

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

(Prepared for the February 23, 2025 St. Olave's Advisory Vestry meeting)

**Mandate:** The mandate of the St. Olave's Stewardship Committee is to encourage and steward engagement of the St. Olave's community as parishioners and donors. *For the Love of St. Olave's* is our motto.

**2024 Donations:** \$229,197 was received in general givings against a goal of \$241,500. This does not reflect the full scope of generosity by the St. Olave's community who donated an additional \$20,962 for the *Window of our Spirits* window project. Please refer to the Treasurer's report for full information.

**Attendance:** The Stewardship Committee set a two-year attendance goal of increasing attendance by 5% a year starting in 2022 which is an average of 15 people per Sunday. In 2023, we increased from 52 to 68 people, an increase of 16 people. This year we can report an increase of four people, from 68 to 72 representing a 5.8% increase. We aim to continue efforts to the pre-pandemic level of 82 people per Sunday.

**Fundraising Goal for 2025:** The Stewardship Committee considered the 2024 operations budget, and a cost-of-living allowance increase of 3.1% along with the givings results from this year and the projections about an uncertain economy in the coming year. Based on these considerations, the recommendation from the committee is a 2% increase for 2025. On January 22, I learned from Janice Douglas, OCT, that the Wardens will also factor in the new information of the lower fundraising total from 2024 in their decision for the percentage increase and fundraising goal for 2025 and support their decision.

**Support for Parish Initiatives:** It was the pleasure of the Stewardship Committee to provide support to other initiatives including the Christmas market, St. Olave's Day, Advent and Christmas services through phone, email and print communications. A special Christmas card package was created and an impact report, created by Janice Douglas OMT, was included in the tax receipt mailing for the third consecutive year.

**Window of our Spirits:** Huge success on this project! The revised goal was to raise funds for a minimum of five windows and sufficient funds were raised to pay for 12 news windows. Evidence shows that all donors to the *Window of our Spirits* project also provided their regular level of support to the general fund.

**Stewardship Committee Succession Plan:** It is with good wishes to Carol Ambler that we wished her well on her move to London, Ontario. It is with confidence and gratitude that I announce that Paul Scrivener, who has been an inaugural member of the Stewardship Committee since The Rev'd Canon Rob Mitchell created the committee in 2019, will become the chair following vestry. Paul has vision and dedication to the mission of St. Olave's and will serve the parish masterfully! I also wish to acknowledge the many good deeds of all members of the committee comprised of The Rev'd Canon Rob Mitchell, Carol Ambler, Janice Douglas, Sharm Powell, Paul Scrivener, Jim Shapland, Sheila Tait OMT, and Annis Tebbutt and wish to express my gratitude to all and honour to serve with this dedicated group! I am pleased to continue my service to St. Olaves as a member of this committee and in support of the Accessibility project.

Respectfully submitted by Martha Drake, Chair, Stewardship Committee