



Mount Seymour United Church



2017

Annual Report

~ Nurturing Spirit ~ Being Community ~ Living Generously



~ NURTURING SPIRIT
~ BEING COMMUNITY
~ LIVING GENEROUSLY

LIVING THE CORE VALUES OF

- *Trusting in the goodness of life*
- *Treating ourselves, others and our world with grace and compassion*
 - *Honouring each individual's spiritual journey*
 - *Empowering people to claim their Spirit-given gifts*
 - *Striving to practice the way of Jesus*

The welcome we extend in this church is as broad and deep as we can make it. We welcome you wherever you are on life's journey, no matter how young or old you are, whatever your marital or economic status, sexual orientation or gender identity, ethnic or cultural heritage. We welcome those who consider themselves to be Christians, those who are part of other faith traditions and all who seek to explore the mysteries of life and serve the ideals of compassion, justice and peace.

Mount Seymour United Church

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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REPORT FROM OUR COUNCIL CHAIR | CATHERINE BRANCH



As year two of my time as chair of the Council comes to a close, I look back with pride at what we have accomplished, and with excitement for the future and where we are heading. This is a wonderful time to be a part of our church community!

We have had some comings and goings in staff this year. We will miss those who have left us but are very excited about the energy and enthusiasm of those who have arrived. Reverend Nancy continues to hold us all in her capable hands and we appreciate her leadership and ministry more than ever. Reverend Wade has been on leave from us since May, and we miss him greatly and send all of our love and caring to him. In the meanwhile, we are excited to welcome Carla Wilks into our midst! She arrived with us in November just in time for the craziness of the Advent season. She has just been accepted as a candidate for ordination, and we look forward to working with her through this new adventure in her life. Her calm and

thoughtful organization has already been a real asset. Our wonderful Children & Youth minister, Anne Ellis, continues to work hard with her group of volunteers to cultivate a safe, fun and welcoming space for our children and youth. From Sunday worship to hiking trips to baking cookies, the children have found a special home here. We cherish our Music Ministry here at Mount Seymour, led by the incredibly talented Julian Pattison on piano, organ and voice, and by our Gospel Choir team of Marcus Mosely and Dominique Hogan. They all make our Sundays a special time. In September, we said goodbye to Sharon Stevens (at least from the office) and wish her well in her move into nursing. While we conducted our search for a new candidate, Leslie Martin stepped in to ably run things and we are extremely grateful for her contribution. We have been fortunate to welcome Cindy Nelms whose energy and enthusiasm are infectious, and who adds to the welcome our church offers. Cindy is ably assisted by our new bookkeeper, Cheryl Shott and our envelope officer, Fay Butterfield. Thank you to all of the staff for all you have done in a challenging year of change to keep things running as smoothly as they have!

We have continued to have incredible support from the entire congregation, both financially and through the time and work people have had to offer. We raised funds for the replacement of the roof – and just in time as the leaks have started! Work should get underway this spring and our building should be up to standard for some years to come. Our weekly givings stayed reasonably strong so that our budget should be met, and there are no words for the work of the Thrift Shop and its continued financial success that has abounded to the benefit of our church and to First United in the Downtown Eastside. We also have an incredible source of volunteers in our community. There are the Thrift Shop volunteers who are tireless in their work sorting, pricing, organizing, selling and cleaning – not to mention the fellowship that they offer their customers on a weekly basis. But there are also the volunteers that sit on the various teams that keep the church running – the Administration Team, the Mission & Outreach Team, the Worship & Christian Development Team, the Ministry & Personnel Team. There are those who make meals and those who clean up. There are those who make coffee and those who offer small group worship. We are incredibly lucky to have these special people in our midst, but we can always use more. If you are interested in helping out, just let me know and we will find a place for you!!

The congregation has reached out beyond Sunday mornings to create new ministries that provide the larger community with ways to access the Mount Seymour United Church Community. In particular, based on a

congregational interest in supporting mental health in the community, a number of members of the congregation attended training and created a Living Room group to support people with mental illness. This is a peer support group where people can come to a safe place to have conversation about their situations with people in similar circumstances. Our trained congregants provide facilitation. Other new ministries include the Death Café and our meditation group, and we hope to grow others as our resources allow.

Council held a retreat in October which allowed us to reflect on the year past and to plan for the year to come. We also received some education on social enterprise as this is something that has been discussed around the congregation. In reviewing our past year, we found that we were successful in a lot of areas including Sunday morning worship, strong leadership, small groups and a busier church and connections with the community. We thought we could do better in such areas as gauging the success of activities we do, talking to new people, advertising and communications and more volunteers in such areas as Children's community and our teams. Some of the priorities we set for the upcoming year included visioning the café space, partnering with Canadian Mental Health in furthering that ministry, looking further at the Youth Ministry and revitalizing our Mission & Outreach team. It was a great time for reflection and helped to centre us for our work ahead.

While a lot of Council time was spent on staffing matters last year, we now have an exciting new project ahead of us. We just recently learned of the incredible unexpected gift to our Church by a former member, Ann Kerr. Her generous bequest of approximately \$1.2 million has left us with new challenges and new possibilities. We have the chance to honour Ann with our work. We will certainly take the time to focus on what we are as a community now and what we want to be. We have time to dream and we have time to work together to prayerfully consider this generous gift so that we can make good decisions as to how to use this gift to continue and grow our work in the community and the world. We look forward to a congregational meeting on March 10 where we can start our visioning together on this exciting venture.

So there will be a lot happening under our soon-to-be new roof! And this is all thanks to you, the Mount Seymour community. You continue to live out our mission statement: You nurture the spirit, you are community and you live generously. There is nothing more that we could ask.

With love and blessings in the coming year,

Catherine Branch
catherinebranch@shaw.ca
604-880-2629



2017- 2018 Council Team

REPORT FROM OUR MINISTER | REV. NANCY TALBOT



We sing of God's good news lived out,
a church with purpose:
faith nurtured and hearts comforted,
gifts shared for the good of all,
resistance to the forces that exploit and marginalize,
fierce love in the face of violence,
human dignity defended,
members of a community held and inspired by God,
corrected and comforted,
instrument of the loving Spirit of Christ,
creation's mending.
We sing of God's mission.

In many ways, 2017 was a year in which we deepened our understanding of what it means to be a church with purpose as expressed in our Song of Faith which we started the year studying together. As we gained increased comfort in our "new building" the Thrift Shop found a rhythm to keep pace with their growing business. The addition of a summer student who stuck around for much of the fall helped keep goods flowing. The café space continued to serve as a place of hospitality for increasing numbers from the community who gather for casual and intentional conversation. The Death Café in particular continues to grow in popularity. All in all, we seemed to hit a good stride in our purpose to build community, nurture the spirit and live generously.

In addition to new partnerships with businesses in the community such as Stongs and Nesters Market helping us to better serve our friends from First United Church thanks to the efforts of Barry Fenton, Katherine McKay and the outreach team, the greatest extension of our ministry this past year was the initiation of the Living Room support group for people living with challenges to their mental health. This group has met faithfully every two weeks since its inception in April and is led primarily through volunteer efforts. A huge thank you is owed to Leslie Buerschaper in particular along with Elizabeth Milligan for their dedication to this ministry. Anne Ellis has been acting as staff support for this group since Rev. Wade's departure in the spring. I am encouraged by the difference this group is making in the lives of those it touches.

Another group that provides an intersection between the congregation and the community is the Monday night Meditation gathering led by Sharon Brain. Along with the new peer led practice circle for The Work and the related workshops offered by Caitlin Frost, these offerings enable us to open our doors more widely to the world around us.

As we continue to explore these and other ways to address our changing context, it's good to remember that something we do well at Mount Seymour are the more traditional forms of nurture and care typically found in the church. Our Sunday morning worship life, children and youth programs, caring connections team, adult faith formation and council leadership are all healthy and vibrant. That made a big difference this fall when we were faced with unexpected changes in our staffing team. The departure of Rev. Wade on a long term disability leave combined with the resignation of our office administrator Sharon Stevens

made for a very challenging stretch particularly in the office. I am very grateful for the support and wisdom of the Council through this time along with Anne Ellis who consistently and capably stepped in where needed. Catherine Branch, M&P chair Michelle Coulombe and our treasurer Roger Brain were invaluable during this time as we quickly came together to fill the gaps and hire new staff. The arrival of Carla Wilks and Cindy Nelms has felt like a God send and I am so grateful to them as well as our student minister Frances Kitson for jumping in and keeping us on track through Advent and Christmas.

