

St. Stephen's United Church

2016 Annual Report

150 Village Way, Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1L1

Ph: 250-752-9831 e-mail: ststephensuc@shaw.ca Web: ststephensucqualicum.ca



The vision of St. Stephen's United Church is to be a Jesus-centred, Spirit-led community, called and equipped to join in God's loving work in the world.

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THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the writing of this Annual Report and to all of you reading who share your time, talents and gifts in carrying out the missions and ministries of St. Stephen's!

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

It was a little more than a year ago that some university students set up a large chalkboard in downtown New York City with this request written on it: "Write your biggest regret." There was coloured chalk made available and the students made a video recording of what followed.¹ Over the day a variety of people stopped as they were walking by and they courageously wrote down their biggest regrets. They included:

- Burning bridges
- Never speaking up
- Not being a good husband
- Should have spent more time with family
- Staying in my comfort zone
- Not saying "I love you"
- Never applying to med school
- Not making the most of every day
- Not being a better friend

Interestingly, the great majority of the regrets involved the word (or the notion of) "not." They wrote of things not done, opportunities not embraced, words not said, dreams not followed.

The students then did something very simple, but also extraordinarily powerful: they wrote the words "Clean slate" at the top of the board and gave those who were writing an eraser. Many chose to remove their regret. One woman confessed, a little tearfully, "I feel hopeful. It means that there are possibilities."

Indeed, we really are in the hope business in the Church. Possibilities abound. Our God has done—and is doing—something wonderful. This is a deeply counter-cultural position in our country, where it seems we are being regularly reminded of a long list of things to fear, to be afraid of—the economy, illness, politicians, immigrants, crime, environmental collapse—and the list goes on. Yet, I am reminded of the words of the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews:

... for God has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" (*Hebrews 13:5-6, NRSV*)

We are a people who live in, and with, hope. God is doing a new thing, in us and in the world.

Yet, it is true that regrets are a most common occupational hazard, even for the hopeful. Few of us don't have one or two or more. Then again, our hopeful faith is very much founded on the notion of "the second chance." And the third chance, and a fourth, or more (at least, if you are like me). As the writer of Lamentations declared: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning" (*Lamentations 3:22-23, NRSV*)

¹ Navigate on your web browser to <http://aplus.com/a/clean-slate-blackboard-experiment> It's a worthwhile investment of 3 ½ minutes.

We enter into 2017 with the benefit of knowing where we've been, perhaps even with some regrets, but aware that we also have a clean slate. We have fresh possibilities, as individuals and as a congregation; an opportunity to put some things behind us, to try some things not previously attempted, to embrace the fresh opportunities that will surely come our way, to say some things needing to be said, and, yes, to follow a dream or two. Yes, this year—every year—is full of possibilities for people following Jesus. Where he will take us is never certain. There will surely be some surprises along the way, but the mission is sure and the company is good. May God bless, and the Holy Spirit equip, you and this fellowship in 2017. There is a Gospel to be preached and lived. Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. D.', with a horizontal line underneath.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTER'S MESSAGE

There is a spiritual practice called examen. It is the practice of reflecting on a time that has passed and seeking to recognize 'consolations' (evidence of God's movement in and through your life) and 'desolations' (times when God may have seemed absent or when things seemed to be moving away from God's life-giving ways). This is a wonderful practice and can be done in the evening as each day winds down and you prepare to sleep. It can also be done for longer time periods, like looking back over the past year.

As I think about what to write in this report I find myself doing my own examen for 2016. What immediately stands out for me is how much of a year of transition it has been, both within my own life personally and within the aspects of the congregational life of St. Stephen's that I take part in. And interestingly, if I am going to be completely honest there is both consolation and desolation for me in times of transition. Transitions often bring much to celebrate as we sense God moving in and through them, bringing life and inviting us to our parts in God's grand story. But transition also, most often, brings some sense of uncertainty for the future. And, if you are like me, you'd rather know ahead of time where God is taking you and what God's plan is than not! Many stories of God's people show us that God has this tendency to ask us to let go of where we are right now, before we discover where He is leading us to next. Ah Abraham, I feel like I can hear you chuckling softly somewhere!

For much of the first half of 2016 St. Stephen's had a fair-sized group of youth and young adults who were hungry to grow in their discipleship ... and I had the incredible gift of accompanying them in that growth. It was a rich time, one that many youth pastors only get to dream about having. And I treasured every moment of it. And then June brought another group of young people graduating from

high school and moving on to summer jobs and education and life in places away from Qualicum Beach. While I celebrate the steps they are all taking into this next chapter of their lives, I also confess to feeling that bittersweet tug of realizing that my time with them has drawn to a close. And now we find ourselves with only a few young people who, themselves will graduate in 2017. As we shift we seem to be entering a new season where St. Stephen's is bouncing with younger children but missing the particular energy and life that adolescents bring to a family and a church family. Transition!

God has graciously given another great consolation in allowing me to be a part of our women's bible study group, a fellowship that seems to be becoming much more than a bible study. It is a delight for me to watch as God's Spirit moves amongst us building community, compassion and love for each other and for the people and world around us. And I love that this group is growing in this way while remaining completely open so that anyone can pop in and take part at any time. I am excited to see what God has planned for this group of women.

We have also spent this year trying to learn to live towards our congregational dream *to be a congregation equipped to go into the world to share God's love/good news*, and are certainly in a time of transition as we figure out how to practically live this dream out at all levels of congregational life. I definitely find consolation in realizing that as the year has drawn to a close we seem to be making some progress in this. I am more hopeful than ever that, as this dream filters into our life together, God will graciously lead and empower us to live it out in ways we likely can't even imagine yet.

Personally my most significant transition came in June when I finally finished a nine-year journey towards a Master of Divinity! There was great consolation for me in being done and able to recover some personal time in my life again, and a wonderful sense of realizing how God has helped me to grow throughout my studies. Thank you all for the support, encouragement and patience you have shown over these years! However, as with many transitions, graduation also brought a new uncertainty. Why did God call me to this MDiv? What is next? After taking the summer to get to know my husband and family again and just enjoy reading for pleasure, I asked some faithful discerning friends to help me explore whether God was inviting me to a next step. They affirmed their sense that God seemed to be nudging me to explore whether ordination in the United Church of Canada might be that step and so, with much more uncertainty than most of you likely realized, here at the beginning of 2017 I have taken that step and now find myself as a candidate for ordination in our denomination. And once again I find myself grateful for the incredible consolations I have had in your love and



encouragement and in your help in discerning God's leading. I truly am blessed to be a part of this incredible community of faith.

You know as much as there is often joy and some level of uncertainty and even fear in these times of transition, the great thing about them is that they are the times when we are stretched to learn to seek and trust in God's leading. And every time we accept this challenge and step out, willing to receive what God is leading us to, our faith and trust in the One who calls us deepens. And that is perhaps the greatest consolation of all, itself the very reason God tends to do things in this very way with us.

So as we reflect back on 2016 and turn to look ahead to 2017, I pray that we are all doing so with an even deeper sense of God's steadfast presence, provision and care for us all. With this we can move together into whatever He has in store for us in the coming months!

God bless,
Dianne

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

"Wouldn't it be something if we were a congregation who are equipped to go into the world to share God's love & good news."

This of course is our congregational dream and while it was one I knew I could get behind from the start, the longer I live with it in the back of my head the truer and more achievable it seems to become. Perhaps that's because God gave it to us and that's how he's leading us..? We've spent much of the past year working through the 'Believe' program taking us on a journey to think, act, and be more like Jesus and leveraged that knowledge to arrive at a whole series of dreams that reveal the heart of each of the different ministries within the church and guide how we go about our business. Your Board of Elders has adopted the following 3 dreams as our 'guidelines':

- ***To be known as a God-centred community church where what we believe affects what we do.***
- ***To have systems and structures which encourage us to develop and train future (and current) leaders***
- ***To hear God's voice more clearly***

I hope you'll agree that if we can keep these dreams in all we do, we as a congregation, and God, will be well served. And I'm pleased to say that we as a Board and the ministry teams are working to provide programs and systems to move us in the right direction. God's plan for us still is not completely clear but we're constantly listening, responding and trying to be faithful to His nudges. Martin Luther King Jr. said 'you don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step'. So we will continue to take the steps we believe God is laying out for us and trust we'll get where we need to be when we need to get there.

