



# Mount Seymour United Church



2018

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 practise the way of Jesus*

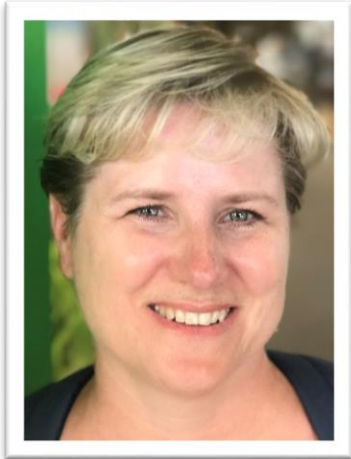
*The welcome we extend in this church is as broad and deep as we can make it. We welcome you wherever you are on life's journey, no matter how young or old you are, whatever your marital or economic status, sexual orientation or gender identity, ethnic or cultural heritage. We welcome those who consider 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

## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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## COUNCIL CHAIR | CATHERINE BRANCH



As I was considering my report to you, the word that kept coming to me was “gratitude.” This has been a year where so much has happened for which we must have gratitude.

The biggest event for which I have gratitude is the absence and return of Reverend Nancy Talbot to us in good health! Reverend Nancy left us in April to manage her health and, after several surgeries and some recovery time, she returned to us in October on a part time basis. She has worked her way back to full time before Christmas and we could not be happier. We are so very thankful for this blessing!!

During Nancy’s absence, I have so much gratitude for those that made the church continue to run with hardly a bump in the road. First, Carla Wilks rose to the occasion, from half time “student” doing her ministerial experience to full time minister stepping into Nancy’s shoes with incredible poise. She led Sundays, attended meetings, provided pastoral care, led funerals and generally picked up things before they could be dropped. She has been an incredible gift to our congregation.

Second, Anne Ellis, our Children & Families Minister became far more than that. Anne also led Sunday worship, continued her responsibilities for the children and youth programming, took on the Living Room and the Death Café and became a jack of all trades wherever she was needed.

Thirdly, Cindy Nelms, our administrator, took on whatever came her way without the usual guidance. She, in particular, organized and improved our rental system so that everything is now streamlined and everyone is accountable.

I am also incredibly grateful to Council for all the work it has done this year. You are represented by an amazing group of individuals with whom it is a pleasure to meet with each month or more and who work hard beyond what they do at the council table. Council has been working on a number of matters this year including the bequest (see report), issues arising from our October retreat and the preparation and review of recommendations from a subcommittee who undertook a Comprehensive Staff Review.

At our retreat, we reviewed all the programs offered by the church to determine who they served, how well they were serving that constituency and whether or not the program was still needed. What we came to see is that we are a church that serves a larger community. Most of our offerings are very meaningful to the people who access them. However, we have a large constituency within our church who are underserved and that is members of the Thrift shop, both volunteers and customers. We would like to look in that direction to see what ministry we can provide. We are starting by increasing our ministry presence on Thursdays during shopping time. The Council will have other recommendations at our Annual General Meeting.

As a result of our retreat review of all our programs and our determination that we are no longer a small employer, a subcommittee of the Council undertook a Comprehensive Staff Review. We looked at all the

activities of the church and to whom they were accountable. We looked at all the paid staff and looked at their job descriptions, interviewed them regarding what they are actually doing as compared to their descriptions and to whom they were accountable. The results of this work led to a number of recommendations to the Council in the areas of staffing, governance and other issues. An executive summary of the report with recommendations will be provided to the congregation in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

I have a lot of gratitude to the Thrift Shop and its Management Committee and, in particular, to Carol Kelly, Meg Clarke and Sharon Brain. As most of you are aware, the Thrift Shop continues to grow – in volunteers, merchandise and customers. As a result, it continues to make more money to support the ongoing work of the church and to donate to First United Church. Carol Kelly has been running the Thrift Shop on her own for several years and retired from her position in April. There are not enough words to thank Carol for the job that she has done, which is really the job of several people!! Upon her retirement, the Thrift Shop created a Management structure to help manage day to day operations. Meg Clark and Sharon Brain have been working since before Carol's retirement to determine what were the needs of the Thrift Shop in terms of management, communications and processes. Based on their work and their work with the Management Committee, they came to council with the request to hire a paid manager. After a search and interview process, we are so pleased to welcome Alexis Doss to our church community. She is working 35 hours per week in the Thrift Shop and is making herself indispensable already!

I am grateful for our new roof! After fundraising and waiting for the right time of year, we had our roof replaced this Spring. What a wonderful thing to have this major expense paid for and the worry put away for another twenty years!

There are so many people and activities around the church for which I am grateful: our wonderful music from Julian Pattison, Dominique Hogan and Marcus Mosely; our teams and leaders, Worship & Christian Development, Mission & Outreach (Katherine McKay); Administrative Team (Dilys Sostad); Ministry & Personnel (Michelle Coulombe); and of particular importance to me, the members of Council: Kim Branch, Roger Brain, Dilys Sostad, Mary Sparks, Katherine McKay, Michelle Coulombe, Steve Wellenbrink, Barry Fenton and Frank Luba. You have been a joy to work with and a wonderful support.

As a congregation and a community, we have so much for which we have been and are grateful. We have accomplished outstanding things together and I can only believe that we will accomplish amazing things in the year to come.

With love and blessings in the coming year,  
Catherine Branch



## LEAD MINISTER | REV. NANCY TALBOT



“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” 1 Corinthians 12: 26-27

As I stop to consider 2018, the Apostle Paul’s metaphor of the Church as the Body of Christ comes immediately to mind. It was a very disjointed year for me having to step out of my role for a six month restorative care leave to tend my health. While away and on my return in October I was in awe of the way the “body” of Mount Seymour United pulled together to pick up my work and carry on. I know it wasn’t always seamless but it appeared that way to me. I am so grateful for the resiliency and wisdom of our community that made it so, in particular the Council, staff and Carla Wilks whose “Supervised Ministry Experience” quickly became a much greater learning experience than anticipated.

Before I took my leave it became apparent to the Council early in the New Year that we needed to conduct a “comprehensive review” of our ministry. The growth of our Thrift Shop, changing demographics of our congregation and the resulting increases in the number of staff on the payroll demanded our attention. With the help of Conference Personnel Minister Kathy Davies, a small group of council members set out to look at our mission, current ministry, projected ministry and gaps in our staffing. The need for this review was augmented by the very good challenge of determining how to faithfully steward the funds we received from the Ann Kerr bequest. The team made up of Catherine Branch, Barry Fenton, Michelle Coulombe, Dilys Sostad, Kim Branch and Carla Wilks (during my absence) worked very hard on their report and recommendations which they presented to the Council in January 2019. We look forward to sharing them with you at this year’s AGM.

In between my personal health challenges in 2018, I was thankful for the opportunity to share in rich worship and educational experiences with the congregation as we continue to experiment with themes that bridge our worship and Christian life. Series such as “The Dark Wood” at Lent, “Resurrection Stories” after Easter and “Angels Among Us” during Advent give us a common language to share and deepen our experience of the sacred. I was delighted we had some success in extending that bridge to everyone who uses our building through the interactive altar created by Pam McFarlane in the foyer throughout Advent.

Anne Ellis and Leslie Buerschaper continue to create installations in the oculus at the front of the building and on the bulletin board in the café space to reach beyond our Sunday morning experience and connect with the community that gathers in our space. At our council retreat in October, we emphasized our ongoing

need to keep finding ways to make these connections especially with the vast numbers of folks who enter our building on Thrift Shop days. In many ways, this is the work of the present and future church.

In addition to overseeing the mission of the church, supervising staff and leading worship, I continued to chair the Vancouver Burrard Presbytery Executive when my health allowed this past year. With the restructuring of the national church that work came to an end in 2018. I also served on the Conference Spiritual Care Network and was grateful to be able to attend and offer worship leadership in November at a retreat we hosted for ministry personnel at Rivendell Retreat centre on Bowen Island.

As we close the book on another year of ministry together, I want to express my gratitude for the privilege of serving as your lead minister and for the support and encouragement I received during my restorative care leave. I give thanks for the faithful ministry of those stepping down from Council this year including Roger Brain, Katherine McKay and Meg Clarke; for the ongoing work of Council capably headed up by Catherine Branch; for the committed work of our countless volunteers including the Thrift Shop Management Team; and for the enthusiastic staff and ministry team I am lucky enough to call my colleagues.

Gratefully submitted by Rev. Nancy



## ASSOCIATE MINISTER | CARLA WILKS



As I reflect on all that happened in my life and ministry in 2018 it seems like it could not possibly have all happened in 2018! It has been a very full year, with rich learning, reflection and strong support along the way.

In January I was approved by the United Church to begin my Supervised Ministry Education (SME) in March, which meant that while working here, I also have had specific goals to work on and have been meeting regularly with my Lay Supervision Team and separately with my supervisor. I am very grateful for the opportunities to reflect on ministry experiences with my Lay Supervision Team (Bette Shippam, Gladys Johnston and Mike Hetherington) and my supervisors (Rev. Nancy and also Rev. Will Sparks during Nancy's restorative care leave), and I am very thankful to them for their encouragement and support throughout the year.

I spent the first few months of the year getting to know people, helping with worship planning and congregational activities, preaching once a month, leading a Lenten book study group, filling in wherever needed and working with the Mission and Outreach Team on their projects.