In the midst of all the busyness of the life of our church, I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve the wider church as Chair of Vancouver Burrard Presbytery. As the National church undergoes a major transformation moving towards a four to three court system of governance there have been many issues to address. Like everyone going through major changes in these times, it is our relationships that hold us together and it is the strengthening of these ties that give me the greatest energy and the greatest hope in this work.

The strength and resiliency of the relationships we share as church family are also what have sustained me through this past year. I give thanks for the honour and privilege of being in ministry with you and am grateful in particular for the leadership of Catherine Branch and our council along with my colleagues: Wade, Anne, Julian, Sharon, Carla, Cindy, Dominique, Marcus, Cheryl and Sheldhan for their dedication and service.

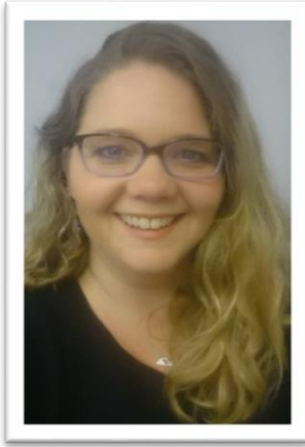
Thank you to everyone who has so generously given of yourselves in service to our mission this past year. There is so much going on “under our roof” and we are blessed to be surrounded by such a gracious and loving Spirit in this place. A final word of thanks to those of you who donated to our roof campaign, to Meg Clarke for leading us in raising the funds and to those who continue to work on the replacement plans including Dilys Sostad and the Administration team.

With hope and gratitude,

Nancy



REPORT FROM OUR ASSOCIATE MINISTER | CARLA WILKS



I was only part of the ministry team at Mt Seymour United Church for two months of 2017, but in many ways it feels like I have been here much longer. Thank you for welcoming me into your church family.

From my first experiences of worship with you and then the Soul-FULL Supper, I could tell that this is a special place. Your engagement in meaningful worship and spiritual practices, and your openness to welcoming new people into your midst has shown me how as a congregation and as individuals your mission is not just words on the building, but you are actively living out the MSUC mission of Nurturing Spirit, Being Community and Living Generously. As I hear about your lives I have been struck by how many of you are carrying Jesus message of love and welcome beyond these walls in your everyday living.

I have focused my time so far supporting the ongoing ministry in the ways that have been most needed and most helpful.

I had a lot of fun picking up a French Horn to play in the Christmas Band this year. It was 25 years since I had played with a band and was the first time to play with my daughters Angela (also on French Horn) and Heather (on trombone).

Thank you to everyone who has shared a piece of yourself and your story with me, and thank you to those of you who have reminded me of your names as I get to know so many new faces.

I especially want to mention the people I work with every day, Nancy, Anne and Cindy. Being with such a great team makes me look so forward to coming to work! In a very short time I learned that these are colleagues that I can have fun with, be vulnerable with and participate in meaningful ministry with.

As I write this I have recently been approved as a candidate for ordination in the United Church, and I look forward to the remainder of 2018 here at Mount Seymour serving as my Supervised Ministry Experience to complete my requirements for ordination. I feel so blessed that I was led to this place and I am excited about where our ministry together will take us.

With thanks,

Carla

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR | ANNE ELLIS



In the gospel stories, Jesus says, “Let the Children come to me.” He blesses them, in the middle of teaching the adults, and says that only those who are like children will enter the Kingdom of God. We have used this story to guide how we engage with our kids, encouraging exploration of their faith through play, prayer, questions and wondering. It’s been a wonderful year too. We’ve seen growth in our Children’s Community, so much so that we’ve had to create two classes for our kids (ages 4 -8) and Youth (ages 9 and up).

In February we took nine kids and two leaders to the

Imagine: Children’s Retreat at Stillwood Retreat Centre, near Cultus Lake. We have been taking children to this retreat for 5 years. The kids make friends with kids from the wider church community and enjoy great food, games, crafts, play and faith over the course of a weekend. Many of our kids look forward to this event each year.



The Youth Group began in 2016 with three courageous leaders: Mary Sparks, Matt Branch and Amy Watt. With their enthusiasm, we began our very popular All-Ages Board Game evenings and planned a number of fun activities for our youth. The youth went on hikes in the spring and fall, had a sleepover in June, watched movies here at the church, and went to the movies one Sunday afternoon. The Youth Group, along with the younger children, has also engaged in a number of outreach projects, the biggest one occurring during Advent when they did fundraising for Gifts with Vision, the Downtown Eastside and a school in Cambodia. They raised money by selling cookies and candy canes and requesting donations of toonies to buy rain ponchos for people struggling with homelessness.

The Youth and Children raised over \$700 in 2017!

In the spring they had a very meaningful trip to First United Church where they learned about the ministries that support people living in the downtown eastside and served cookies to the Shelter residents.



The youngest members of our Church family have spent time exploring their faith through Godly Play stories, Holy Moly videos, creating art, playing games and taking an interactive role in various parts of worship.

In the Fall of 2016 we began the practice of using Lego Bricks for Prayers. Each brick in this photo represents a prayer said by one of our kids. They use the bricks to pray a gratitude, pray for others, pray for diversity and pray for our community where they are loved and accepted.



Summer is usually a quiet time in our Children and Youth Community, but this year the church saw a very busy week as we hosted Camp Spirit, a summer day camp, in our newly renovated spaces. 20 kids aged 4 -13, along with Youth leaders and a number of youth and adult volunteers spent a week here learning, playing and growing together in faith.

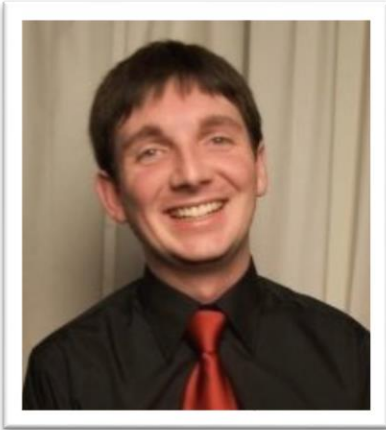
As fall started we resumed Board Game nights and added “Soul-Full Suppers” to our children, youth and family events. At these events we share a meal and engage in interactive spiritual practices. Both 2017 events in October and December were well attended with people of all ages.

On December 24 we held two Christmas Eve services at 4pm and 7pm. The 4pm service is for families with young children and this year we saw well over 100 people in attendance - the largest number we can remember at this service.

We are pleased that our children and youth community is growing. Each week that we see children arrive happy and excited to be here, we remember that this is what church is - a place to be welcome, to know you are loved and a place to know you are safe.

I am so grateful to all my volunteer leaders who make our church community such a beautiful place to work and be. We’re looking forward another great year in 2017.

MUSIC LEADER | JULIAN PATTISON



Our exuberant group of singers continues to gather most Sunday mornings throughout the school year. Many thanks to Eunice Findlay, Alan Furniss, Bobbie Grimard, Ian Jarvis, Ross Dunnet, Susie Ha, Mardi and Stan Joughin, Michelle Coulombe and Sylvia and Gurt Zandberg for their musical contributions. We also say thanks to Mary Sparks, Ruth Townsend and Ian Jarvis for their instrumental contributions throughout the year.

Each month we welcome and enjoy Marcus Mosely and Dominique Hogan's leadership as they lead the community Gospel Choir, composed of any who wish to join them.



We have experienced truly inspiring and moving worship provided by their leadership and look forward to hearing the choir and their dynamic musical talents. Special thanks to Dan Morrison and Christian Findlay who volunteer as guest musicians on Gospel Sundays.

We were also pleased to welcome North Shore Chorus in Lent and Inchoiring Minds in Advent. Both choirs brought good energy, enhanced our worship service, and deepened our understanding of the seasonal theme.

The Advent/Christmas Choir returned again this year to enhance our worship services on Advent IV and Christmas Eve. We also had a "family band" join us on Advent IV, accompanying several hymns to enormous applause. Thanks again to Catherine Branch and Mary Sparks for leading the two groups!

Respectfully submitted,

Julian Pattison

ADMINISTRATOR/COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR | CINDY NELMS



I'd like to start by thanking everyone for being so patient and supportive as I learn the ropes in my new position as office administrator. The past three months since I joined MTSUC have flown by and although I'm starting to feel comfortable, I know I still have a lot to learn.

I am grateful to the hiring committee of Rev. Nancy Talbot, Kim Branch, and David Ney for believing in me and welcoming me onboard. Although the learning curve is steep and some days are overwhelming, I must say, it's such a delight to come to work every day and always be greeted with a warm smile.

Leslie Martin, who provided my training (although brief), I can't thank enough for the time and guidance she provided to orient me into the position. It is always a delight to work alongside our bookkeeper Cheryl Shott every

Wednesday, and with the invaluable assistance of Sharon Stevens, who has helped us on many occasions, we are making headway.