Graham Cooke's prophecy of favour continues to ring true for St. Stephen's... we are a much blessed congregation as God continues to provide us with the people and resources needed to carry out His plan. As your Board Chair I have been particularly blessed to serve with an amazing group of

individuals (Board members and staff) who come together to serve as your church Elders. These people have a variety of gifts that work wonderfully together to accomplish the business of the church in a very prayerful and faithful way. I've served on many boards over the years but it's quite rare to find a group like this who can make attending meetings fun and can lead by serving. It is indeed my pleasure to work with them.

Dave Ney

SERVICE MINISTRY

Galatians 5:13 says "serve one another humbly in love".

The Service Ministry strives *"To Spread the Love of Jesus into the Larger Community"* through ongoing programs and various projects -mostly seasonal.

Under the "umbrella" of the Service Ministry are Community Meals, Senior's Outreach Tea, UCW and Mission to Mexico. These groups are unailing in their particular support to our community.

The 'Collection Bins' are ongoing with the goods being distributed to both the Family Resource Association and the Salvation Army Food Bank.

In Feb.2016, St. Stephen's sponsored a team of walkers in the second annual "Coldest Night of the Year Walk for Homelessness" -thank you Adele Cave for organizing this successful night.

The Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Campaign was held in October. Although the number of "filled" shoeboxes was down somewhat this year to 45 from 70, we are thankful for the support and love shown by this congregation and look forward to next year's campaign.

The Christmas Food Hamper Project in cooperation with the Family Resource Assoc. was successful and as always so much fun. We are thankful to have received the donations from the November Gospel Sing, the Quality Foods Turkey Vouchers and individual donations, as well as the support of Save On Foods which made it possible to "fill" 20 food hampers for families in need.

White Gift Sunday was also successful with the "gifts" being distributed to SOS and the Salvation Army Food Bank.

It has been a year of many Blessings as the Congregation of St. Stephen's continue to support the Service Ministry by responding so generously to our requests for "help"- mainly financially which enables us to address some of the needs of our community.

Thank you all so much. God Bless each of you.

Jan Greig and Eileen Leachman

Senior's Outreach Tea Report

On the fourth Tuesday of the month, between 80 and 100 seniors meet in our church hall to enjoy an afternoon of entertainment, food and fellowship at our Seniors' Outreach Tea. The afternoon typically begins at 2:00 p.m. with lively musical entertainment. Around 2:30 p.m., volunteers serve sandwiches, coffee, tea and sweets. We invite seniors from local care facilities, from The Seniors are Speaking Group organized by the S.O.S. as well as individual seniors from our congregation to attend the monthly teas.

During the past year, one unusual happening occurred when, in May, 2016, Betty Wares, our facilitator for many years, moved back to Australia, her country of birth, to be closer to family members. Over the years with our Seniors' Outreach Tea, Betty's strong organizational skills were both evident and appreciated. Betty also demonstrated an amazing grace socially. Betty was very careful as to how she left all her work with the Tea so, in her honour, all has run smoothly since her move. Praise be to the Lord:

Sincere appreciation and thanks to all of our faithful volunteers whose continuing time and talent assure the smooth positive operating of this popular outreach event. We have close to 50 people on our volunteer list, including those who provide food; set up tables and chairs; arrange table centres; set out dishes and cutlery; arrange and serve food; prepare and serve coffee and tea; greet and visit with our guests; provide entertainment; clean up and clear away.



Our guests and our own volunteers seem to enjoy the afternoon equally. It is always positive and heart-warming to see the smiles and hear the sincere words of thanks at the end of the afternoon. If this interests you, please consider joining in this worthwhile outreach activity. New volunteers are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Wynn Machin

Community Meals Report

By the grace of God we celebrated our 10th Anniversary this year! For the community we held a concert by Ron Klusmeier with half the proceeds going to the Canadian Food Grains program and half to us. We also decorated the hall for our lunch and supper and at the supper had door prizes and music by Bruce Feltham.

Our annual Christmas supper was another success complete with a visit from Santa and our usual give away of socks and gift bags for the kids. We didn't have as many children attend this year but from the

stories God was at work in other ways. I think we need to be reminded that this is God's ministry and we sure don't always know what His plans are. In the end we fed 203 guests and hopefully helped people in other ways to make their Christmas a little brighter.

Our whole year ran smoothly and we are very thankful for the support of so many wonderful volunteers and contributors who see how valuable this ministry is to our community.

Respectfully submitted by
Karen Vanderberg

United Church Women (UCW) Report

Last February I was sworn in by our Reverend Phil Spencer as President which left me wondering what I got myself into. However it didn't take me long to become familiar and comfortable with the position.

We had a busy, productive and enjoyable year. A huge thank you to all of our ladies who are so dedicated and always willing to step up no matter what has to be done. Our attendance is between 12 and 19.

Many of our members attended the World Day of prayer at the Salvation Army Church in Parksville honouring "The Women of Cuba".

Audrey Bartell showed slides of her trip to the Shetland Islands.

Other programs we had over the last year included a talk about Heart and Stroke Recovery and exercises to keep active our brain and body.

Many of us attended the Civic Centre for the Doctor's talk on our communities need for new doctors.

We attended the Farewell Tea for Betty Wares who moved back to Australia. We miss her a lot.

Summer wind up was a Strawberry Tea held at Audrey Bartell's. I wasn't able to attend but everyone had a wonderful time. Thank you Audrey.

Jan Greig spoke to us as to what her role is, explaining that she is a liaison between our group and the Board as well as in the community.

We had a very nice Candlelight Service and had 45 people attend. We raised \$168.00 and it was donated to the CNIB.

We supported Young Life, Our Refugee Family, S.O.S., Manna and Salvation Army.

We continue to bake for Probus every month and we had 5 Memorials.

We enjoyed a lovely Christmas Dinner in December. Thank you to Shirley Davis for arranging the dinner and entertainment. Cathy Edge was the entertainment and was enjoyable and fun.

Many thanks to our Secretary Shirley Amendola for all her help throughout the year.

We had a successful, interesting and very good UCW year and I look forward to much the same in the New Year.

The Present Executive are – President – Janet Atkins @ 250-752-1542, Secretary – Shirley Amendola @ 250-954-3977- Treasurer – Vera Conn @ 250-752-6647

Submitted by Janet Atkins – President UCW

UCW Financial Report

ST. STEPHEN'S UNITED CHURCH WOMEN		ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT	2016	
Opening balance	Jan 1,2016			\$929.74
INCOME				
Probus		\$4,305.00		
Memorials		\$1,450.00		
Donations		\$245.00		
Christmas lunch		\$299.45		
Presbytery lunch		\$112.50		
Candlelight offering		\$168.00		
Total		\$6,579.95		\$7,509.69
EXPENSES				
Probus float		\$200.00		
Cheque order		\$137.95		
Back to God Ministries		\$120.00		
Presbytery lunch		\$65.59		
Coffee urn		\$163.00		
Memorial Expenses		\$42.60		
St. Stephen's Memorial fund		\$50.00		
Christmas luncheon		\$362.25		
Young Life		\$1,000.00		
Qualicum refugee Sponsorship		\$500.00		
SOS		\$500.00		
Salvation Army		\$500.00		
Manna Homeless Society		\$500.00		
CNIB		\$168.00		
Bank charges		\$93.28		
Total		\$4,402.67		
Balance	Dec. 31,2016			\$3,107.02
Vera Conn, Treasurer				

EDUCATION MINISTRY

The key purposes of the Education Ministry are to seek out learning opportunities to help our church family grow closer to God and to be better prepared to share our faith in a loving, respectful and grace filled way. The team members include: Denise Cormier, Carol Paré, Mary Stokes, Elva Hogan, Dianne Collery and Phil Spencer. A special thank you to members who participated in our team meetings during 2016 - Ron Childs, Eileen Leachman, Louise McCormick and Colin Hearn. We always welcome new people to assist in the growth and educational development of our congregation.

The 'Dare to Dream' document identified some key areas of focus for the Education team:

- To spread the love of Jesus into the larger community so that they know they are loved.
- To be better at connecting with our community - to the point that there is no distinction between St. Stephen's and the community.
- All (each person) to have a vibrant prayer life.
- For us to hear God more clearly.

