



# Mount Seymour United Church

1200 Parkgate Ave. North Vancouver, B.C.  
[www.mtseymourunited.com](http://www.mtseymourunited.com)



## 2014 Annual Report



## *What We Believe*

*At the heart of our community is a belief that how we live is more important than what we believe. We follow a progressive form of Christianity at Mount Seymour which means among other things:*

### *We take the Bible seriously but not literally.*

*We understand the Bible as a human product, written in the context of two ancient communities. It is a record of how those people understood and experienced God and their life of faith. We use the Bible as a central source of wisdom, inspiration, understanding and guidance for our life.*

### *We follow the Way of Jesus*

*We look to the story of Jesus and the way he lived his life as a model for our own living. We understand Jesus as both a figure of history and a mysterious presence we refer to as Christ within and among us. Through this understanding we gain a deeper sense of what it means to be created in the image of the divine.*

### *We are not alone. God is with us.*

*We call "God" by many names and experience the sacred in a variety of ways. We experience God as something larger than ourselves and yet part of us. We understand God in human form primarily through Jesus.*

### *Our Life Together.*

*We gather in community for support, challenge, accountability and to experience the sacred in a particular way. Journeying with others reminds us of the foundations of the Christian path which include prayer and contemplation; the work of seeking justice for our world and for our earth; and compassionate living. Communal life provides the opportunity to engage the rituals of the Christian tradition, particularly communion and baptism, which help to shape, form and sustain us.*

### *Our Purpose.*

*To be transformed and to be part of transforming our world into a just, peaceful and sustainable earth home.*



# Mount Seymour United Church

1200 Parkgate Ave. North Vancouver, B.C.  
(604) 929-1336 www.mtseymourunited.com

## 2014 Annual Report

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
<b>Report from our Council Chair</b> .....	1
<b>Staff Reports</b>	
Report from our Minister.....	2
Associate and Music Minister.....	4
Choirs: Children and Gospel Leaders .....	6
Children and Family Ministry Coordinator.....	7
Church Administrator.....	9
<b>Team Reports</b>	
There's Something More:	
Capital Campaign Report.....	10
Building Committee Report.....	12
Worship and Christian Development.....	13
Mission and Outreach.....	16
Thrift Shop.....	18
Administration .....	20
Congregational Life .....	22
<b>Ministry &amp; Personnel Report</b> .....	24
<b>Board of Trustees</b> .....	26
<b>Passages</b> .....	27
<b>Groups Using Our Church during 2014</b> .....	28
Mount Seymour Child Development Society.....	29
<b>APPENDIX</b>	
(I) Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting .....	1
(II) Statement of Financial Position at December 31, 2014 .....	4
(III) Statement of Income for 2014 and Budget for 2015 .....	5

## Report from our Council Chair



Since June 2014, it's been my joy to step in as Council Chair, pro tem, when Lisa Reinders, who, after she was elected as Chair at our 2014 AGM, was called away to an exciting new job in Alberta! I have had the pleasure of being on council for two terms now, as representative of the Worship Team, where I learned firsthand how strong and wise is the team of individuals who comprise the Mount Seymour United Church council. I understand and hold dear all the dedicated volunteers who represent the interests of the Mount Seymour UC community, and who work hard to fulfill the various aspects that piece together the mission and goals for the church.

A tremendous effort was put forward in 2014 which saw excellent and supportive results from our church community in this regard: the campaign to raise capital funds to expand and re-configure our present physical space into an exciting new chapter where we will see the implementation of this expanding vision.

As well, we've had excellent financial oversight from our treasurer, Doug Querns, with help from Kathryn Clinton and other council members so that our 'financial ship' is on a very steady course. As we sail into new chartered waters with our vision, this core group has worked hard to ensure that we are purposeful and mindful about our responsibilities.

As always, our committed staff and ministerial team have devoted themselves to make certain that the spiritual needs and growth of our members and the community are ever present and always held as first priority. We are blessed with an incredible ministerial leadership, led by Reverend Nancy Talbot, Associate Minister/Music Director, Reverend Donna Dinsmore, and Children/Youth Minister, Anne Ellis, who are unswerving in their dedicated use of their gifts and talents for the benefit of Mount Seymour UC community. They are supported by the Gospel Choir team: Marcus Mosely and Dominique Hogan, as well as by newcomer, Claire Rice, Children's Choir leader. The results have been outstanding: our life groups thrive, new spiritual/prayer groups have developed, sermons are provocative and speak to the times we face while rooted in scripture, our music inspires us, and more lay people have taken up the challenge of contributing to our worship. We offer inclusion to all, and we welcome those who are exploring at any phase of their spiritual growth.

On a slightly separate, but related note, we celebrated by way of an amazing community lunch, the 10 year anniversary of our beloved minister, Reverend Nancy Talbot. This event touched all our hearts and offered Mount Seymour UC the opportunity to reflect on all that has transpired and even transformed under her leadership, and I had the privilege of thanking her on behalf of all of Council.

Similarly, we celebrated Donna Dinsmore's ordination this year when she officially became "Reverend Donna." She has so many talents to offer the United Church in this role, and we have benefited greatly from her presence and work with us.

Being a spokesperson for the church through this role, is an honour I don't take lightly. I value and care about all the work that so many do here, formally on committees, and informally as caring individuals and volunteers, and I'm excited about the year ahead with all its challenges and new ideas being brought to fruition. Moreover, I'm confident because of the outstanding individuals who comprise this church, as they work together to move us into the next phase of Mount Seymour United Church.

With respect, Bette Shippam

## Report from our Minister



*“Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood” 1 Peter 2: 5*

After just over a month of breathing room, my sabbatical affords me a spacious perch from which to reflect on this past year at Mount Seymour. What I notice is how invested our community is in co-creating our present and future. In the early church, especially in those places where followers of Jesus were under pressure to survive and thrive, this is also how it was. The faithful discerned the will of God together, shared what they had in common and filled with the Spirit, ministered to the world around them. The scriptures call this the priesthood of all believers.

I have witnessed this invested engagement in our church in many ways this past year. At our annual meeting over 95% of our membership in attendance voted on a plan to renovate our building in order to better serve our community. This decisive action unleashed a groundswell of energy as a building committee under the capable leadership of James Fulton and his “executive” Sharon Brain and Burton Branch quickly came together with their team to develop the necessary plans to hire an architect and a builder. A campaign committee supported and encouraged by Meg Clarke, with her years of fundraising expertise, skillfully enabled us to raise over half a million dollars in relatively short order. All the while the Thrift Shop volunteers continued to recruit new helpers, refine their operations and raise well over \$100,000.00.

Undergirding the leadership that made so much happen this year was worship and faith formation. On Sunday mornings and Monday evenings, gathered in homes, the sanctuary and Parkgate Hall we were moved and challenged by the Spirit. This year our children and youth were led once again by Anne Ellis and her devoted team. Another successful summer camp was held, a “stations” model of spiritual engagement was refined, youth explored questions of faith and four of them stood before us in October to confirm their commitment to the Christian journey. During Lent we initiated an Ignatian Spirituality group which met so great a hunger that the group continued meeting through the summer and fall. Life groups and the Book Study Group led by members of the congregation and the Friday morning Lectio Divina group led by Anne are other places folks are “building their spiritual houses.” The Prayer and Caring Teams and Voices have all been empowered by Rev. Donna’s affirmation of their gifts and on Sunday mornings we have been encouraged to go deeper through spiritual practice stations, and a vigorous engagement of scriptures such as the Psalms and the Sermon on the Mount. In the fall we brought in Biblical Scholar Patricia Dutcher Walls to lead us through an introduction to the Hebrew Bible and I hosted a sermon writing workshop all with an eye to “equipping the saints” for the ministry of the church. Month in and month out Dominique Hogan, Marcus Mosely, Lena Dabrusin, Mary Sparks and now Claire Rice inspired young and old to find their voice and shout it out.

I’m grateful as always to the Mission and Outreach team who keep before us the needs of our community and the world around us. Continuing to hear the calls for justice from our Palestinian brothers and sisters, picnicking with folks from the downtown eastside and learning how we can

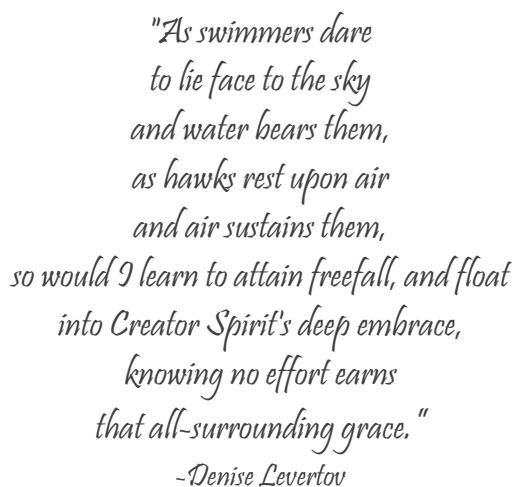
help youth at risk on the North Shore are among those things that remind us who and what we are ultimately for. I'm grateful to the Ministry and Personnel committee led by Laura Staude who tend our staff with great respect and care.

The year to come will continue to bring us growth and change. Our excitement about the "Something More" we are being called to will give way to all the usual challenges of living through a renovation and then the realities of how our physical changes will call forth other reorientations. I am hopeful that as our building changes, so too will our relationship with the Mount Seymour Preschool as we recommit to working more closely together and so too will our relationship with the community around us as we create new opportunities for Being Community, Spirit Nurturing and Living Generously.

My heartfelt thanks to all who work together for the life of Mount Seymour: you who volunteer your time especially Kelly Vogt for leading the Council and Bette Shippam for stepping in when we needed her most; and you who are staff especially Kathryn Clinton for the faithful service given over 10 years and Sharon Stevens who has so gracefully stepped into her shoes.