I'd like to recognize the many committees that put in so much time and effort. Led by Donna Pawluk, and the Counting Team of Burton Branch, Barry Fenton, and Gladys Johnson, thank you for all you do. And for managing the congregational donations and tax receipts, thank you Fay Butterfield.

I look forward to being part of the building team of Dilys Sostad, James Fulton, Burton Branch, Gladys Johnston, and Leslie Buerschaper. Dilys and Sharon Brain have done an extraordinary job in revitalizing the Deep Cove Room, and along with the handy work of Rick Mains, the room looks amazing!

We are so blessed to have Julian Pattison, Marcus Mosely and Dominique Hogan share their amazing musical talents with us, and when time allows, I so enjoy being part of the 'voices'.

I'm so grateful for having an amazing team to work with every day. Rev. Nancy Talbot, Carla Wilks and Anne Ellis, you have all been so very helpful and supportive. It's awesome to share a good laugh and have some fun working together.

Thank you to everyone...the worship team, council and committee members, Thrift Shop volunteers, preschool staff and the friendly folks in our congregation, I'm delighted to be here!

I look forward to all the new challenges and experiences in the coming year ahead.

Warmly,

Cindy Nelms

ADMINISTRATION TEAM REPORT | DILYS SOSTAD



The hard working members of the admin team are James Fulton, Burton Branch, Gladys Johnston, Leslie Buerschaper, Dilys Sostad and, until her resignation as office administrator, Sharon Stevens. We are happy to welcome Cindy Nelms our new administrator who has recently joined the team. Sharon Brain is an ex officio member, invaluable when decorating decisions and trips to IKEA are necessary. Rick Mains is the church handyman, and Sheldhan Simonss provides janitorial services.

This year the general maintenance of our building continued.

In the sanctuary a “man lift “ was hired for two days and all the lights were changed to LED bulbs which will result in significant savings in electricity. At the same time the banner holding mechanism was repaired and elongated providing more room for Carol Pettigrew’s wonderful installations.

Chubb Edwards did their usual inspection and all fire extinguishers have been replaced. The Fire Marshall also came to inspect the building and gave her approval.

Recently the ancient furnace which heats the thrift shop area was requiring more and more maintenance and so was replaced.

The most obvious renovation this year is the chapel. We first organized the attic and provided more shelving for the various groups who store equipment there. The chapel was painted and new furniture and curtains installed. Lastly the sound system was improved. It is now in regular use by several groups during the week as well as being available for members of the congregation during services.

This month we have renovated the Deep Cove room. The furniture was recovered. Thank-you Lima, Carol and Sharon. Walls have been painted and new storage cupboards installed. The groups who use the room are very impressed with the changes and Cindy is putting a photo of the room on the web site and feels it will be much easier to rent this space in the future.



Once more in 2017 our grounds have been well maintained and groomed by Gladys and her gardeners. The flower beds are admired by many people who use the building. Again we thank Dorothy Redlinger for ensuring the lawns and the peace garden are taken care of. Last spring we had hoped to have the large lawn repaired following the damage done to it during construction. Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate and so it will be done this year.

The major project planned for 2018 is the replacement of the building’s roof. We are fortunate to have raised sufficient funds for this project and are presently seeking a contractor.

General maintenance of the building will continue and the admin team would love to have more members. We would like to have another person to help with the general upkeep of the inside of the building and Gladys and her crew definitely would welcome more gardeners. If you are interested in joining us please talk to one of the committee.

Submitted by Dilys Sostad
on behalf of the Administration Team



WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT | ANNE ELLIS

The goals of the WCD committee is to provide support, encouragement, inspiration and conversation with the ministry staff under the topics of Sunday Worship, other forms of worship services, and developing the faith of all our congregation members. During our time together we discuss many things: worship themes, past services; what we value, what we have concerns about and all the ways we can provide rich, meaningful and authentic worship and learning experiences for our church family. Themes for Sunday Worship have led us on a thoughtful and meaningful spiritual journey:



Epiphany 2017 - Star Gifts For the first time we created paper stars with individual words on them and gave them to all members of the congregation. Each person was invited to ‘follow their star’ and spend time with their word and ponder what it might mean for them. The gifts were well received and many members continued to talk about their stars for months to come. We spent the season of Epiphany looking at the *Song of Faith*.

Lent and Easter 2017 – Our theme was “*What do we need to let go of in order to love more fully?*” We looked at biblical stories of death and resurrection and what things we needed to ‘die’ so we can flourish spiritually. Our Youth led the Good Friday Service and shared their outstanding talents. Easter Service was a gospel service with Marcus and Dominique.

Pentecost 2017 - For our Pentecost service this year we had many new members join our church family through Baptism, Confirmation, Transfer of Membership and Reaffirmation.

Summer 2017 – We saw Nancy and Wade take time off each for portions of the summer. Anne Ellis led services and preached in July, with Nancy returning and leading services and preaching through August.

Fall 2017 – The blessing of the backpacks Sunday was a big hit again this year. We then spent the fall experiencing the stories of Moses and the Exodus.

Advent 2017 – Our Advent theme was “Where the Light Gets In; Hope for living in Dark Times.” We observed Advent I - “Hope” with Spiritual Stations and our Youth lit the Advent Candle. Advent II – shared the “Peace” with members of the Living Room Peer Support Group, and the peace of mind one gets through understanding and support. Advent III – we found unexpected “Joy” with Catherine Tremblay and the Death Cafe. Advent IV – “Love” comes in all many places. We heard from about the way love and support is found among the volunteers at our Thrift Shop. During the Blue Christmas Service, Rev. Nancy, Marcus Mosely, Mary Sparks and Julian brought comfort and solace to those



seeking a quiet worship. The Caring Connections Team and Living Room Support Group hosted a time of cookies, tea and conversation after the service.

Christmas Eve services included a bustling and full early service for families with young children led by Rev. Nancy and Anne Ellis, and an evening service led by Rev. Nancy and Carla Wilks where the Christmas Story was paired with personal stories of *'where the light gets in'* from members of the congregation and wider community. Julian accompanied both services with his musical talents.

Christian Development and Adult Faith Formation:

We continued to invite all to engage in weekly **Spiritual Practices** (Sacred Circle, Meditation, Soul Collage, The Work: practice group) which take place on Monday nights. As well as Friday morning meditation practice, **Sacred Meditation** (Lectio Divina). Thank you to lay leaders Sharon Brain, Anne Ellis and Carol Pettigrew for their support of this ministry.

Our congregation and community members have participated in **"The Work of Byron Katie"** – workshops and gathering. The work is a method of self-reflection that leads to healing and self-actualization. Many members have had the opportunity to benefit from life and death topics is offered at the monthly meetings of the **Death Café**, hosted by Catherine Tremblay.

We continue to offer **Soul-FULL Suppers**, after-Sunday service **community lunches** and **"Second Hour Discussions,"** and **Board Games Nights** throughout the year, all of which create opportunities for us to deepen our faith and nurture community.

Camp Spirit 2017

Mount Seymour United Church hosted **Camp Spirit** this again this summer. This offered many opportunities for our members to serve as volunteer elders, hosts, and junior camp leaders. Camp creates a welcoming and inviting space for young people to experience their faith in a safe and fun way. Dates for Camp Spirit 2018 have already been set.

The Worship and Christian Development team, is grateful for the way our community embraces creativity, alternative forms of worship and curiosity about faith. Everyone on the team is looking forward to another exciting and innovative year in 2018.

Respectfully submitted: The Worship and Christian Development Team: Rev. Nancy Talbot, Rev. Wade Lifton, Carla Wilks, Anne Ellis, Julian Pattison, Jen-Beth Fulton, Carol Pettigrew, Lori Keith & Pam McFarlane.



MISSION AND OUTREACH | KATHERINE MCKAY

I'm pleased to report that this year our team has doubled in size! In addition to Barb Ralph and myself we now include Barry Fenton and just recently Carla Wilks.

Partnerships with Local Grocers

Barry has spearheaded this new initiative and as a result Safeway, Nesters, Superstore and Stongs have all supported our various programs.

Outreach to First United Church

Hundreds of pairs of Ready Readers are provided annually so that the Downtown Eastside community members are able to read and fill out important forms.

The M&O Team monitors a weekly bulletin which expresses the needs of First United such as toiletries and warm clothing and tries to accommodate these needs with items from the Thrift Shop.

Items such as magazines, textbooks, books, games, puzzles, crafts and writing materials that are not sold in the Thrift Shop are put aside for the Sanctuary/Lounge area for community members at First United.

