



Sharing Christ in the Comox Valley since 1891

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**Our Vision:** To know God the Father as revealed in His son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

**Our Mission:** To make Him known through our words and deeds by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Year 2018**

## **Annual Report**

Presented to the Congregation of St. Peter's February 24, 2019



**Interim Rector: The Rev. Rob Hutchison**

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## Resolutions

As the New Year begins, here are some positive resolutions to consider about your relationship to your parish family. They might just make your life and the life of your parish healthier in the coming year.

Resolve to worship and to pray regularly. There are times when all of us feel we do not need the church, but the other members of the parish family always need you.

Resolve to contact your clergy when there is illness or any kind of crisis in your family. Contrary to some rumors, your clergy are not blessed with telepathic gifts.

Resolve to accentuate the positive, and if something in your opinion is amiss in your parish, share your concerns with the rector – not with your friends at the next dinner party.

Resolve to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. You are offering them the most priceless gift you have.

Resolve to see your clergy as human beings. They are not saints, prayer machines or seers. Their hurts, hopes and hassles are very much like your own.

Resolve to support the church with your time, effort and financial resources. Healthy churches are filled with participants, not spectators.

Resolve to understand that the church is you. Christ has no other hands to help, ears to hear, eyes to see and lips to praise other than yours and mine.

Tidings, St. Luke's Church  
Darien, Connecticut  
The Anglican Digest

## Interim Rector's Report

The Rev. Rob Hutchison: Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

It seems like I have been with you for a longer time than is the reality. Thank you for the warm reception Diane and I received back on October 7<sup>th</sup>. In spite of being here only one day a week plus Sundays, I have been able to get to the Men's breakfast on several occasions early on Thursday mornings at the Early Bird Café in Courtenay. I have enjoyed the comradery, the prayer and sharing time (and the food was great too). I have been to several Pastorate gatherings on Thursday evenings, and invited to participate in the discussions and prayers after the delicious potluck dinners.

We have experienced some bumps in the road, around the liturgies and changes I made to them, communication with respect to combined services and music, and some differences concerning what the Lord is requiring of us in response to His call, "Follow Me". I do not see these differences as problematic, but a reflection of the diversity that is present in the wider Church today.

You, the members of St. Peter's Parish, have done and continue to do and support the work of the Church here in this place. The response to rectify the financial deficit at the end of November to end-December has been awesome. The church begins 2019 with a small surplus.

You no doubt have heard the Parish profile has been accepted by the Bishop, and he has approved the Incumbent's position being advertised nationally, with a closing date for applications being February 27<sup>th</sup>. I encourage you to join me in continuing support, through prayer, of the Bishop's Consultative Committee during the remainder of the process of securing the "right" minister to walk with you to fulfill the vision you have prepared for St. Peter's for the future.

Speaking of the future, plans are underway for "Valen-teen", a weekend for young people at Camp Homewood, in mid-February, there is a Spiritual Gifts discernment workshop here at St. Peter's on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February (with Archdeacon Lincoln McKoen assisting), a Lenten study is in the works (more info to follow), and Easter service times are already being considered.

May the peace of God be with you and amongst you always. Amen.

In His service,  
Rev. Rob Hutchison  
Interim Priest-in-Charge

### **Vestry Meeting**

St. Peter's Anglican Church  
Annual Vestry Meeting  
Draft Minutes  
**February 13, 2018**

Pastor Jim Lyster called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in Corker Hall. Recorded attendance was 51 parishioners. Connie Treen was the Recording Secretary.

- 1. Opening Meditation and prayer**  
Pastor Jim opened with an introduction and led us in prayer.
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**  
The Agenda was received and circulated.

3. **Approval of the Minutes** of the February 14, 2017 Annual Vestry Meeting  
 Moved By: Brenda O'Brien  
 Seconded By: Tricia Marr  
 That the minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting of February 14, 2017 be approved.  
 THE MOTION WAS CARRIED
  
4. **The Minister's Statement**  
 Pastor Jim referred parishioners to the Rector's Report as circulated, and gave brief reflections on the year, including thanks to members of Parish Council in 2017, and to all who gave leadership in ministry, both clergy and lay.  
 Moved By: Pastor Jim Lyster  
 Seconded By: Linda Rutherford  
 That the Minister's Statement be received as printed and circulated.  
 THE MOTION WAS CARRIED
  
5. **Report of the Rector's Warden**  
 See 8 a) below.
  