In my over 10 years of ministry with you I have learned to appreciate how grace-filled our life together truly is. We continue to be provided for in amazing and abundant ways. In and through it all, we are building our capacity for ministry and living into our calling as a "holy priesthood".

With gratitude and hope,  
Nancy



*"As swimmers dare  
to lie face to the sky  
and water bears them,  
as hawks rest upon air  
and air sustains them,  
so would I learn to attain freefall, and float  
into Creator Spirit's deep embrace,  
knowing no effort earns  
that all-surrounding grace."  
-Denise Levertov*

## Associate Minister and Music Leader



***There is MORE*** has been my personal theme as well as our church's theme for this past year.

- ***MORE connection and integration*** with Anne Ellis, with the help of Claire Rice, our new *Shout it Out!* Director, as we have worked to be more intentional and creative with the children and worship.
- ***MORE connection and integration*** as the Prayer Team and the Care Team united to become the *Caring Connection*.

Many in our congregation knit prayer shawls, send cards, visit, make calls and pray for each other. But these folks are the intentional hearts and hands of our faith community. We are expanding from individuals who pray and care to an intentional team that supports each other as we strive to provide special care for our church community.

Many thanks to Mardi Joughin, Sherrill McLeary, Jen-Beth Fulton, Gillian Cole, Gwen Kendrick, Emma de Jong, Gert and Sylvia Zandberg, Marianne Hansen, Ruth Townsend and Anne Ellis for your particular care of our community. We miss Betty Blair and Kathryn Clinton who have left our group and especially honour Rev. Nancy Talbot who models a spirit of relational caring in all her work.

- ***MORE experimentation and learning*** as the Choir continues to enjoy both singing with each other and singing with and for the congregation. These folks are flexibility personified. They're continuing to learn to sing harmony by ear, to expand their vocal range, to improvise, to read different vocal lines, to listen to each other and the piano and themselves, all at the same time! Their top priority? To support and enliven the congregation's worship and singing. They want to be for you!

Special thanks to Alan Furniss, Bobbie Grimard, Catherine Branch, Eunice Findlay, Fae Butterfield, Fran Wright, Gillian Cole, Ian Jarvis, Jane Thomson, Katie Mcaleer, Mardi and Stan Joughin, Marlene Piezia, Susie Han and Sylvia and Gert Zandberg for their musical contributions. We are always glad when Mary Sparks joins us on her flute and Ian Jarvis joins us on his trumpet, and are grateful that Bryan Ralph's brass quintet once again brought joy and energy to our Advent worship. Each month we welcome and enjoy Marcus Mosley and Dominique Hogan's leadership as they lead the Gospel Choir, composed of any and all who wish to join them.

- ***MORE learning and integration*** as I completed the ordination process by taking VST courses, being mentored by Rev. Deborah Bowan, and preparing papers for the CAB board who approved me for the big ordination day on May 25. I can't describe the experience of kneeling before the assembled BC Conference and feeling the spirit flow through the hands of friends gathered around me. Thanks be!



Rev. Nancy Talbot, Rev. Donna Dinsmore,  
and Rev. Brenda Fawkes

- **MORE opportunities for ministry** with the wonderful staff team at Mt Seymour. I particularly enjoy the freedom to experiment with creative worship: stations, themes, such as the Sermon on the Mount and the story of the Woman at the Well, using music in sermons, exploring different images on power point slides, for example. I have also enjoyed officiating at a wedding and two memorial services and, with Anne Ellis, “hanging out” with Olivia, Sara, Gillian and Elizabeth, four of our young women who were recently confirmed. Special thanks to my teammates Rev. Nancy, Anne Ellis and Sharon Stevens, who are *great* to work with and the Worship Team whose support and spirit is invaluable: Catherine Branch, Bette Shippam, Carol Pettigrew, Anne Ellis, David Ney, Jen-Beth Fulton and Rev. Nancy.
- **MORE opportunities to support** the wider church as a worship, music and retreat facilitator both further north with the Prince Rupert and Caribou Presbyteries, further east in Newfoundland, and closer to home with the Westminster Presbytery. I am also extremely grateful to BC Conference for sponsoring two weeks of *Sowing Promise for Leaders* at the Naramata Centre with former moderator Peter Short.



- **MORE hospitality** as you continue to allow Tucker, the church dog, his ministry of presence as well as challenge. He plays with children of all ages and greets with a full body wag. He can also be annoying and his bark can be misinterpreted. I believe that Tucker is helping us as we continue to ask “what more can Mt Seymour be?” Back “in the day” he wouldn’t have been welcomed at all, and some may still struggle with a dog in the building. But especially in these times of change, Tucker’s

“otherness” can bring out the best in us. Thank you for the hospitality you have extended to him and to me!

- And finally, I celebrate **MORE security** as a full fledged, Canadian citizen. Both of my grandmothers, Stella and Maude, born and bred in New Brunswick, would have been so proud to see me raise my hand with 78 others and pledge my allegiance to my new country. Such a thrill for me!



Many thanks for your cooperation and support as I finish my two year contract with you in July, 2015 and listen for a call to “my people and my place” as a lead minister. Not only will you be going with me but I hope that part of me will remain with you.

~Submitted by Rev. Donna Dinsmore



## Gospel Choir



It is our 4th year of our monthly drop in Gospel Choir with **Marcus Mosely and Dominique Hogan**. The group seems to be gaining momentum after we began extending a broader welcome to those who could not attend Thursday. By asking people to come Sunday regardless of whether they've attended Thursday we are finding we have larger numbers attending the Sunday Gospel dates. Also to create more awareness for the program we planned and hosted a "Community Sing" in the summer with the help of Rev. Donna and Rev. Nancy. In September we held a successful "gospel workshop" on a Saturday which was attended by

approximately 20 people. We hope to be able to offer similar workshops and reach a larger audience next year

We continue to be grateful for Dan Morrison volunteering his time to play drums, and also to Christian Findlay who plays a fantastic Bass!

~Submitted by Dominique Hogan



## Children's Choir

"Shout it Out!" is a choir for kids ages 5-12, accessible to any child who has a desire to sing and play. The choir inspires children to find their voices through, movement, rhythm, games and song.



After years of providing wonderful leadership, Mary Sparks stepped down this fall as leader of our children's choir, "Shout it Out". In October, we welcomed our new Children's Choir Leader, Claire Rice, who has an extensive background in musical theatre. The group meets once a week Wednesday afternoons, sings periodically in the Sunday Service, and lately has been performing musical theatre pieces for the congregation to enjoy.

~Claire Rice, Shout it Out! Children's Choir director

## Children and Family Ministry Coordinator



What a blur 2014 was for our Children's Community (CC). There was so much activity and fun it's hard to know where to begin. Our team worked very hard in 2014 to create a Sunday morning program that was welcoming, fun and engaging for the children while also teaching them stories from the bible.

In February the CC team met and discussed their values and concerns regarding Children's Community. The result of this meeting was a redesign of the Sunday morning programming. We no longer divided the children into classes based on age or took them to separate rooms for lessons. Rather we remain as one large group in the same room. We have a variety of activities planned and the kids can choose their activity based on interests. We almost always have a game and craft. We also do drama, play with Lego and sometimes just chat.



We took 7 children to the **Imagine: Children's Retreat** held at Stillwood Retreat Center near Cultus Lake BC in February. There were over 80 other children and well over 30 leaders from various United Churches in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. (Can you find all 7 of us in this picture?)

We held a very successful fundraiser for UBC Midwifery Global Citizenship Program during Lent to raise money to buy a *Resusci Baby* for Colleen Fulton's trip to Uganda. A *Resusci Baby* helps to train midwives and new moms how to care for their babies. Many thanks to Jen Beth Fulton for organizing this as I (Anne) was away for part of this time continuing my studies with the Centre for Christian Studies in Winnipeg.



In the spring we held our youth program 'Got Questions?' again and had amazing conversations about faith and God with our Youth. We spent a lot of time discussing Baptism and Confirmation, with the group members, who all decided they wanted to be confirmed in the Church. We held their Confirmation in the Fall after a sleepover at the church. The four girls who were confirmed: Olivia Branch, Elizabeth Petersen, Gillian Kitt and Sara Vlahos were given Bibles (that they chose) as gifts from Mount Seymour UC. (pictured here)



**This year's Summer Camp had a Space Camp theme.** Again we partnered with Highlands United Church to hold a week-long day camp at Mount Seymour in July. Twenty kids between the ages of 5 and 11 learned about Space and Astronauts. They conducted science experiments, played games, went to the beach, made jet packs and a rocket ship... the list is endless. They learned that even though they might be young they can make a difference in the world.



This year we had **Camp Grandparents**. Members of our Congregation attended as honorary Grandparents to our Campers – they gave out hugs, played games, and even bandaged a knee or too. We also had a number of Youth leaders from our Church– Kate and Calder Staude returned as Leaders and Gillian Kitt, Sara Vlahos and Amara Lewis were Leaders in Training. A special thank you to Lorraine Miller who came everyday to help out during lunch and gave our leaders a much needed break. A number of Church members also helped us out with fresh home baking and other tasty snacks for the kids

Thank you Everyone for your help and support!



Autumn was full of changes in CC. We said good bye to Anna Branch as she headed off to University in Pennsylvania. Anna has been a leader in CC for 6 years. Her presence and smile has been missed! We also said, “Thank you for your help!” to Marianne H. and Brenda F., who chose to let go leading in CC for the year. We said, “Hello and Welcome!” to some new leaders as well, Sherrill McLeary and Sharon Stevens joined us in the Fall, while Matt Branch and Mary Sparks also joined the team in January 2014.