More specifically, we have identified some key areas of educational needs:

- Growing in our relationship with Jesus
- Learning to hear God
- Sharing your Faith

The main activities for 2016 (and into 2017) have built on these key areas:

- The 30 week Believe series completed this year - this curriculum focused on exploring the various components of the Christian character and helping us grow these qualities - (GROWING OUR RELATIONSHIP)
- Several people attended an Alpha training session which was relaunched at St Stephen's in January 2017 (HEARING GOD and SHARING YOUR FAITH)
- We have explored 'Netflix' for churches. RightNow Media offers 10,000 + video presentations for Home groups or personal study without having to purchase a DVD. You may still choose to purchase a study guide. We expect to be launching this shortly and your Education Team have identified a number of excellent studies to get you started.

When you sign in from your computer or tablet you will see a 'St Stephen's recommends' section. More details to follow. (GROWING OUR RELATIONSHIP)

- In fall 2017, we may be using the Contagious Christianity curriculum to further develop our 'Sharing your Faith' skills.



One last item: in the 2017 church budget funds were planned for educational opportunities for church members and adherents. This money is available to help cover some conference fees, and other expenses. Please speak with any team member or email the office if there is something you wish to attend.

In His service,
Mike Hoskins, 250-752-1773

Children's Ministry

"Our God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there is nothing our God cannot do." This is the first line of a children's song that really captures our experiences within the Children's Ministry over this past year.

Firstly, each and every Sunday God blesses us with amazing children and their families joining in our congregation and in Kid's Church. Secondly, God provides volunteers to assist with the many needs of our ministry, from providing teachers and leadership to ensuring the little ones have their juice and snacks each Sunday morning (which really is one of the highlights of their mornings.) Thirdly, God is providing opportunities for the children to build relationships with others, both peers and adults in the congregation. I appreciate each of you that connect with the children as it is vital for the continuation of faith in their future as they grow into adulthood. Lastly, but not the least, I thank God for bringing Tracy Loder into our Children's Ministry team. Tracy brings her love of God and creative personality to enhance the lives of our children and our Kid's Church environment on a weekly basis. Thank you Tracy for your commitment to the children.

We have had an exciting year walking alongside the children as they learned and grew deeper in their relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ and the way, truth and life. From January – June we followed along with the congregation with the Believe study and September – November we worked our way through the life of Jesus from the Story study. Each week is filled with learning, laughter and love. Once again I am thankful for all the support we received to enable us to perform our Christmas Pageant this year. The children have great fun as do we all. A special thank you to John Nelson who has provided us with the piano accompaniment for all our pageants over many years.

We enjoyed a family day at the beach in July and a family skate at the arena in December and are looking forward to many more outreach family days in the coming year.

I am truly blessed to serve God and children in this wonderful ministry. Each day and year I have this opportunity is a Gift.

Blessings,
Denise Cormier
Children Ministry Coordinator

Library

The Lord blessed me in this past year by leading me to take on the position of librarian in this amazing ministry at St. Stephen's. For this opportunity I am very thankful.

We have continued to have a constant circulation of books in and out of the library showing the great interest people have in what we have to offer them.

The library itself has been renovated and reorganized making it more open and inviting for the children and all to come in and browse. The book cart also continues to be a popular focal point during coffee time after church service every Sunday. We strive to have reading material on the cart pertaining to the message that is being delivered on that day.

Our quest this year will be to introduce audio books to our collection. I believe that this mode of reading may interest many who enjoy listening to a story on their way to work, on vacation or just leaning back in their easy chair. We will continue to write a weekly book report in the church bulletin and on the website under the heading of "Hooked on Books". This is to introduce new books to you from our collection or present interesting reads from our shelves that we want to highlight for you to pick up and take home with you.

Thank you so much to Marilyn Bateman and Maureen Bezanson for enthusiastically stepping up to be by my side every week to do the necessary work behind the scenes to keep the library current, vibrant and an inviting ministry in our church.

Carol Paré

FELLOWSHIP & MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY

The term "fellowship" can be both a noun and a verb, something that we are and something that we do. The Fellowship Ministry is the formal designation of a group of people who feel called to support the noun by encouraging the verb within the context of St. Stephen's United Church. The group meets on a monthly basis to oversee the work that they and others engage in supporting the Sunday morning worship times, as well as facilitating other gatherings at the church. If you have enjoyed a cup of coffee or tea at the church, gathered for a potluck, been greeted at the door at one of the worship services, or purchased one of the handmade cards available on our site, then you have encountered some of the work of the Fellowship Ministry. This is a lively and motivated team of people who are always looking for new ways to facilitate bringing people together. If you have an idea to help us improve in this critically important area of congregational life, or you would be interested in serving in this way, we would be happy to have some conversation about that. Probably over a cup of coffee.

At present I am chairing this ministry, which—while being one of the easier and more enjoyable tasks that I am called to be about—I will also be quite happy to turn over to a new chairperson. I am doing this because the previous chairperson, Monika Popein, needed to step away from the role. We would like to take this opportunity to offer a most sincere and generous "thank you," to Monika for her work.

Submitted by Phil Spencer, Acting Chairperson

**St. Stephen's United Church Fellowship Team
January 1 to December 31, 2016**

Cash and bank balance – January 1, 2016		372.85
Revenue – Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2016	2116.23	
Expenditures – Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2016	2247.16	
Operating profit (loss)	(130.93)	(130.93)
Cash and bank balance – December 31, 2016		241.92

Revenue		Itemized Expenses	
Coffee fund	1885.03	Kitchen supplies	2159.92
Card sales	<u>231.20</u>	Card supplies	<u>87.24</u>
	2116.23		2247.16

submitted by Carol Gemgembre

St. Stephen's Men's Club

During 2016 the Men's Club continued to meet on the third Wednesday of each month, except July and August. The one hour gathering in the lower lounge combined fellowship, informative speakers and delicious food.

The annual November White Elephant sale was not held this year, to the chagrin of many Christmas shoppers who in the past took this opportunity to find that special gift and home owners who were looking forward to a chance to share many personal treasures with members of the community.

This year we continued our fellowship with the men in The Gardens and Qualicum Manor. Over coffee, we enjoyed a time of sharing and reflection, a time when we grew closer as friends and supporters.

At the end of 2016, as in the past, we almost shook our piggy bank empty with contributions going to help community organizations designed to support the less fortunate.

Looking ahead, a small group of men have volunteered to assist with the Men's Club, with Joseph Leskosek as leader. All men are encouraged to come for breakfast.

Submitted by Don McIntosh

The Lectionary and Men's Bible Studies

I have the pleasure of leading two Bible studies. The first, the Lectionary Study, meets each week on Tuesdays at 11 o'clock to have a look at the Bible reading(s) that will be read during the coming Sunday worship service. It is an informal gathering and in-depth knowledge of the Biblical text is not a requirement. I will also happily confess that it permits me to do some fine tuning of the sermon for the coming Sunday. I typically do some editing after the gathering!

The other study I get to participate in is the Men's Bible Study. This is not a group I can honestly claim to lead—it seems to function quite effectively whether I'm there or not, which I suggest is part of its charm. A group of men from St. Stephen's and other churches in the community gather in the lower hall each week on Wednesdays at 10:30 to read through a book of the Bible that the group has mutually agreed to grapple with. Some books are quickly devoured while others are savoured over many months. We laugh a lot, and some fine friendships are made.

Both groups are open to new members and "drop-ins" are definitely encouraged. I will even provide a Bible, though I find myself growing increasingly reluctant to give up any large print version, for some reason. 😊

Phil

2016 STATISTICS REPORT

2016 Marriages: Terry Jenkins & Melissa Johnston; Malcolm Dunphy & Karen Deck; Donald Wilkinson & Margaret Kolba; Daniel Krenz & Kitty Kanhoffen; Daniel Cave & Shelly Slaughter; Derek Macey & Emma Perpick; Kevin Virgin & Kathryn Ney, Cole Perpick & Catherine McIntyre; Norman Harder & Janet Johnson

2016 Baptisms: Noah Leigh Loder; Lincoln Andrew Popein

2016 In Memoriam: Richard Gilman, Paul Smith, Ken Leaney, Hans Penner, Keith Smith, Ada Ducker, Isobel Maxey, Doug Eagles, Sophia Thornley, Stanley Kristalovich, Tom Yoshida, Suki Yoshida, Hilda Pearce, Gordon Spencer, Harry Weatherley, Robert Bate, Donald (Sam) MacPherson, Phil Robertson, Leila Redford, Alan Fraser, Shirley Gilchrist, Marion Wood, Ethel Garrett, Ed Jones, Dorothy Lunn, Joan Colwell, Dee Ealden.

