



ST JOHN THE  
EVANGELIST  
ANGLICAN CHURCH  
2026



*And Mary said,  
“My soul magnifies the  
Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in  
God my Saviour...”*

*Luke 1:46-47, NRSV*

Stewardship Committee:  
Barbara Dransch (Co-Chair)  
Emmy Verdun (Co-Chair)  
Jim Cummings  
Peggy Lister  
Gary van der Meer



Dear Friends,

October 26, 2025

Our stewardship campaign is a chance to reflect on the many ways that we are connected to each other. Our theme this year focuses on the stories we tell and the ways we are called to share our words, our actions and our love in our community. This year, with all that has been going on in the news, we are mindful that one constant is the connections we have formed here at St John's.

Our stories bring us together. Each of us has a story to tell, how we found this congregation and a reason we continue to participate. Each of us has dreams and goals, just as each of us has struggles and moments of difficulty. One aspect of the Good News is that we bring our whole selves – all of our stories – to St John's and receive the support and encouragement we need.

We will be hearing many stories in our campaign this year. Each story focuses on the inspiration received from God and how this inspiration is transformed into creativity and meaningful action. This same process happens in you as you seek ways to share your gifts from the inspiration and blessing you have been given.

With this letter, we are sending campaign materials for you to use in your discernment for how you may share the Good News with us and with our neighbors. Each hour you volunteer, each good idea you contribute, each dollar you donate supports St John's ministry and mission. We could not be an example of love and compassion in our community without your many and varied gifts.

Please return your pledge cards by November 23 so we may include them in the celebration of this year's Stewardship campaign.

Tell out my soul! The Greatness of the Lord!

Emmy Verdun and Barbara Dransch  
Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs

Mary describes herself as an Anglican Christian from Rwanda. "I grew up in the Anglican church; I got married from the Anglican church; I was a member of the Mother's Union; I was a Church Warden." Mary was a member of St Peter's Anglican Church in Kigali, a large church with 600-700 people who attend services in person with an on-line presence for those who don't live in Rwanda or who can't get to services. When Mary and her daughter Brianna arrived in Ottawa, finding



## MARY AND BRIANNA

an Anglican church was important. "When I arrived, what I did first was to look for an Anglican church. I never wanted to leave my church; I wanted to continue worshipping in a familiar setting." She and Brianna found a home at St John's – felt welcomed, made friends and found opportunities to participate. Brianna is part of the Church School; Mary is a server and has volunteered in the Community Shop. In Mary's words, "St John's is a family church, a caring Christian community focused on togetherness as in Christ's teachings. Activities such as sharing meals, Gospel readings in different languages, festival celebrations, and prayer groups for the sick make it a friendly and safe place to belong." As a newcomer to Canada, Mary has undertaken various training programs to find employment that will give her 'Canadian work experience'. She is currently working in the child care field; she brings a strong academic background to this work as she holds a master's degree in Law from a university in Rwanda. St John's welcomes the energy and commitment Mary and Brianna bring to our community and rejoices that they have found a safe haven in Ottawa.

Elizabeth and her daughter Olivia started coming to St John's a couple of years ago. Elizabeth was raised Anglican and loved singing in her former church's choir. However, after the COVID-19 pandemic, that church's Sunday School closed and never reopened. When Elizabeth tried attending with Olivia it was difficult to participate because Olivia is a very active child. Elizabeth frequently had to take her outside to avoid disrupting the service, and she didn't want Olivia to experience church as isolating or boring. Searching online for a church that reflected her own values of love, respect and inclusivity – and one with programming for children – she found St John's. On their first Sunday, Elizabeth felt nervous, but everyone was welcoming. The familiar music and worship style gave her space to nurture her faith, while Olivia was warmly included by the clergy, Godly Play teachers, other parents and members of the congregation.