6. **Report of the People's Warden**  
 Moved By: Brenda O'Brien  
 Seconded By: Alan Hemingway  
 That the report of the People's Warden be received and the actions ratified.  
 THE MOTION WAS CARRIED
  
7. **Report of the Treasurer**  
 The report of the Treasurer, together with the Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 2017 were received, including Consolidated Statements, as well as individual statements for the General, Building and the Designated Offerings Funds.  
  
 Don Jacquest, CPA, has reviewed the statements and the underlying procedures. Don's report has been sent to Parish Council; his conclusions were presented to Vestry.  
 Moved By: Don Jacquest  
 Seconded By: Connie Treen  
 That the Report of the Treasurer together with the Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 2017, be received and adopted.  
 THE MOTION WAS CARRIED
  
8. **Other Reports as circulated**
  - a) **Annual Report**  
 The reports of the various ministries of the parish, as circulated in the Annual Report, were presented. Canon Rae Seale spoke to Vestry about the 100 years of ministry and service of our local ACW prior to its dissolution this past year.  
 Moved By: Marjorie Aitken  
 Seconded By: Chris Burton  
 That the other reports be received as circulated and actions ratified.  
 THE MOTION WAS CARRIED
  
9. **Appointment of Rector's Warden**  
 Pastor Jim Lyster announced the appointment of Marjorie Aitken as Rector's Warden for a term of one year beginning in 2018.
  
10. **Elections**  
 Nominations already received were as follows:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
Brenda O'Brien	People's Warden
Jonathan Hocking	Synod Delegate (3-year term)
Tony Reynolds	Synod Delegate (2-year term)
Andrea Burch	Member at Large
Ron Girard	Member at Large
Linda Rutherford	Member at Large
Lisa Taylor	Member at Large

Pastor Jim called for further nominations from the floor for the positions of: People's Warden, for Synod Delegate (3-year & 2-year terms), Alternate Delegate to Synod (three- and two- year terms), and for Council Members at Large, respectively.

a) **Election of People's Warden**

No additional nominations were received. Brenda O'Brien was duly declared to be People's Warden for a term of one year beginning in 2018.

b) **Synod Delegates**

i) **Election of Synod Delegate:**

No additional nominations were received. Jonathan Hocking and Tony Reynolds were declared elected as Synod Delegates for a term of three year and two year terms, respectively beginning in 2018.

ii) **Election of Alternate Delegates to Synod:**

No nominations were received for the position of Alternate Delegate for a term of three year and two year terms.

Moved by: Marjorie Aitken

Seconded by: Linda Rutherford

That the selection of an Alternate Synod Delegate be deferred to Parish Council for action.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

c) **Election of Members-at-Large to Parish Council**

No further nominations were received. Andrea Burch, Ron Girard, Linda Rutherford and Lisa Taylor were declared elected as Members-at-Large of Parish Council for a term of one year beginning in 2018.

d) **Election of Youth Lay Representative for election to Diocesan Synod by the Regional Conference**

No nominations were received for the position of Youth Lay Representative for Election to Diocesan Synod by the Regional Conference.

Moved by: Tony Reynolds

Seconded by: Chris Burton

That the selection of a Youth Lay Representative be deferred to Parish Council for action.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED

e) **Election of Financial Examiner**

Moved by: Christopher Samsom

Seconded by: Chris Burton

That Don Jacquest, CPA, be elected to examine the 2018 Financial Statements of St. Peter's Anglican Church.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED



unveiling of the new Order of the Diocese of British Columbia (an honour bestowed for outstanding service to the church, of which our own Ed Dawson was a recipient at a special service in the cathedral some weeks later), the welcoming on a large number of new clergy to the diocese (the majority of whom were young with a large representation of women) and wonderfully diverse worship services (one led by the clergy and people of St Barnabas using the Prayer Book with instruments, music, and prayers from the ancient Anglican church and another by the people of the Abbey Church, an “emergent” congregation, using contemporary music and prayers with the liturgy entirely sung by their priest, Meagan Crosby-Shearer). Throughout synod’s proceedings, the atmosphere was defined by energy, confidence and warmth.

On the Saturday afternoon, synod turned its attention to the diocesan vision, Transforming Futures. Leading up to the discussion, a number of parishes/ministries that had applied to the Vision Fund, reported on the results that had flowed from their initiatives. These ranged from activities to include the wider community in church-sponsored activity, diocesan-wide youth conferences, partnerships with Indigenous communities, community dinners, and creation of a traditional Indigenous meeting tent initiated by the Anglican prison chaplain at the provincial remand centre. In all 54 projects.

