

## REPORT FROM THE PEOPLE'S WARDEN – YEAR 2010

In my report on year 2009, I spoke of challenging times behind us and possibly more challenging times ahead of us, and unfortunately that was the case. However, God's Grace continued to shine upon us and as a people of faith, we worked through most of the challenges.

Let me address the roughest part of our 2010 journey as a parish, and that was finances. Details are in the Treasurer's report, but here are my own comments. Our "step-up" plan that was accepted by all attendees at last year's meeting was not the success that we expected, and that's unfortunate. We knew that not everybody would or could increase their committed giving, but we did expect significantly more participation than what was realized. As you look over the financial report for 2010, you will note a fairly reasonable year-end figure, and perhaps wonder why I commented. It's simple - we are blessed with church family members who chose to provide St. Mike's with a goodly sum of money that brought us to a much healthier position than we were at the end of October. We praise God for their generosity.

We are still in a position of relying on rentals of our premises to offset some of our expenses. We will be addressing other areas of rental income for next year. In addition to rentals, we continue to look at other means of raising income so that we can deliver on our obligations and live up to a standard of Outreach that has always been a priority with our Parish.

An area to obtain "easy income" is the use of Fundscrip by our parishioners. Our income is far below what we can achieve using this reasonable and sensible means of raising income. For several years now, I have been and remain completely dumbfounded by the lack of participation of parishioners in the Fundscrip program. I know of other churches which have raised considerable annual income, in excess of \$3000, which help them with the ongoing problem of upkeep for all churches. Please give Fundscrip a try.

Our social activities such as the Victorian Tea and Nearly New Sale are also valuable to our parish in the sense that they bring people together to enjoy camaraderie as well as raise some income. Having people step in to oversee these activities at an earlier date, will certainly help attaining the successes of these wonderful events. Operating a parish like ours requires input from many resources and I am grateful for those who are always willing to leap into the fray and assist in carrying out the tasks that are asked of them. I can't say thank you enough to you. Unfortunately, it was always the same people and most of them are overworked. Perhaps that can change in the new year. Many thanks to our Parish Council for their guidance.

What a wonderful way to end 2010. We invited Michelle Eason to be our priest. The process was long, but God clearly showed us that His will was carried out and the result was joyfully accepted by our congregation – Praise God!

Once again, I offer my thanks to Don MacDonald for his friendship and collaboration on working with me to see to the well-being of our parish. Both Don & I owe huge debt of gratitude to Dominick Merle as our Deputy Warden and Treasurer for stepping in whenever he is called upon, which is quite often. We have been blessed to have Michelle "fill in" during the year as interim priest. Her leadership was wonderful. All praise and thanks goes to our Lord Jesus Christ who leads us all in our parish work and everyday walk with Him.

Brian