Christmas in June campaign-our congregation filled 36 large paper bags with non-perishable items plus a \$100 Safeway gift card was donated to replenish First United's food supplies.

World Food Day in October raised \$810 for First United, including a \$50 gift card from Superstore.

First United Sandwich Program A bi-weekly sandwich program is led by Joyce Jones and her dedicated team of volunteers. The deli luncheon meats are donated by Stongs at Northwoods Village, and Parkgate Cobs Bread donates the 12 loaves of bread each time.

Annual Picnic in Panorama Park was a resounding success this year with over 100 smiling faces. The weather was exceptional. An impromptu boutique was set-up where community members could each choose a pair of sunglasses. An unexpected offer from Dan Greenwood of Red Boat Charters resulted in over 40 community members being able to enjoy this beautiful day on the water. Kayaks and canoes were generously provided by Merrilee and friends and enjoyed by many. Two busses carried our friends from

First United and one swung by our church on the way to pick up congregation members. There was a hike to Quarry Rock and a Bocce tournament. A hot lunch was provided by First United and was delicious. Coffee, muffins, snacks, fruit and desserts were supplied by MSUC. Once again, it was a very successful collaboration of efforts for the community members of First United residing in the downtown eastside.



Outreach to the North Shore Youth Safe House (NSYSH)

The Giving Tree program collects gifts for First United and the local North Shore Youth Safe House. It was particularly successful this year with significant donations from our congregation, the MSUC Preschool, the Thrift Shop, our MSUC children and Nesters Market. A special touch came from our children who made lovely Christmas cards for the Youth at the NSYSH.

NSYSH donations delivered Christmas Eve morning:

- \$465 in gift cards for Cineplex, Safeway, Tim Hortons, Subway, Starbucks and compass cards.
- Many boxes of clothing including PJs, hoodies, shirts, t-shirts, hats, mitts, socks, pamper kits, colouring and activity books, LED arm bands, scarves and a coat.
- A turkey for their Christmas dinner was donated by Nesters in Dollarton Village.

First United Church donations:

- \$450 was matched by a donor matching program in December.
- 11 boxes were filled with 185 pairs of socks, 35 hats and scarves (many of them beautifully hand-made), 41 pairs of mitts, rain ponchos and 4 boxes of toiletries to name some but not all of the contents.

MSUC Thrift Shop support continues:

- Team members volunteer time weekly, Barb on Mondays, Katherine on Wednesdays
- Barb coordinates the weekly tea service on Thursdays and the annual **Thrift Shop Christmas Tea** for the patrons.

A huge thank-you to all those volunteers, community and congregation members who ensure the success of the M&O programs.

Thanks to all our community partners and our many volunteers!

Respectfully,

Katherine McKay, Chair



MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

LIVING ROOM PEER SUPPORT GROUP | LESLIE BUERSCHAPER

April 20, 2018 will mark the first-year anniversary of our Living Room group at Mt. Seymour. We meet on the first and third Thursday of every month from 7-8:30pm. However, it became evident early on that the gap between meetings when we have a five-week month was too big so in five-week months we also meet on the last Thursday of the month.

Our group was advertised at local rec centers and at the Hope Centre as well as in the thrift shop and to the congregation. We have had a few drop-ins from the Hope Centre, our immediate community as well as from the congregation. We now have a steady group of participants that attend on a regular basis.

As we have moved through our first year, we have fine-tuned our group structure and now have a comfortable working model for our meetings. We start by lighting our candle and move to a brief check in. We read scripture and then spend the bulk of our time sharing. We close in prayer. This fall it became apparent that some participants were arriving to meetings hungry, so we now have healthy snacks in addition to tea and water. This addition has been very well received.

We worked through the loss of Wade and the retirement of our valuable facilitator Elizabeth, though she continues to support us and offer her wisdom via email. We have formed a close-knit group of people through common experience and a love in God. The group members continue to strengthen their bonds and trust in one another and now often support each other out side of regular meetings. They have begun to look for other activities they can participate in together such as art therapy.

Although many participants were very concerned about anonymity at the beginning, the group has helped them become less concerned about stigma and perception by others. This was evident at the Blue Christmas service. In addition to lighting an Advent candle, the group was invited to co-host tea after the Blue Christmas service. Although remaining anonymous, most members attended and helped out!

Through solidarity, the group has developed into a collection of people who have become more confident in living with their mental illness by knowing they have a safe place to share, celebrate, break down and be. Most importantly the Living Room group at Mt. Seymour reminds those living with mental illness that they are not alone, that they are loved and a valuable part of the community. With support we **can** break through barriers and recover.

THRIFT SHOP | CAROL KELLY



As we end our second year in our new dedicated shop space, we can report that we are a peaceful well-working social enterprise. Our regular customers continue to increase in numbers as does our revenue. It is not uncommon to have a line up at the doors for opening at 11 a.m. of 65 or more. And we have had several days of more than \$4000 in revenue, of which approx. \$400+ would be in jewelry sales.

The number of volunteers is increasing. This year we have accepted 12 new members. Some of the improvements we have experienced over this past year include a new and improved space for the drop-off donations; a new cement pad for our outdoor displays on Thursdays; a new recycling bin for cardboard/paper products; and lighting outside our entrances.

Communications with over 90 volunteers currently is an on-going challenge. We post minutes of our Team Meetings in the Shop and email a monthly newsletter to each volunteer after each Team meeting. A new feature in the Newsletter has been an interview with a volunteer of the Thrift Shop – this has been very popular and interesting. The new improved MSUC website has also been helpful and we have recently launched a Thrift Shop Volunteer only Facebook page.

Some of the special events we held or participated in during 2017 are:

- January saw us gather for the annual Cedar Springs Volunteer Appreciation Tea. 45 volunteers gathered for delicious food (provided by Cedar Springs) and chat as well as a challenging quiz.
- Maundy Thursday dinner: was well attended again this year. We gave out coupons for free tea/coffee and cookie in the café to each person attending this year.
- At our Annual Meeting in May we continued our practice of serving lunch for the volunteers prior to the business meeting. At this meeting our Management Team was increased from 8 to 10 members.
- On September 9th the Pre-School and Thrift Shop combined efforts to celebrate our 2nd Anniversary of our new space at MSUC. We served complimentary cake as well as coffee/tea to all our customers that day.
- During September and November we held two “blitz” sorting/pricing events for Halloween and Christmas respectively. We encouraged all volunteers and their friends and family to attend when we price the seasonal items stored in our storage shed. It is a day when we get to meet volunteers that we do not necessarily work with during the week.
- Men’s Turkey Luncheon – this year it was held following the church service and lunch November 27th – we opened the Thrift Shop for 2 hours to invite Church folks to get to know the shop better and donated all the proceeds to First United Church.
- Christmas Customers Appreciation Day – held on the final shopping day for the Thrift Shop on December 22. Members of MSUC and Thrift Shop volunteers provided home baking served in the Café to our customers who enjoyed complimentary tea and coffee as well. The Cafe area was filled for most of the day.
- The Tea Room/Café continues to provide a great area for customers to relax and chat. We are especially grateful to Allie and Kate Branch who are currently providing homemade cookies for our tea table on sorting days and often in the Cafe. Sharon Stevens began this tasty tradition.

The Thrift Shop Management Team this year is Carol Kelly (Chair), Lima Branch, Irene Huva, Nancy McMillin, Cathy Hall, Gail Whitney, Barb Waldie, Barb Ralph, Meg Clarke, and Sharon Brain.

Charitable Outreach for 2017 included:

Each year, as well as our \$20,000 cash donations to First United, we have a number of charities we support with donations of clothing, shoes, books, fabric and yarn.

A partial list follows ...

- DDA - Developmental Disabilities Association: when a truck picks up unused/unsold items donated to the Shop ...we are a huge supporter of this charity.
- FIRST UNITED: a list of needed items is provided to the sorters each week. We pack and send a car-load every two weeks.
- SANITARY NAPKIN PROJECT – requires dark flannelette and quilters prints.
- SHIRTS TO CAMBODIA –men’s dress shirts in excellent condition are collected and sold to this organizer at a reduced price.
- SHOES TO NAIROBI – good men/women’s shoes are collected for Jane Rukaria who picks them up monthly, pays \$2.00/pair and ships to Nairobi where the proceeds of the sale of these shoes goes to assist with tuition for students unable to pay themselves.
- CLOTHING FOR REFUGEES – Jen-Beth keeps us updated on the needs and works with Lima on collection and pickup as required.
- YARN FOR PRAYER SHAWLS – Sylvia picks up yarn as needed.
- LOOKING GLASS PROJECT – Connie O’Connor (Thrift Shop volunteer) takes yarn that will not sell in the Shop for the co-ordinator of this project.
- HIGH SCHOOL IB PROGRAM – Connie O’Connor also collects and delivers yarn/fabric not saleable in the Shop to this program.
- ROTARY BOOKS – The Rotary Club on the North Shore takes books for their annual fall sale of used books. They picked up on a weekly basis over a 2-3 month period. We sent over 150 boxes of books this fall.