Members & Adherents

(As of December 31, 2016)

Members	203 (includes out of town members)
Adherents	261

St. Stephen's has 244 families (households) in our congregation (excluding out of town members) comprised of 384 adults and 38 youth/children.

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

The Ministry and Personnel Committee serves as a confidential, consultative body that supports and oversees the work of the church staff members. It reviews staff working conditions, remuneration, responsibilities and effectiveness, and the committee makes recommendations to the Official Board. Committee members should be prepared to consult widely to hear from the diverse voices in the congregation.

The committee is usually elected at the Annual Meeting of the congregation, and the committee chair attends official board meetings but is not a voting member of the official board. It is recommended that the Committee meet at least once every three months.

Members of the committee for 2016 were Susan Lee (Chair), Nancy Cassidy, Bern Cassidy, and Elaine MacDougall. All employees - the Minister (Rev. Phil Spencer), Family and Youth Minister (Dianne Collery), Secretary (Adele Cave), Early Service Worship Leader (Fiona Wratistlav), Choir Director (Skye Donald), and Sunday School Co-ordinator (Denise Cormier) are the responsibility of the M & P Committee. Contract workers, Organist (John Nelson), Pianist (Bill Cave) and Custodian (Andrea MacKinnon) report to the Resource Management Committee.

Our church community is encouraged to provide comment and suggestions to the M & P committee or directly to staff members who rely upon feedback to achieve their goals.

The committee is very appreciative of the work done by all members of the St. Stephen's staff, as we know they often go beyond the call of duty to ensure that our church runs smoothly.

Submitted by Susan Lee

WORSHIP MINISTRY

The Worship Ministry seeks to enable others to know and love God, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit fully as each person is known and loved completely and unconditionally by Him through regular services, joint services, Gospel Sings, Easter and Christmas services along with other "gatherings" of the faithful.

In line with the Appreciative Inquiry process embarked upon together by the St Stephen's congregation in 2015, the Worship Ministry Team prayed upon and selected these Dreams to pursue:

Wouldn't it be something if we were to:

- ***Appreciate people***
- ***Be a place for prayer***
- ***Make a place for the Holy Spirit***

Isn't it interesting, when so much of what this ministry does is based around music, none of these dreams mention a single song, note or time signature? So much of what the church does in other ministries crosses over into Worship.

We are thankful for all who serve in this ministry. The Worship Ministry Team meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 1:15pm in the lower hall. All are welcome.

In Christ,
Fiona Wratislav

9am Worship Team

The 9am service continues to be a time of joy and growth as we worship God: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Although most of the focus of this group appears to be upon music, it must be noted that this continues to be just one tool by which the congregation can worship God. We persist in seeking spiritual growth in a culturally relevant manner, which is always a huge balancing act as the Church is largely out of step with societal norms.

Having the children and “Encouragers” in the 9am service has given opportunity for us all to look outside of our own preference of worship to see other ways of seeking and serving God.

We appreciate all who serve God through in this ministry: in music; sound; slides; greeting/hosting; preparing and serving Communion; praying before, during and after services; encouraging/reporting; decorating; moving chairs; setting up, tidying and cleaning; etc.

Blessings,
Fiona Wratislav

11am Choir

In 2016, the choir continued to provide musical leadership at the 11 AM worship service, joint services, and memorial services on request. In March, members of the choir joined the choir at Knox United in Parksville to present Gabriel Fauré's Requiem as part of a Good Friday service. I directed the joint choir, and John joined Knox organist Jenny Vincent to accompany several of the movements. This, along with other challenging works, provides choir members with an opportunity to develop new skills and to enjoy a satisfying sense of accomplishment. Ever flexible, the group sometimes prepares an anthem with just one practice. Other anthems can take weeks or months to learn well. Flexibility is a great virtue for choir members to have, as it allows us to adjust music selections should some members be absent, and it is particularly useful when unexpected things happen during a worship service or practice.

Choir membership was stable in 2016, and the choir welcomed new members Rosemary and Craig Drummond in 2016. New singers are welcome – just contact me for more information on how you can join this small group ministry.

I continue to find leading the choir at St. Stephen's a life-giving experience that lifts my spirit even in the darkest of times. The fellowship we share in our group is a joy, and I believe, a sign that the Holy Spirit is present with us.

- Skye Donald, Choir Director

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT MINISTRY

Greetings from the Resource Management Ministry, aka RMM.

The past year was a busy one with a number of improvements made to our infrastructure that quite aptly model one of our stated ministry values, that of being a safe place. The outdoor lighting was upgraded to include new LED fixtures that have improved the night time visibility and safety in both the front and rear parking areas. We have taken steps to improve the security of our staff and volunteers working on site with the construction of a secure (partially sliding) window in the downstairs foyer leading to the office. This allows a welcoming but still secure point to greet visitors to the office. Further, two alarm key fobs with a panic button function have been made available to staff and our custodian.

New stackable, more aesthetic and comfortable chairs were purchased for the upper hall and a



number of stackable and size appropriate chairs were purchased for the Sunday School.

The roof of the building was de mossed and gutters cleaned. The main kitchen received many upgrades including a new commercial refrigerator and storage cabinet. Keeping items stored in an orderly manner is always appreciated and with the purchase and installation of metal shelving in the downstairs closets we should be in good shape for years to come. Thanks to Doug Uren for his help with this.

There are a number of volunteers who we have called upon (and most likely will again in the future) who have demonstrated a true servant's heart. To those we offer our sincere thanks, for without this infusion of skills, labour and ideas many of the maintenance items would have to have been undertaken by outside contractors and would have added substantially to our operational costs or simply would have got deferred until...

My thanks to the RMM members. No finer group of dedicated, resourceful, tireless and "fun to be around" individuals have I had the pleasure of serving with. Thank goodness they volunteered because we certainly couldn't afford to pay them what they are worth!

Last and by no means least our heartfelt thanks to you the congregation for the trust you have placed in us, for your patience and good humour with the "projects" that were undertaken over the year and for being such cheerful and generous givers allowing us to finish the fiscal year in the black.

Submitted by Todd Starkey

St. Stephen's United Church
Balance Sheet
Consolidated - December 31, 2016
(Unaudited)

	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash (Note 1)	97,477	78,943
Accounts receivable (Note 2)	-	5,556
GST	440	796
Key deposit	200	200
Investments (Note 3)	19,622	19,491
	117,739	104,986
Quality Foods deposit	10,000	10,000
Fixed assets (Note 4)	1,318,050	1,318,050
	1,445,789	1,433,036
LIABILITES AND EQUITY		
Current liabilities		
Deferred revenue (Note 5)	37,045	33,289
Accounts payable	600	924
	37,645	34,213
Long term liability (Note 6)	22,200	15,000
Equity		
Unrestricted equity (Note 6)	1,385,944	1,383,823
	\$ 1,445,789	\$ 1,433,036

See accompanying notes

St. Stephen's United Church
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2016
(Unaudited)

	2016	2,015
1. Cash:		
CIBC Business Operating	85,879	69,337
Mexico Mission Checking	8,046	7,845
United Church Women	3,107	930
Men's club	53	308
Fellowship team	242	373
Petty Cash on hand	100	100
Youth Petty Cash	50	50
	97,477	78,943
2. Accounts receivable:		
United Church of Canada	-	2,513
ProVision Fund	-	529
Believe participants	-	2,514
	-	5,556
3. Investments:		
CIBC GIC @ .70% interest maturing May 4, 2017	7,962	7,907
CIBC GIC @ .65% interest maturing May 9, 2017	11,660	11,584
	19,622	19,491
4. Fixed assets:		
Land	211,200	211,200
Buildings	937,000	937,000
Furnishings	169,850	169,850
	1,318,050	1,318,050

Land & buildings may have been updated to a fair market value amount prior to 2009

No amortization has been recorded on building or furnishings.

The amount recorded does not reflect current fair market value.