We held two Community Faith Encounters in the Fall and Winter of 2014. One on October 26<sup>th</sup> with the theme of *Scary Place and Safe Spaces* and on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> with *The Christmas Story*. Following the ‘Messy Church’ model we created worship opportunities for those who don’t always make it to Sunday morning services, but desire community, fellowship and fun. Both events were well attended by church members as well as friends and neighbours from our community. Also, the food was excellent!

At the October event we collected blankets to build a blanket fort – our Safe Space. After the event all the blankets (20+) were taken to the Lookout Shelter for homeless people on the North Shore. We collected blankets again in Advent for our yearly fundraiser and again collected 20+ blankets to take to the Lookout Shelter. Many of the blankets donated were brand new and were delivered on Dec 22, to the great joy and appreciation of the folks at the shelter. Thank you to those who gave!

We celebrated Christmas with a lot of fun activities in CC. We made Nativities out of candy, had a party with fresh baked cookies and popcorn just before Christmas and had our first ever Pajama Day the Sunday after Christmas. If you missed it; on Pajama Day we made a New Year’s Video, which you can find on our Facebook page.



As always, Children’s Community would not be possible without the help and commitment of our volunteer team of Leaders. They work so hard to lead our children, making Sunday mornings fun and educational. They make my job easier and bring so much love to leading -I would be lost without them. Thank you: Brenda, Anna, Jen Beth, Michelle, Marianne, Matt, Mary and Sharon and to those incoming for 2015: Amy, Sara and Olivia! Also thank you to the many other parents and community members who have given their time to Children’s Community this past year! We are so grateful!

~Submitted by Anne Ellis



## Church Administrator

What a joy it has been to step into the role of administrator here at my beloved Mount Seymour United Church. Kathryn Clinton retired to Vancouver Island in June 2014, leaving some pretty big shoes to fill! Thankfully, Kathryn is also a great instructor, and has returned several times throughout the fall to share her wisdom.

One of the things that has impressed me the most since I started working here, is how incredibly active this place is all week long. The number of volunteers that work here through the week is truly staggering! We've got the Thrift Shop volunteers who fill the halls with their hard work and laughter every morning, the counting team who count, deposit and track the weekly offering, the members of the administration team who take care of everything from a leaky faucet, to ongoing maintenance, to planning our upcoming building renovation. There are volunteer librarians, decorators, caterers, team leaders, team members, gardeners - the list goes on and on! All this generosity of spirit makes for a wonderful work environment, so thank you!

This year at MSUC, we created a new volunteer team: office reception. We now have a volunteer receptionist on duty most weekday mornings. This team of volunteers, which include Nancy Scheer, Grace Baugh, Gladys Johnston, Nancy Stonkus, Heather Woolstone and Noreen Finnerty have been a huge source of help. They answer phones, help with office work, greet visitors, and keep the church looking tidy and welcoming. After Christmas this year, the administrative office was renovated, creating two separate office spaces. In addition to an administrator's office, we now have a church reception area, which so far has been working out really well!

It has been exciting to come on board just as we were kicking off our capital campaign for our building renovation. As someone who has been part of the discussions about "what more can Mount Seymour be?" over the past seven years, it is pretty thrilling to see our dream of creating new spaces and places coming to life. In my role as Administration and Communications Coordinator, I look forward to enlivening the Mount Seymour 'Centre for Spiritual Growth' in the year 2015.

Once again, thanks to all of you here at Mount Seymour who have made me feel so welcome these past few months. Your patience as I learn the ropes has been greatly appreciated. Special thank you to Laura Staude and the whole Ministry and Personnel team for all their support and encouragement. I look forward to this next year with great excitement and anticipation for what is to come.

Blessings, Sharon Stevens



*Kathryn Clinton, Sharon Stevens*



# THERE'S SOMETHING MORE!

More spaces and places at Mount Seymour United Church

## There's Something More - A campaign for our building, and our future

After several inspiring sessions with Chris Corrigan pondering what we could become, gradually we began to realize that our building needed changes. When Mt Seymour United Church was built more than 25 years ago, there was no Thrift Shop ministry.

Who could have imagined what the determination and vision of dedicated volunteers, led by Gladys Johnston and others, would produce?

- more than 80 committed volunteers,
- connections to many other charities on the North Shore, in Vancouver, and in other parts of the world,
- a valued service to thousands of customers
- a tea shop that is creating community for many who live alone
- and certainly not least, revenues that now provide a substantial part of the overall Church budget and a significant contribution annually to First United in the Downtown Eastside

Our collective conundrum was that the Thrift Shop had little dedicated space and too much time and energy was spent setting up for Thursdays, and then moving everything back into cramped storage spaces. For a ministry that had become central, this just wasn't working anymore.

That was a key impetus. But there were other important trends too: we needed new spaces for quiet contemplation, for meditation, for spiritual explorations that are outside of the Sunday morning traditions. We wanted to become a community spiritual centre, with a place for coffee and conversation, with a place for groups like soul collage, while maintaining a space for our long and treasured relationship with the Preschool.

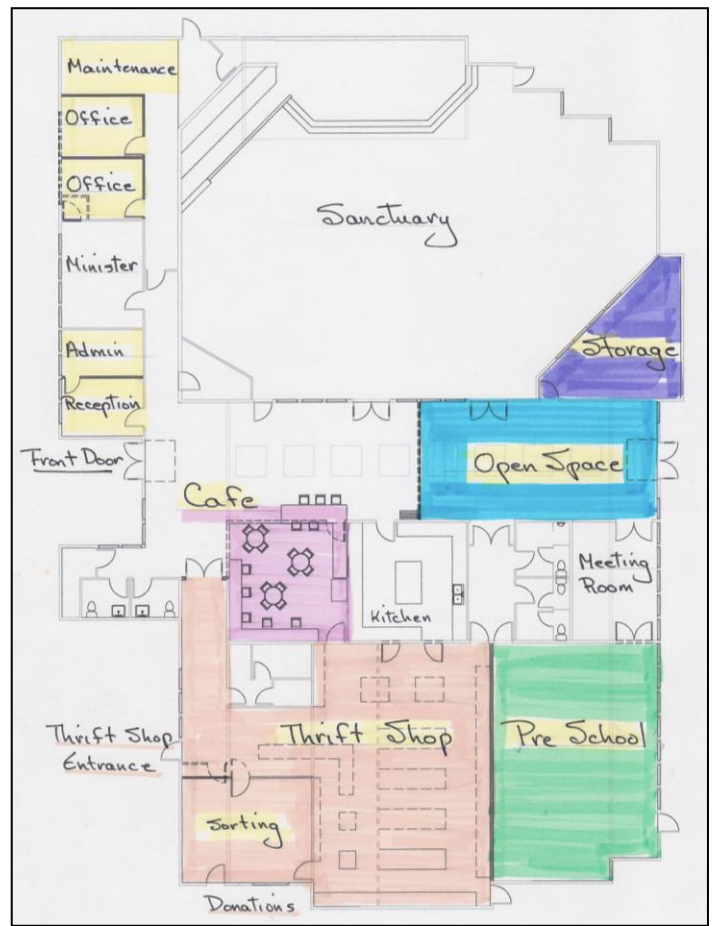
To achieve this vision, we needed \$550,000.00 to renovate the building – an ambitious goal for a relatively small congregation. We were blessed with 3 leadership gifts at the outset that totaled \$350,000, so when we launched the campaign on October 19, 2014, we still needed to raise the balance of \$200,000 – a significant challenge.

We asked for everyone to participate at the level that each could handle, and the generosity was heart-warming.

When the pledges were totaled at the end of 2014, we had raised \$550,000.00!! WE DID IT! Some work has already commenced, and will be intense through the summer. We look forward to having our new space ready in the fall. Thanks again to everyone!

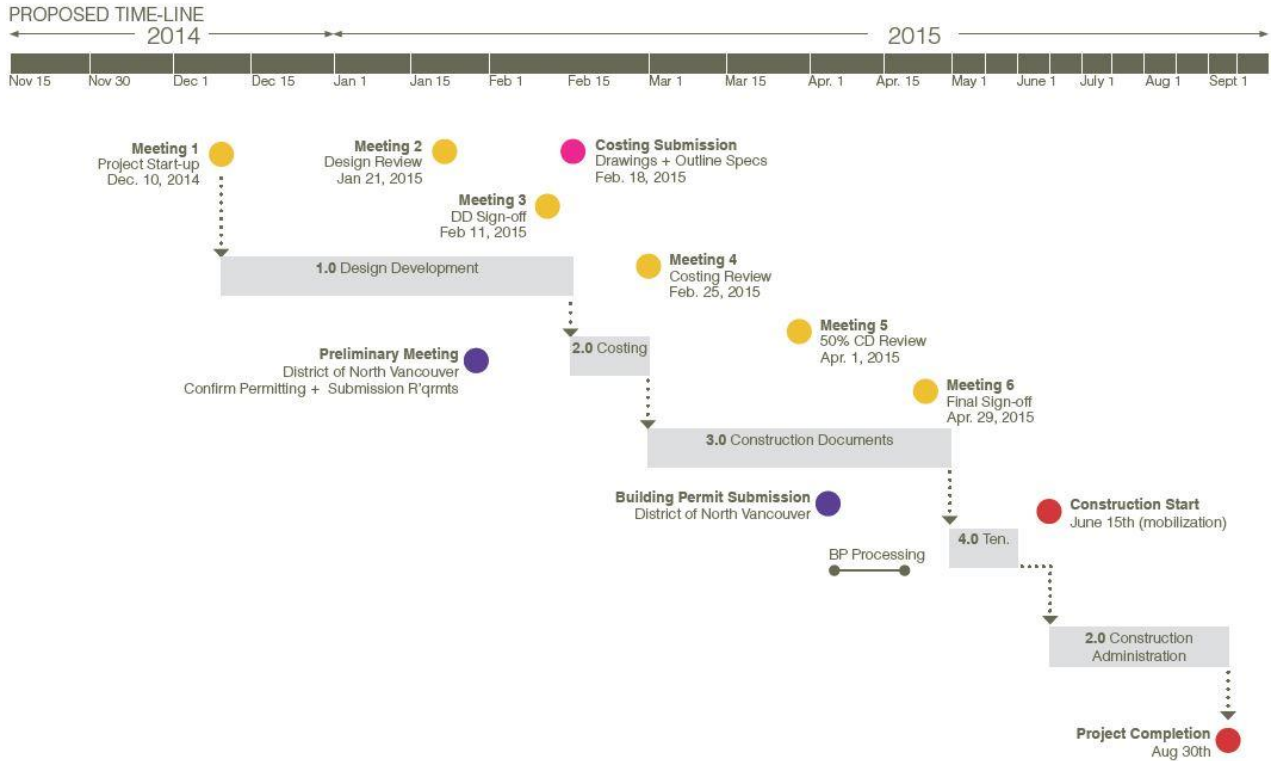
Submitted by Campaign Chair Ward Branch on behalf of Campaign Team  
(Ward Branch, Roger Brain, Meg Clarke, Ken Fowler, Rev. Nancy Talbot)