The proposal before synod was to continue a parish-based campaign to, in the words of the initiative, “renew, with God’s help, the deep roots of the church community we know and love, extending into the future to continue its mission and ministry, spreading the good news and continuing to proclaim the hope of Christ Jesus for generations to come. Imagine that together we can make positive changes in our neighbourhoods and in our communities by responding to God’s call...”

To continue the work begun by the Vision Fund, synod was asked to commit to a \$7 million funding campaign, with parishes raising the equivalent of 115% of their current annual budget over the course of five to seven years. All of the funds would be used for parishes, with 60% being directed by the parish alone and the rest being spent on initiatives undertaken jointly with the diocese.

Initially, discussion of the floor was split between those expressing anxiety at the scope of the challenge and others stating that it was essential to embrace growth. But as debate continued, a greater sense of confidence seemed to gather momentum. Finally, when the motion was put to the vote, it was unanimous. Every parish agreed that Transforming Futures was the road the diocese must travel.

Sunday, the final day of the synod, was Orange Shirt Day, a day to remember the thousands of Indigenous children who had spent their childhood in residential schools. It commemorated the day when six-year-old Phyllis Webstad entered the St. Joseph Mission Residential School, outside of Williams Lake, BC. Young Phyllis was wearing a brand new orange shirt for her first day of school – new clothes being a rare and wonderful thing for a First Nation girl growing up in her grandmother’s care - but the Mission Oblates quickly stripped her of her new shirt and replaced it with the school’s institutional uniform. On that Sunday, virtually every synod member wore an orange shirt.

Bishop Logan in closing the synod told us, “Baptising the future in the tears of the past is one way to roll the stone of oppression away.” This session of Synod was indeed memorable.

## **WARDENS People’s Warden**

Brenda O’Brien: WOW!!! What a crazy, hectic, exhilarating and challenging year 2018 has been!! As I sit and look back, look forward and try to figure out where we are at right now, the story of the Israelites comes to my mind. The year began quietly enough. The usual ups and downs of parish life to contend with, some significant personal health issues that landed me in hospital (twice) and some exciting challenges that only serving our God can provide. Then I got back from our summer holiday to the UK and yikes! I didn’t see that one coming. Our long time, respected leader had resigned his position to pursue semi-retirement. Life was about to change. No doubt, like the Israelites leaving Egypt, some of us

felt afraid of the unknown ahead and some of us felt excited at the new possibilities of where God will lead us and still others of us grieved what was left behind. Some of us felt all three!

The Fall was busy. First organizing and then cancelling a farewell for our much adored Curate who, to our benefit, ended up staying on another 4 ½ months, then organizing a celebration of 14 years in ministry for our beloved Pastor and his wife/ partner in ministry. Then came the creation of a Bishop's Consultation Team to guide the development of a Parish Profile and selection of a new Rector, and hosting the Bishop for a Transition Day. With strong leadership from within the Consultation Team and the participation of almost the entire congregation, the Profile was completed and has now been approved. On to the budget! By the end of November an almost \$20,000, deficit mainly due to the unexpected Human Resource expenses, loomed heavily on my heart and an appeal was made to the congregation, not to mention to God. Well, as faithful as our Father in Heaven has been, so have you, our congregation, been and I will ever give thanks for both as we begin the new-year in a positive financial position!

As we continue to navigate these unfamiliar waters we call "transition time", it is easy to get anxious. When we are anxious, it is easy to grieve and glorify the past and fear the future. After all, the past is where I'm comfortable, it's familiar, that's how I know what I know, that was where I felt safe. That's what the Israelites did in the desert, and in doing so they failed to see what God was doing in the present.

As we journey through this transition time, this 'wilderness', let's keep our focus on what God is doing among us, let's encourage each other every step of the way and extend the gift of hospitality to those whom God has placed in our midst, if only for a little while. As we seek Him, He will light our path and lead us to the promise of a new day.

I give thanks to God for each and every one of you, for those who are praying and interceding, I give thanks for those of you who are encouragers, speaking words that build up the body, I give thanks for those who have the gift of hospitality and respond to meet the needs of others and for each person who recognizes their own unique gifts and uses them to the glory of God. Yet, my confidence in the future does not lay in my faith in our ability as parishioners to get it right, but rather in God's faithful promise to not forsake us (Heb.13:5), to complete the good work he has started (Phil 1:6) and to walk with us each step of the way (Mt. 28:20).

May God continue to bless us as we journey this road together.

## **Bishop's Warden**

Marjorie Aitken: As I look over the past year, I can clearly see the Hand of God in the process which led me to becoming the Rector's Warden. There is no doubt that retirement was beginning to plant its seed in Jim and Rosanne when Jim asked me to become his Warden. I did come to the job with eight years of experience in that position in my previous parish. Although that was some time ago, the duties of being the Rector's Warden change very little. The position, as I see it, is to be a liaison between the Priest and the people and to uphold the health and wellbeing of the parish as a top priority.