5. Deferred revenue:

Deferred revenue refers to contributions to funds which exceed expenses in those funds

The net amount is deferred and can be used for expenses in the funds for 2017 as follows:

Emergency operating	19,622	19,491
United Church M & S	2,384	2,171
Comm Meals	6,606	5,479
Mexico Mission	5	5
Minister's Discretionary Fund	1,329	1,479
Food Bank	157	-
White Gift	20	-
Memorial Fund	1,934	540
Outreach Tea	569	237
Young Life	103	50
Refugee fund	-	400
Memorial Team	180	530
Christmas Offering	2,893	1,742
Samaritin's Purse	20	-
Music Concert	407	407
Gospel Sing	816	601
Sanctuary Upgrade	-	157
	37,045	33,289

St. Stephen's United Church
Notes to Financial Statements
 December 31, 2016
 (Unaudited)

	2,016	2,015
6. Long term liability: Building Maintenance Fund	22,200	15,000
7. Unrestricted equity:		
Unrestricted equity	1,374,496	1,374,367
Mexico Mission	8,046	7,845
United Church Women	3,107	930
Men's club	53	308
Fellowship team	242	373
	1,385,944	1,383,823

**St Stephen's United Church
Deferred Revenue Summary
December 31, 2016**

Fund	Beginning balance	Contributions	Withdrawals	Net change	Ending balance
Emergency Operating	0	19,622.44		19,622.44	19,622.44
United Church M&S	2,170.77	22,127.44	21,914.71	212.73	2,383.50
Community Meals	5,478.92	15,096.54	13,969.25	1,127.29	6,606.21
Mexico Mission	5.00	-		-	5.00
Minister's Discretionary Fund	1,478.92	250.00	400.00	(150.00)	1,328.92
Food Bank	-	1,869.00	1,711.75	157.25	157.25
Building Maintenance	15,000.00	7,200.00		7,200.00	22,200.00
White Gift	-	1,228.00	1,208.00	20.00	20.00
Memorial Fund	540.00	2,750.00	1,355.58	1,394.42	1,934.42
Outreach Tea	236.78	331.95		331.95	568.73
Young Life	50.00	799.00	746.00	53.00	103.00
Disaster relief	-			-	-
Refugee fund	400.00	5,100.98	5,500.98	(400.00)	-
Memorial Team	530.00	375.00	725.00	(350.00)	180.00
Kitchen	-	925.00	925.00	-	-
Christmas Offerring	1,741.60	2,601.05	1,450.00	1,151.05	2,892.65
Congregational studies	(2,513.76)	3,480.50	966.74	2,513.76	-
ProVision project (consultation)	(529.07)	529.07	-	529.07	-
Samaritan's Purse		20.00	-	20.00	20.00
Music Concert	407.24			-	407.24
Gospel Sing	601.00	6,276.75	6,061.75	215.00	816.00
Sanctuary Upgrade	157.27		157.27	(157.27)	0.00
Total	25,754.67	90,582.72	57,092.03	33,490.69	59,245.36

St. Stephen's United Church
Income and Expense Statement

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GENERAL FUND 01, January 2016 - December 2016

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	Current Period	Prior Year	Annual Budget Percentage	Annual Budget
INCOME				
Local Tithes/Offering	\$228,566.97	\$236,922.75	93.48%	\$244,515.00
Loose Offerings	5,631.78	6,419.45	93.86%	6,000.00
Special Offerings	0.00	65.00	0.00%	0.00
INTEREST INCOME				
Investment Interest	0.00	166.09	0.00%	131.00
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME				
Transfer from funds	391.99	0.00	96.31%	407.00
Use of Facilities Income	19,511.00	20,300.00	108.39%	18,000.00
General Donations	529.90	2,225.00	52.99%	1,000.00
St. Marks Fair	800.00	800.00	133.33%	600.00
Outreach	50.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Fall Dinner	12,338.00	12,960.00	123.38%	10,000.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00%	2,500.00
Weddings and Funerals	240.00	150.00	0.00%	0.00
Subtotal Miscellaneous Income	<u>33,860.89</u>	<u>36,435.00</u>	<u>104.16%</u>	<u>32,507.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>268,059.64</u>	<u>280,008.29</u>	<u>94.67%</u>	<u>283,153.00</u>
EXPENSES				
MINISTER				
Minister Salary	\$70,570.08	\$52,256.02	100.00%	\$70,570.00
Minister Housing	0.00	15,600.00	0.00%	0.00
Minister Learning Res	137.69	642.00	9.18%	1,500.00
Minister Contin Ed	475.00	1,065.67	23.75%	2,000.00
Minister Telephone	1,421.52	772.56	148.08%	960.00
Minister Car Allow	1,245.99	1,074.24	83.07%	1,500.00
Subtotal Minister	<u>73,850.28</u>	<u>71,410.49</u>	<u>96.50%</u>	<u>76,530.00</u>
YOUTH PASTOR				
YP Salary	33,916.08	32,612.04	100.00%	33,916.00
YP Cont Ed	2,200.00	2,280.00	100.00%	2,200.00
Subtotal Youth Pastor	<u>36,116.08</u>	<u>34,892.04</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>36,116.00</u>
STAFF SALARIES				
Secretary	25,704.96	24,716.04	100.00%	25,705.00
Assistant Secretary	896.10	760.18	59.74%	1,500.00
Pulpit Supply	400.00	200.00	100.00%	400.00
Organ Supply	400.00	200.00	100.00%	400.00
Subtotal Staff Salaries	<u>27,401.06</u>	<u>25,876.22</u>	<u>97.84%</u>	<u>28,005.00</u>
BENEFITS				
Employer CPP	5,210.91	5,030.68	101.20%	5,149.00
Employer EI	2,553.06	3,004.18	80.97%	3,153.00
Employer UC Benefit	18,539.42	18,588.81	97.58%	19,000.00
Payroll Charges	795.12	298.15	132.52%	600.00
Subtotal Benefits	<u>27,098.51</u>	<u>26,921.82</u>	<u>97.12%</u>	<u>27,902.00</u>
EMPLOYER EXPENSES				
Workers Comp Insurance	298.47	343.68	79.59%	375.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE				

St. Stephen's United Church
Income and Expense Statement

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GENERAL FUND 01, January 2016 - December 2016

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	Current Period	Prior Year	Annual Budget Percentage	Annual Budget
Newspaper	0.00	167.33	0.00%	250.00
Office Supplies	1,859.67	1,815.56	109.39%	1,700.00
PAR	371.00	371.50	78.11%	475.00
Bank Charges	134.66	334.92	33.67%	400.00
Postage / Checks	289.75	202.23	57.95%	500.00
Annual Report/Directory	229.95	78.84	229.95%	100.00
Presbytery Allocation	9,955.00	10,623.96	90.50%	11,000.00
Staff Training	0.00	0.00	0.00%	350.00
Misc	1,044.56	868.39	104.46%	1,000.00
Legion Donation	38.00	35.00	108.57%	35.00
Church Phones / Internet	1,926.98	2,263.77	91.76%	2,100.00
Website Maintenance	590.40	479.70	118.08%	500.00
Board Retreat	0.00	0.00	0.00%	100.00
Computer Software	333.94	24.95	667.88%	50.00
Copier Service / Toner Ag	651.52	651.52	54.29%	1,200.00
Subtotal Administrative Expense	17,425.43	17,917.67	88.19%	19,760.00
BUILDING & GROUNDS				
Insurance	10,803.00	10,813.00	92.57%	11,670.00
Hydro	4,144.59	4,182.45	92.10%	4,500.00
Water & Sewer	1,412.24	1,021.52	128.39%	1,100.00
Gas	3,815.20	4,418.38	54.50%	7,000.00
Security	344.40	344.40	45.92%	750.00
Cleaning Supplies	2,553.96	1,432.76	170.26%	1,500.00
Janitorial Service	11,062.50	10,400.00	100.57%	11,000.00
Maintenance & Supply	14,612.08	2,844.13	121.77%	12,000.00
Building Contingency Fund	7,200.00	15,000.00	100.00%	7,200.00
Capital Projects	0.00	680.26	0.00%	0.00
Snow Clearing Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00%	500.00
Landscaping	564.62	316.55	37.64%	1,500.00
Lawn Service	0.00	76.87	0.00%	0.00
Subtotal Building & Grounds	56,512.59	51,530.32	96.24%	58,720.00
TEAM EXPENSES				
SERVICE TEAM				
Outreach	153.57	11.10	61.43%	250.00
Misc	25.00	20.00	12.50%	200.00
Subtotal Outreach	178.57	31.10	39.68%	450.00
Transfer to M&S	0.00	0.00	0.00%	600.00
Subtotal Service Team	178.57	31.10	17.01%	1,050.00
EDUCATION TEAM				
Childrens Ministry Prog	1,862.08	1,389.35	148.97%	1,250.00
Foster Child CM	492.00	492.00	100.00%	492.00
Children Min Coordinator	3,231.06	3,061.07	103.96%	3,108.00
Youth Program Expenses	416.70	727.02	28.35%	1,470.00
Young Life Donation	0.00	515.85	0.00%	0.00
Library	591.31	914.63	73.91%	800.00
Leadership Training	1,387.87	0.00	27.76%	5,000.00
CE Small Groups	511.19	395.86	40.90%	1,250.00