My goals for my SME evolved somewhat in April when I took on primary responsibility for worship and congregational life when Nancy stepped away. What a privilege it was to continue to walk with you throughout those months, worshipping together, planning for the summer and fall, making decisions together, grieving losses together, caring for our greater community, deepening our spirituality and sharing stories of our lives of faith with each other.

This past year has been a year filled with a variety of continuing education for me. I graduated in 1998 from the Vancouver School of Theology (VST), but needed to take one more course to fulfill ordination requirements, so I took a Pastoral Care class from January to April. In March I attended an event at Highlands United with Peter Rollins. As we were looking at a possible need for expanding some ministry to seniors in the community, I happened upon 7 days of courses in April about dementia care and spirituality at Carey Centre, UBC, ultimately leading to learning about how to set up an Alzheimer café. Three of us who attended became the coordinators of four Alzheimer cafés that took place throughout the summer in Vancouver. The hope is to test a similar type of event here in 2019. Also in April I attended a presbytery workshop event with George Meier about the changing context of society and how it affects the way we do church. In July to challenge myself I decided to take a week-long summer school preaching course at VST about preaching without notes. In October I participated in Sowing Promise, Growing Leaders, and a leadership retreat in Osoyoos with about 30 other United Church ministry leaders to explore church leadership in these changing times. The theme speaker was our former United Church Moderator, Peter Short. I found this event to be very renewing, and I look forward to part two of the event in May 2019.

In the wider church, I continued to serve on the Conference Interim Ministry Committee, which was responsible for training congregations who, in a time of transition have chosen to have an intentional Interim Minister to help them through conflict or help them with visioning or identity. We also were the group that interviewed



and designated ministers as Interim Ministers once they completed the training and we also provided some opportunities for collegial support and continuing education for them.

I was so thankful to welcome Nancy back to work in October, and the remainder of the fall and winter was spent laying out plans for the remainder of the year and into 2019. We hosted a Newcomer gathering and got to know many of our newer folks better. I began spending more of my time with the Thrift Shop volunteers and customers and began attending the management team meetings and working with our new Thrift Shop Manager, Alexis.

November had another highlight for me: My final interview with the Candidacy and Admissions Board took place at the end of the month, and I was recommended for ordination, which will be on June 2, 2019!

It is such a privilege to be in ministry with you here at Mount Seymour, to work with such a great team, and I thank you all for your support throughout 2018. This year reminded me that out of our time in the Dark Woods, the Resurrection Stories do emerge and reveal to us the Angels Among Us, as we continue to grow and be nurtured and challenged while exploring together what it means to be people of faith in this place and this time.

With gratitude,

Carla



## CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR | ANNE ELLIS



In our Children and Youth community, we are committed to creating a safe and sacred space for our children to be authentically who they are: wiggles, giggles, seriousness, gifts, skills, warts and all.

In February, we took five kids and one leader to the **Imagine: Children's Retreat** at Stillwood retreat Centre, near Cultus Lake. We have been taking children to this retreat for seven 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.

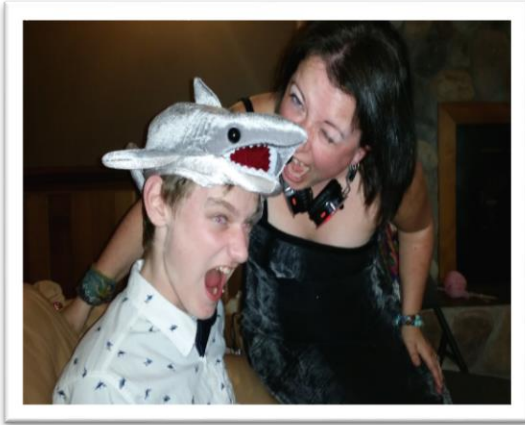
**Board Game** nights and **Soul-Full Suppers** continue to be a source of fun and community for our Children and Youth. Board game Nights once a month bring together friends and families to play, laugh and be together. Soul-Full Suppers add a deeply needed faith formation aspect to our community and all of the children and youth enjoy engaging their faith with spiritual practices and fellowship.

In Lent: We raised \$400 for our **Kiva.org** account. Kiva, a micro-loan organization, provides small loans to people to improve their lives and incomes. Because the money is a loan, our \$400 dollars returns to us and we can make more loans to help more people. Over the ten years we have had a Kiva account we have made more than 30 loans, in 23 different countries, totaling more than \$1000.

In May: Five youth and one leader attended **May Retreat** at Camp Fircom on Gambier Island. This retreat happens on the May long weekend and is an opportunity for our youth to get away, relax, hang out with friends and explore their faith in a beautiful natural setting.

In the Summer: Again this summer we hosted **Camp Spirit**, a summer day camp, where 23 kids aged 5-13, along with Youth leaders and a number of youth and adult volunteers spent a week here learning, playing and growing together in faith.



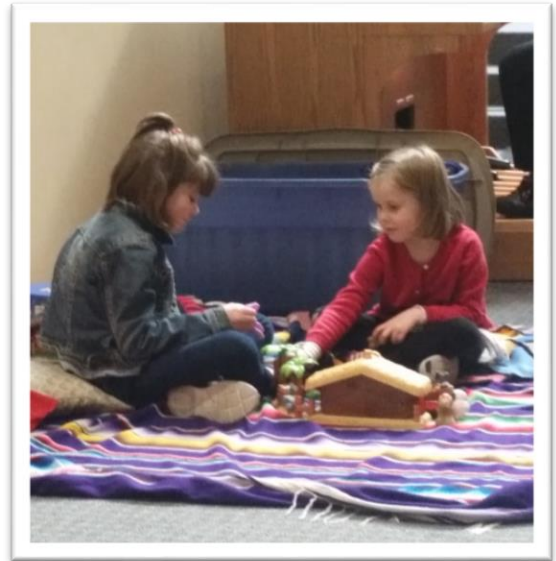


In the fall: We explored some of the miracle stories of Jesus and wondered about whether or not Jesus was a **Superhero**. In the end, we just were not sure either way. Six youth and one leader attended **Evolve**, another retreat for young people at Stillwood Retreat Center.

Advent: Had us fundraising again for **Gifts with Vision**. We raised \$820 to adopt bees here in Canada, provide school supplies to students in the Middle East and food in famine stricken areas of Africa.

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 200 people in attendance.

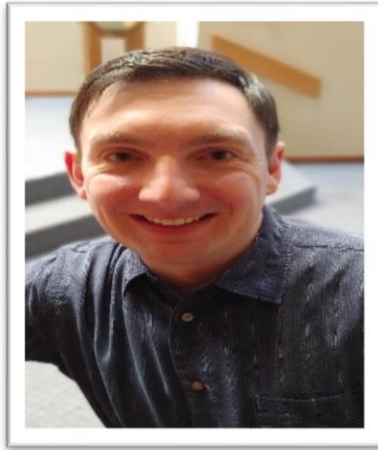
Every year we have more children and that means more adult leaders for Sunday mornings and beyond. The volunteer team grew again in 2018. The gifts, skills and thoughtfulness all the CC/Y leaders bring to our younger members is a constant blessing to our work and our community of faith. I am so grateful to all my volunteer leaders who make our church community such a beautiful place to work and be.



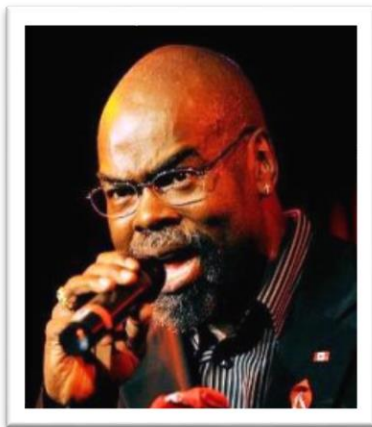
We are looking forward another great year in 2019.

Anne Ellis

## MUSIC LEADER | JULIAN PATTISON



Music is a very important part of our worship life - we are so blessed and grateful for the many musical offerings in 2018. Various congregational members have joined Julian for Sunday morning singing throughout the year, and some have appeared as soloists. Special thanks to Catherine Branch, Michelle Coulombe, Ross Dunnet, Eunice Findlay, Alan Furniss, Bobbie Grimard, Susie Ha, Mardi and Stan Joughin, Cindy Nelms, and Sylvia and Gert Zandberg for their musical contributions. We are very thankful for our "in-house" instrumentalists especially Ian Jarvis, Mary Sparks, and Ruth Townsend who enhance our worship with their offerings. We were also very pleased to have Kelly Nobles offer her leadership the Sunday after Christmas and for several memorial services 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. Many thanks to Dan Morrison and Christian Findlay who volunteer as guest musicians on Gospel Choir Sundays.



We welcomed a number of guest musicians throughout the summer: Dominique Hogan, Caitlin Hayes and Cole Tinney filled in as music leaders, and Carla's Japanese homestay student Asuka Endo even played some special music! We're grateful that there are people able to offer leadership while Julian is away.

The Advent Choir and Band were back with gusto again this year, led by their fearless leaders Catherine Branch and Mary Sparks. It was wonderful to see people of all ages participating in these activities - many thanks to Catherine and Mary for their coordination and leadership, and to all those who participated.

It is a privilege to be a part of the musical life of this community!

Respectfully submitted,  
Julian Pattison

## ADMINISTRATOR/COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR | CINDY NELMS



As a new employee, it was challenging at times during Rev. Nancy's medical leave, but I dove in and did the best I could. It certainly was a blessing to have Nancy return in October in restored good health.