With this in mind, it is my desire to be present at most parish activities, not to be involving myself as much, as to be observing and developing a good understanding of the hopes and prayers of all our parishioners. Jesus calls us to Love one another, to care and support each other in our individual walks with the Lord. We are not called to tell each other what we should be doing or how we should be doing it, but to be ever present in their good days and bad. One of my previous priests, who was a visitor to every doorstep in the parish, used to say, "How do I know what to preach, or what is needed in the parish, if I don't know the parishioners!"

That is the whole point of my position in this parish today. How can I possibly know the hopes and desires of you the parishioners, if I don't truly get to know you, spend time with you, laugh with you and sometimes cry with you. This is my understanding of loving one another and this is my intent as your Bishop's Warden, such an officious title, but none the less, the title I've been given. I find this entire

experience to be wonderfully and joyfully fulfilling and not at all overwhelming. God has prepared me over the years for this position and I am honored and happy to comply with His wishes for my life at this time and in this place.

As for the future of this parish, I know that God will guide and direct, but I am also painfully aware of the divisions within this congregation. It has been my experience that when there is a desire to cling to what is in the past, there is a decided lack of faith at work. As I'm sure you have all experienced, when Faith is ruling your mind, things of the past are not so important, for you have the hope of the future. When we become so rigid in our beliefs and in our desires, it shows an unwillingness to leave it all in God's Hands. These actions display a lack of faith in God and the desire and need to take charge of the situation because we do not believe that God is capable.

Our desire to be a God instead of having a God is certainly the root of all evil and came about during the discourse in the Garden of Eden. It is something that is always at the root of our personal issues today. Do we really want to surrender our lives and circumstances to God or do we prefer to think that we are better equipped to handle the everyday things of living, under our own abilities? God loves to see us through the little things as well as the huge mountains we sometimes have to climb. It is in relying on Him in every little thing that we sometimes receive the greatest joy.

So let's put away our egos and our desires to have everything just the way we think is the right way and turn our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to Jesus. Let us part with the past and rejoice in it but be prepared to stretch our faith to include new ideas, new ways of living and worshipping our God, not just focused on worshipping our past experiences. We've all come from somewhere and we are all going somewhere in the future. Let us allow God to move us and direct us as He desires, not as we are so sure is the right way to do things. There's that old saying, "Let go and let God!" Maybe we could all just take a deep breath, ask God to work a miracle in our minds so that we are not so totally self-righteous about our lives and our past experiences, and simply rejoice in where this journey is leading us. Praise be to God!

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Office Operations and Records**

Leslie Dojack, Office Administrator: Our office is a very busy place providing many opportunities to be a ministry of its own. Aside from the everyday administration we have many daily parishioner visits and weekly group meetings such as council, various committees, etc.

As well as the administration of a busy parish, the office is responsible to provide the weekly and special service bulletins, keep parish records, coordinate maintenance of the facilities, hall bookings, and provide up-to-date bookkeeping. Many people provide valuable assistance such as our Unity Cupboard volunteers who help fold and cut our weekly bulletins as well as occasional envelope stuffing, distributing all the necessary notices, bulletins, and readings to assure the smooth running of our parish. Our deposit team of Chris Burton, Bryan Treen, Mary Hopwood, Marj Aitken, Murray Clarke, Rob Savage, Ron Girard and Eleanor Wolverton, do the weekly deposit, and Chris Burton, our Envelope Secretary, and Mary Hopwood & Bryan Treen, keep weekly tabs on offerings and provide year-end tax receipts to all our faithful parishioners. As well there are numerous others who provide assistance throughout the year. Jim Peacock and Catherine Porter lead the AV Team, weekly compiling the necessary information to lead you through the Saturday and Sunday services on the video screen at the front of the church. I also would like to thank Mary Hopwood who has allowed me to take time away from the office by providing much valued interim office relief in 2018.

Our Unity Cupboard, which is open Tuesdays & Thursdays, headed by Denny Beeman and company, carries out the necessary tasks and hospitality to our Unity Cupboard clients. They are a wonderful addition to St. Peter's Church House, offering much more than a couple bags of groceries.

St. Peter's operates the office out of this historic (1891) converted Rector's house. The front living room now acts as a multi-purpose room housing meetings, the Unity Cupboard, and Sunday School. We have three Sunday School rooms and a small multi-purpose office in the upper story.

