

Your Executive Team hopes you remain well physically, mentally, and spiritually during this coronavirus pandemic and the lockdown. We are writing to bring you up to date about a wide range of matters at Church of the Ascension.

We thank all those who are doing their best to carry on the mission of Christ in these times of self-isolation and quarantine. We have clergy, the A-V Team and others leading us with regular worship. We know that many of you are keeping in touch with one another, lifting spirits and checking on each other's well-being. Great numbers of you are continuing their financial support of the church. And the very act of self-isolating is an important part of keeping this virus in check. God bless your efforts.

### Reopening

As of this writing, we have not heard anything from either the Province of Ontario or the Diocese of Huron about guidelines or timelines for reopening the church for worship, ministry, or programs. Your Executive Team expects there will be much to do to safely prepare our church building and our worship and meeting practices for that day. For one thing, we expect physical distancing rules (six feet or two metres apart) will have to be maintained. Members of Ascension have done so much to keep everyone as safe as possible, and we are confident there will be continued co-operation on this. We are mindful that even when the lockdown is lifted, the virus remains among us, there is no vaccine yet, and there is not yet a surefire treatment or cure.

### Community Breakfast

Through the efforts of a small crew, Ascension was able to hold its Community Breakfast on April 23. It was a bagged meal handed out at the door rather than a sit-down meal. However the 23 people who showed up were most grateful for the support when so many of the meal programs across London have had to close down. The same procedure will probably be needed at the next breakfast on May 19. Thank you to those who contributed to keep this going.

### Capital Campaign

April 30 would have marked the official end of our three-year Capital Campaign for Our Church Home, however, the final push of the campaign has been paused because of the coronavirus. The results as of April 30 are commendable. More than \$161,000 has been brought in through pledges and fundraising. This number is short of the goal of \$168,000, possibly because of the economic effects of the pandemic. There are still some outstanding pledges that we believe people will be completing in the next couple of months and we are open to unpledged contributions.

For more information on the Capital Campaign for Our Church Home, go to <https://ascensionlondon.com/2019/05/05/capital-campaign-for-our-church-home-final-year/>

The pandemic lockdown has also curtailed entry of your individual contributions to the Capital

Campaign into the church computer system, which has made it nearly impossible to determine the status of pledge amounts at the official end of the campaign. Many of you know exactly where you stand, and most of you have met or exceeded your pledge. And others contributed generously although they had not made any specific pledge. If you want to know how you stand against your pledge, please contact church treasurer Bill McKinstry at 226-224-0222 or [mck728@mac.com](mailto:mck728@mac.com) and he will work with you to determine your status.

Thank you so much for your generosity, your sacrifice and your commitment to our future.

## Finance Update

During the latter part of March and April your envelope, Interac and pre-authorized givings were sufficient to meet our financial needs. Income exceeded expenses in April, and on a year-to-date basis, expenses exceed income by only \$400.

Income from the use of our facility, from groups and from fundraising was reduced significantly in March and non-existent in April. Your offerings are currently the only source of income for your church.

Our expenses were reduced in a number of ways. There was the initial impact on utilities (hydro, water and gas) and those costs will subside further in May and until we are back in the building on a regular basis. Likewise our service providers are not needed during this time and building repairs and supplies are minimal.

The administration of the Diocese of Huron is working on behalf of the parish churches to determine whether we are eligible for any of the government assistance related to COVID-19, particularly the 75 per cent wage subsidy, and will make necessary claims.

If you normally make donations when you attend services, and if you are currently able to continue your support, please consider one of these options:

- Mail a cheque (not cash) to the church, where mail is being delivered and essential banking is being done:  
  
Church of the Ascension  
2060 Dundas St.  
London, ON  
N5V 1R2
- Make an Interac e-transfer through your online banking to [office@ascensionlondon.com](mailto:office@ascensionlondon.com)
- Sign up for pre-authorized givings. Contact church treasurer Bill McKinstry at 226-224-0222 or [mck728@mac.com](mailto:mck728@mac.com) and he will guide you through the process.

## Sale of Property

The lockdown due the pandemic has also affected the process of selling the back part of our church property. It has significantly slowed procedures at city hall and other authorities that have to be consulted. The public meeting planned by the interested buyer also cannot be held

at this time.

#### Mortgage

The mortgage came up for renewal at the end of the April. To be prudent with church money, the Executive has decided to renew the mortgage for a fixed one-year term.

#### Attempted Break-in

On May 2 or 3, someone tried to break into the shed by cutting the padlocks. They did not complete the job, perhaps scared off by someone arriving. (Police officers regularly use the back of our parking lot as a place to stop for work.) Nothing was taken. The church itself remains secure. The shed locks have been replaced by a different type with no exposed post to cut.

#### Conclusion

In these challenging times, we close by remembering Jesus' words from the Gospel reading this past Sunday: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me." (John 14:1).

Your Executive Team,

Rev. Canon June Hough, Churchwardens Russ Braley and Mary Grant, Deputy Churchwardens Sandra Coulson and Steve Holmes, Treasurer Bill McKinstry