

CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, ETOBICOKE  
Growing In His Spirit!



Dear Bishop Andrew,

Thank you for taking the time to read and listen to our selection committee's requests regarding a new Incumbent for Christ the King, Etobicoke.

### Mission Statement

Church of Christ the King welcomes people of all ages and stages of life, all backgrounds, including those who want to find out more about the Christian faith. Our mission is to bring people closer to God with prayer, praise, and worship and to make a lasting impact in your life, our community, and the world around us.

### Introduction

We are a church deeply rooted in the Christian faith that was founded on our relationships with each other and our opportunities to serve others. Our church was built almost 65 years ago out of love for God and each other and a rapidly growing community. The first service was held in a portable and our beautiful building was built in 1961 and was ready for our first Christmas service that same year.

We live in an older neighbourhood and are looking forward to welcoming an incumbent who will hopefully choose to live in our well-kept rectory adjacent to the church ground, which is large enough to accommodate a family.

What our  
parishioners say:

**We are a busy,  
caring church**

"When I came, I found it was very easy at Christ the King. One of the ACW groups took me in right away – I was doing rummage sales as soon as I stepped in the door. I have always felt that through the ups and downs that if I needed someone to talk to or if I needed a shoulder to cry on, there was always someone available. And that has been a steadying part of my life for a long time now."

- Ruth P

## Our neighbourhood partners and rentals

- Sparks
- Girl Guides
- Vaughan Sarang Church (Korean)
- Gospel of Christ International Church (Filipino)
- Mississauga Tai Chi Journey
- Square Dancing
- My Pop Choir
- Rooks to Cooks
- My Pop Choir
- Nursery School
- Power & Sailing Squadron
- One time Community Event Rentals
- Parkinson's Support Group

## Who we are:

Our church community is like family. We support each other in prayer, friendly chats, and hugs when we can. Especially now in this Covid time, everyone has pulled together to stay connected to someone in the parish and share the love, and warmth that binds us.

Demographically we are much like our older adult neighbours and our congregation is a lovely multicultural mix that reflects our wider community. Recently no new young families have joined our church. Youth have been an integral part of our church in the past and we look forward to having them again.

Our congregation supports these thriving ministries:

- ACW – Anglican Church Women
- Choir and Band
- Kingsman Breakfast
- Musical Performances
- Pastoral Care Visitation
- Prayer Shawl
- Liturgical Dance
- Outreach Community
  - Out of the cold
  - Food bank
  - Mooreland's Baby Bundles
- Bible Study
- FaithWorks and PWRDF
- Online Worship
- Visitation to long term care



## Our Church

Our spacious grounds include a large area with a parkette that is maintained by the City of Toronto and allows for large outdoor events and a playground for children. We have recently upgraded our large well-lit parking lot, and there is ample street parking. The city recently installed a bus stop in front of the Church. God's peace and inspiration fill the worship space. On any given day our church is humming with activity and laughter. Some of these include the general business of the church: reporting, answering the phone, renters coming and going. Our church is equipped with a fully stocked, but dated, downstairs kitchen and a working kitchenette on the main floor. Our Rectory, which is directly adjacent to the church has four bedrooms and was renovated approximately 8 years ago.

## OUR STRENGTHS

Even though we are sometimes stretched thin for volunteers, we have hard-working, dedicated, collaborative Lay Leaders and a newly ordained Deacon. Our Churchwardens communicate well and issue a bi-weekly newsletter keeping the congregation well informed of everything that is going on.