To improve the organization of our facilities rental program, a new rental request and invoicing system was implemented, as well, rental contracts were renegotiated with our seven long-term renters. After researching church rental fees and community centre facilities, our rental rates were increased to be more comparable.

We assisted First Memorial Funeral Services during their North Vancouver renovation, and hosted four of their well-attended memorial services throughout the summer.

Maintaining a good rapport with our renters, careful monitoring of the rental calendar, and strict attention to invoicing and receivables, we had a successful rental year with a 21 percent increase in rental revenue. Thank you Barry Fenton for your helpful feedback.

As part of the Administration Team, many improvements and upgrades took place during 2018 which made for a busy summer of activity. I could have used a hard hat and reflective vest some days while directing the constant flow of thrift shop traffic around all of the contractor vehicles, cranes and disposal bins during the three month installation of the new roof, skylights, and h-vac system. It was very fortunate that the preschool was not back in session the first week of September when several large trees fell into the Preschool yard destroying their garden and sections of the fence. Improvements made to the church interior include new interior signage, and washroom hand towel dispensers that provide us with a more polished and professional appearance.



I'm thrilled to have Alexis Doss join us as the new Thrift Shop Manager, she is not only a huge help to the Thrift Shop, but to my work load as well. Thanks to the creative planning by Sharon Brain and Dilys Sostad, the volunteer area renovation has provided Alexis and our bookkeeper Cheryl Shott a more organized and functional office space.

A special thank you to Bud Taggart and James Fulton who are always willing to lend a helping hand. The Counting Team of Burton Branch, Barry Fenton, Gladys Johnston, Donna Pawluk, and Fay Butterfield, your weekly assistance is much appreciated!

Thank you Rev. Nancy, Carla, Anne, Cheryl and Alexis, I couldn't ask to work with a better team of people!

I look forward to the challenges and excitement that no doubt 2019 will bring.

Warmly, Cindy Nelms

## ADMINISTRATION TEAM | DILYS SOSTAD



The Administrative Team is responsible for the maintenance of the building.

Members of the team are James Fulton, Burton Branch, Gladys Johnston, Cindy Nelms, and myself. Leslie Buerschaper, and Sean Sallis-Lyon also attend meetings as time permits. Sharon Brain is always on hand for decorating advice and IKEA trips! Rick Mains is our handyman and Sheldhan Simonss provides janitorial services.

This year, after an amazing fundraising campaign, we were able to replace our aging, much patched roof. It is wonderful to know that the building will stay dry no matter how many rain storms we have. We also extended the awnings outside the thrift shop entrance and the preschool area so that shoppers, parents and children are sheltered.

Gladys and her gardening crew did a wonderful job on the flowerbeds despite having to work around roofers. They also had the large lawn repaired and reseeded which is much appreciated by the Sunday school and the preschool. A small garden shed has been built solely for gardening tools and equipment. This is very helpful for the gardeners who now do not need to bring shovels, rakes etc. with them when they intend to work, and it is also helpful for the thrift shop as it frees up storage in their large shed.

The peace garden continues to be maintained by Dorothy Redlinger and is much appreciated as a place of contemplation.

Work inside the building was centred mainly in the sanctuary. The banner hanging mechanism was repaired and a second hanger installed for the new liturgical banner bought with bequest monies from Gary Ward. At the same time while the man lift was in place, a number of burned out light bulbs were changed and wiring and speakers for the sound system installed.



Most recently, a wall in the sound room, which had been damaged by our old leaky roof, was repaired and painted.

Our team works hard and we are happy to report that visitors and renters often make complimentary comments about our beautiful welcoming building. None of this would be possible without the support and participation of the congregation, for which we are grateful.

We look forward to serving for another year.

Submitted by Dilys Sostad  
On behalf of the Administration Team

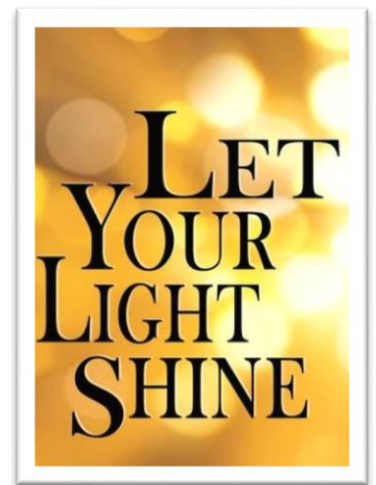
## WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT | CARLA WILKS

The goals of the WCD committee are 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 2018 - Star Gifts** For the second year we created paper stars with individual words on them and gave them to all members of the congregation on Epiphany Sunday and the weeks following. Each person was invited to explore how their star guided and inspired their life in the coming year. We had some folks speak about the meaning that

their 2017 star held for them throughout the year. The star gifts were well received and many members continued to talk about their stars for months to come. The theme for Epiphany was called “Let Your Light Shine” and we explored how every day activities could be ways to deepen our spiritual life. We distributed reminders during worship such as a tea light candle attached to the opening prayer we used each Sunday, a list of possible acts of kindness, and a blank card to send to someone.



**Lent to Easter 2018** – Our theme was “*Gifts of the Dark Wood*”. Our Lenten theme this year, based on the book by the same name by Eric Elnes, took us on a journey through the dark woods of our lives, those times when uncertainty, emptiness, lostness and temptation become companions. We explored how the struggles of life can be the seedbed of spiritual awakening to the fullness of life. Each week’s “gift” corresponded to chapters in the book that were explored in our Book Study groups. Our Good Friday Service included sharing of the story from the perspectives of Jesus’ friend Mary; his disciple Simon Peter; his betrayer Judas; a soldier of the Roman army; Mary, mother of Jesus and Salome who stood by him until the end. Easter Sunday we were doubly blessed with the music of Julian along with Marcus, Dominique and the Gospel Choir.

**Easter 2018** – Our theme for the Easter season was “Resurrection Stories.” We heard very powerful messages of resurrection from some guest speakers speaking of Resurrection from Homelessness, from Addiction, from Imprisonment, from and Illness.

**Pentecost 2018** – For the season after Pentecost this year our theme was “The Outsiders” where we travelled through the Gospel of Luke, exploring many of the ways that Jesus’ ministry was offered to those considered to be on the “outside” of society.

**Summer 2018** – Carla took some vacation time in July and worship was led by Anne and a few guests.

**Fall 2018** – The blessing of the backpacks Sunday was a big hit again this year. We then began our theme “We Live, We Love” where we spent each week looking at one story of Genesis and the struggle with right relationship that appears and crosses boundaries of time and geography, revealing our human frailty and the ways in which our fear shows up in those difficult relationships.



**Advent 2018** – Our Advent theme was “Angels Among Us.” Each week we encountered one of the gospel stories of a messenger and explored how we could be messengers of more hope, peace, joy, love and life to those around us and to the world. We had our Blue Christmas service, a service of comfort and solace to those seeking a quiet worship.

Christmas Eve services included a bustling and full early service at 4pm for families with young children and a candlelight service at 7pm where the Christmas Story was paired with personal stories of modern-day Angels Among Us.





## Christian Development and Adult Faith Formation:

We continued to invite all to engage in weekly Spiritual Practices (Sacred Circle, Meditation, The Work: practice group) which take place on Monday nights; as well as Friday morning meditation practice, Sacred Meditation (Lectio Divina).

During Lent, 26 people participated in three concurrent book study groups, studying the book that accompanied our Lenten series "Gifts of the Dark Wood" by Eric Elnes.

There was a Money Minds workshop offered in June led by Caitlin Frost, using the process The Work of Byron Katie. The Work is a method of self-reflection that leads to healing and self-actualization.

We continued to offer Soul-full Suppers, after-Sunday service community lunches and Board Games Nights throughout the year, all of which create opportunities for us to deepen our faith and nurture community.

## Camp Spirit 2018



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 2019 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.

We give thanks for Carol Pettigrew who so faithfully and creatively decorates our communion table each Sunday to reflect our theme. And also thanks to Kathryn Ferriss who has taken on preparing communion each month.

We give thanks to Pam McFarlane for her time on our team as she stepped away at the end of 2018, and we are thankful for her artistic expression that created the interactive Advent display and assisted Carol with the communion table on Sunday mornings.

We look forward to another exciting and innovative year in 2019.

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

## MISSION AND OUTREACH | KATHERINE MCKAY

2018 was another successful year providing for others in our community and the downtown Eastside through First United Church. I'm pleased to announce a wonderful addition to our team, Susan Ettinger which makes five members on the M&O Team. The remaining four include Barb Ralph, Barry Fenton, Carla Wilks and myself, Katherine McKay.

### Outreach to First United Church

**Urgent material needs** as expressed by the Weekly First United Bulletin are monitored and items gathered from the Thrift Shop whenever possible.

**Sanctuary/Lounge** - items such as magazines, textbooks, books, games, puzzles, crafts and writing materials that are not sold in the Thrift Shop are sent to community members at First United to enjoy.

**Christmas in June** - monetary donations and dozens of large paper bags were filled with non-perishable items to replenish First United's food stores.



**World Food Day** - in October the congregation has the opportunity to purchase displayed non-perishable items and the givings equivalent was \$700 of groceries plus monetary donations.

**Ready Readers** - hundreds of pairs of reading glasses are provided annually so that the downtown eastside community members can read and fill out important forms.