St. Stephen's United Church
Income and Expense Statement

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GENERAL FUND 01, January 2016 - December 2016

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	Current Period	Prior Year	Annual Budget Percentage	Annual Budget
Subtotal Education Team	8,492.21	7,495.78	63.52%	13,370.00
WORSHIP TEAM				
Contemporary	0.00	22.54	0.00%	150.00
Traditional	509.90	436.26	43.40%	1,175.00
Education & Development	0.00	15.00	0.00%	0.00
Copyright Licensing	788.59	790.23	92.78%	850.00
Maintenance/Other-Worship	1,043.09	1,814.99	139.08%	750.00
Candles & Fuel	165.47	510.28	82.74%	200.00
Communion Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00%	100.00
Choir Director	3,253.75	3,074.17	103.95%	3,130.00
Music Leadership	3,253.75	3,074.17	103.95%	3,130.00
Organist	7,200.00	6,000.00	100.00%	7,200.00
Pianist	3,000.00	3,000.00	100.00%	3,000.00
Capital Budget	0.00	3,044.01	0.00%	0.00
Subtotal Worship Team	19,214.55	21,781.65	97.61%	19,685.00
RMM TEAM				
Annual Fall Dinner	1,352.98	1,299.80	96.64%	1,400.00
MINISTRY EXPENSE				
UC Observer	25.00	80.00	62.50%	40.00
Subtotal Team Expenses	29,263.31	30,688.33	82.33%	35,545.00
FELLOWSHIP TEAM				
Misc	-34.74	132.53	-17.37%	200.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	267,930.99	259,713.10	94.62%	283,153.00
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$128.65	\$20,295.19	0.00%	\$0.00

**St. Stephen's United Church
Mission to Mexico Income Statement
For the year ended December 31, 2016**

	2016	2015
Income	\$ 250	2211
Expenses		
Missions	-	2666
Bank charges	48	146
	48	2,812
Deficit	\$ 202	\$ (601)

PRESBYTERY

Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery (CNP) has streamlined its cluster's over the last year, combining the Healthy Congregations Cluster with the Effective Leadership Cluster into a Healthy Leadership and Congregations Cluster. Many of the former duties of the two clusters which are now combined have been taken over by BC Conference because there is a much more rigorous 'duty of care' for aspects related to finding and hiring new ministers, discipline, training, and awareness. These have been positive changes and the transition to more professional management very timely.

Presbytery has also had a major focus on evaluating the remits issued by the National Church following the last General Council meeting. Some of these are for Presbyteries and Pastoral Charges to decide upon, others are only for Presbytery to decide upon. These remits matter as they will change some significant aspects of the United Church's governance and structure, including a possible move to a three-court system (eliminating Presbyteries). You will be hearing more about this over the next 6 months; BC Conference will meet this May in Vancouver and much more will be available at that time about the results of the remits.

Some of the news items for the last 12 months include:

- The ProVision Fund continues to be used well to help launch or expand ministry opportunities within the presbytery and with the community (contact Andy for more details about how to obtain funding). Our Presbytery (or whatever replaces our Presbytery) has exclusive access to the fund for five more years before it is made generally available to all congregations in BC Conference. Presbytery also has a 'small projects fund' which is available for use by churches who have rapid need of financial assistance up to \$1000. This fund is managed by the ProVision Committee and provides responses to requests in less than 30 days.
- Presbytery campers are continuing to get bursaries for camping at Camp Pringle and support for children, youth, young adults and leaders participation in Christian leadership development has grown over 2016 (over 35 bursaries issued). Applications are available from the office and on the CNP website. Please spread the word....lack of financial resources should never be the reason we do not offer our children, youth and young adults opportunities for growth and development.
- Presbytery has again extended the film site license for 2017. This license was used by St. Stephen's last year and many other Pastoral Charges. This is a considerable saving for those congregations which make use of film as a teaching tool in adult and youth education (details are available from Andy and the CNP website)
- Elaine Julian (formerly a ministry student at Cumberland United Church) and Debbie Marshall (formerly in student ministry St Andrew's Nanaimo) were both ordained in May.

Faithfully, Andy Gilman



QUALICUM BEACH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

This year we have seen a lot of transition with kids, leaders and how our work fits with other YoungLife ministries on Vancouver Island. In our community, we have continued to form strong partnerships with schools and service clubs which have given stability, consistency and positive growth in the number of kids we work with and the depth of work we do. We have seen first hand impact of kids having great adults in their lives as they figure out who Jesus is, some for the first time. We also have the great opportunity of developing young men and women into excellent leaders who will continue to positively impact their families and communities.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2016!



Malibu Work and Grow - learning how to cook steak!

* **CONTACT WORK** - we've had many hours of lunchtime hockey and after school programs at our local schools and we are thankful for the support we receive from the administration at each of the schools. **What better way to get to know kids than to be involved in activities at their school?**



Kids and leaders volunteering - painting 'Storybook Village'



Summer 2017 junior high camp at RockRidge Canyon

* **CLUB** has been going well and at some point we would like to split our evening program to have separate nights for Grade 6-9 and 10-12. Each of our leaders has been able to share a club talk this past semester.



Fundraising for New Year's Camp 2017

* our **leadership team** consists of almost all new leaders this year so our fall semester has focussed on training and leadership. Our plan is that our Spring semester will see **traction in meeting new kids , seeing them at club and taking them to camp.**

* this past year, 35 students had an opportunity to go to various **CAMPS** with **36% of fees raised through student's fundraising efforts, 14% through scholarship** and the remainder from fees directly from families. Our total camping budget was **\$14,000 for 2016.**



Our ministry team for 2016-2017

* in early October we had our "**outwit, outplay and outlast**" event for adults and \$6,000 was raised for our work. We heard great things about the event and have planned another event for fall 2017 with a slightly different format!

YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND PRAYERS ARE APPRECIATED!



Joan, Doug and Heather's international student and their daughter, Abigail

Loving teens in their world... since 1954

Young Life Qualicum Beach | 138 Hoylake Road West | Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1K3
Phone: 250-927-8852 | e-mail: qualicumbeach@younglife.ca | www.younglife.ca



George Pringle Memorial Camp – 2016 Annual Report to Churches

A. Mission Statement:

We provide opportunities for campers of all ages to experience God's love in a close relationship with other people and the natural environment. – Last reviewed February 2014

B. 2016 Financial statements: These statements will be reviewed by CPCM&Co. For this report, only our statement of operations are included, please see below:

	Actual Dec 31, 2016	Budget 2016 year
Revenue		
Summer Camping	\$200,710	\$180,650
Facility Rental	273,776	280,000
Camp Futures Grant & Other Grants	125,403	119,300
Donations	21,475	10,500
Fundraising	9,199	5,500
Misc. Income	<u>5,070</u>	<u>-</u>
Total revenue	<u>635,633</u>	<u>595,950</u>
Expenditures		
Salaries - continuing staff	222,289	221,048
Salaries - seasonal staff	128,767	104,125
Repairs and maintenance	48,944	30,000
Fuel and utilities	46,283	44,920
Insurance	39,234	37,000
Advertising and promotion	12,258	12,500
Operating supplies	17,747	13,150
Food	87,295	84,000
Administration and other	<u>51,746</u>	<u>44,500</u>
Total expenditures	<u>654,562</u>	<u>591,243</u>
Excess of revenue (expenditures)	<u>\$(18,929)</u>	<u>\$4,707</u>

There will be some minor adjustments to these figures based on some adjustments still to be inputted.