**Rev. Vernal Savage** – Interim Priest in charge

**Rev. Virginia Gabriel** – Deacon, Visitation Team, Liturgical Dance

**Cal Weir** – Rector’s Warden, Sides persons, Publicity, Out of the Cold

**Susan Akelaitis** – People’s Warden, acting treasurer, Admin Assistant, User Facilities Coordinator, Chancel Guild

**Orlando Inocentes** – Music Director

**Shirley Smiley** – Envelope Secretary

**Anne Saxton** – Lay Readers, Oil Anointers, Office Assistant

**Ruth Pengelly ODT** – ACW, Lay Member to Synod, Office Assistant

**Carol Mackay** – Office Assistant

**Ellen Bailey** – Parish Screening Coordinator, Liaison between minister and wardens, Office Assistant

**Errol Smith** – Archives

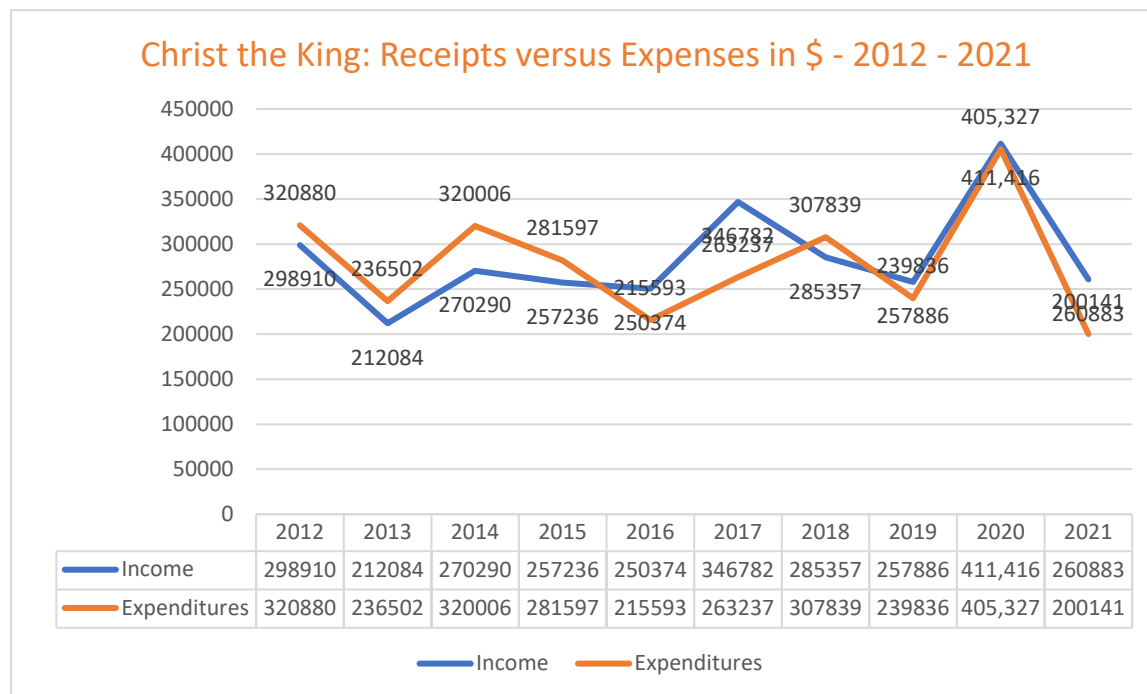
**Lorne Dickie** – Lay Member to Synod

**Wendy Marrett** – Live Streaming and Technical Support

In the past several years many people have stepped up to perform additional roles.

## We are good Stewards

We have PAG, a donation button on the website, Canada Helps share info and direct deposits. We practice good financial governance, and our budget is balanced. Whenever there is a need the parish rises to the occasion. We were able to hold our own through Covid and remain debt-free.



## Ministry during Covid-19

Online services – we are connected! You can watch our services live or after they have been recorded by going to our YouTube channel or clicking the Online services link on our website.

Some of the ways we kept connected through covid were:

- Set up a phone tree for shut-ins and people who couldn't view our services online.
- A virtual Valentine's tea party was hosted by the ACW.
- We held a virtual pancake supper.
- Our Wardens mailed out weekly newsletters (100 issues in total) to all parishioners to keep them updated and they always ended with an inspirational message or links to hymns.
- During the period of Covid, we lost many of our church family and at our Easter service this year we acknowledged those who have gone on before us. It was an opportunity for us all to say goodbye.

## Issues that Challenge Us:

### Internal

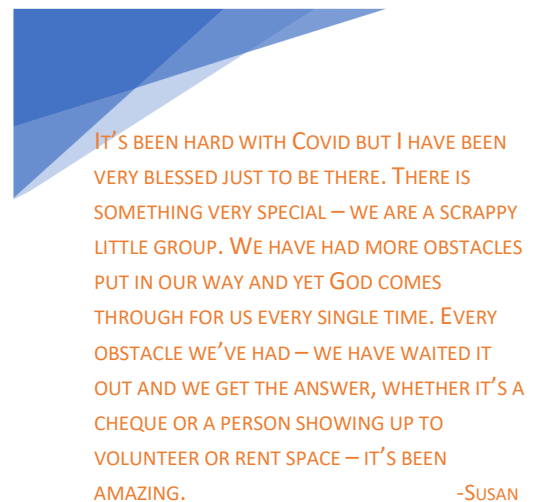
We have been challenged over the last five to seven years. There have been many staff changes including the recent retirement of our Incumbent and Music Director. Several leaders in the church passed away in the last couple of years. We have not had the resources to hire a proper Parish Administrator and our interim cleric is part-time. We have no full-time treasurer, and our new Deacon has been recently installed.