**Annual Picnic in Panorama Park**- it was a beautiful sunny August day enjoyed by all. A hot lunch was provided by First United and 200 cups of **Coffee, muffins, snacks, fruit and desserts** were supplied by us. Dan Greenwood of **Red Boat Charters** took 39 people out on the water in three different trips to tour the Deep Cove area.

**Kayaks and canoes** were generously provided by Merrilee and friends and enjoyed by 28 people; sometimes twice. It was decided for safety reasons to rent one bus instead of two this time to bring our friends from First United to Panorama Park. This year we had to purchase a bus permit to allow the bus to enter this Deep Cove area. 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** is put up annually in the sanctuary at the beginning of December so that congregation members, Mt Seymour Preschool families and others can donate gifts for First United Church DTES community members and the local North Shore Youth Safe House (NSYSH).

**Paul Butler** - the Youth Services Coordinator at Hollyburn Family Services (NSYSH) spoke from the heart to the congregation on two occasions.

**NSYSH** donations picked up by Paul Butler December 23:

**Gift cards** - over \$560 for Indigo, A&W, Tim Hortons, Subway, President's Choice, Cineplex and Compass Cards.

**Clothing** - multiple boxes of clothing including PJs, hoodies, pants, toques, gloves, socks, coats, running shorts and shirts.

**Presents** - many items donated were appropriate for wrapping and putting under the Christmas tree at the NSYSH for the youth. Items included activity/colouring books, gaming keyboard, Marvel magazines and toiletry packages.

**Christmas cards** - once again Anne Ellis and the Children's Community worked hard on making lovely Christmas cards for the Youth to receive Christmas morning.

**First United Church Donations:**

**Clothing** -131 pairs of socks! Gloves and mitts, shirts, ties, underwear, slippers, scarves and 23 toques.

**Blankets and 53 Ponchos**

**Toiletries** - a couple large boxes containing dental floss, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lip balm, shampoo, body wash, combs, hand cream, band aids, razors, deodorants, soaps, 7 make-up kits.

**MTSUC Thrift Shop Support**

**Team members** volunteer time weekly in "the shop"

**Tea service** - Barb coordinates the weekly tea service on Thursdays and the

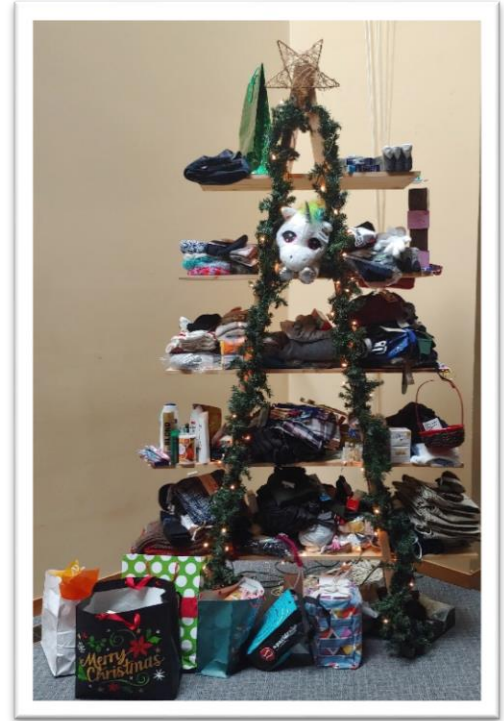
**Annual Christmas Tea** - for the patrons

**Alzheimer Café**

This new initiative spearheaded by Carla Wilks was supported by the M&O Budget.

I would like to extend an enormous heartfelt thank-you to all those congregation members that support our many programs.

Respectfully, Katherine McKay, Chair



## MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY | LESLIE BUERSCHAPER

April 20, 2019 will mark the second-year anniversary of our Living Room Peer Support Group at Mt. Seymour. We meet on the first and third Thursday of every month from 7-8:30pm. We still find the gap between meetings when we have a five-week month is too big so in five-week months we try to meet on the last Thursday of the month.

We have had a few people drop in as well as a group from the congregation that attend on a regular basis.

Our group structure is a comfortable working model for our meetings. We start by lighting our candle and move to a brief check in and then spend the bulk of our time sharing. We close in prayer. We continue to have healthy snacks in addition to tea and water.

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 outside of regular meetings.

Over the last year our participants have shared their highs and very deep lows. We have celebrated and grieved together. All are very thankful for our group and often say that knowing we are there helps them cope with the very hard times.

Anne and I are beginning to feel the pressure of having only two facilitators. School commitments and the occasional illness has made having both of us available for every meeting a challenge at times.



Through solidarity, the group continues to be 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.

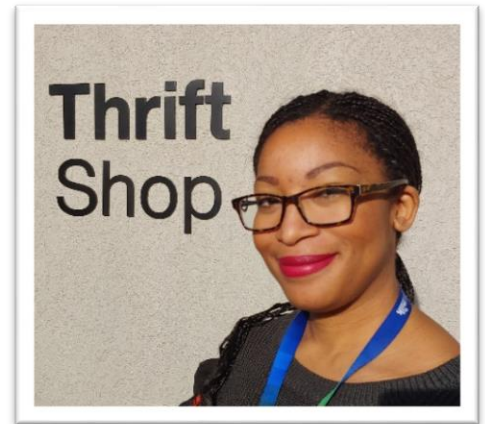
## THRIFT SHOP | SHARON BRAIN

As we end our third year in our dedicated shop space, we can report that we are a hardworking and successful social enterprise.

This year, in April, Carol Kelly retired after five years of tireless work as Thrift Shop Chair. No single person stepped forward to take up the responsibilities Carol carried so ably for five years. Instead, a Summer Management Team took over the Management role. We were; Anne Devent, (Merchandising Manager), Nancy McMillian, (Shop Day Scheduling) Barb Ralph, Barb Waldie, Meg Clarke, (Church Liaison) Gail Whitney and Lima Branch, (Volunteer Well-Being), Cathy Hall, Bonnie Wudrick and Carol Kelly, (Thursday Managers), Irene Huva and Sharon Brain (Donations Manager).

By the end of the year we moved to hire a paid Thrift Shop Manager for the first time in our history. Our new Thrift Shop Manager, Alexis Doss, who started work at the end of November, is full-time at 35 hours a week. She was a volunteer several years ago and is very happy to be back.

With our first year of paid labour in the Donations area, we have incurred increased costs this year as we struggled to keep pace with the ever-increasing number of donated items. We continue to receive more good products than we can sell. Developmental Disability Association (DDA) trucks now come six times a week (up from once or twice a week last year). We expect this influx to increase and know we must find creative ways to handle it.



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 11am of 70 or more. And we have had several days of more than \$5000 in revenue.

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 cart, extending the awning and moving the trash and cardboard recycling bins closer to the shed.

Communications with over 80 volunteers continues to challenge. We post minutes of our Team Meetings in the Shop and email a monthly newsletter to each volunteer after each Team meeting. The new improved MSUC website has also been helpful and we have launched a Thrift Shop Facebook page (for Thrift Shop volunteers only).

Some of the special events we held or participated in during 2018:

- January we gathered at PARC Cedar Springs the annual Volunteer Appreciation Tea. Over 45 volunteers came for delicious food and pleasant times, all catered by Cedar Springs.
- At our Annual Meeting in March our Management Team was increased.
- Maundy Thursday dinner for Thrift Shop customers and volunteers was well attended again this year. Coupons were again this year given to each person for use in the Café on Thursdays.
- During September and November we held two “blitz” sorting/pricing events: Halloween and

Christmas respectively. We encourage all volunteers and their friends and family to attend, we price the seasonal items stored over the year. 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 held following the church service. Again we opened the Thrift Shop for two hours to invite Church folks, as well as regular customers, to get to know the shop better. Revenue for the day went to First United to support their work in the Downtown Eastside.
- Christmas Customers Appreciation day – held on Thursday, December 20th. Complimentary goodies and coffee/tea were served in the Café to our customers. The Cafe area was filled with music, caroling, chat and fun for much of the day.

### **Charitable Outreach**

This year, as well as our more than \$30,000 cash donation to First United, we have a number of charities we supported with donations of clothing, shoes, books, fabric and yarn.

A partial list...

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION - with our now-daily trucks, we are a huge supporter of this charity.

FIRST UNITED - a list of needed items is provided each week. We watch for and pack and a volunteer, Jill Blair, drives a car-load over town every two weeks. Magazines and some books to Katherine Mackay for distribution to the lounge.

LIONS MANOR FIRE PROJECT - \$100 merchandise certificates were given to each suite in the Manor after the fire.

SANITARY NAPKIN PROJECT – requires dark flannelette and quilts prints. A box is stored in the sorting room with Lima's fabric bin for collection each week.

SHIRTS TO CAMBODIAS –men's dress shirts in excellent condition are collected and sold to the organizer on Thursdays for \$2.00 each.

SHOES TO NAIROBI – good men/women's shoes are collected in the storage shed for Jane. She picks them up monthly and pays \$2.00/pair.

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 (volunteer) takes yarn that will not sell in the Shop for the co-ordinator of this project.

HIGH SCHOOL IB PROGRAM – Connie O'Connor collects and delivers yarn/fabric not saleable in the Shop to this program.

NORTH SHORE RED CROSS – items are collected and delivered by Jill Blair.

WEST VAN SENIORS CENTRE - For paperbacks not good enough to sell at the shop

Various LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES in the Vancouver area - for children's books not good enough to sell at the shop, CRABTREE CORNER, for children's clothes and items that we aren't allowed to sell i.e. cribs, high chairs, etc. plus some bedding.