C. Board

Chair: Murray Groom

Executive Director: Kezia Cowtan

Board meetings: 3rd Thursday Quarterly

Meeting Time: 7:00pm at varying locations

of meetings held: 4 meetings with an average attendance of 8

Membership: 12 board members representing 3 of the 18 Victoria Presbytery churches and 3 of the 25 Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery churches (remaining 6 are members at large)
10 societal members overall 2 from each island presbytery

Highlights/Achievements of the Year:

Program: In 2016, Camp Pringle had a successful year with the new Director in her second year and many new permanent staff. We ended the year with increased registration revenues and two unexpected bequests. One from Diane Kendell from Gordon United for a generous \$8,000 and another from Bonnie Thompson for \$2,000. With the loss of the Caretaker funding of \$24,500 from Victoria Presbytery, the personal donations and added revenue made a difference to help our bottom line this year. We still ended the year with a deficit budget of \$18,000 from covering the costs of a flood, repairs to the dormitory foundation, increased food and kitchen services costs, increased program staff costs and a water contamination issue. The property repairs occurred due deferred maintenance from a lack of sufficient funds over the past 5-6 years to maintain the new systems and facilities from the Camp Futures Project. We completed a restoration of the waterfront dock system with BC Conference and HeroWork. We have secured \$50,000 in capital funds from Conference for renovations to the North Pole boys and girls washrooms and for improvements to the water purification system in the Spring of 2017. And we have received an extremely generous gift of \$65,000 in a capital donation from Reverend Laura Butler to renovate the Laura Butler dormitory roof, foundation and showers in the spring of 2017.

This past year, we had 38 Spring Break, 524 Summer campers and over 500 school students who attended the camp in May and June. We also had hundreds of children, youth and community members utilize the camp for their programs through our rental groups. In 2016, we brought back a simplified version of the summer camp program to make it easier for parents to register and to reduce our own costs. We offered an early bird discount and had three-quarters of our summer registrations prior to May 1st. Registration was up by 30% overall from last year and we saw 58% new campers whereas in 2015 we only had 38%. A huge success!

17% of our campers reported being associated with a church. 8.5% or 48 (over the 29 from 2015) of these campers were from the 10 Victoria Presbytery Churches, 7 from the 25 Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery Churches, 4 listed being from a United Church without specifying and 1 from New Westminster United Church (6 campers; 1 from New Westminster, 1 from Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery, 3 from Victoria Presbytery and 1 from the United Church at large came for the spring season).

Five Victoria Presbytery churches sponsored a total of 24 campers with a total of \$7,221.45. Which was up by 13 campers and \$2,337.95. The supporting churches were Duncan for 12 campers with a total of \$4,455, Fairfield for 2 campers with a total of \$487.50, First Metropolitan for 2 campers with a total of \$1,111.25, Cordova Bay for 2 campers with a total of \$150 and Centennial for 3 campers with a total of \$1,017.70. The Comox-Nanaimo Bursary fund supported 8 campers to come to camp for a total of \$813.70 in bursaries. And two additional Comox-Nanaimo churches each funded a camper; St. Stephens with a total of \$250 and St. Andrews with a total of \$144. Camp Pringle Bursary Fund sponsored 36 campers for a total of \$10,000. The Kamps for Kids fund supported 5 campers with a total of \$2,081.62. A total of \$20,510.77 in bursaries were provided for campers in 2016.

Property: The camp was well rented in 2016 with many groups returning as they find our pricing very reasonable. However, we were down from 2015 as we had few groups from January to March and had some changes to our larger rentals due to date mix ups and the rebuilding of the dock. This translated into overall rental revenues coming in at approximately \$273,276 in 2016. We had forecasted for \$280,000 therefore not meeting our target goal. We also opened the facility to weddings for our first time and hosted 6 weddings in 2016. This was quite a learning curve for camp due to the amount of planning work involved and that we had

not set a base rental fee of all camp for the weekend. Many weddings only rented the facility for one day with limited accommodation and no catering. This resulted in almost all our high season weekend rentals bringing a return of a third of what a regular retreat rental would with multiple times the work and waste. And lastly the weddings had an overwhelming amount of festivities that did not fit with our mandate. Due to this we will not be offering the facility for weddings in the future unless the group is seeking a dry like event and willing to rent the base cost of whole camp for the weekend.

We acknowledge that for long time clients the significant rate increases over the past years pose a challenge. We worked with all our returning groups to make the rates work and have almost all groups returning in 2017. We continue to honor our 2014 rates for United Church groups to ensure the accessibility to camp.

In 2015, Camp Pringle engaged the Victoria Presbytery and the Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery to gather input of how we can better open up the availability and usage of the camp for our churches. We are worked in 2016 to further engage the churches through societal membership. This body of members will shape the development of year round faith programs that will offer a variety of workshops and events for congregation members to attend.

At the end of 2015, our Residential Caretaker, Glen Slater of 3 years retired and Christian Singer was hired. Christian completed the work required to our elements course, took up the drain fields during a winter flood, refurbished part of the Laura Butler building foundation, resolved the summer water contamination issue and tackled bringing the overall property maintenance up to code.

Budget: As you can see in the table above, Camp's expenditures were approximately \$63,319 over projected. We generated higher registration revenues and we received considerably more donations in 2016 than we had projected. These revenues helped to cover the higher than expected property costs due to deferred maintenance, program staff costs, food costs and food service wages. We are working to establish an appropriate budget for maintenance and the kitchen in 2017 to ensure that donations can be used for future initiatives. Our Bookkeeper, Carole Bokrossy did an exceptional managing our books and is working with BC Camping Ministry Financial Manger, Jim Simpson to better cashflow forecast. We ended the year in an overall deficit of \$18,929. BC Conference contributed an additional \$15,000 grant to the operating fund to help cover off a portion of the 2017 expenses.

Objectives for 2017: To continue to grow our society membership and to reaffirm the role of the Conference in relationship with our Board and operations. To sign a governance agreement under the BC Conference Camping Ministry. To develop further usage of the site by our island Presbyteries through the development of societal membership in hopes of creating a year round faith program. To continue to grow our camper numbers. To establish a bursary policy to ensure our annual bursary fund can reach as many campers as possible. To build the capacity of our camper's with disabilities program. To partner with BC Conference and donors to implement capital projects. To ensure the highest level of financial management to ensure a balanced budget and the creation of a maintenance fund.

We would like to thank all the churches, Victoria Presbytery, Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery and BC Conference for their continued support. You are our cornerstone.

No.	Item	Discussion	Speaker
1.	Call to order	Rev. Phil Spencer called the meeting to order at 11:44am	Phil Spencer
2.	Prayer of Remembrance	Phil led in a Prayer of Remembrance for all those who have passed away since the 2015 AGM.	Phil Spencer
3.	Election of Chairperson	Phil called for nominations of the Chairperson. Bruce Feltham/Fiona Wratislav nominated Dave Ney to chair the meeting. No further nominations. Dave elected by acclamation.	Phil Spencer
4.	Appointment of Secretary	Dave Ney appointed Adele Cave as Secretary.	Dave Ney
5.	Motion to extend voting privileges to Adherents	Leo Rengers/Rick Boyce moved to extend voting privileges to adherents. Carried.	
6.	Adoption of Agenda	Darla Clarke/Ron Childs moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Carried.	
7.	Minutes of Feb. 22, 2015 AGM	Eileen Leachman/Elva Hogan moved to accept the minutes of the February 22, 2015 AGM Minutes as presented. Carried.	
8.	Minutes of November 29, 2015 Congregational Meeting	Carol Dowe/Leo Rengers moved to accept the minutes of the November 29, 2015 Congregational Meeting as presented. Carried.	
9	Errors or corrections	None	
10	Business Arising from Minutes	None	
11	Presentation from the Ministers	<p>Phil and Dianne gave the congregation a review and update as to where we are in the Consultancy process. (PDF of presentation attached.)</p> <p>We began in the fall of 2014 with a review of the lifecycle of St. Stephen's up to that point. It was determined that it was time for an evaluation and redefinition of our vision during a time of relative stability. The congregation hired a consultant, Paddy Ducklow, to help with this and thanks to the ProVison Fund of Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery, funds were available to cover most of the cost.</p>	Phil Spencer & Dianne Collery