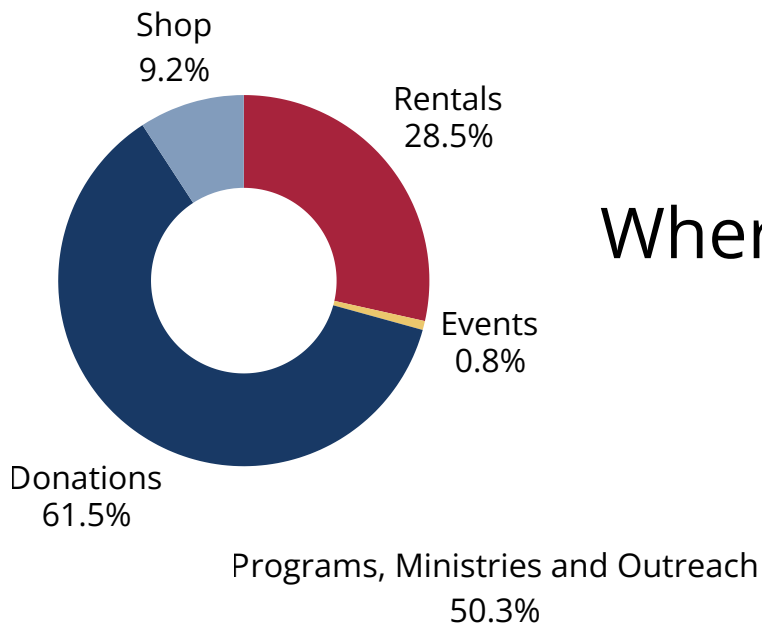
## ELIZABETH AND OLIVIA



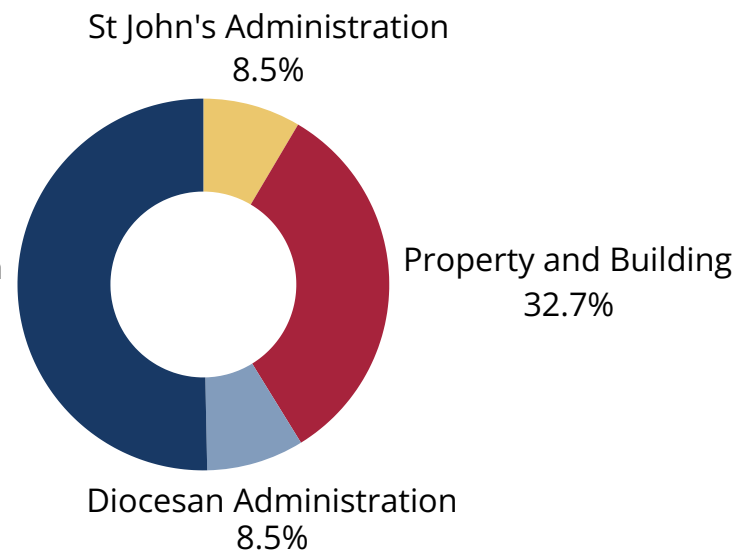
Now, Olivia looks forward to church each week, especially seeing her teachers and friends. She enjoys participating in everything from children's services to seasonal events. One of her favourite moments is saying, "Go in peace!" (loudly) into the microphone at the end of the service and then running to tell Elizabeth, "I did it, Mommy!" This fall, Olivia was baptised at St John's – a very special experience for her. Gary and the Godly Play teachers helped to prepare her; other children served communion; Karen, a fellow parent, was one of her sponsors; and the entire congregation celebrated with her.

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## Where does the money come from?



## Where does the money go?



## Programs supported by donations:

- Lifelong learning
- Community outreach
  - The Shop
  - Centretown Food Centre
  - The Well
- Young Adults' Ministry
- Children's Ministry
- Indigenous Relations
- Newcomers' Ministry
- Music

## What is the bottom line?

St John's is anticipating a deficit of \$50,000 for 2025 on a total budget of \$669,000. To continue offering programs, ministries and outreach that mean so much to our community we are:

- Working to increase rental income, particularly from the beautiful and flexible Nave space.
- Inviting you to consider a 10% increase in financial support.