Respectfully submitted by

Sharon Brain  
Chair, MSUC Thrift Shop

<b>2018 Thrift Shop Revenue: (net after expenses)</b>	<b>\$214,268</b>
Approximate Number of Customers Making Purchases:	<b>18,615</b>
Highest Sales December 20, 2018:	<b>\$6062</b>
Number of Active Volunteers:	<b>88</b>



## MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL | MICHELLE COULOMBE

The Ministry and Personnel Committee is responsible for four main areas. We have a consultative and supportive role for matters involving the pastoral charge staff. We have a healthy relationships role and are responsible for overseeing the relationship of the pastoral charge staff to each other and to people in the congregation, which includes conflict resolution. We have a supervisory role and we are responsible for regularly reviewing the working conditions, responsibilities, and compensation of all pastoral charge staff, and making recommendations as a result of these reviews to the council. Other areas of M&P responsibility include: employment regulations, Workplace Health and Safety, Sexual Harassment Policy, Workplace Violence and Harassment policy, police record checks, compensation for salary, travel, benefits, medical and other leaves, statutory holidays and vacation, sabbatical, maternity and parental leaves, bereavement and compassionate leave, continuing education leave, recruitment and selection of lay employees, conducting annual performance reviews of pastoral charge staff, disciplinary action, termination, resignation and retirement.

Thank you so much to the Ministry and Personnel team this year: Peter Muirhead, David Ney, and Lori Keith. Special thanks to Lori Keith, who is new to the team this year, for offering to be our M&P committee's secretary. We say a huge thank you to Marianne Hansen, who is stepping off from M&P this year. Her kindness, warmth and curiosity will be greatly missed.

2018 has been another busy year with our ministry and lay staff.

Due to medical concerns, our full-time lead minister, Reverend Nancy Talbot, needed to take a restorative care leave. Restorative care leave financial coverage is offered through the United Church of Canada benefits plan. This plan has been a big support both to our church and to Nancy. She rejoined us in October, and we are extremely pleased to have her back in the saddle again, providing leadership and oversight, supervision to our ministry team and lay staff, worship, pastoral care, faith formation and spiritual practices to our church community.

Carla Wilks was hired as our Minister of Emerging Ministries and Community Outreach but didn't get a chance to do that job, until very recently. During Nancy's absence and recovery, Carla moved from half-time to full-time, taking on much of the work that had been primarily Nancy's responsibility. Carla has demonstrated her calm nature in the face of uncertainty and how capable she is in a wide variety of areas. Carla has been working in a supervised ministry appointment here at Mount Seymour from February 2018 to June 2019.

In Nancy's absence, our Children and Youth Coordinator, Anne Ellis, stepped up to help with a variety of activities and ministries within the church and her hours were temporarily increased as a result. Once again, Anne demonstrated that she is a capable and supportive co-worker. Anne took some of our children to the Imagine retreat this year and she also took some of our teens to the Evolve retreat. She was moved from a contract to regular employee status in September. Anne has gone above and beyond the call of duty, yet again, during a challenging time and we are so grateful for her presence here with us.

Cindy Nelms continues to work full time, as our church administrator. As marketing is part of her role, she has been producing consistently beautiful weekly emails, large advertising banners, posters and postcards to market the various programs and special events of the church.



Julian Pattison leads our Sunday choir and continues to provide us with a wide variety of music during worship, on piano and organ. He plays so amazingly that many of us don't want to leave the sanctuary after service if Julian is still playing. He would love you to come half an hour early on a Sunday morning and practice with the choir.

Marcus Mosely and Dominique Hogan continue to bring their enthusiasm and rousing Gospel music one Sunday a month, rehearsing and co-leading the Gospel Choir.

Cheryl Shott has been doing an exceptional job as our book-keeper. She has been an invaluable resource to me in helping with calculations of deductions and costs of employees to the church, as well as providing major assistance with the upcoming budget. We are exceptionally grateful for her competencies and service.

In the Thrift Shop, we said farewell to Braydon Roman as the Thrift Shop Assistant. This position was later filled by Sean Sallis-Lyon. A Thrift Shop Receiver position was created by the Thrift Shop Executive and this position was filled by Cathy Blaney. When Cathy was injured, Ian Jarvis offered his assistance in that role temporarily. Most recently, a new position, the Thrift Shop Manager, was created by Council on advice from the Thrift Shop Executive, to coordinate the volunteers, provide administration and marketing, and oversee the day to day operations of the shop. This position reports to the Thrift Shop Executive. We are very pleased to welcome Alexis Doss into this full-time position.

Sean Sallis-Lyon, our Sound Technician, continues to capably run our sound system on Sunday mornings as well as for memorials.

Sheldhan Simonss, our custodian, cleans the offices, washrooms, kitchen, Narthex, offices and preschool, tidies the sanctuary, and cleans the Thrift Shop floors. His contract was recently renegotiated with the help of James Fulton and Dilys Sostad and we are so glad to have him continue with us.

Rick Mains, our handyman, assists the Administrative Team with projects in and around the building and continues to be a valuable member of the lay staff here.

With deepest gratitude to our amazing ministers and lay staff!

-Michelle Coulombe, Chair, Ministry and Personnel Committee

## PRESBYTERY | REV. NANCY TALBOT

Since its inception in 1989 Mount Seymour United Church has been part of the Vancouver Burrard Presbytery. On December 31, 2018, the presbytery ceased to exist as the National church moved from a 4 court to 3 council governance model. Our congregation is now part of the Pacific Mountain Region of the church served both by regional staff and those deployed to the region by the National church.

During this transitional year the presbytery worked at discerning how best to continue supporting local ministries without familiar structures in place. Of particular concern was ministry to Children, Youth and Young Adults. Letters of recommendation were written to the newly named region requesting that funding previously directed by the presbytery to support ministries such as Camp Spirit, The Imagine Retreat for children, May Retreat and Evolve Retreats for youth be continued in the new structure. These are all ministries from which members of our congregation have benefitted in the past. We were pleased therefore to see in the fall that the Region intends to hire staff to ensure these ministries continue into the future using in part some of the funding that would previously have come through the presbytery.

In addition to this work, the presbytery also organized a gathering under the leadership of George Meier in the spring to support communities of faith in considering faithful ways of being church as we continue to undergo significant changes in our context. We are hoping these types of events will continue to be offered at the local level in the future as they provide an excellent way for both lay and clergy from various congregations and communities of faith to learn together and share wisdom.

In September, presbyters met in Squamish at the new CentrePoint facility that was created in part with the proceeds from a redevelopment project the Squamish United Church folks have been working on for years with support from the presbytery. It is a wonderful example of the church working in partnership with other non-profit organizations to better serve their community and better steward their resources.

On November 30<sup>th</sup> the Presbytery held a celebratory final gathering at St. Andrews Wesley United Church. Former and current presbyters including Jen-Beth Fulton, Steve Wellenbrink, Carla Wilks, Rev. Nancy and Ruth Townsend who was a representative for her former congregation for many years worshipped together and gave thanks for the faithful ministry of those who have served the presbytery for decades.

We will not fully know the impact of the changes that have been made to the wider church for some years. We will continue to have a regional representative on our council. We will continue to be supported by the wider church through both the Regional and National levels of the church. In time it is expected that various “clusters” will be formed to animate the ministries in our area.

We give thanks for the faithful service of those who have given their time and talent to the work of the presbytery over the years and trust the new structures will enable us to share ministry with greater effectiveness.

## **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

### Welcome Team and Sunday Morning Hospitality

These teams continue to flourish under the leadership of Gladys Johnston ([johnstongladys@hotmail.com](mailto: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!

### Newcomers Welcome Team and Sunday Morning Hospitality

In November members of Council and Staff hosted a gathering for newcomers to the church. We learned something of the diverse journeys that have led people to our door and shared about the ministry of our church. We look forward to welcoming some of these folks into full membership at Mount Seymour United in 2019.

### 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](mailto:aandkfurniss@gmail.com)) and Mardi Joughin ([jocherty@gmail.com](mailto: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. Thank you to Sylvia Zandberg for her faithful tending of this ministry.



### The Caring Connection

This group tends 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

During the first half of 2018, 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. When Catherine moved out of province in the spring, Anne Ellis took over the leadership. Attendance has dropped off from the initial interest shown but still attracts around eight people per gathering with attendees often travelling great distances to participate. Thanks to everyone who attended a circle and particularly to Catherine for launching these gatherings two years ago.

## ANN KERR BEQUEST



Early in 2018, Mount Seymour United Church was blessed to receive an incredible bequest from the Estate of Ann and Michael Kerr. During this past year, that bequest was eventually received and invested with Blue Shore Credit Union and their investment arm. The approximate amount of the bequest ended up being more than the \$1 million that was expected and was closer to \$1.3 million.

We met as a congregation on March 10 and were facilitated by Caitlin Frost on a number of issues. We discussed how to receive a significant gift, what it means to steward a gift, how this particular gift should be held and disbursed and what kinds of things, based on our mission statement, we might like to use the money for. It was a very good day and produced a lot of information with which Council was able to work.