Due to the increased volume of donations in 2017 we started to employ two students at the Shop: Sean Sallis-Lyons and Braydon Roman. We expect that this trend will continue.

Respectfully submitted by

Carol Kelly

Chair, MSUC Thrift Shop

2017 Thrift Shop Revenue: (net after expenses) \$ 189,836
Total number of customers (making purchases): approx. **17,000**
Largest day of customers making purchases: approx. **435**
Number of active volunteers for 2017: **90**



MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL REPORT

This has been a very busy year with many changes to our staff. We said goodbye to our lovely administration and communications coordinator, Sharon Stevens. Stepping into that position this year, Cindy Nelms now works 40 hours a week, as we have seen the duties of that role continue to expand with the growth of the thrift shop.

We saw Reverend Wade Lifton, as part time Minister of Emerging Ministries, take a restorative care leave, then continue to long term disability. We have now received his letter of resignation, which was full of love for us as a congregation. He is continuing to improve and will come in to see us, and touch base soon.

Reverend Nancy Talbot, as full time lead minister, carried a large workload in Wade and Sharon's absence. Our Children's Community Coordinator, Anne Ellis, stepped in to help with administrative and ministry duties and was a stalwart and supportive co-worker to Reverend Nancy. During this time, Anne's hours were increased by 5 hours a week to help out during the transition. Anne continues to enjoy bringing her talents to our Children's Community and our youth group. Anne and Nancy have gone above and beyond the call of duty during this busy time and we are so grateful for their presence here with us, and for their leadership.

Carla Wilks joined us in November as our part time congregational designated minister. She took on the role of Minister of Emerging Ministries and Community Outreach. She has also recently received word that she has been accepted as a candidate for Ministry by the United Church. We look forward to working with Carla as she completes her Supervised Ministry Experience over the next year.

Julian Pattison continues to provide us with wonderful music, on the piano, the organ and with his beautiful voice. He leads those who wish to come on Sunday mornings and sing to support the congregation. He also accompanied and assisted the Christmas choir, which sang beautifully for the last Sunday in Advent and the 7 pm Christmas Eve service.

Marcus Mosely and Dominique Hogan bring enthusiastic Gospel energy with them, one Sunday a month and co-lead the Gospel Choir.

Cheryl Shott has been doing an awesome job assisting us with the book keeping this past year and we are exceptionally grateful. Braydon Roman was hired in November as the new Thrift Shop Assistant.

Sean Sallys-Lyon has been hired as our new sound system person on Sunday mornings. He also does the sound for memorials. Sheldhan Simonss cleans the offices, washrooms, kitchen, Narthex, offices and preschool, tidies the sanctuary, and cleans the Thrift Shop floors. We don't see this man, but we are grateful to have a clean space to work and worship. Rick Mains assists the Administrative Team with projects in and around the building. We welcome all of the new faces to this wonderful spirit-filled place and we hope that the spirit will continue to move us forward into new and exciting times.

Thank you so much to the Ministry and Personnel team: Lima Branch, Marianne Hansen, Peter Muirhead, and new to the team this year, Dave Ney. We say a huge thank you to Lima Branch, who is stepping off from M&P this year. Her warmth, wisdom and listening skills will be missed. Special thanks to Dave Ney for volunteering on a hiring committee and for helping me with writing contracts.

Our deepest gratitude to our amazing staff team!

-Michelle Coulombe

PRESBYTERY REPORT

Mount Seymour is part of Vancouver Burrard Presbytery which in the United Church is currently the next level of governance beyond individual ministry units. As the National church continues to work towards moving from a 4 court to 3 court governance model, the presbytery is preparing for the day when it will no longer be a court of the church. With the passing of the remit in which pastoral charges and presbyteries across the country affirmed the desire to make this change, we are anticipating an overall shift in the governance of the church beginning in January of 2019. At that time, BC Conference will become part of the new “Regional Council” system and presbyteries will be left to gather in “clusters” according to the needs and desires of the local communities of faith. To that end, Vancouver Burrard Presbytery has been continuing to discern the best ways it can engage ministry across our geographic region, encourage the development of new and emerging ministries and support existing ministries when we are no longer a decision making court of the church.

One of the things that has been helpful during this time of change are the clergy and lay support circles that gather each time the Presbytery meets for mutual support. It is one of the ways we hear what is going on in each other’s communities as well as how leaders are managing with the changing context in which we are ministering.

This past year the Presbytery adopted a new governance structure for itself which includes circles for “listening” to communities of faith to help with visioning and mission. We received a proposal from Lakeview Multicultural United Church to redevelop their property; we received a ministry plan from Trinity United Church and supported a motion for them to amalgamate with Grace United Church; and we approved the sale of the property held in trust by St. David’s United Church in Pemberton.

In the fall we held an information session on the “One Ministry” remit that recommends the creation of one new order of ministry encompassing the present categories of designated lay ministers, diaconal and ordained ministers with the ordination to the ministry of word, sacrament, education, service and pastoral care as the single right of entry to ordained ministry. We will be voting on that Remit at our February 2018 meeting.

For the most part, the presbytery has been meeting every month in the evening and periodically over the course of an entire day. We also met during the Annual Meeting of Conference held at UBC in May. At that meeting we were inspired and challenged by theme speaker Rev. Janet Gear who helped us to identify the “Theological Buffet” that exists in the United Church of Canada expressed through a variety of theologies and missions lived out in our communities of faith. She encouraged us to be in dialogue with one another in a way that honours our different understandings of the Gospel and strengthens our unity as members of the body of Christ.

Our current appointed presbytery rep is Steve Wellenbrink. Rev. Nancy and Rev. Wade and now Carla Wilks are members of the presbytery by virtue of their covenant as paid accountable ministers.

The United Church Creed

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

Who has created and is creating,

Who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,

Who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

To celebrate God's presence,

To live with respect in Creation,

To love and serve others,

To seek justice and resist evil,

To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: BEING COMMUNITY

Welcome Team and Sunday Morning Hospitality

These teams continue to flourish under the leadership of Gladys Johnston (johnstongladys@hotmail.com). We continue to hear from newcomers and regulars what a welcoming place this is. Both teams are always looking for volunteers on Sunday Mornings. Training provided!

Saturday Morning Breakfast Groups

The Men's and Women's Breakfast Groups, a long-standing tradition at Mount Seymour, continue to meet on alternate Saturday mornings for good food and fellowship. It is always a unique and fun way of starting the weekend. Contact Alan Furniss (aandkfurniss@gmail.com) and Mardi Joughin (jocherty@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining a group.

Church Library

Our **library** has become a space not just to sign out books but for fellowship. It welcomes not only church members but our neighbours who use our space to gather, for study, practice and meetings. - Sylvia Zandberg, MSUC Librarian (*photo, right*).



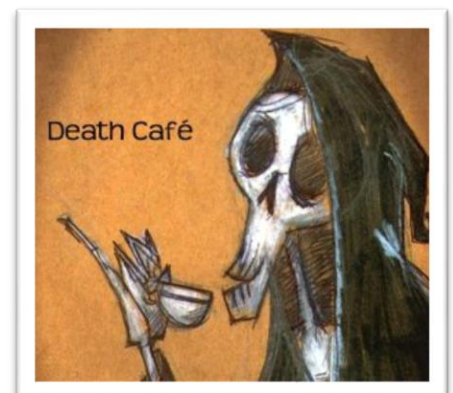
The Caring Connection

This group led by Rev. Nancy was formed in 2014 out of a merger between the prayer and pastoral care teams. They tend the congregation, wider community and thrift shop volunteers through visits, cards, phone calls, the prayer shawl ministry and intentional prayer. During the Christmas season they deliver cards and poinsettias to members of our congregation who are either unable to attend worship or have gone through a challenging time.

Thank you to Sherrill McLeary, Jen-Beth Fulton, Gwen Kendrick, Ruth Townsend, Mardi Joughin, Marianne Hansen and Katie Ekroth for this valuable ministry.

The Death Café

Catherine Tremblay hosted a monthly Death Café at the church bringing together members of the congregation and the wider community to talk about issues related to life and death. Attendance has varied from 8-25 people per gathering. This is one of the many ways we are reaching out to provide opportunities for meaningful discussion in the wider community. Thanks to everyone who attended a circle.