No.	Item	Discussion	Speaker
	Presentation from the Ministers (cont.)	<p>We began a process known as “Appreciative Inquiry” which involves 5 phases: Define, Discovery, Dream, Design, Delivery/Destiny. The congregation carried out internal and external interviews, identified peak experiences (deep fellowship, spiritual growth, & serving others) and 41% of the congregation indicated that they wanted help with how to share their faith (Evangelism). All this information was compiled and the congregation came together for a day to try to answer this question: “Wouldn’t it be something if we.....?” At the end of the process the following statement was developed: “Wouldn’t it be something if we were a congregation who are equipped to go into the Community to share God’s love/good news.”</p> <p>Phil and Dianne prepared a document that categorizes our dreams into 3 areas: character, target groups, and systems & structures. This document was circulated with the Board and Ministry Teams and they will be looking for ways to implement them into the work of their teams.</p> <p>Phil opened the floor to questions and invited the congregation to talk with him, Dianne and Elders on the Board. We have to find ways for our organizational structure to support the work of the church.</p>	
12	Review of Team/ Committee Reports	Dave opened the floor to questions about the Team reports. None.	Dave Ney
13	Year End Financial Report	<p>Highlights: We have had a great financial year. Surplus of \$30,295 and \$50,539 available for operating expenses. Trudy thanked Glenn Moyle who has helped out with the bookkeeping.</p> <p>Trudy explained that it might be helpful to move another \$10,000 into the Building Contingency Fund for future capital expenses. It would just require a journal entry.</p> <p>Trudy Hoskins/Bruce Feltham moved that we move \$10,000 into the Building Contingency Fund from the 2015 surplus. Discussion. Carried.</p>	Trudy Hoskins

No.	Item	Discussion	Speaker
	Year End Financial Report (cont)	<p>Trudy Hoskins/Leo Rengers moved that the financial statements be adopted as amended. Carried.</p> <p>Trudy also reminded the congregation that the budget included a 3% increase and encouraged the congregation to prayerfully consider their givings for the coming year.</p>	
14	Nominations	<p>Dave introduced members of the Board.</p> <p>All Board Elders will be carrying on for 2016 with the exception of Don McIntosh. Dave thanked Don for his service. This leaves an opening for an Elder on the Board.</p> <p>Nominations: Brian Weightman nominated Gavin McLeod. Eileen Leachman seconded. No further nominations. Gavin was elected by acclamation.</p>	Dave Ney
15	New Business	<p>Carol and Fred Dowe shared information on a program for sponsoring the planting of a tree in Israel instigated by the Jewish National Fund. Brochures and more information will be available from them.</p>	
	Other Business	None.	
15.	Adjournment	Dave adjourned at 12:30pm	

**St. Stephen's United Church
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, November 20, 2016
(following the 10am Combined Worship Service)**

DRAFT

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
 2. Opening Prayer
 3. Election of Chairperson
 4. Appointment of Secretary
 5. Adoption of Agenda
 6. Voting Privileges to Adherents
 7. Presentation of 2017 Budget
 9. Reporting of Dreams Process (continuation from Consultation)
 10. Closing Prayer
 11. Adjournment
-

Rev. Phil Spencer called the meeting to order at 11:50am. Phil opened the meeting in prayer. Phil called for nominations of a Chairperson. Susan Lee/Bill Greig nominated Dave Ney. There were no further nominations. Dave elected by acclamation.

Dave appointed Adele Cave as Secretary.

Rev. Phil Spencer asked to make an amendment to the Agenda. Trudy Hoskins/Fiona Wratlslav **moved to amend the agenda circulated to include an update on Dianne's status.** Carried.

Janet Mattis/Glen Moyle **moved to accept the amended agenda.** Carried.

Phil updated the congregation on Dianne's status and announced that Dianne is going to put her name forward to be considered for ordination in the United Church of Canada. She has an interview in January. Once accepted, Dianne will have the status of being a student Minister which has some budget implications and will be explained during the presentation of the budget. The congregation congratulated Dianne in this endeavor.

Andy Gilman/Leo Rengers **moved to extend voting privileges to adherents.** Carried.

Presentation of the Budget

Treasurer, Trudy Hoskins gave an explanation of how the budget was prepared: It is not solely about the numbers, it is about what God is calling us to be and do and how obedient we are to that calling. Trudy shared that preparing a budget is about using our resources responsibly and to God's glory.

Trudy reviewed the congregational dream which is: ***Wouldn't it be something if we were a congregation who are equipped to go into the world to share God's love/good news.***

Ministry Teams at St. Stephen's have taken this dream seriously and the Resource Management Ministry takes the management of the funds very seriously. Trudy shared the responsibilities of the

RMM and thanked Glenn Moyle for taking on more of the responsibilities in the day to day payment of the bills.

Trudy prepared a simplified budget by grouping some expenses together for reporting purposes and added some notes to explain out of the ordinary income and expenses. A detailed budget was also available.

2017 Budget Highlights include:

- 2.8% increase in offerings/tithing.
- There is a grant we can apply for of \$5000 to cover a portion of Dianne's salary once her status is changed to Student Minister.
- \$10,000 budgeted to the Contingency Fund to continue saving for new flooring for the hall and other large expenditures that will eventually be needed (ie. furnaces)
- 2017 Capital Projects include a sound system for the hall and a defibrillator.
- Education Team will purchase a license to download videos, bible study materials etc. which will be available to all members of the congregation.
- Alpha program planned for 2017 – beginning in January.

Questions: There were questions about our M&S Fund and other mission work which do not appear in the budget. Trudy explained that this is the budget for our Operating Expenses and M&S and Ministry work are reflected on the Balance Sheet in designated funds.

There was a request to have the Balance Sheet available at the next Congregational Meeting.

Trudy reported that we are exactly on track with our budget. Offering is slightly behind budget but also expenses are behind. Al Westnedge gave a vote of thanks to Trudy for doing such a great job. Staff members and their spouses were excused while salaries were discussed. Susan Lee recorded the minutes in Adele's absence. The Treasurer explained that the Minister and Secretary will receive a 1.5% salary increase. 1.1% was the cost-of-living increase suggested by The United Church of Canada. Dianne Collery's position will be reclassified from a CDM to a Student Minister position (3/4 time), Step 1. St. Stephen's United Church is eligible for a grant once we apply for and are designated as a learning site for a student minister. Thus, \$5000 has been allocated on the income side of the budget and this will offset the increase in salary from the CDM designation to Student Minister designation.

Staff and their spouses rejoined the meeting.

Trudy Hoskins /Bill Hutchison **moved to accept the budget as presented.** Carried.

Reporting of Dreams Process

Dianne and Phil gave a presentation of where we are in the Dreams Process. God gave us a dream two years ago and we began a process called Appreciative Inquiring through a Consultant.

1. Define: What is God's vision for us?
2. Discovery: Interviews
3. Dream: A session to articulate our dreams together and come up with one dream statement.
"To be a congregation who are equipped to go into the world to share God's love/good news."
4. Design
5. Delivery or Destiny

Design and Delivery phases are ongoing with the goal being to filter the dreams into our organizational structure to guide our decision-making.

In addition to the general congregational dream, the Board and each Ministry Team have looked at the detailed dreams and short-listed to 3 each.

The Board's Dreams are:

- 1. To be known as a God-centred community church where what we believe affects what we do.**
- 2. To have systems and structures which encourage us to develop and train future (and current) leaders**
- 3. To hear God's voice more clearly**

Appreciative Inquiry is not structured and requires our continued attention so the hope is that keeping these dreams in front of us will help keep us on track.

The Believe Study is one way we are trying to equip people for the job of disciples. We did a survey and asked people "what do you need"? 41% asked to learn how to talk about their faith and they also asked how to hear God. The Education Team will continue to focus on these two questions in the New Year. Alpha will also provide education in equipping.

In the New Year we are looking at getting together again to review the dreams and look at more design and delivery.

Dave thanked Phil, Dianne, Trudy, Adele and the congregation for their involvement.

Dianne closed in prayer.

Carol Dowe moved to adjourn at 12:44pm.

**AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
ST. STEPHEN'S UNITED CHURCH
To be held February 26, 2017**

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer of Remembrance
3. Election of Chairperson
4. Appointment of Secretary
5. Motion to extend voting privileges to adherents
6. Adoption of Agenda
7. Minutes of Feb. 28, 2016 Annual Meeting
 - a) Errors or corrections
 - b) Business arising from the minutes
8. Minutes of November 20, 2016 Congregational Meeting
 - a) Errors or corrections
 - b) Business arising from the minutes
9. Presentation from the Minister
10. Review of Team/Committee Reports appearing in Annual Report
11. Year End Financial Report
12. Nominations
13. New Business
14. Other Business
15. Adjournment