Council met on April 9 and then again on May 9 with Caitlin Frost facilitating to continue its work with the bequest using the information obtained from the congregational meeting. The following guidelines were created based on the information received from the congregation and further discussion at the meeting:

- Fiscal responsibility: We will incorporate external financial professional investment advice for investment decisions
- Funds will be allocated in alignment with the core values and mission of Mount Seymour United Church
- Transparency:
  - Council will invite and consider input from the congregation on annual spending decisions and on any big spending decision (over \$100,000)
  - Council will review the status of the fund quarterly and report to the congregation annually
- Council will consider equally both internal and external projects/spending
- Funds may be used for internal special projects or other internal spends that fit within the values and mission and other guiding principles as long as such spends follow the process of consideration and discussion by Council alongside other proposals
- Application for annual funds must be sponsored by a member of Mount Seymour United Church

Council next met on June 14 with Caitlin Frost to look at the options for stewarding or managing the bequest funds. After reviewing the congregational input and hearing from all Council members, including written submissions from absent Council members, a number of decisions were made.

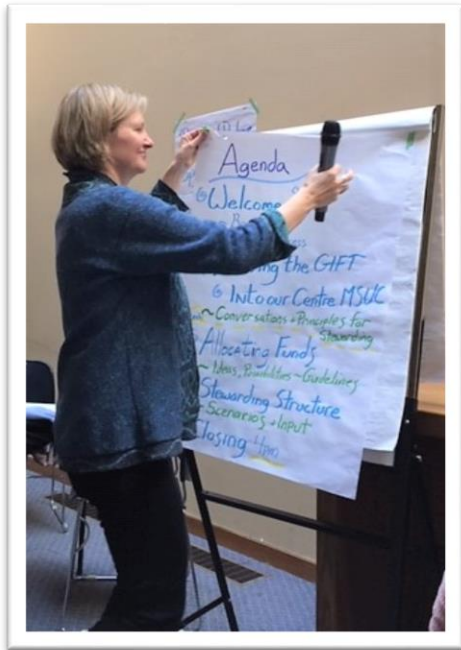
First, the amount discussed with the congregation was an even \$1 million. We received \$1.3 million. It was decided that the church's contingency funds should be replenished off the top. This will make it less likely to need to consider bequest annual interest amounts for contingency needs. Further, with the roof campaign just finishing and the increase in local assessments by the National Church, it seems unlikely that the contingency funds could be replenished through additional fundraising in the short term. Therefore:

- \$100,000 will go to the building contingency fund which is empty
- \$50,000 will go to the operating reserve which is empty
- \$12,000 will go to the sabbatical fund which is low

Second, Council decided that the bequest funds should be held in two amounts. The first amount, \$300,000, will be held in the short term account that allows us to access it upon request. The second amount, approximately \$800,000, will be invested for the long term with the interest to be used annually for projects. The estimated annual interest is approximately \$30,000.

There were a number of reasons for this decision, including the ability to do something impactful to enliven the church and supporting a positive vision for the future. However, the most important decision-making factor was that the overwhelming majority of the congregation preferred this scenario when we met in March. It allows a significant amount of money to be invested with funds available for annual spending as well as having a large amount to spend to make an impact.

This now sets the scene for our ability to examine the possibilities open to Mount Seymour United Church to live out our mission statement within and beyond of our church community.



## FUNDRAISERS AND EVENTS

### 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 donate home baking. Last year, the Coffee House raised over \$4340 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.

### Annual Turkey Lunch, Advent Craft, Thrift and Bake Sale

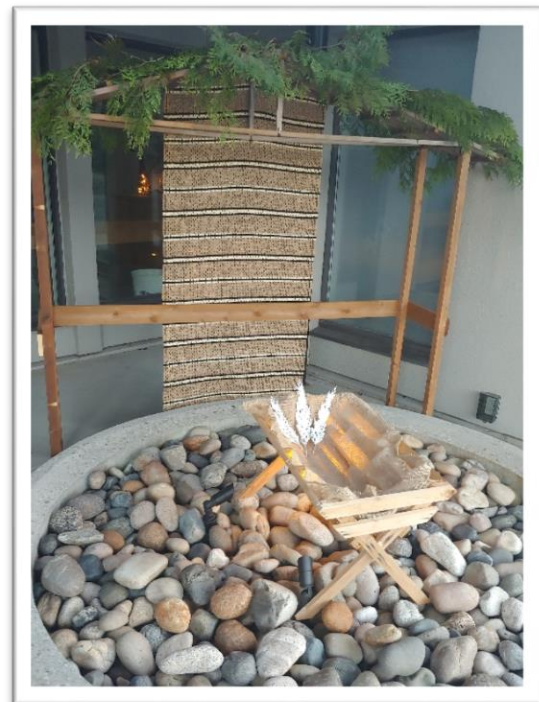
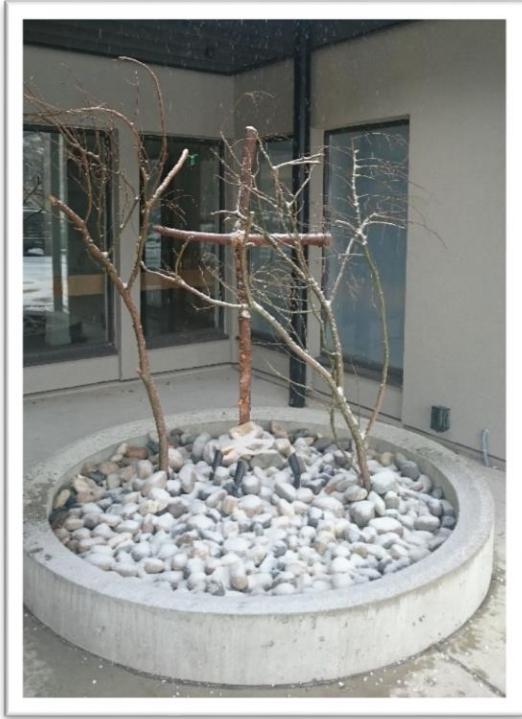
This year once again we invited the community to join us to shop and share a wonderful Turkey Lunch after service on Sunday November 25. It turned out to be one of the largest events we've had in years. We were particularly pleased to extend an invitation to join us to those living in the newly built Turning Point recovery house. Thanks to everyone for their generous support for this gathering which not only raises funds for the church but welcomes the wider community into our midst. Total proceeds for the Turkey Lunch including the Bake Sale and Thrift Shop sales was \$2392.

### Parkgate Community Days and Tree Decorating

Parkgate Community Days were cancelled this year but we were able to participate once again in the tree decorating event hosted by the Community Centre. We were told by some of the families that attended our 4pm Christmas Eve service that they read about it on our tree. Thanks to Anne Ellis and Carla Wilks for decorating our tree.



ART INSTALLATIONS





## PASSAGES

### Weddings

Caitlin Newman and Nicholas Barnes  
(Outside Officiant)

### Wedding Date

July 7, 2018

### We Remember

Catherine Helfrich - First Memorial

Arleen Sankey - First Memorial

Isobel Harper - Mt Seymour Golf & Country Club

Alvia Branch - MTSUC

Linda MacIver - MTSUC

Jean Duff Lewis - MTSUC

George McLeary

Joyce Marie Peters - First Memorial

James Rider - First Memorial

Maureen Joan Turner - First Memorial

Lila Clair Justesen - First Memorial

William Wayne Poole - MTSUC

### Memorial Service

January 28, 2018

April 20, 2018

April 21, 2018

April 29, 2018

May 16, 2018

June 15, 2018

August 10, 2018 (DOD)

August 22, 2018

August 25, 2018

September 22, 2018

September 28, 2018

December 18, 2018



## RENTALS

In addition to the many church-related activities taking place in our church building, many community groups rent our facilities on either a long-term or occasional basis. These groups include the following:

### **Long-Term Renters:**

Al-Anon  
JOJY Music for Children  
Mount Seymour Preschool  
North Shore Chorus  
RCA Couples Group  
Soul Fitness Ltd.

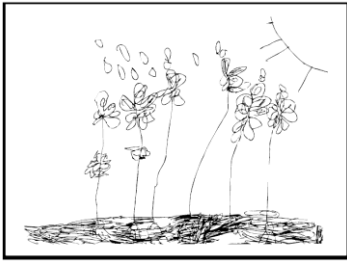
### **Concerts and Recitals:**

Argyle Secondary School  
Blueridge Chamber Music Association  
Burstin With Broadway  
Carson Graham Secondary School  
Deep Cove Coffee House Concerts  
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  
Windsor Secondary School

### **Meetings and Events:**

11<sup>th</sup> Seymour Scout Group  
All Candidates  
AWM Strata  
Parkgate Manor AGM  
United Church of Canada - BC Conference

## MOUNT SEYMOUR CHILD DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY | SUZANNE LAM



### Mount Seymour Preschool

February 2019

#### Current Board of Directors:

President: Kelly Clauson  
Vice President: Shannon Sekora  
Treasurer: Lynda Freeman  
Secretary: Melanie Harmer

#### Current Staff Members:

Gina Gallagher  
Magali Caron  
Suzanne Lam  
Varya Zueva

#### Current Enrollment:

3-year-old Morning Class – Full at 18  
3/4-year-old Morning Class – Full at 17  
4-year-old Afternoon Class – 13 (5 spaces)

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.



#### Building Community

One of our hopes for this year was to build a stronger sense of community with those we share our environment with every day. We brought each of our classes on tours in and around Mount Seymour United Church, introduced the children to Five Trees, wondered through our mystical forest to meet the Dinosaur Tree, and the Hide-and-Seek Tree. We introduced ourselves to members of our community and began to greet them each day we saw them, “Hey, it’s Mr. Bud!” “Hello, Mr. Bud!” “Good morning, Mr. Bud!”