2017 FUNDRAISERS AND EVENTS

The Bucket Campaign

This fall we engaged in a fund raising campaign to raise money to replace the roof, heating and air conditioning systems. Due to the generous donations, we raised just under \$200,000.

Heartfelt thanks for your contribution to the success of the Bucket Campaign.

With thanks,

Meg Clarke, Campaign Chair



Deep Cove Coffee House

The Deep Cove Coffee House has been well established in the community for several years now. The Coffee House monthly concerts are generally held on the third Friday of the month. For admission of \$12, you can enjoy a great concert by well-known local musicians, home baking and great coffee. This is a fundraiser for our church and we are always looking for volunteers to help during the concert and to bring home baking. Last year, the Coffee House raised over \$3,918 for the church. Thanks to Jim Lyons, Jill Blair and community volunteers that help to make the Coffee Houses a success.

Congregational Lunches

Congregational lunches hosted by Peter and Ellen Muirhead were held throughout the year, along with the Church Picnic and Barbeque in June, and the Turkey lunch in November. Thank you to Peter and Ellen and all their helpers for this wonderful ministry that feeds us in body and soul and brings us together in community.

Parkgate Community Days and Christmas Tree Decorating

Again this year we had a booth at Parkgate Days in September which is a great way to connect with our neighbours and get the word out about our church. We also decorated one of the trees inside Parkgate, which we were able to keep and will be planting in our garden come spring.

Annual Turkey Lunch, Advent Craft, Thrift and Bake Sale

This year once again this event after service on Sunday November 26. Thanks to everyone for their generous support for this gathering which not only raises fun for the church but welcomes the wider community into our midst. Total proceeds for the Turkey Lunch was an astounding \$1,064.

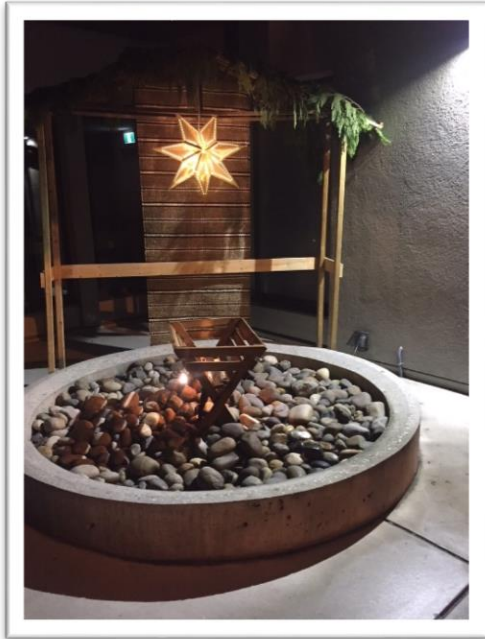
Supporting Marcus Mosely

A sold out fundraising benefit concert took place on February 10, 2017 to support Marcus Mosely while he recovered from surgery for prostate cancer.

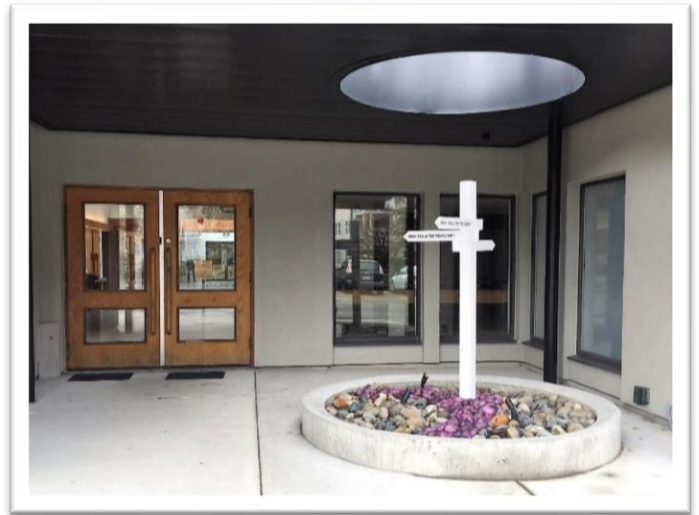
North Shore Refugee Response Initiative (NSRRI) – Update

On April 13, 2017, members of our congregation and members of other United Churches on the North Shore went to the airport to welcome 'our' two Syrian families who we had sponsored to come to Canada. It was a joyous celebration after years of waiting and praying for them to come. The two families are: Kawa, Nagah, Haifa, Hevi, Hamrin, Helin and Ali Mohammad and Asma, Mohamad, Lava, Mava, Slama, Slava and Yousif Mohamad. Over the course of the year, they quickly settled in to Canadian life in Burnaby, going to school and learning English. Two fund raising concerts were held to raise money and support them. The Re-Sounding Harmony Concert which was held at Lynn Valley United and A Celtic Music and Dance Event held at Highlands United. Part of the proceeds from these events went to repay the government travel loans of \$10,000 per family. Thank you to everyone who have supported these events and especially to Laura Staude and Jen-Beth Fulton who have been representing our congregation in this endeavour.

ART INSTALLATIONS 2017

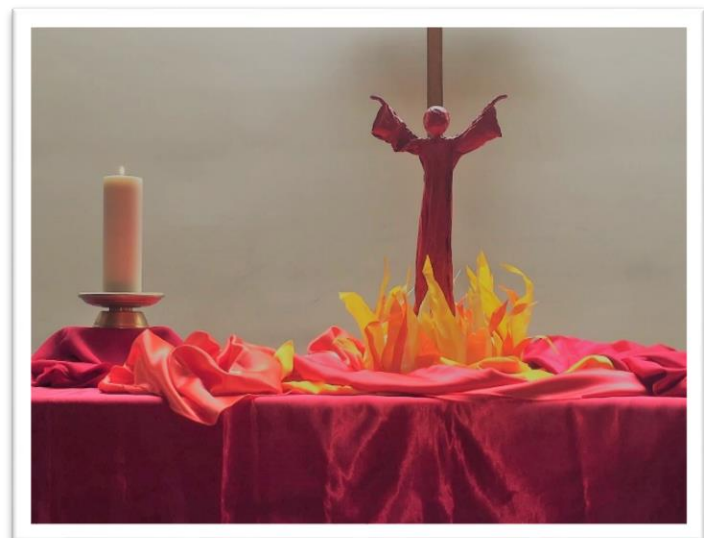


Winter 2017
Where the Light Gets In



Lent 2017
"What do we need to let go of in order to love more fully?"

Pentecost 2017





Summer 2017
Camp Spirit & Happy Pride



PASSAGES

Baptism and Confirmation

Elise Claire Coulombe

Vivianne Cherie Coulombe

Youth Confirmation

Keira Noelle Keith

Joining our Congregation

Kim Branch

Joyce Crawford

Judy Frey

Laura Gerken

Lori Keith

Gert Zandberg

Sylvia Zandberg



Weddings

Nicole George and Julia Pereira
Held at Ron Basford Park,
Granville Island

Wedding Date

May 20

We Remember

Gary Ward

Pat Morris

Grace Baugh

Memorial Service

March 17

March 31

June 23



GROUPS USING OUR CHURCH

In addition to the many church related activities taking place in our church building, many others from the community used our facilities -- some on a weekly basis, some monthly and others from time to time. These groups include the following:

Annual Renters:

JOJY Music
Mount Seymour Preschool

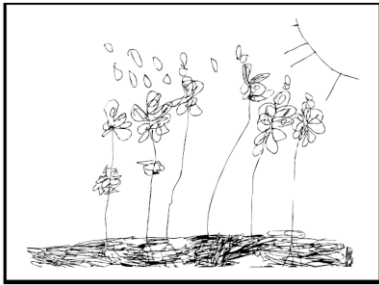
Concerts and Recitals:

Argyle Secondary School
Blueridge Chamber Music Association
Deep Cove Coffee Houses
Deep Cove Music
Little Mountain Brass Band
Marcus Mosely Chorale
North Shore Chorus
Parkgate Community Choir
Pro Nova Ensemble
Seycove Secondary School
Vancouver Orpheus Men's Choir
Various music teachers and groups

Meetings:

Al-anon
All Candidates
AWM Strata
RCA Couples Group

MOUNT SEYMOUR CHILD DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY | SUZANNE LAM



Mount Seymour United Church Child Development Society
(Mount Seymour Preschool)
Report for February 2018

Current Board of Directors:

President: Alexa Romilly
Vice President: Kelly Clauson
Treasurer: Sylvia McIntyre
Secretary: Melanie Harmer

Current Staff Members:

Ellen Muirhead
Gina Gallagher
Suzanne Lam
Hanh Allbutt
Mag Caron

Current Enrollment:

3-year-old Morning Class – Full at 18
4-year-old Morning Class – Full at 18
3/4-year-old Afternoon Class – Full at 18

Mount Seymour Preschool has been committed to serving families of our community for over 40 years. Our preschool offers a play-based, emergent curriculum influenced by the ideas of the world-renowned schools of Reggio Emilia, Italy. We focus on early learning experiences that emphasize social, emotional, and cognitive development, physical literacy, well-being, as well as the development of social responsibility. Our certified and experienced Early Childhood Educators are committed to inclusive practices that encourage communication, critical thinking, creativity, and respect for each other as well as our environment.