Proposed "Spaces and Places" at Mount Seymour United Church, Fall 2014 (right)



Proposed Project Schedule as prepared by Shape Architecture Inc. (below)

PROJECT SCHEDULE



## Building Committee

After being conceived almost 3 years ago, 2014 saw a Building Committee formed to oversee the renovation to the interior spaces and entrances of our sacred spaces to better serve Mount Seymour.

These changes will reflect the changed role and functions of our building in this current era.

The Renovation Executive Team consists of James Fulton (Chair), Sharon Brain, Burton Branch, Sharon Stevens and Nancy Talbot.

They are supported by an Advisory Team consisting of Anne Ellis, Donna Dinsmore, Carol Kelly, Anne Devent, Irene Huva and Bonnie Wudrick. Both our teams meet on a regular fortnightly basis.



*Anne DeVent, James Fulton, Sharon Brain, Burton Branch, Sharon Stevens and Carol Kelly*

Since its inception, the Building Committee has:

- Consulted with church users and community groups for their input into the overall plan.
- Created a plan incorporating the needs of all the various current groups while also allowing space for new energies to emerge
- Hired Connect Design consultant, Mark Abbott, to ensure we create a fully functional Thrift Shop.
- Conducted visits to other churches, cafes, kitchens, etc to see how they have incorporated these spaces into their buildings
- Completed the design of all spaces under consideration: the Narthex, the kitchen and café space, the offices and the new entrances.
- Created a plan for the continued operation of the Thrift Shop and all other users throughout the construction period this summer.
- Met with the Pre-School to facilitate the transition and to support their expanded and improved outdoor space including new access from the parking lot
- Met with the permitting section of the District of North Vancouver for preliminary acceptance of the conceptual plans for renovation.
- Developed further planning for permanent outdoor storage space for the Thrift Shop and the Church's maintenance storage functions
- Initiated plans for the removal and rebuilding of the failed front entrance canopy
- Interviewed, evaluated and hired the architectural firm of SHAPE Consulting, to oversee the design functions of our project and to aid in the selection of a general construction contractor
- Hired Pryce Construction to renovate the administration office to include a separate volunteer office.

~Submitted by Sharon Brain

## Worship and Christian Development Team

As we sit in January to write this, it is satisfying to review 2014 activities, and note all that the church community has accomplished!



Catherine Branch,  
Worship Team Chair

### Sunday Morning Worship

Sunday morning worship has been thoughtful, engaging and creative with new themes being explored.

We started the year leaning into the Sermon on the Mount with a series of services that really explored that section of the Bible. For Lent, we examined the story of the Woman at the Well from different perspectives. We also had a number of people share what they were spiritually thirsty for and, related, what sustained them. In the Fall, we pondered a sermon series on the Psalms followed by a series on stewardship entitled, “There’s Something More” opened by Rev. Keith Howard. Moreover, during that time, we learned what Mount Seymour means to members of our congregation. Finally, our Advent theme focused on aspects of “Peace;” something we all yearn for in such a busy and chaotic time, both personally and in the world.

**It has been a year of anniversaries!** The church celebrated its 25th anniversary in May with a lovely service. This was followed by a luncheon, at which former MSUC ministers Reverend Brian Thorpe, Reverend Brad Newcombe and Reverend Don Robertson joined us to celebrate. We also marked Kathryn Clinton’s 10th year as Church administrator then, in the Fall, Reverend Nancy’s 10th year anniversary as MSUC minister, both joyous occasions noting our multiple blessings having this space, and our dedicated team.

The church saw its first confirmation group in awhile. This evolved out of a Children’s Community program, “Got Questions,” where Nancy, Donna and Anne met over several weeks with four 11 year aged girls from the congregation to discuss their theological and spiritual questions. They were also paired with an adult “mentor” from the congregation with whom to have discussions. They led up to the service the day before with an event that included a field trip to select personal bibles, then dinner and a sleepover at the church. They were confirmed on October 5th, receiving their bibles they’d chosen especially for themselves as part of their confirmation process.

Throughout the year, we are very grateful to Worship and Christian Development team member,



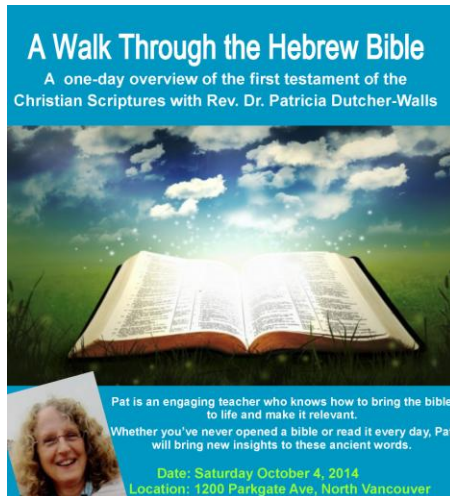
Carol Pettigrew, for dedicating her talents to create amazing banners and art work that brighten our sanctuary and enhance our worship in meaningful ways. As well, we thank everyone else who makes the sanctuary the welcoming place that it is for us on Sunday mornings. Most memorable for some of us were the pouring of the wine into the cup that overflowed and the ever changing banner that Carol shaped for us each week over the summer. Each week, she ushered our way to discovery of yet a new piece to reflect on in the banner.



We also want to thank Barbara Ralph who has faithfully committed herself to the communion organization for many years and who has now retired. We are all grateful – especially for her homemade bread! Carol Pettigrew has graciously taken over this role.

## **Spirituality and Adult Education**

We have continued with our Life Groups and are grateful to the leaders for their commitment to this special ministry. In addition, a seven-week cycle of Ignatius spiritual practices was led by Rev. Nancy and Anne Ellis on Monday nights and Friday mornings and they welcomed as many as 30 participants.



This Fall we welcomed Pat Dutcher-Walls from Vancouver School of Theology who provided a workshop on the history of the Hebrew Bible. We learned not only the context of the Hebrew Bible but were also taught a process by which to analyze biblical texts for deeper meaning.

Finally, Rev. Nancy led a workshop on how to prepare a sermon. You will hear the results of this workshop this winter during Nancy's sabbatical as lay people take over the podium!

## **Music Ministry**

Music is one of the main threads that weaves together our Sunday tapestry, and we are so grateful for the variety of forms that shape our music ministry. Reverend Donna and the 'Joyful Noise' continue to lead and inspire us in the delights of music each Sunday, and we fully appreciate all they do.

Our community gospel choir continues under the direction of Marcus Mosely and Dominique Hogan. We have experienced truly inspiring and moving worship provided by their leadership and look forward to hearing the choir and their dynamic musical talents at least once a month.

The children's choir, under the direction of Mary Sparks in Spring, produced an amazing musical, and the children engaged in this group provide us with joy and hope. This Fall, Mary stepped aside from this role, and Claire Rice started in November. Claire brings to her leadership her degree and background in music and drama, and we are so fortunate to have found her. She also engages monthly with the Children's Community, and our hope is that the congregation has begun to see the results!

We enjoy our guest musicians who blessed us this year, including the Sojourners (Marcus Mosely's group) who joined us for Pentecost, and the Brass Quintet who joined us in the Spring and during Advent.

## Children's Community

Our Children's Community continues to blossom under the adept leadership of our Youth Minister, Anne Ellis and her loyal volunteer lay leaders. They draw reflections and activities from the *Holy Moly* curriculum which utilizes short animated videos of various bible stories. The children are now exploring themes at several activity centers where they undertake art work, play or other creative experiences, allowing them opportunities for self and reflective expression themselves with respect to stories.

Fortunately, we renewed our daycamp for children this summer in partnership with Highlands United. It was called Space Camp: Mission 412 based on 1 Timothy 4:12 and ran from July 21 – 25. There were 20 kids attending and 5 youth leaders and leaders in training. Many are looking forward to next year with great anticipation!



*Summer Camp fun and games*

Thank you to the many volunteers who have contributed their time and energies to Children's Community this year. We esteem and value what you've added to this vital ministry!

## Community Outreach

We staged two community events – at Halloween and just before Christmas - headed by Anne Ellis. Again, many volunteers who generously gave of their time to make these events a huge success!! There were crafts, a haunted house at Halloween, a short worship service and the good food to be shared. We created a very welcoming space for the community and look forward to continued events in 2015.