As we explored our community further, we began noticing signs posted along nearby walkways, “HELP! PLEASE DO NOT LITTER. THANK YOU!” We began our own mission of cleaning up our community by creating more signs and collecting garbage during our community walks. We introduced ourselves to those sharing our pathways and reminded them not to litter!



### Gift of Giving Christmas Project and Winter Holidays

In December, we once again 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. Each class gave a helping hand in distributing our collected donations by visiting the Giving Tree in the Sanctuary. We would like to thank our families and greater community for making a difference in the lives of others.



During our last week before Christmas break, our preschool classes spread holiday cheer and joy in our pajamas by caroling around the community, through Mount Seymour United Church and nearby trails. We also spread freshly baked cookies made by the children in our program! We hope you all enjoyed our songs and treats, the children were so excited to be spreading their holiday joy!

### FUNdraising Events

This year we continue to raise funds towards purchasing 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. We thank the Board of Directors at Mount Seymour United Church for offering to support us in the purchase of a permanent awning. We hope to hear back from the BC Gaming Grant before moving forward with requesting any additional funding.



## Upcoming 2019/2020 Preschool Year

In order to accommodate the needs of the community, we have continued to change our programming schedule for the upcoming 2019/2020 year to the following:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
4-year-old Program  
9:15am-12:45pm

Tuesday and Thursday  
3-year-old Program  
9:00am-11:30am

Tuesday and Thursday afternoons  
3/4-year-old Mixed Age Program  
12:30pm-3:30pm

Our waitlists have filled up quickly and we hope for a higher number of registration, although we would like to address the growing concern about our program's difficulty with filling any afternoon classes. We will continue to make adjustments towards our programming in order to better meet the needs of our growing community.

We would like to thank everyone in the church community for your undying support, words of wisdom, and constant care. We are incredibly fortunate to be working so closely alongside you all every day, especially in times of adversity for the preschool programming and educators.

Sincerely,

Teachers of Mount Seymour Preschool



## APPENDIX 1 | MINUTES OF 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Mt. Seymour United Church  
Held at 1200 Parkgate Avenue, North Vancouver, BC  
Sunday, February 25, 2018**

The following 45 members/adherents were present:

**Members/Adherents:** Sherrill McLeary, Dorothy Redlinger, Gwen Kendrick, Helen Talbot, Doreen Thomson, Barbara Ralph, Bryan Ralph, Ward Branch, Bette Shippam, Mike Hetherington, Peter Muirhead, Sylvia Zandberg, Gert Zandberg, James Fulton, Lorna Leckie, Eunice Findlay, Stan Joughin, Jen-Beth Fulton, Bobbie Grimard, Marianne Hanson, Nancy Sheer, Carol Kelly, Marlene Plezia, Ruth Townsend, Joyce Jones, Gladys Johnston, Pat Corbett, Dilys Sostad, Ross Dunnet, Gail Whitney, Ken Fowler, Michelle Coulombe, Anne Ellis, Doug Querns, Katherine McKay, Kenzie Querns, Steve Wellenbrink, Scott McFarlane, Pam McFarlane, Julian Pattison, Carla Wilks, Nancy Talbot, Catherine Branch, Barry Fenton, Cindy Nelms, Mardi Joughin, Kim Branch (recording secretary)

1. **Chair Catherine Branch** welcomed those present, thanked Peter and Ellen Muirhead for preparing the lunch, and called the meeting to order at 11:45 pm. **M/S** (Gwen Kendrick/ Marianne Hanson) that the AGM Agenda be approved. **Carried.**
2. **Rev. Nancy Talbot** opened the meeting with a prayer.
3. Catherine Branch confirmed there was a quorum present.
4. Catherine Branch introduced council members and council appointee Fay Butterfield.
5. **Motion to approve AGM Minutes**  
**M/S** (Mardi Joughin/Dilys Sostad) that adherents can be permitted to vote. **Carried.**  
**M/S** (Barry Fenton/Ken Fowler) that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of March 5, 2017 be approved as circulated. **Carried.**
6. **Minister's Report:** Rev. Nancy Talbot provided a summary of the past year. A highlight has been the successful introduction of the Living Room ministry. Given the staffing instability, there has been a focus on integration of new staff. The strength of current leadership in the church was noted. Special thanks to Anne Ellis for the variety of roles she undertook during this period.

A subcommittee of council will be leading a comprehensive review of the organization structure. This reflects the growth of our community of faith. Budgets and staffing have increased. Catherine Branch, Rev. Nancy Talbot and Michelle Coulombe are members of this subcommittee, which is being assisted by Conference Minister Kathy Davies. The subcommittee will report to the council in the spring with recommendations will support our emerging ministries.

Rev. Nancy Talbot has served as Chair of the Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery. In July 2018, General Council voted to make structural changes, which will dissolve presbyteries.

## 7. Team Reports

- a. **Administrative Team Report:** Dilys Sostad introduced team members. Cindy Nelms, Administrator, has joined the team. During the past year, the chapel and Deep Cove Room have been upgraded and will provide additional rental space. The priority for the upcoming year will be the roof and HVAC repairs. A subcommittee has been struck to prepare the tender and hire contractors.
- b. **Congregational Life:** Carol Kelly, chair of the Thrift Store management team, gave a report on the 2017 year. The Thrift Shop revenues surpassed \$202,000 with a customer base of over 16,000. Twelve new volunteers joined the group of 90. Donations have increased, resulting in daily pickups by the DDA for items that cannot be sold and are recycled by that organization. The Thrift Shop represents a growing and thriving social enterprise, with 15% of revenues sent to First United Church, as well as in-kind donations. Other local charitable organizations are also supported. The Thrift Shop is seeking additional display space and a covered area for selling goods outside. Carol Kelly will be resigning as chair at the upcoming AGM. A transition plan is in place. Carol acknowledged Bud for the variety of duties performed by this volunteer.
- c. **Worship and Christian Development Committee:** Carla Wilks shared highlights of this past year. The Team attended a worship design workshop. Soul-Full suppers and Board Game Nights are regularly organized. Weekly spiritual practices are ongoing. Camp Spirit was hosted this past summer and will be hosted again this year. A Lenten Book Study has been organized for this year with 25 people interested. The design of a new banner is underway, with a noted fabric artist. This project is made possible by a donation to the Memorial Fund in honour of Gary Ward. Special thanks to Carol Pettigrew and Julian Pattison for their contributions to Sunday worship services.  
  
A question from Gladys Johnston was posed regarding the new banner. Rev. Nancy Talbot provided further details as to the possible placement and display period of the banner.
- d. **Mission & Outreach:** Katherine McKay shared highlights, such as our regular contributions to the lounge space at First United Church. The Giving Tree was a success, in particular the Christmas cards made by the children of MSUC given to the North Shore Youth Safe House along with gift cards which were donated. The Annual Picnic was successful and meaningful for the participants from First United.
- e. **Ministry & Personnel:** Michelle Coulombe presented the M&P report. This year has seen many changes. Rev. Wade Lifton resigned his position. Carla Wilks has joined and was recently approved as a candidate for ministry, in anticipation of ordination in May 2019. It is anticipated that a long-term call will be made once she has been ordained. Following Sharon Stevens resignation, Cindy Nelms has joined as Administrator, with that position converted to full time. Lima Branch has resigned from the M&P team, with David Ney joining.
- f. **Refugee fund (added to agenda):** Catherine Branch explained that an update regarding the refugee fund had not made it into the Annual Report. In 2017, \$2,000 was allocated to the North Shore United Church initiative to support ongoing needs of the three families. Jen-Beth Fulton and Laura Staude represent MSUC on the committee. The Annual Report will be amended to include this update.

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

Barry Fenton presented the Financial Statements for 2017. Barry acknowledged the increase in revenues earned by the Thrift Shop (\$202,539), which has resulted in a significant improvement in the financial position of MSUC. Rental revenue was at \$30,764 and special offerings at \$12,037. Total revenues were \$403,059. Barry then reviewed the major expenses of the Administration Team and Worship and Christian Development. Total expenses were at \$355,464, resulting in a surplus of \$47,595. Outreach contributions totaled \$49,718.

The 2017 Statement of Financial Position was reviewed. The Bridge Loan has been fully repaid. The Building Contingency Fund has been increased to \$14,129. The Bucket Fund this fall raised \$199,744 towards the roof replacement and HVAC project. Total net income for the year stands at \$47,296.

Ken Fowler commented that as a long-term member and former council member, he was very impressed with the financial position of the church. Rev. Nancy Talbot elaborated that the surplus was primarily due to Rev. Wade Lifton's leave period, during which time his salary was not paid by the church. The increase in revenues is as a result of the continued growth of the Thrift Store. Doug Querns sought clarification regarding the church's portion of the restorative care leave wages, which is included in the M&P expenses.

**M/S** (Bette Shippam/Gwen Kendrick) that the Financial Statements for 2017 be accepted as presented. **Carried.**

Barry Fenton presented the 2018 budget to the congregation and discussed highlights. The projected revenue is \$390,000. Expenses will increase, to reflect larger M&P budget. The budget is balanced (with a small cash surplus of \$41). Council will monitor the financial position of the church throughout 2018.