Leadership is shared with our priest but it has become increasingly difficult to raise volunteers as our numbers decline and our congregation ages. Like many churches, a few key people do most of the jobs in the parish. The younger folks we do have are busy with jobs, children, and elderly parents and do not have the time even if they have the energy. Many people drive in from a distance and are not able to help during the week. We know that we need to attract people from within our neighbourhood.

We worry that our efforts to fill the "missing middle" in our parish might alienate existing parishioners. Anglicans can sometimes resist change and we need to find a respectful middle ground that allows us to be contemporary and relevant to folks who do not currently go to church. We are committed to our church and understand that God will work with those who are here already, and our faith and sense of family will be the glue that binds us. Finding the right balance will be a challenge.

### External

Our signage faces the wrong way on Rathburn Road and you can't see it until you're on top of it when you drive past. By then it's too late to read or know what is going on in the church. People don't realize we are here as the church is also set back on the property. There is a large Roman Catholic church across the road, and everyone thinks that is us. Even emergency services we called went there instead of coming to us. Many households in our community are not Christian, they are RC and non-Christian



dominant. Although the abundance of space can work in our favour for events it can also be a barrier with lots of time, volunteers, and equipment needed to affect the upkeep.

## Looking forward

We know that our future as a community will be built on the resources we already have:

We are looking forward to a full-time priest so we can utilize the strong parish family network and ask those back who left because we did not have a Church School or other programs.

We want to reach out to our renters and invite them to participate in our events. This may lead to attracting new folks

We would love to have outdoor services and BBQs in the beautiful space beside our church. They were popular in the past and brought in people from around the neighbourhood. It gave us an opportunity to show them who we are. With the City building new rental and owned housing, new families may be welcomed into our church. We know our neighbourhood and we look like them.

We have good relationships with neighbouring churches and can better network, advertise and cooperate with them around joint events and ministry. We need to take advantage of our ministerial group and emphasize our ecumenical flavour. Our Easter Sunrise service is popular, and this service is a collaborative effort with many other surrounding churches. We also had a community confirmation involving several other churches. Bishop Jenny officiated the event and afterwards we hosted a BBQ and fellowship on our beautiful grounds.

We have a lively vibrant congregation downstairs that meets the same time we do. We could cooperate on joint services and musical presentations with them.

The website is much better now even if we do need more regular updating. A committee is being formed to oversee the workings of the church and give assistance to the wardens.

## Our New Incumbent

Ideally, we would love to see a cleric with some experience who embraces the Anglican traditions and yet is contemporary enough to move forward with the changing times. Our hope is that the priest will move into our Rectory and become part of our family.

Our new priest would be someone who loves music in its many forms and styles. They would rejoice in the musical spirit of our parish, have an expansive musical vision, and support different worship expressions like liturgical dance and children's ministry.

Tech and social media have become very important during Covid and we know that we need to keep connected to shut-ins and reach out to virtual neighbours to serve them and invite them into our community. We would like a priest who can navigate hybrid ministry and outreach, empowering volunteers and are comfortable themselves with technology.

Our new priest will help us strengthen and rebuild existing parish programs. This would include pastoral care and the reinstatement of pastoral visits, working collaboratively with Deacon Virginia and her team.

We are committed to deepening our Christian foundation and our new leader would support a wide spectrum of educational events and programs for parishioners of all ages. Preaching is also important to



us as we look for relevant teaching that opens up the Scriptures and relates to our lives and the world in which we live.

We wish to share our church community, our heart for service and Jesus' message to the wider neighbourhood and community. With the new condos and apartment buildings planned to go up around us, we wish to bring Jesus to these new folks. Our new leader will work with us to reach out to the community and help fulfill that goal.

We are waiting expectantly for someone who brings joy to the life of the parish, builds up the community and sends us out to be Christ's hands and feet in the world.