A promotional flyer for a community event. The background is dark blue with a bright starburst at the top right and a stylized Christmas tree made of white stars and blue wavy lines. The text is in white and light blue. The title is 'A Community Christmas Encounter'. Below it, it says 'A hands on, all ages, Family exploration of The Christmas Story'. The date is 'December 22'. The schedule is: 'Doors open: 3:30', 'Activities begin: 4:00', 'Dinner: 5:45'. At the bottom left is the logo for Mount Seymour United Church with contact information: 'Mount Seymour United Church, 1200 Parkgate Ave, Contact Anne: 604.319.2048, mtseymourunited.com'. At the bottom right, it says 'A free event, Donations gratefully accepted at the door'.

# Congregational Mission and Outreach Team Report



*Team members Dilys Sostad, Rev. Marianna Harris, Katherine McKay, Barbara Ralph.*

The Congregational Mission and Outreach (M & O) Team provides support, leadership and accountability for local and global outreach and mission initiatives.

**Outreach to First United Church** continues to be the focus of many programs. Joyce Jones coordinates the biweekly production of 12 loaves of **sandwiches** that are sent to First United Church and Katherine provides **Ready Readers** so that the downtown eastside community members are able to read and fill out important forms. The M&O Team monitors the needs of First United via their weekly bulletins and tries to accommodate these needs with items from the Thrift Shop.

A tour of the **First United Lounge** this past summer noted a lack of entertainment items so we have developed a system with the Thrift Shop and congregation members to send over items such as magazines, textbooks, books, games, complete puzzles and CD's for the lounge. A congregation member also arranged delivery of a Foosball table.

**Christmas in June** and October's **World Food Day** are additional opportunities for the congregation to donate food and money for First United.

Annually in August MSUC, in cooperation with First United, we host a **picnic** and activities in Deep Cove for resident's of the downtown eastside. They really look forward to this event and over 120 participated this past summer.



*~Barbara Ralph, World Food Day*



## **Outreach to the North Shore Youth Safe House (NSYSH)**

In the month of December the **Giving tree** (photo, left) goes up and is the focus for collection of much needed clothing and toiletry items for 1<sup>st</sup> United and now also the local North Shore Youth Safe House. A representative from the NSYSH was brought in to speak to the congregation late November about their vital services. Throughout this past year we have provided NSYSH with clothing, mostly jeans and hoodies donated by congregation members and the Thrift shop.

**MSUC Thrift Shop** support continues with a weekly tea service on Thursdays and annually there is a **Thrift Shop Christmas Tea** for the patrons. The **Maundy Thursday pot luck dinner** in March for Thrift Shop patrons was well attended by over 100 people and coordinated by Kathryn Clinton and Dilys Sostad.

**“Project Discernment”** was utilized this year to support Jen-Beth’s daughter, Colleen in her Ugandan Midwifery initiative. Along with the Children’s Community, dozens of newborn hats were made and money raised for vital resuscitation equipment.

### **Israel and Palestine**

Marianna Harris continues to raise awareness of the plight of Palestine with a film shown at MSUC that was both moving and disturbing entitled “Al Helm, Martin Luther King in Israel.” She also championed the Peace Box Initiative which was a tool to support peace-making in Israel and Palestine. Olive Oil and soaps made in Palestine were sold to support Palestinian families. The small profit from the sale was donated to the Gaza appeal.

**“Surprising Hope: Doing Justice in a Complex World”** workshop on February 8, organized by Marianna brought together two dozen like-minded individuals. Selecting photos helped people to talk about what justice meant to them. Christine Boyle (through a video), Wendy Brown and Roger Brain spoke about how they find hope through the justice work in which they are engaged. And via video we heard Bryan Stephenson speak eloquently about how persistence in one’s justice work as a janitor in a courtroom encouraged him to “keep your eye on the prize – carry on.”



*Marianna Harris with Peace Box items*

We endeavour to raise the awareness of our congregation about **the United Church Mission & Service Fund**. The current quarterly **Mandate magazine** and the **Gifts with Vision** giving catalogue are made available for the congregation to peruse.

Thank-you to Dilys Sostad, Barb Ralph, and Marianna Harris for making our bimonthly meetings fun and efficient. Lastly, enormous gratitude and thanks to all those volunteers who ensure the success of the M&O programs.

Respectfully submitted by Katherine McKay, Chair

# The Thrift Shop Report

**Mission Statement :** We create growing community outreach through extraordinary people who share their time and knowledge to support our neighbors. The Thrift Shop is a place to nurture the spirit, all are welcome.

We are pleased to report another year of interesting and profitable changes in the MSUC Thrift Shop. We are continuing to operate under the established Transition Team restructure that was established in 2013. This has proven to be an effective and workable framework in which all areas of our team work. This Team is made up of the following members who represent sorters, Tea Room staff, former Executive members and representatives of the MSUC staff. The members are: Anne Devent, Barbara Ralph, Barbara Waldie, Bonnie Wudrick, Carol Kelly, Dilys Sostad, Joan Fowler, Linda Smith, Kathryn Clinton/Sharon Stevens, Meg Clarke, Rev. Nancy Talbot. We were sorry to lose Margie Nelson from this Team and want to thank her very much for all her devotion and energy. We all miss her very much. This Team meets once a month to discuss issues and make plans.



One big change that took place March of this year was the addition of three extra hours of operation of the Thrift Shop every Thursday – we now are open between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. every Thursday. That addition to the opening hours and more advertising through the social media and Craigslist has brought in new customers and hence our sales have increased. On an average we have 300+ customers each week. Our shop operates each Thursday with more than 18 volunteers working from a two to eight hour shift.

We are continuing to support financially the Downtown eastside First United Church. As well as supporting First United financially, we also donate clothing and other items as needed to them as well as to North Shore Youth Safe House and the YWCA's Crabtree. Also we have made contact with a special lady, Jane, who we call our "shoe lady". She buys shoes from our Shop that haven't sold. She then ships them to Kenya for sale. The profits of these sales goes towards the school fees for secondary students whose parents cannot afford the fees. She comes to our Shop several times a year to collect the shoes and visit with our volunteers – her visits, we find, are very inspirational.

With the addition of 10 new volunteers – making our total of active (and a few semi-active) volunteers 84 – we are thankful for this successful year. Sales increased by 25% over the previous year. This increase has allowed us to contribute to the "There's Something More" building campaign that was held this fall, and will enable us to move into permanent space later in 2015.

Each week our Thursday Thrift Shop staff enjoy fellowship with their fellow volunteers around the "tea table" at 3 p.m. each week. Also during our sorting mornings we have a coffee break that provides an opportunity to share with other volunteers – a community that many look forward to each week.

In addition to our sorting days, which are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday mornings and all day Thursday we started a “sit down” club this fall. This is held every Tuesday morning for 2 hours and provides work for those volunteers who find it difficult to stand for several hours to sort the donations while sitting at a table and is “catching on”.

Other events to note over the past year are as follows:

- Maundy Thursday dinner – has continued from previous years. This event is under the umbrella of the M & O Committee in which a complimentary dinner is served to customers and Thrift Shop volunteers at 6 p.m. As in previous year it is very well attended and appreciated by all.
- An Annual Meeting where all volunteers are invited to a meeting. We provide a lunch and this is an opportunity for all to discuss and give input on Thrift Shop issues.
- Art & Jewelry Sale – held October 25<sup>th</sup> – an event that is open to the community and brought in over \$3,000.00 in sales.
- MSUC Men’s Turkey Luncheon & Christmas Sale – held November 15<sup>th</sup> At this event the Thrift Shop sold Christmas items during the hours of the luncheon. It provides our Shop with an opportunity to introduce the Christmas Season to the congregation as well as the community-at-large. Then the following Thursday these items are on sale to the Thrift Shop customers.
- Christmas Tea – held the last Thursday of December, before we closed for the Christmas break. This event sponsored by the M&O committee provided Christmas baking and complimentary tea and coffee for all the customers of the Thrift Shop. Of note this year, all customers went home with a complimentary Christmas mug as well as lots of bargains.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup> the First Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon for all the Thrift Shop Volunteers past and present, sponsored by PARC- Cedar Springs Senior Residence was held at Cedar Springs. Forty-five volunteers attended. It was an exciting event and enjoyed immensely. Special mention should be made of the lovely door prizes donated by PARC and fun games that were enjoyed by all, as well as the beautiful food.

As we close out this 2014 year we are most appreciative of all the assistance and support provided by the MSUC staff and Board members as well as the community- at- large whose donations provide our wonderful selection of high quality items for sale. Without you we would not be a success. Thanks you all.

We are looking forward to an exciting year in 2015 when, due to a successful building campaign, we will be moving into new facilities within the MSUC building later in 2015.

Submitted by Carol Kelly & Bonnie Wudrick, co-chairs, on behalf of the Transition Team

**2014 Thrift Shop Revenue (net of expenses): \$126,598**  
**-less Amount donated to First United: \$20,000**  
**-less Amount donated to Campaign : \$26,598**  
**\$80,000**



~Carol Kelly and Bonnie Wudrick, Co-chairs

## Administration Team Report



### Administration Team Report

The A Team continued to play an integral role in the development of the Building Renovation Project during 2014

In parallel with and linked to the renovation has been an ongoing assessment of the potential interfaces with the renovation and identifying those decisions we have to make regarding how we incorporate their impact during the construction period this summer of 2015.

The most obvious of these is the structural support we had to install during the Fall underneath the two vertical archway pillars at the front entrance.

After a study done in 2007, immediate replacement of the existing main entranceway, including the solarium roof at both ends of the Narthex was strongly recommended due to damage caused by inherent design and construction defects. At that time we made a conscious decision to monitor the condition instead of replacing the structure immediately. Fortunately, however, as part of a fund raising project, we had created a “building envelope, roofing and HVAC” contingency, a part of which will now be used, some 7 years later to mitigate the current situation while we integrate this work into our design of the new entrances currently underway.

During 2014, studies were done and continue to be done on other interfaces such as the Heating and Ventilation Systems, including which units will require replacement and their timing, roofing and guttering, lighting upgrades both internally and externally, washroom facilities upgrades, toilets and hot air hand dryers, building protective repainting externally, revised and expanded security systems, chairs and storage systems.