**M/S** (Sherill McLeary/Barb Ralph) that the Budget for 2018 be approved. **Carried.**

**9. Motion to adopt 2017 Annual Report.** **M/S** (Michelle Coulombe/Marianne Hanson) that the 2017 Annual Report, as amended, be adopted. **Carried.**

**10. Mount Seymour United Council Updates and Confirmation:**

- (a) Continuing council: Rev. Nancy Talbot (Lead Minister); Carla Wilks (Candidate for Ministry)
- Catherine Branch (2016 – 2019) (Chair)
  - Meg Clarke (2017 – 2020) (Congregational Life, reporting for Thrift Store)
  - Roger Brain (2015 – 2018) (Treasurer)
  - Katherine McKay (2015 – 2018) (Mission & Outreach)
  - Barry Fenton (2015 – 2018) (Member-at-Large)
  - Steve Wellenbrink (2015 – 2018) (Presbytery Representative)
  - Dilys Sostad (2016 – 2019) (Administrative Team)
  - Mary Sparks (2016 – 2019) (Worship & Christian Development)
  - Kim Branch (2016 – 2019) (Recording Secretary)
  - Michelle Coulombe (2017-2020) (Ministry & Personnel)
  - Frank Luba (2017-2020) (Member-at-Large)



(b) Council Appointee: Fay Butterfield (Envelope Secretary)

**11. Nomination of Trustees:** Catherine Branch explained the role of trustees, to hold property on behalf of the congregation. The MSUC constitution allows for four trustees elected by the congregation on a three-year term.

(a) Current trustees (Ted Butterfield, Gwen Kendrick and James Fulton) have been in place for a number of years. Catherine expressed gratitude for their years of service. Rev. Nancy Talbot is an ex-officio member.

Catherine explained that a board of five trustees would be more functional. **M/S** (Gwen Kendrick /Ken Fowler) that paragraph 9.1 of the constitution be amended to read that there shall be five trustees and that this would constitute a board of trustees. **Carried.**

(b) Catherine introduced proposed trustees: Bette Shippam, Meg Clarke, Barry Fenton, Ward Branch. **M/S** (Ken Fowler/Mardi Joughin) nominated Bette Shippam, Meg Clarke, Barry Fenton, Ward Branch to be named to the board of trustees for a period of three years. **Carried.**

**12. Other business:** Catherine Branch provided a summary of the upcoming session regarding the recent large bequest made to the church. The purpose of the March 10, 2018 session is to achieve a set of principles to allow for decision-making in a principled way, in accordance with MSUC ministry values. Caitlin Frost will facilitate the session.

Barb Ralph expressed thanks to Catherine Branch for the organization of the AGM.

Mardi Joughin thanked James for his continued dedication to the upkeep and maintenance of the building.

Bette Shippam express gratitude to Rev. Nancy Talbot and Council.

**13. Closing Prayer:** Rev. Nancy Talbot closed the meeting with a prayer of gratitude. She also thanked the church for their continued support and the recent decision to provide funding towards a trip to Israel.

**Catherine Branch** adjourned the meeting at 1:05pm.

**Catherine Branch, Chair**

**Kim Branch, Recording Secretary**

## APPENDIX 2 | BALANCE SHEET STATEMENT AT DECEMBER 31, 2018

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	31,021	266,592
GIC/Term Deposits	1,361,828	51,036
Accounts Receivable	52,033	22,285
	<u>1,444,882</u>	<u>339,913</u>
<b>Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
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>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>3,093,835</u></b>	<b><u>1,988,866</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	18,751	5,924
Mission and Service	1,164	216
Misc. Funds	20	20
First United Church	544	280
Syrian Refugee	14,109	17,159
Refugee Co-Sponsorship	16,133	
2015 ProVision Fund	1,547	4,277
	<u>52,268</u>	<u>27,875</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
VIM Loan	305,045	305,045
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b><u>357,313</u></b>	<b><u>332,920</u></b>
<b>EQUITY AND FUNDS</b>		
<b>Funds</b>		
Sabbatical Fund	8,432	8,432
Memorial Fund	19,314	20,543
Bucket Campaign Fund	-19,102	199,744
Building Contingency Fund	14,154	14,129
Endowment	1,306,445	
	<u>1,329,243</u>	<u>242,848</u>
<b>Equity</b>		
Opening Balance	1,413,098	1,365,502
Net Income for the year	-5,818	47,296
	<u>1,407,280</u>	<u>1,412,798</u>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AND FUNDS</b>	<b><u>2,736,523</u></b>	<b><u>1,655,646</u></b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITES, EQUITY AND FUNDS</b>	<b><u>3,093,835</u></b>	<b><u>1,988,866</u></b>

APPENDIX 3 | INCOME STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018 AND BUDGET FOR 2019

	<b>2018 Actual 31-Dec</b>	<b>2017 Actual 31-Dec</b>	<b>2019 Budget Annual</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Offering Envelopes and PAR	126,904	140,007	130,000
Open Offering	4,557	6,362	6,000
Special Offering	16,432	12,037	10,000
Donations/Grants/Endowment	-	-	43,000
<b>Total Givings</b>	<b>147,893</b>	<b>158,406</b>	<b>189,000</b>
<b>OTHER REVENUE</b>			
Rentals	38,770	30,764	35,000
Memorials & Weddings	1,097	1,197	1,500
Thrift Shop	225,252	202,539	240,000
Interest	25,044	606	31,000
Fundraising (Coffee House)	4,340	3,918	4,500
Fundraising (Youth/BBQ/Turkey Lunch)	323	1,614	1,000
Misc	52	4,015	-
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>294,878</b>	<b>244,653</b>	<b>313,000</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>442,770</b>	<b>403,059</b>	<b>502,000</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>A Team</b>			
Copier	6,159	5,286	6,000
Office Supplies & Postage	2,943	2,680	3,000
Telephone	1,345	1,254	1,300
Bank Charges	1,220	1,137	1,200
Computer/Misc	974	733	800
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>12,640</b>	<b>11,090</b>	<b>12,300</b>
<b>Property</b>			
Building Maintenance	18,831	6,022	7,000
Equip Maintenance	-	1,079	1,000
Grounds/Handyperson	17,210	12,796	10,000
Sound Maintenance	1,606	1,062	1,000
Building Heat Maintenance	8,421	2,570	3,000
Security	771	307	350
Janitorial	15,559	16,631	17,000

Garbage	1,727	1,676	2,000
Water & Sewer	1,113	1,259	1,300
Gas & Electric	10,483	8,929	10,000
Snow	3,171	2,460	2,500
Telephone Office	2,698	3,079	3,000
Insurance	9,568	10,193	10,200
Kitchen Supplies	2,054	757	1,000
Thrift Shop Improvements	10,984	12,703	10,000
<b>Total Property</b>	<b>104,197</b>	<b>81,523</b>	<b>79,350</b>
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION TEAM</b>	<b>116,838</b>	<b>92,617</b>	<b>91,650</b>
<b>Worship &amp; CD</b>			
Pulpit Relief	2,761	1,600	1,600
Children's Community	228	702	500
Youth		243	200
Library/Misc	183	738	500
CD Adult	359	-60	300
Music Supplies		430	400
Music Director Relief	2,381	3,000	2,500
Music Piano/Organ Tuning	756	219	250
Worship Misc Supplies	1,119	845	800
Sound Production	2,909	1,023	3,000
<b>TOTAL WORSHIP &amp; CD</b>	<b>10,696</b>	<b>8,741</b>	<b>10,050</b>
<b>COUNCIL</b>			
Presbytery	11,989	12,159	12,459
Other Expense	718	121	200
<b>TOTAL COUNCIL</b>	<b>12,707</b>	<b>12,280</b>	<b>12,659</b>
<b>CONGREGATIONAL LIFE</b>			
Advertising	414	338	200
Fellowship (Lunches/welcoming)	1,624	-23	1,000
Observer Magazine	98	155	200
Sundays - Coffee	2,919	2,048	2,000
Pastoral Care		56	1,400
<b>TOTAL CONGREGATIONAL LIFE</b>	<b>5,055</b>	<b>2,574</b>	<b>4,800</b>
<b>CONG. MISSION</b>			
Mission and Outreach	870	2,638	2,000
First United Thrift Shop Donation	33,788	20,509	36,000
Refugee Family Sponsorship			
Help Fund	164	243	
<b>TOTAL MISSION</b>	<b>34,822</b>	<b>23,390</b>	<b>38,000</b>

**MINISTRY & PERSONNEL**

Wages	211,736	174,561	294,000
Ministers' Travel	1,310	1,744	1,500
Sabbatical Fund			
Staff Dev Cont Ed	6,271	3,272	4,000
Honorariums		125	1,300
CPP	7,831	6,011	6,000
EI	3,749	-18	3,500
Employee Benefits	28,294	22,596	23,650
M&P Discretionary	81	49	
MSP	648	648	700
Work Comp	343	379	500
Hosting	458	495	300
Other Payroll	7,750	6,000	9,000
<b>TOTAL MINISTRY &amp; PERSONNEL</b>	<b>268,472</b>	<b>215,862</b>	<b>344,450</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>448,589</b>	<b>355,464</b>	<b>501,609</b>
Operating Surplus/Deficit	-5,818	47,595	391
VIM Loan Payments			
<b>CASH SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>-5,818</b>	<b>47,595</b>	<b>391</b>

**Outreach Contributions**

M&S	12,981	16,892	
Thrift Shop	34,215	20,509	
Other Outreach - FU, NSYSH, KIVA	11,867	1,518	
Syrian Refugees	3,050	10,799	
	<b>62,113</b>	<b>49,718</b>	



~ **Nurturing Spirit**  
~ **Being Community**  
~ **Living Generously**



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