Curriculum Explorations

Beginning the preschool year by revisiting the garden beds created last year, as well as witnessing the growth of the flowers and vegetables planted, truly set the tone for the start of our preschool year together. Inspired by our preschool community garden, we created a delicious tomato sauce, transforming the fresh vegetables and herbs grown from our educator's gardens.

Since then, we have implemented a monthly family-style, community meal where the children and educators are involved in the preparation and sharing of meals. Food is a universal commonality that brings people together. In these rich learning experiences, educators were able to connect their home lives with children, building on our trust and relationships. We have also been able to share some of our meals with parents and members of Mount Seymour United Church!





Gift of Giving Christmas Project

In December, we invited our preschool families to participate in our Gift of Giving Christmas Project. In conjunction with Mt. Seymour United Church, our preschool families and teachers donated needed items for the North Shore Youth Safe House, and First United Church. Donations were also made by the Mt. Seymour United Church’s congregation, the Thrift Shop, the Mount Seymour United Church children’s community, and Nesters Market.

We received a lovely thank you letter from the Mission and Outreach Committee from Mount Seymour United Church, sharing their appreciation for everyone’s generosity. We would like to thank our families and greater community for participating and for making a difference in the lives of others.

FUNdraising Events

In 2017, our preschool community raised just over \$10,000 for the enhancement and renovation of our new Accessible Outdoor Play Space. This year, we are fundraising for a permanent awning and durable outdoor furniture for our outdoor classroom. We strongly believe that these additions will enhance the educational experiences of all our children and families, as well as our surrounding community.

Upcoming 2018/2019 Preschool Year

In order to accommodate the needs of the community, we have changed our programming schedule for the upcoming 2018/2019 year to the following:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Tuesday and Thursday	Monday to Thursday
3/4-year-old Mixed Age Program	3-year-old Program	4-year-old Program
9:00am - 11:30am	9:00am - 11:30am	12:30pm - 3:30pm

Our waitlists for each program have filled up quickly and we anticipate full registration!

We feel fortunate to be a part of the church community and for the space that has been provided to the preschool as well as our families. We hope to maintain our connection with the church community and remain in dialogue with the many different programs offered through the church.

We thank you all for your continued support and hope that you are able to join us again in the future during our family-style, community meals.

Sincerely, The Teachers of Mount Seymour Preschool



APPENDIX 1 | MINUTES OF 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Mt. Seymour United Church
Held at 1200 Parkgate Avenue, North Vancouver, BC
Sunday, March 5, 2017**

The following 58 members/adherents were present:

Members/Adherents: Doug Querns, Ross Dunnet, Marianne Hansen, Nancy Scheer, Joyce Crawford, Virginia Molsy, Shirley Sinclair, Verna Wilson, Marilyn Thorpe, Mike Hetherington, Ted Butterfield, Fay Butterfield, Bill Mathieson, Doreen Thomson, Helen Talbot, Gwen Kendrick, Joyce Jones, James Fulton, Jen-Beth Fulton, Eunice Findlay, Marie Querns, Ken Querns, Mardi Joughin, Wendy Taylor, Gail Whitney, Joan Fowler, Ward Branch, Peter Muirhead, Brenda Fawkes, Rose Jones, Sylvia Zandberg, Gert Zandberg, Burton Branch, Lima Branch, Sharon Brain, Allan Johnston, Gladys Johnston, Stan Joughin, David Ney, Carol Pettigrew, Michelle Coulombe, Ellen Muirhead, Barb Ralph, Bryan Ralph, Ken Fowler, Barry Fenton, Meg Clarke, Carol Kelly, Bette Shippam, Catherine Branch, Kathy McKay, Dilys Sostad, Rev. Nancy Talbot, Rev. Wade Lifton, Anne Ellis, Julian Pattison, Sharon Stevens, Kim Branch (recording secretary)

Chair Catherine Branch welcomed those present, confirmed there was a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 12:00pm. She then introduced council members.

Rev. Wade Lifton opened the meeting with a prayer.

M/S (Allan Johnston/Doug Querns) that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of March 6, 2016 be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

M/S (Gwen Kendrick/Doug Querns) that the agenda be approved. **Carried.**

Minister's Report: Rev. Nancy Talbot thanked staff and council. This past year has seen a focus on expression of faith. The growth of the thrift shop represents connection to community. Other areas to celebrate are the congregation's outreach and social justice work, our mental health initiative and the children and youth ministry. She is hopeful that the commercial espresso machine be installed in the coming year to further contribute to the success of the café space.

Administrative Team Report: Dilys Sostad, named as chair of the A-Team partway through the year, introduced members of the team and thanked Sharon Brain for her service as the previous chair. Smaller projects outstanding from the renovation project were addressed during the year, such as bathroom improvements, drop-off area for thrift store donations, the concrete apron) as well as general maintenance. Three projects are planned for the upcoming year: grounds keeping (including additional handicapped parking spaces), the café space and the chapel/storage.

Worship and Christian Development Committee Report: Bette Shippam, Chair, introduced the members and shared that this past year had been an active and positive year. Children and youth have a deeper spiritual understanding and are engaged. The committee has also been reflecting on spiritual journey. The Annual Report provides an overview of the themes throughout the year and the variety of faith activities.

Congregational Life: Meg Clarke, representing the Thrift Store management team, paid special tribute to Carol Kelly for her continued service as chair in her 12th year of volunteering. She described the Thrift Store as an example of the church's spiritual commitment beyond Sundays. The challenges are the volume of donations, the increased sales and the size of the volunteer team of over 100.

Mission & Outreach: Kathy McKay shared that the North Shore Youth Safe House feels the love and support of Mount Seymour United. Partnerships with local grocers will be built during the coming year to assist with our food ministry (Sandwich Makers and others).

Ministry & Personnel: Catherine Branch presented the M&P report, as Steve Wellenbrink has been unwell this past year. This past year was happily one of staff permanence, with no changes to staffing. Additional hours have been offered to Anne Ellis, in her role as Children and Youth minister in recognition of the increased activities and demands of the position.

A question from the floor regarding use of the Thrift Shop proceeds was raised and responded to.

Treasurer's Report (Barry Fenton for Roger Brain):

Barry Fenton presented the Financial Statements for 2016. He thanked members/adherents for fulfilling and exceeding their pledges towards the renovation project. The bridge loan is almost fully repaid. The building contingency fund has been depleted, but is expected to be replenished in the coming years. A small surplus in the operating budget was achieved. A downward trend in offerings is evident, however when combined with special offerings the total givings has increased by 4.9%. Projects undertaken thanks to special offerings include the concrete pad, replacement of sanctuary windows and exterior painting. The renovation project and these special projects has resulted in a beautiful building. Rental income in the past year has increased; an indication that the renovations have worked well to develop additional rental spaces. Thrift Store revenues continue in an upward trajectory. The goal of the renovation project was to improve efficiency and the space. Special thanks to the volunteers. A strong focus on cost control is reflected in the expenses, which have been kept within budget.

M/S (Doug Querns, Ted Butterfield) that the Financial Statements for 2016 be accepted as presented. **Carried.**

Doug Querns expressed his appreciation of Ministry staff for their efforts to stay within budget.

Barry Fenton presented the 2017 budget to the congregation and discussed highlights. The budget is balanced (with a small cash surplus of \$141) Revenue is forecasted to reach \$362,000. An increase of \$10,000 in expenses is related to the handyman, which was previously funded by donation. The council plans to implement initiatives to increase givings, as well as to build up the contingency fund to plan for the roof replacement.

Clarification was sought regarding the refugee fund. In 2016 \$7,800 was donated to the North Shore United Church initiative to support two families. Funds (\$27,000) are available in the 2017 budget for refugee families.