The conversion of the Administration office to incorporate a reception office (see photo, left) was done over the 2014 Christmas/ New Year period. It is our first visible “deliverable” under our renovation project and was a great “soft” start from which we gained good experience. This will be followed shortly by the installation of a concrete slab and building of an outdoor storage facility early in 2015 once we have removed the existing green shed.

As you will all notice, particularly on a sunny day, our overhead projector was replaced with another having 3 times the light output of the previous one, thanks to a very generous donation by the Fowlers. Thank you both so very much!

As is to be expected in our venerable 25 year old building, simple routine maintenance continues to require constant attention and we face this never ending dance of repair versus replacement: none of which to date has been particularly arduous financially but sometimes requires creative solutions!

The garden continues to reflect Gladys Johnson's remarkable energy and creativity, benefitting from an intensive program of topdressing and weeding which has completely transformed some of the less obvious but important areas such as along the eastern boundary of the parking lot. She has also led a group of dedicated gardeners, each with an allocated area under their care for which we also thank those caring individuals.

Thanks also for organizing the tree planting to replace the original non-indigenous flowering cherry trees along the entrance flower beds with a hardy variety of crab apple trees.



The Annual Cleanup Day (pics above) in May was a great success with the weather cooperating reasonably well. Sincere thanks to everyone who attended and helped out with all those odd jobs which always need doing.

Please feel free to contact me or anyone on the administration team if you have any questions or would like to join the team or to volunteer.

Submitted by James Fulton on behalf of the Administration Team.  
(Steve MacDonald, Gladys Johnston, Stan Joughin, Sharon Stevens, Ian Jarvis and James Fulton)

*"Sacred places are not empty vessels and people coming to them continue to build on what's already present and layered in the landscape, culture or activities of the place."  
~Adrian J. Ivakhiv*



# Congregational Life Team Report

The Team provides support and leadership in areas of new members, communication and pastoral care and brings the congregation together for fun and fellowship.

## Connecting with our Community

### Online Communication

Our [website](#) continues to be an important connection with the community. On average, there are **500 visits** per month with about half of those from visitors new to the site. Popular pages are *Music and Events*, *Who We Are* and *Sermons*. Our **Facebook** page continues to grow in popularity, and has been useful for us to promote events and programs at the church. [Click through](#) and like us.

This year we changed our e-newsletter delivery somewhat, switching to the popular MailChimp newsletter platform. We now have over **285 people who receive our weekly email**. This has become a key form of communication with the congregation and has helped eliminate the need to hand out written announcements.

### Welcome Team

Our Welcome Team continues to flourish under the new leadership of Gladys Johnston ([johnstongladys@hotmail.com](mailto:johnstongladys@hotmail.com)). We continue to receive great feedback from newcomers and regulars about what a welcoming place this is. The team is always looking for Welcomers on Sunday Mornings. Whether you are old or new to the church, welcoming is a great way to meet people and widen your circle of friends.

### Saturday Morning Breakfast Groups

The Men's and Women's Breakfast Groups, a 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 Gillian Cole ([doggerel@shaw.ca](mailto:doggerel@shaw.ca)) if you are interested in joining a group.

### Church Library and Reading Group



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. We are looking forward to this "space for fellowship" continuing in once our newly renovated building is completed.

Our reading group continues with its monthly meeting held at the Atrium across from the church. Members come together to share and enjoy each other's ideas along with tea and cookies.

The library is so much more than books!

Contact Sylvia ([smandryk@shaw.ca](mailto:smandryk@shaw.ca)) if you would like to help with the library or to join the reading group.

Submitted by Sylvia Zandberg, MSUC Librarian

## 2014 Fundraisers and Events

### Deep Cove Coffee Houses

The Deep Cove Coffee House has been well established in the community for several years and moved to our church in 2011 when St. Clare-in-the-Cove Anglican Church closed. The Coffee House monthly concerts are generally held on the third Friday of the month ([check our website for future dates](#)). For admission of \$10, you can enjoy a great concert by well known local musicians, home baking and the best coffee in the Cove.

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 \$3100 for the church. Thanks to Jane Osborne, Pat Newton, and their team of volunteers from community that help to make the Coffee Houses such a success.

### Church Picnic– June 22

The BBQ chicken was great as usual and the potluck salad and desserts were wonderful. Thanks to Alan Furniss for ordering the chicken, and everyone who brought salads, desserts and helped out.

### Parkgate Family Day - September 6



Thanks to Sylvia and Gert Zandbeg, Joan Fowler, Olive McIvor, Dilys Sostad, Frank Luba, Anne Ellis and her son Owen, along with my children Zoë and Nelson who handed out freezies and flyers at our table. It was a great opportunity to connect with the community!

### Turkey Lunch, Thrift and Bake Sale – November 15

Thanks to everyone (cooks, bakers, servers, sellers,...) who helped make this such a fun and successful community event. Together we raised \$1323 at the lunch and Bake Sale and \$689 at the Thrift Sale for a total of \$2,012. A special thanks to Peter Muirhead who organized the lunch.

### Wreath Making Event - November 23

All ages gathered after worship for lunch and made an Advent wreath to celebrate the four Sundays of Advent at home. A warm thank you to Jen-Beth Fulton for once again taking the lead on organizing this event!

Submitted by Sharon Stevens

## Ministry and Personnel Committee Report



**Members: Marianne Hansen, Peter Muirhead, Lima Branch, Kelly Vogt, Laura Staude – Chair**

The year 2014 was a year of celebrations and send-offs for staff members embarking on new endeavors. In April, Mount Seymour United celebrated the 10 year work anniversary of Kathryn Clinton, Church Administrator, and in June we wished Kathryn well as she moved to Victoria. Kathryn saw many changes occur at Mount Seymour while she worked here and the responsibilities of her position grew and grew. She was often the first person anyone went to when they had questions about what was happening at Mount Seymour. Kathryn moved to Victoria to be closer to her daughters and can now enjoy kayaking from her backyard.

We were very fortunate that Sharon Stevens, a member of our congregation, was interested in stepping into the Administrator and Communications Coordinator position. Mount Seymour United has been able to maintain its stride with a capital campaign and all of the usual worship and program activities with Sharon in this new role. We also have a new set of volunteers who help in the office to keep everything on track.

Fortunately, Donna Dinsmore agreed to continue serving at Mount Seymour United after her ordination into the United Church in May. She agreed to continue as the Associate Minister for one more year and offered to increase her time and service to Mount Seymour during Nancy's sabbatical in 2015. She continues to bring new life to worship and music. The community of caring support has grown in new dimensions under her leadership.

Anne Ellis has continued to lead and develop our Children and Youth Community at Mount Seymour this past year. There were confirmation classes, another great week of summer camp shared with Highlands United Church, and very popular Halloween and Christmas events with participation of families from throughout the community. She continues to use her well-organized creativity to make the Sunday worship time for the children and youth fresh and exciting.



*Kathryn Clinton received a heartfelt blessing and farewell from the congregation in June*

We welcomed Claire Rice as our new “Shout It Out!” – Children’s Music Program Leader. She has tremendous talent in teaching drama and theatre skills to children and has been involved in intergenerational services on Sunday mornings as well. Mary Sparks, who created the Children’s Music Program, has been able to take a break and Lena Dabrusin who served as an Assistant Leader has been able to pursue other options in the realm of theatre and performance.

Another celebration at Mount Seymour United was Nancy’s, our Lead Minister, 10-year work anniversary. In November we had a luncheon served to the congregation and enjoyed hearing numerous accounts both humorous and deeply grateful about Nancy and the impact of her work on the spiritual lives and all other aspects of life at Mount Seymour. In the midst of the capital campaign in the last part of the year, Nancy prepared for a well-deserved sabbatical beginning on Christmas Day.



Throughout the year Marcus Mosely and Dominique Hogan have been showering us with Gospel hymns, rhythms, and worship. We are pleased to have their continued connection with Mount Seymour. They offer another way of worship to feed our souls.

As 2015 gets underway, the Ministry and Personnel Committee will be helping the Ministry Search and Profile Team to initiate a call for an Associate Minister. More information about this process will be available through a congregational meeting in early February and through announcements. The work of Mount Seymour United Church is led and supported by our ministers and staff members who give their hearts and souls to creating a welcoming, nurturing place for the congregation and community of Mount Seymour United and we are very grateful for their dedication.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Staude  
Chair of Ministry and Personnel Team

## Board of Trustees

The trustees met once in 2014 to determine if there were any changes to the scope of new issues that needed to be addressed. Due to the thorough review of matters in the prior year, there were no tasks to be addressed this year. Notice had been received during the spring from Mike Hetherington that he was resigning. The trustees will from time to time discuss matters of insurance, the registration in the Land Title Office of the varied terms of the congregation's Ventures In Mission mortgage from the national church, and procedures for dealing with any future investments and memorial gifts. With the election of Ken Fowler at the 2014 AGM, the current trustees now include Ted Butterfield, James Fulton, Gwen Kendrick, and Ken Fowler; Rev. Nancy Talbot is an *ex officio* member.

The trustees are the legal owners of all the church property, including the land and buildings. Their powers and responsibilities are outlined in the *Manual of The United Church of Canada* and are explained in the *Congregational Trustees Handbook*. The trustees are responsible for ensuring the church property is properly insured. They have personal liability for claims made against the church and its property. They also have responsibility for investing any accumulated assets of the congregation, including bequests, however generally the trustees will follow the requests of Council.

