so much for giving me the privilege of ministering to you over the past 4 ½ years and for your friendship in Christ. Blessings! ~ Reverend Joanne ~

Warden's Report 2025

This year was an interesting one to say the least. One that would have made a newbie run for the hills and cause a seasoned one to say, "Hang on, we are in for another wild ride!" I am grateful that our congregation has shown and I hope will continue to show faith in their wardens by coming to them with any concerns they have or celebrations they want to share. It is by being made aware of these things that we can best serve and fulfil our roles. Thank you for this opportunity.

There were many times to celebrate our camaraderie and faith by participating in the combined services hosted, once a month, by each church. Our Christ Church congregation has grown in numbers this year. We have 5 new family members who participate donating time and talent as well as their most awesome singing voices. We are most thankful to God that our family has grown this year.

Due to the low numbers of ordained in our Diocese it was not always possible to have a priest to administer communion at our combined Holy Eucharistic services. Our fellow Christians at St Georges' both participated in our services and hosted services throughout the year. We also took advantage of opportunities to worship ecumenically within our community, as example participating in Easter and Remembrance Day services. Many thanks to Rev Keith Denman for his most welcome leadership in providing us with one combined Eucharistic Service a month. We are grateful his health has returned and that he is willing to share his ministry with us. Many thanks to Rev. Joanne for her leadership and ministry. We cannot thank her enough for the many hours she spent in keeping ACPC viable and moving forward. Also many thanks to our Lay Ministry Team and our Postulant Deborah Beck for their leadership and ministry. Thank you each and every one for providing the opportunity for us to come together, to worship, to pray, to sing, to laugh and to reflect each Sunday and whenever possible.

It was a year that Collaborative ministry was explored. Lisa Vaughan, Rev Jeannie Hunter, Rev Tasha Brubaker, Rev Joanne along with several LLMs and Wardens from the parishes of ACPC, St Georges', Sherbrooke, Three Harbors....met via zoom for a couple of hours to explore this new ministry adventure. What exactly is it? How is it different than what we here at ACPC are doing now? It is pooled resources, specialized resources, offering ideas and trying new experiences that a single parish does not have the opportunities to explore. After some great discussion, it was decided not to explore further at this time.

We are a small but mighty group. There were many activities throughout the year, craft groups, meals, food drives, outreach goals met. Thank you to all who organized and to those who participated either by supporting, donating or actual hands on.

On Wednesday, Sept 10th, Rev. Joanne advised ACPC that she was officially retiring Easter Sunday 2026 from the Deacon Administrative Position for ACPC. She provided the council with a list of her duties that would have to be covered upon her leaving. There will be mighty big shoes to fill and the council will be looking to draw on everyone from all parishes for recommendations and assistance in filling these roles. Mike MacKenzie has been appointed by the Dioceses to assist us in finding a path forward.

Saturday, November 22, was the first of two planned training sessions for home communion workshops. Rev Joanne is leading these with many signed up. This is a great ministry to offer.

Thank you to everyone who supported, collaborated, and helped us to keep our church heading in a positive direction.

2025 was a year of learning and growing and living out our faith. I was very grateful for the opportunity to attend Synod 2025. The experience of being part of a group of 300+ Christians is life altering; therefore, we have HOPE!

The demographics of our congregation is certainly challenging, but we need to remember to remain strong in our faith; to strive to be who God wants us to be; and always remain constant in our hope; because although it may appear there is no interest; we may have planted a seed that will sprout and grow in those we have encountered. Or perhaps in doing those things, we just may have ignited a spark and with the help of the winds of the Holy Spirit we will set the world on fire!

Blessings,

Gladys

Gladys Morgan - Warden, Christ Anglican Church

Gladys has covered most things in her comprehensive report. I only have a few additional items that I wish to cover:

I want to start my report by thanking Gladys for all the work she has done this year. As many of you know, I have been “out of action” for a good part of the year due to illness, Gladys has performed the duties of two wardens, covering for me.

I also wish to thank Ron Dunn for all his hard work, not just as our very capable treasurer, but as the person responsible for renting out the rectory, and many other “behind the scenes” activities.

