

Dear St. Boniface brothers and sisters,

It is my great pleasure to present to you the annual yearly senior warden's report of the St. Boniface Bishops committee. This year has also been, as in the last 2 years, marked by the challenges encountered during a pandemic. We have met these challenges head on and with a resolve to keep our parishioners safe during these difficult times without sacrificing the chance to worship and pray together which is especially necessary in our spiritual lives, but even more so when we are facing adversity. It was uplifting and inspiring to see how St. Boniface persevered with every challenge it faced.

Our first big challenge came about a month after our AGM and the new Bishop's Committee was in place and ready to start our work when we got the news that David Wagner was definitely going to be sent back to America and would be leaving almost immediately. David had just been elected to continue as senior warden and it left a vacancy on the Bishop's committee so a solution had to be found. I want to take this opportunity to thank Beth and David Wagner for their service to the St. Boniface community. They were a stellar example of what it says in the Bible, to grow where you are planted. They became in such a short time such an integral part of the St. Boniface family and they are, and will be, sorely missed. So now we had to regroup on the BC. Reverend Lutz asked around if someone would be willing to be appointed to the BC for a year to take David's place and Dagmar Hamberger graciously accepted to become an active member of the BC. Then I was given the honor to serve as your senior warden and the first major crisis at St. Boniface was resolved.

We have had during the past year many activities to bring us closer and fill the void left by not having any possibilities for fellowship outside the service, whether in person or not. We have had Advent and Lenten Evening Prayer services, dinners, quizzes, APL training (7 members of St. Boniface attended), events to bring us closer together again. We have had a virtual Lessons and Carols for the last two years and when things got tough we looked for alternatives so that we could continue to have this amazing service to prepare us for Christmas and the birth of our Lord. At every occasion we have tried to connect and keep in contact. One of the most amazing things that I have noticed about St. Boniface is the amazing amount of ideas that people have. Ideas that lead to solutions and the enrichment of our spiritual lives. We have

Lutz and Frauke Ackermann who are always thinking of new and interesting ideas and are also open to the ideas of others. This is really such a blessing to have this bountiful gift of ideas within a congregation. It brings a new spark to our church life and how we worship.

I encourage everyone to share your ideas because all of our members bring something special to the table. Each and every one of you has a unique perspective that may just be the special something that we need to reach more people and spread God's word. Another important element that David and I talked about often and it was very important to both of us was to deal with others in love. He started on this path and I took up the torch and continue to carry it. I see so many gifted people in this congregation. People who stand by each other and pray for each other in times of sadness and loss, but also in times of great rejoicing. David and I wanted to lead in love and to try to heal the wounds that have been incurred and that can only happen when we work together. We wanted a transparency in St. Boniface, which means that we are open and honest with each other in all our dealings, and when there are conflicts, and there WILL be conflicts, that we deal with each other with respect and love.

As Bishop Curry says, "If it's not about love, then it's not about Jesus". When I heard him say this it hit me like an arrow in the heart. It gave me a moments pause and since then I have questioned myself if my actions are a reflection of what my Lord wants me to do. Have I dealt with others lovingly? Are there bridges I need to mend? See how such a simple statement can cause such a monumental change? I see such an amazing potential for love and doing good things at St. Boniface and it makes me proud to be a member of this congregation. Thank you for your many talents and the gifts you have given to us through your service. I am looking forward to doing good work together with you in whatever capacity we are led to serve during the next year and I am excited to see where the journey the Lord has in store for us will take us.