~Submitted by Ted Butterfield, Member

### *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.*

# PASSAGES 2014

## Baptisms

Katherine McKay January 26  
Declan Christopher Thompson June 8

## Joining our Congregation

Roger Brain	January 26	Profession Of Faith
Merrilee Davis	January 26	Profession Of Faith
Douglas Querns	January 26	Profession Of Faith
Burton Branch	January 26	Transfer
Lima Branch	January 26	Transfer
Gail Whitney	January 26	Transfer
Rev. Marianna Harris	January 26	Transfer
Michelle Coulombe	January 26	Reaffirmation
Marc Coulombe	January 26	Reaffirmation
Ruth Townsend	June 8	Transfer
Ray Steward	June 8	Transfer



## Confirmations

Olivia Branch	October 5
Jillian May Miklos Kitt	October 5
Sara Louise Shippam Vlahos	October 5
Elizabeth Catherine Petersen	October 5

## Weddings

Megan Muirhead and Travis Sheppard	July 26
Lynda Douglas and Brett Clement	August 16
Alison Smith and Tobias Klima	November 22

## We Remember

James Wilfred Baugh  
Hank Piekaar  
George Raymond (Ray) Newcombe  
Frances Mary Fulton

## Memorial Service

September 6  
October 8  
October 18  
December 20

## Groups Using Our Church During 2014

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:

Mount Seymour Preschool  
The Cove Church  
Kumon Educational Institute  
Alcoholics Anonymous and Alanon groups  
Girl Guides (Sparks)  
Blueridge International Chamber Music Kid's Camp

### **Weekly Choirs:**

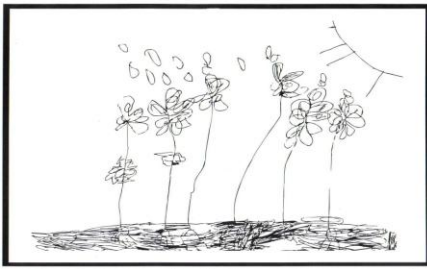
North Shore Chorus –practices and concerts  
Singspiration Choir –practices and concerts

### **Concerts:**

Pro Nova Ensemble (4 concerts per year)  
Seycove Secondary School Community Concerts (monthly)  
Argyle Secondary School  
Universal Gospel Choir  
Marcus Mosely Chorale  
Deep Cove Coffee Houses (monthly)  
Blueridge Music Association  
Vancouver Orpheus Men's Choir  
Music Recitals - various music teachers and groups

Graduation ceremonies for Dorothy Lynas Elementary and Sherwood Park Elementary  
Recording sessions  
Quilting Workshops  
Anniversary and Birthday Parties  
Meetings: Strata, Blockwatch, etc.  
All Candidates Meeting  
Election Polls

*"Faith does not need to push the river because faith is able to trust that there is a river.  
The river is flowing. We are in it."  
~Richard Rohr*



## Mount Seymour Child Development Society (Mount Seymour Preschool)

The United Church of Canada has a long-standing tradition of response to the needs of children, whether spiritual, physical or educational. This response is inspired by the teachings of Jesus that, on the one hand, children were deserving of loving attention from adults, and on the other, that children could be sources of both joy and wisdom to their elders. It was from these beliefs that this congregation's commitment to early childhood education sprouted over forty years ago with the inception of what is now Mount Seymour Preschool.

### DID YOU KNOW?

This year we have 61 children participating in our pre-school programs.

We offer programs to children who are 3 and 4 years old.

On Monday, Wednesday and Friday, we have two classes of 4 year olds. Their class times are: 9:00 – 11:30 and 12:15 -2:45. We start each day outside, rain or shine and have found that there is so much to do and discover in any kind of weather!

On Tuesday and Thursday, we have two classes of 3 year olds. Their class times are: 9:00 - 11:15 and 11:45 – 2:00.

With many financial pressures facing young families, we are diligent at keeping the **preschool fees affordable**, so that many children in our area can participate in quality early childhood experiences at Mt Seymour Preschool. The Ministry of Children and Family Services offers financial assistance for families who qualify for subsidy support and we work with families through this process.

The Mount Seymour Child Development Society has a **Bursary Fund**, that when accessed, allows families to participate in our programs if the financial need arises.

We are an **inclusive** preschool. We work closely with families and community agencies, to provide the necessary support that ensures each child has a meaningful and positive preschool experience.

Once again, our preschool families embraced our **Christmas Gift of Giving** project for marginalized people who live in the Downtown Eastside. First United Church provided a Christmas meal for over 300 people and our preschool was responsible for contributing 14 turkeys to that event. Our preschool families also donated socks, undershirts, umbrellas, backpacks, food gift cards and toiletries to the North Shore Youth Safe House. Three very full boxes of donations were given to this program that provides short-term emergency care for youths.

We continue to feel very fortunate to have Parkgate Hall as our preschool environment and to be part of the church community. We have several challenges ahead as we plan for the changes that will be occurring to the preschool space in the near future. We recognize and appreciate the continued support of those church committee members who are working with us throughout this process. We are excited about expanding our outdoor play space and appreciate the guidance and expertise of Houston Landscaping with this endeavour.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,  
Gina Gallagher, Ellen Muirhead and Nonie Meger. (Preschool Staff)





# Appendix

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Mt. Seymour United Church Held at 1200 Parkgate Avenue, North Vancouver, B.C. Sunday, March 30, 2014

The following 63 members/adherents were present;

### Members

Carol Kelly, Katherine McKay, Doug Querns, Burton Branch, Lima Branch, Verna Wilson, Nancy Scheer, Ruth Townsend, Marilyn Thorpe, Nina Huumo, Pat Wall, Helen Talbot, Joyce Jones, Donna Crook, Jim Crook, Alan Furniss, Bryan Ralph, Barbara Ralph, Betty Blair, Carol Pettigrew, Michael Hetherington, Marianne Hansen, Marlene Plezia, Gail Whitney, Donna Pawluck, Margie Reid, Archie Reid, Allan Johnston, Bette Shippam, Lisa Reinders, Barry Fenton, Sharon Stevens, Ian Jarvis, Ellen Muirhead, Roger Brain, Mary Sparks, Laura Staude, Kate Branch, Mardi Joughin, Ken Fowler, Michelle Coulombe, Marc Coulombe, James Fulton, Jen-Beth Fulton, Dilys Sostad, Kelly Vogt, Catherine Branch, Stan Joughin, Kathryn Clinton, Ward Branch, Joan Fowler, Peter Muirhead, Marianna Harris.

### Adherents

Gert Zandberg, Sylvia Zandberg, Cindy Frewin, Nancy Stonkus, Leslie Martin, Matt Branch, Ray Stewart, Sharon Brain, Katie Ekroth, Wendy Alexander, Maureen Van Den Dool.

Chair Kelly Vogt welcomed those present, noted that there was a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 11:50 am.

*Rev. Nancy Talbot* opened the meeting with a quote “Your soul knows the geography of your destiny”. The congregation was asked to sit in silence to ponder this quote. Rev. Nancy Talbot followed with a prayer which linked this quote and the journey of MSUC.

**M/S** (K. Branch/M. Coulombe) that the agenda be approved as presented. **Carried.**

Chair Vogt introduced the Board of Trustees: Mike Hetherington, Ted Butterfield, Gwen Kendrick and James Fulton.

Chair Vogt introduced the 2013 Council Members.

Lisa Reinders presented the plans for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**M/S** (A. Furniss/N. Stonkus) that the Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of February 24, 2013 be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

**Ministers Report:** Rev. Nancy Talbot opened by reminding us of the journey the Hebrews took through the desert carrying the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark of the Covenant held all that was most important to their community and expressed who they were. This year the JNAC team has tried to discover who we are as a community and has helped us develop a list of our most important attributes, thus defining a set of guide lines for our future growth. Rev. Nancy Talbot then took the time to individually thank and review the achievements of the various teams that are integral to the running of our church. She then thanked

current and retiring Board and Council members for all their hard work over their years of service. Mike Hetherington will be retiring from the Board of Trustees. Kelly Vogt, Kathryn Clinton and Nancy Stonkus will be retiring from Council.

**Joint Needs Assessment Report:** Laura Staude updated the congregation on the status of the JNAC review that is in progress. The highlights included a renewal of Donna Dinsmore's one year appointment and sadly the announcement of Kathryn Clinton's retirement as Church Administrator from MSUC effective July 2014.

Doug Querns presented the Financial Statements for 2013 and the 2014 budget to the congregation.

**M/S (K. Fowler/D. Sostad)** that the Financial Statements for 2013, excluding the Budget for 2014 be received. **Carried.**

**M/S (A. Furniss/S. Joughin)** that the budget for 2014 be accepted as presented. **Carried**

**Building Report and Resolutions:** Ward Branch took us through a condensed version of the last 18 months of hard work by various individuals that has lead us to the current proposed building plan. The details of the plan were reviewed at length and feedback from the congregation was initiated. \$300,000 has already been raised to fund the project if the motion is carried.

Carol Kelly addressed the congregation on behalf of the Thrift shop. The Thrift shop will be donating all profits in excess of \$100,000.00 per year to the new building fund subject to the approval of the Thrift Shop volunteers. The Thrift Shop is in favour of the proposed building plan.

The following motion was decided by secret ballot and was voted on by **members only**.

**M/S (K. Vogt/W. Branch)** to renovate according to the building plan as per schedule A approximated at \$500,000.00 contingent upon approval by the District of North Vancouver, the Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery, and raising sufficient funds. **Carried.**

**The vote to proceed with the proposed building plans was won by an overwhelming majority of 91%.**

The following motion was voted on by **members only**.

**M/S (Branch/Clarke)** to launch a capital campaign to raise necessary funds for the building plan as per schedule A estimated at approximately \$500,000.00. **Carried.**

**M/S (James Fulton/Burton Branch)** that the 2013 Annual Report be received save for the 2014 budget therein. **Carried.**

### **Board of Trustees**

*Chair Vogt called for nominations for the Board. Hearing none, declared the following candidate for the Board of Trustees elected by acclamation for a 3 year term-*

Ken Fowler

### **MSU Council**

Chair Vogt presented the following candidates to be elected to serve on the Mount Seymour United Church Council for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2014.

*Chair Vogt called for further nominations and, hearing none, declared the following elected by acclamation:*

**Chair** - *Lisa Reinders*

**Congregational Life Team Leader** – *Ward Branch*

**Mission and Outreach Team Co-Leaders** – *Carol Kelly*

**Ministry and Personnel Committee Chair** – *Laura Staude*

**Member-at-Large** – *Roger Brain*

**Treasurer** - *Doug Querns*

**Recording Secretary** – *Sharon Stevens*

**Presbytery Rep** – *remains open*

Kelly Vogt thanked Council and all the hard working staff at MSUC.

Rev. Talbot closed the meeting with a prayer of gratitude.

**M/S** (Furniss/Stonkus) that the meeting be adjourned at 1:45 p.m. **Carried.**

Kelly Vogt, Chair\_\_\_\_\_

Nancy Stonkus, Acting Recording Secretary\_\_\_\_\_

# Mount Seymour United Church

## Statement of Financial Position at December 31, 2014

	2014	2013
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	11,196	26,190
GIC Accounts	155,542	269,908
Renovation Fund	234,365	0
Accounts Receivable	1,481	1,230
	402,583	297,328
<b>Property, plant and equipment</b>		
Land	425,151	425,151
Building	1,120,765	1,120,765
Furniture and Equipment	102,575	102,280
	1,648,491	1,648,196
	2,051,074	1,945,525
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	23	23
Mission and Service	3,117	3,936
Misc. Funds	1,245	4,523
First United Church	1,413	1,348
Other Outreach		255
	5,797	10,084
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>		
VIM Loan	305,045	305,045
<b>Equity and Funds</b>		
Sabatical Fund	20,000	20,000
Memorial Fund	19,357	19,042
Growth Fund	0	0
Renovation Fund	228,154	88,922
General Contingency fund	59,145	58,288
Building Contingency fund	93,146	96,452
	419,802	282,703
<b>Equity</b>		
Opening Balance	1,343,446	1,343,151
Income from Contingency Fund		
Net Income for the year	-23,016	3,393
	1,320,430	1,346,544
	1,740,232	1,629,247
	\$2,051,074	\$1,944,376

# Mount Seymour United Church

## Income Statement for Period Ended Dec 31, 2014 and 2015 Budget

	2014 31-Dec	2013 31-Dec	2015 Budget
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Offering (Envelopes & PAR)	\$ 142,827	\$ 164,402	155,000
Deferred Offering Allocation			
Open Offering	8,008	6,124	8,000
Special Offering	5,379	16,203	10,000
Growth Fund Allocation	9,429	35,764	
<b>Total Givings</b>	165,643	222,493	173,000
<b>OTHER REVENUE</b>			
Rentals	34,373	37,934	35,000
Memorials & Weddings	1,950	650	1,500
Catering	-	36	150
Thrift Shop	100,000	102,375	110,000
Interest	2,334	2,591	2,500
Fundraising (coffee house)	5,852	5,412	5,500
Rufugee Sponsorship			
Misc			
<b>Total Other</b>	144,507	148,998	154,650
 <b>Total Revenue</b>	 <b>\$ 310,150</b>	 <b>\$ 371,491</b>	 <b>\$ 327,650</b>
 <b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>A TEAM</b>			
A Copier	6,200	3,710	6,000
A Office Supplies & postage	1,970	1,517	2,000
A Telephone	1,210	1,235	1,200
A Bank Charges	838	1,122	1,000
A Computer /Misc	736	729	800
<b>Total Administration</b>	10,954	8,313	11,000

	<b>2014 31-Dec</b>	<b>2013 31-Dec</b>	<b>2015 Budget</b>
<b>Property</b>			
P Bld Maint	3,873	6,410	6,000
P Equip Maintenance	666		
P Grounds/ Handyperson	698	1,779	1,600
P Sound Maint	12,386	289	10,200
P Bld Heat Maint	1,046	5,101	3,000
P Security	307	309	350
P Janitorial	11,487	12,193	12,500
P Garbage	2,000	1,871	2,000
P Water & Sewer	1,744	2,094	2,300
P Gas & Electric	9,049	8,829	9,000
P Snow	0	410	900
P Telephone Office	2,237	2,058	2,100
P Insurance	7,308	7,123	8,000
P Kitchen Supplies	653	293	300
P Thrift Shop Improvements	1,829	3,013	1,200
P Trf to Building fund			3,800
Growth Fund Expenditures	2,530	23,351	
<b>Total Property</b>	<b>57,812</b>	<b>75,123</b>	<b>63,250</b>
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION TEAM</b>	<b>68,766</b>	<b>83,436</b>	<b>74,250</b>
<b>WORSHIP &amp; CD</b>			
Pulpit Relief	500	600	600
Childrens Community	331	370	500
Youth	214	80	175
Library / Misc	183	144	100
CD Adult	368	879	200
Congregational Meetings		56	-
Music Youth	200	228	-
Music Adults	148		-
Music Supplies	335	482	750
Music Director Relief	500	2,400	1,000
Volunteer Training	70		650
Music Piano/Organ Tuning	329	339	400
Worship Misc Supplies	427	426	500
Sound Production	378	142	150
<b>TOTAL WORSHIP &amp; C. D.</b>	<b>3,983</b>	<b>6,146</b>	<b>5,025</b>
<b>COUNCIL</b>			
Presbytery	11,724	11,011	11,667
Other Expense	578	351	500
<b>TOTAL COUNCIL</b>	<b>12,302</b>	<b>11,362</b>	<b>12,167</b>

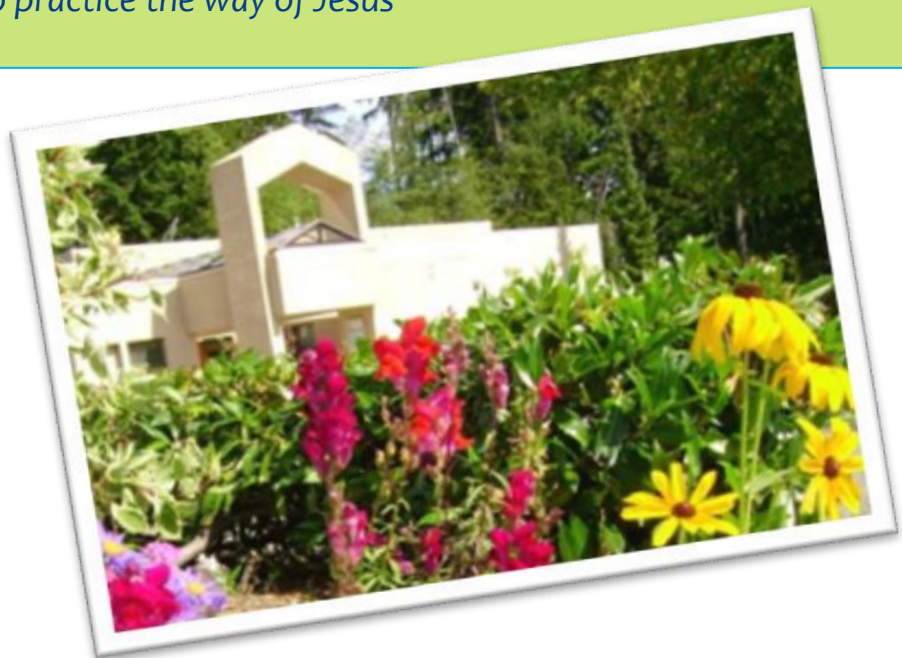
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>budget</b>
<b>CONGREGATIONAL LIFE</b>			
Advertising	350	505	800
Fellowship (Lunches/welcoming)	734	1,806	1,500
Observer Magazine	76	211	300
Sundays - coffee	1,178	884	900
Misc.			50
Pastoral Care	296	212	400
<b>TOTAL CONGREGATIONAL LIFE</b>	<b>2,634</b>	<b>3,618</b>	<b>3,950</b>
<b>CONG. MISSION</b>			
Mission and Outreach	292	1,050	1,900
First United Thrift Shop Donation	20,000	18,132	20,000
Refugee Family Sponsorship			
Help Fund	125	100	125
Growth Fund- Seniors Bus Progra	6,899	12,313	
<b>TOTAL MISSION</b>	<b>27,316</b>	<b>31,595</b>	<b>22,025</b>
<b>MINISTRY &amp; PERSONNEL</b>			
Wages	138,471	134,161	148,554
Housing Allowance	42,000	38,250	33,000
Ministers Travel	2,444	1,245	2,000
Sabbatical Fund	203	20,000	
Staff Dev Cont Ed	1,906	3,775	4,000
Vacation	0	1,233	1,200
CPP	5,215	4,841	5,300
EI	3,416	3,159	3,400
Employee Benefits	22,846	21,264	23,000
MSP	648	648	650
Work Comp	335	333	400
Hosting	647	466	500
Other Payroll	32	27	200
<b>TOTAL MINISTRY &amp; PERSONNEL</b>	<b>218,163</b>	<b>229,402</b>	<b>222,204</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 333,165</b>	<b>\$ 365,560</b>	<b>\$ 339,621</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>-\$23,016</b>	<b>\$5,931</b>	<b>-\$11,971</b>
<b>VIM Loan Payments</b>			
<b>CASH SURPLUS / DEFICIT</b>	<b>-\$23,016</b>	<b>\$5,931</b>	<b>-\$11,971</b>



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

***Living Our 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



**Mount Seymour United Church**  
1200 Parkgate Ave North Vancouver, B.C.  
[www.mtseymourunited.com](http://www.mtseymourunited.com)