This will be my final Warden’s Report as my term is over as of this AGM. I will not be re-offering. I wish to thank everyone for their support over the years, it has been an honour!

1. Recording and live streaming of services at Christ Church.

There is a very small number of people watching the live stream- it varies between 0 and 2 or 3 people; on the other hand there are usually 17 to 20 or more people watching the recordings. I intend to continue recording and livestreaming.

2. Mailing Lists and Website

I maintain the Christ Church website, if you notice incorrect or missing information, please let me know! I also maintain the mailing lists for Christ Church and A.C.P.C. If you are not receiving email from either of these mailing lists: congregation@christchurchstellarton.ca or everyone@pictouanglicans.ca please email me and I will add your email address to them. The mailing lists are used to send out information about happenings in our church as well as Sunday bulletins every week.

3. EfM

As most of you know, I mentor an online EfM group which is composed of members from across Canada, most of the students are from our Diocese. One student lives in Norwich, England! This year we adopted a new curriculum and an additional course which is designed for people who may not wish to commit to a 4 year program. This program, call “Wide Angle” is a one-year program that is somewhat like a “Reader’s Digest” version of EfM. We continue to offer the regular EfM program. We are also using a new online platform which contains many resources including videos and recordings. I also co-mentor a monthly meeting of EfM Graduates via Zoom. If you are interested in any of the EfM programs, please contact me. We will begin recruiting for our September start in July or August. I am also the Diocesan EfM Coordinator and the EfM Canada Online Coordinator. I am also part of a team that is revamping the Year 3 curriculum to replace American content with more suitable Canadian content.

Blessings,

David Harrison

Property Committee Report 2025

The biggest project, this year, was having several trees on the property taken care of. This project was a great success. Thanks to Ron Dunn for finding an able and knowledgeable crew and seeing that it be taken care of in a safe manner.

Christ Church has resumed financial responsibility of the Rectory, from ACPC, leaving the other churches to focus more on their own finances. This also, leaves the property responsibility for the Rectory in the hands of Christ Church. Thus far, we have seen to the removal of the old hot water heater from the basement. There was a plumbing issue in the kitchen, that needed to be seen to. We've updated the smoke detectors in the Rectory, with new batteries, and a new one in the basement. We also had to clean up the AC unit, that was in the master bedroom, as some starlings decided to nest in the hose. We cleaned up the window and the window sill, the AC Unit itself and had the screen repaired.

After the work was completed at the Rectory, we were very fortunate to have a family show interest in renting the rectory and they've been there now for five to six months, with no issues.

We've had some issues with the heating oil at the church, due mainly to the delivery of oil, leaving us with an empty tank or barely enough to get us to delivery time. We have had to have the furnace bled before starting back up, and were successful in doing so. In order to ease up the use of the oil, we've made some changes to the thermostat so as to avoid unnecessarily keeping the church warm when not being used.

We do still have to get to work on finding the main water shut off, which we believe is downstairs in the hall, by the washrooms.

Some minor work is still required on the vestry steps, as part of the railing was impacted from the weight of the snow falling off the roof, in previous years.

We will continue to watch for issues around the property, in order to stay ahead of the major issues, and be able to have them taken care of in time, and avoid them worsening.

We continue to have the snow cleared, using a private contractor for which we are very grateful.

The property committee continues to strive to maintain the Christ Church property in the safest, most cost effective manner possible.

Regards,

Christ Church Property Committee

SAF'R Church 2025

In February and March of 2025, we were able to get 22 parishioners from across ACPC certified in the diocesan SafR Church training program. Several people chose to come together to attend workshops at Christ Church, and others were able to complete the 2 courses online. This was a significant initiative for ACPC and the diocese appreciated our willingness to undertake this in a timely manner. Going forward, this has helped to ensure that we are complying with diocesan policies when we are engaged in small teams in our missional and pastoral care work. ~ Reverend Joanne ~

Christ Church Statistics 2025

Baptisms: 0

Marriages: 0

Deaths: 5

Parish Council Nominations 2025
(elected at the annual meeting)

Wardens:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Members-at-Large: