

Report of Rector's Warden – December 2011

My dear friends,

In late 2010, knowing that I would soon be ending my "time" as People's Warden, I was asked by Rev Michelle to continue on the Corporation by being Rector's Warden, and I accepted. Last January/February my personal life was changed forever. However, my Lord and the loving, caring, praying people of our parish gave me strength to carry out my duties throughout the year. I am grateful to Him and all of you. Thank you.

And what a year it was. On January 20th, The Rev. Michelle Eason was inducted as our permanent priest. It was a most joyful occasion for the many in attendance. Ten days later Michelle chaired her first Vestry as Incumbent. Under her guidance, the Corporation and the wider body of Parish Counsel has, I believe, acted in a most satisfactory manner throughout the year addressing our needs.

In my 2010 report as People's Warden, I mentioned my concerns with respect to our finances. As Rector's Warden, my concerns remained the same. I said last year that our "step-up" program was not successful for 2010 and that fact carried over to 2011 and may be the same for 2012 unless something is done. Our treasurer prepared a 2011 budget that showed a deficit, but that was based on a known shortage in certain rental income. What was not known was that parishioners who accepted a budget with a certain "identifiable offerings" figure, would not live up to reaching that figure. In last year's report, I spoke of my wonderment that so few parishioners participate in Fundscrip. This past year, in order to make it easier for parishioners to honour their financial commitment to God, we introduced a "Pre-Authorized Remittances" plan allowing our people to have their offerings deducted directly from their bank accounts each month. Again, we have seen very minimal participation, which more than surprises me. I can only pray that changes will come about in 2012 that will see us live up to what is expected of us in carrying out God's work at St. Michael and All Angels.

On a positive note, we have continued to enjoy an excellent relationship with those who have been renting our premises over the last few years. If it was not for rental income, we would not have been able to meet our expenses incurred throughout the year. On January 1, 2012 we will start a fresh new rental arrangement with Living Waters International Fellowship, a strong, faithful worshipping Christian community. I am most confident that this new relationship will be a part of our community for years to come.

A major change in 2011 was the congregation's unanimous decision to open our rectory for usage by West Island Citizen Advocacy (WICA). In June, four great guys moved in to St. Michael's House and are feeling quite at home in their new premises. This collaboration between WICA and us is a continuation of the Church Apartment Program (CAP) which the parish became involved with some 25 years ago.

Over the past year I have tried to serve Rev Michelle, and the parish to the best of my ability. As I step down now, I thank Michelle for her guidance and friendship throughout the year. I am also grateful to Debbie Wolowicz who, in her first year as People's Warden, has done a marvellous job in rising to the challenge of responding to the congregation's needs. The continuous, non-stop work of Dominick Merle is a testament to what we are called to be – servants of God. Dom's many deeds and "taking on" duties over the past several years could alone be the subject of a separate report. We all (but mostly me) owe Dom a huge debt of gratitude.

I also want to thank my boys and their families for their love and support at my every turn in 2011. Most of all, I thank our Lord Jesus Christ for being by my side throughout the year. What started out last January with the most tragic occurrence in my life has ended in December with a renewed vitality for my future. I pray that our parish will also be given God's Grace to realize a renewed life in 2012. May God bless you all.

Brian

Brian K. Hammond
Rector's Warden