M/S (Bill Mathieson/James Fulton) that the Budget for 2017 be approved. **Carried.**

M/S (Gwen Kendrick/Fay Butterfield) that the 2016 Annual Report be adopted. **Carried.**

- Carol Kelly thanked those involved in the printing and preparation of the Annual Report.

Mount Seymour United Council Elections:

- (a) Retiring and Resigning Council members:
 - a. Nicole George (2016 – 2017) (Member-at-Large)
- (b) Continuing council: Rev. Nancy Talbot; Rev. Wade Lifton (clergy)
 - Catherine Branch (2015 – 2018) (Chair)
 - Carol Kelly (2014 – 2017) (Congregational Life, reporting for Thrift Store)
 - Roger Brain (2014 – 2017) (Treasurer)
 - Kathy McKay (2015 – 2018) (Mission & Outreach)
 - Barry Fenton (2015 – 2018) (Member-at-Large)
 - Steve Wellenbrink (2015 – 2018) (Ministry & Personnel, Presbytery Representative)
 - Dilys Sostad (2016 – 2019) (reporting for Administrative Team)
 - Mary Sparks (2016 – 2019) (Worship & Christian Development)
 - Kim Branch (2016 – 2019) (Recording Secretary)
- (c) 2017 positions update:
 - a. Meg Clarke (Congregational Life, reporting for Thrift Store)
 - Dilys Sostad (Administrative Team)
 - Steve Wellenbrink (2015 – 2018) (Presbytery Representative)
- (d) 2017 nominations (starting 2017):
 - Michelle Coulombe (Ministry & Personnel)
 - Frank Luba (Member-at-Large)

M/S (Sharon Brain/Sylvia Zandberg) that adherents can be permitted to vote on council election. **Carried.**

M/S (Lima Branch/Anne Ellis) that the 2017 updates to positions and nominations be accepted. **Carried.**

Remits from the United Church of Canada: Catherine Branch presented a summary of four of the UCC remits. Congregational motions to pass the remits will be made at a later date.

Remit #1: To move to a three council model from four.

Remit #2: Transfer/Settlement Process c

Remit #3: Office of Vocation

Remit #4 Funding model

Questions from the floor were raised regarding the impact of the Thrift Store revenue on the funding model and the proposed percentage to be directed to Mission and Service Fund. These concerns will be investigated further prior to voting on the motions.

Rev. Nancy Talbot closed the meeting with a prayer of gratitude and Julian Pattison led a closing song.

Catherine Branch adjourned the meeting at 1:15pm.

Catherine Branch, Chair

Kim Branch, Recording Secretary

APPENDIX 2 | STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT DECEMBER 31, 2017

ASSETS	2017	2016
Current Assets		
Cash	266,592	87,225
GIC Accounts	51,036	50,431
Renovation Fund	0	47
Pledges Receivable	0	4,711
Accounts Receivable	22,285	20,730
	<u>339,914</u>	<u>163,144</u>
Property, Plant and Equipment		
Land	425,151	425,151
Building	1,120,765	1,120,765
Furniture and Equipment	103,037	103,037
	<u>1,648,953</u>	<u>1,648,953</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,988,867</u>	<u>1,812,097</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	5,690	7,830
Mission and Service	216	1,262
Misc. Funds	70	70
First United Church	463	-
Syrian Refugee	17,159	27,883
2015 ProVision Fund	4,277	6,724
Bridge Loan	0	68,239
	<u>27,874</u>	<u>112,007</u>

NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES

VIM Loan	305,045	305,045
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EQUITY AND FUNDS

Sabbatical Fund	8,432	8,432
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Memorial Fund	20,543	19,694
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Bucket Fund	199,744	-
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Building Contingency Fund	14,129	1,417
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Renovation Expenses		-
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Renovation Fund		-
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	<u>242,848</u>	<u>29,543</u>
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Equity

Opening Balance	1,365,502	1,358,748
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Net Income for the year	<u>47,296</u>	<u>6,754</u>
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	<u>1,412,798</u>	<u>1,365,502</u>
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	<u>1,655,646</u>	<u>1,395,045</u>
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	<u>1,988,867</u>	<u>1,812,097</u>
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APPENDIX 3 | INCOME STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDED DEC 31, 2017 AND 2018 BUDGET

	2017 Actual 31-Dec	2016 Actual 31-Dec	2018 Budget Annual
REVENUE			
Offering Envelopes and PAR	140,007	137,009	140,000
Open Offering	6,362	8,131	7,400
Special Offering	12,037	34,238	10,000
Fund Allocation	-	0	
Total Givings	158,406	179,378	157,400
OTHER REVENUE			
Rentals	30,764	29,764	35,000
Memorials & Weddings	1,197	2,150	2,000
Thrift Shop	202,539	167,866	190,000
Interest	606	367	600
Fundraising (Coffee House)	3,918	3,851	4,000
Fundraising (Youth/BBQ/Turkey Lunch)	1,614	873	1,000
Misc	4,015	21	
Total Other	244,653	204,892	232,600
TOTAL REVENUE	403,059	384,270	390,000
EXPENSES			
A Team			
Copier	5,286	3,236	5,300
Office Supplies & Postage	2,680	1,652	2,000
Telephone	1,254	1,110	1,300
Bank Charges	1,137	1,333	1,200
Computer/Misc	733	613	800
Total Administration	11,090	7,944	10,600
Property			
Bld Maint	6,022	4,705	6,000
Equip Maintenance	1,079	293	1,000
Grounds/Handyperson	12,796	1,556	13,000
Sound Maint	1,062	172	1,000

Bld Heat Maint	2,570	4,791	2,700
Security	307	307	350
Janitorial	16,631	13,955	17,000
Garbage	1,676	2,716	2,000
Water & Sewer	1,259	1,598	1,300
Gas & Electric	8,929	8,849	9,000
Snow	2,460	3,280	2,500
Telephone Office	3,079	2,939	3,000
Insurance	10,193	9,517	10,200
Kitchen Supplies	757	600	500
Thrift Shop Improvements	12,703	7,507	11,450
Campaign Building & Equipment		2,040	
Special Project		35,472	
Total Property	81,526	100,297	81,000
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION TEAM	92,617	108,241	91,600
Worship & CD			
Pulpit Relief	1,600	500	1,600
Children's Community	702	169	500
Youth	243	0	200
Library/Misc	738	545	500
CD Adult	-60	575	300
Music Youth	0	0	0
Music Adults	0	0	0
Music Supplies	430	216	400
Music Director Relief	3,000	2,350	3,000
Music Piano/Organ Tuning	219	564	250
Worship Misc Supplies	845	502	800
Sound Production	1,023	450	1,400
TOTAL WORSHIP & CD	8,741	5,871	8,950
COUNCIL			
Presbytery	12,159	11,901	12,459
Other Expense	121	613	200
TOTAL COUNCIL	12,280	12,514	12,659
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE			
Advertising	338	205	200
Fellowship (Lunches/welcoming)	-23	-118	1,000
Observer Magazine	155	191	200
Sundays - Coffee	2,048	1,482	2,000
Pastoral Care	56	35	1,400
TOTAL CONGREGATIONAL LIFE	2,574	1,795	4,800

CONG. MISSION

Mission and Outreach	2,638	1,738	2,000
First United Thrift Shop Donation	20,509	20,000	28,500
Refugee Family Sponsorship		300	
Help Fund	243	606	

TOTAL MISSION	23,390	22,644	30,500
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MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

Wages	174,561	184,227	194,000
Ministers' Travel	1,744	554	1,500
Sabbatical Fund		0	
Staff Dev Cont Ed	3,272	2,431	4,000
Honorariums	125	1,450	1,300
CPP	6,011	4,994	6,000
EI	-18	3,316	3,500
Employee Benefits	22,596	22,318	23,650
M&P Discretionary	49	0	
MSP	648	648	700
Work Comp	379	360	500
Hosting	495	155	300
Other Payroll	6,000	6,000	6,000

TOTAL MINISTRY & PERSONNEL	215,862	226,453	241,450
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TOTAL EXPENSE	355,464	377,518	389,959
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Operating Surplus/Deficit	47,595	6,754	41
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VIM Loan Payments			
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CASH SURPLUS/DEFICIT	47,595	6,754	41
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Outreach Contributions

M&S	16,892	15,285	
Thrift Shop	20,509	20,000	
Other Outreach (FU)	1,518	1,190	
Syrian Refugees	10,799	7,793	
	49,718	44,268	



~ NURTURING SPIRIT
~ BEING COMMUNITY
~ LIVING GENEROUSLY



Mount Seymour United Church
1200 Parkgate Avenue North Vancouver B.C.
mtseymourunited.com mtsuc@shaw.ca