We are richly blessed by the contributions of many who volunteer their time and talents, and who by their contributions enables St. Peter's to carry out its mission to our community and beyond. May the Lord richly bless you all.

**Funerals**

*Grant unto them rest eternal, O Lord, and let light perpetually shine upon them*

PAUL PLANIDIN  
 JULIE NAN PALFREY  
 ANNA MARIE WILDES (no funeral service)  
 DAVID GIFFORD-COLE  
 LAUREL ANNE PEDDIE

**Marriages**

*Let no man put asunder*

MULUGIETA HAILE GHEBREAB & FREWOENI OKOBAY TEKLE

**Envelopes**

Chris Burton, Envelope Secretary: **There were 210 Donors contributing \$282,461 for both St. Peter's and St. Saviour's.** For St. Peter's, the last year's total was \$253,560 this year's \$272,116, giving an increase of \$18,556. For St. Saviour's, last year's total was \$9,947 and this year's \$15,980 giving an increase of \$6,033.

The following donations were received in 2018:

**St. Peter's Anglican Church**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
General	\$233,830	Parish Weekend	\$840
Missions	\$6,875	Poinsettias	\$355
Curacy	\$6,500	Chancel Kneelers	\$350
Unity Cupboard	\$5,145	Flowers	\$260
Easter Offering	\$3,430	Pew Cushions	\$200
Vacation Bible Camp	\$340	Christian Education	\$4,000
Lyster Gift	\$3,355	Samsom Gift	\$150
Kurdish Refugee	\$1500	Memorial Plaques	\$65
PWRDF	\$35	Easter Egg Hunt	\$10
Christmas Offering	\$4,875		
<b>St. Peter's Total</b>	<b>\$272,115</b>		

**St. Saviour's**

**January 1 – September 30**

General	\$8995	Easter Offering	\$50
Heating System Upgrade	\$1000	Bible Binding	\$300

**St. Saviour's Sub-Total \$10,345**

**October 1 – December 31**

General	\$5,635
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**St. Saviour's Total: \$15,980**

This year the combined Envelope Secretary and Counter duties have been divided. Myself, Chris Burton, will remain as Envelope Secretary for the time being.

The counters under the leadership of Bryan Treen and Mary Hopwood will consist of Eleanor Wolverton, Marj Aitken, Murray Clarke and recent joiners, Ron Girard and Rob Savage.

**Changes:**

- This year we will be sending out annual tax receipts via email for those who have indicated they wish to receive them this way.
- St. Saviour’s, Denman Island is no longer a satellite parish with St. Peter’s, but operating on it’s own with Pastor Jim Lyster as their part-time Rector. They will be responsible for the financial operation of their parish except for receipting of donation income, which will still be included under our charitable number. Therefore we will still report St. Saviour’s income for tax receipting purposes only.

**Envelope Secretary Duties:** Collect envelopes weekly and enter data into the donation program; prepare end-month and annual report for the office; assign new envelope numbers as needed and prepare updated donor info; prepare year-end donation receipts in January.

**Collection Counter Duties:** Assist another counter to secure offerings after the services; two to count offerings and other income Monday/Tuesday mornings depending on statutory holidays; compile weekly envelopes & paperwork; two to deposit funds to the bank. The present counting rotation works out to once a month.

A most heartfelt and great thank you to all who have assisted me this past year!!!!

Please contact Chris Burton 250 339-0919 or spcagent@shaw.ca. We call ourselves St. Peter’s Counting Agency (S.P.C.A.).

And, yes we are all called “Agents”!

**Statistics**

2018 STATISTICS

<b>Saturday 5:40 Express:</b>	
Average Attendance at 47 services:	41
<b>Sunday Holy Communion:</b>	
Average Attendance at 8 a.m. services:	31
Average Attendance at 10 a.m. services:	81
<b>Thursday Holy Communion:</b>	
Average Attendance at 51 services:	6
<b>Cumberland Lodge Holy Communion:</b>	
Average Attendance at 10 services:	10
Hospital/Home Communions	57
House Blessing	2
<b>SPECIAL SERVICES</b>	
<b>Lent</b>	
Ash Wednesday	37
<b>Holy Week</b>	
Maundy Thursday:	50
Good Friday Service	33
<b>Easter Attendance:</b>	
Easter Eve	54
Sunday of the Resurrection	
8 a.m.	33
10 a.m. (Comox Recreation Centre)	195

**Advent Carols**  
**Christmas Attendance:**

Christmas Eve Family:	
4:30 p.m.	108
10:30 p.m.	67
Christmas Day	46
Baptisms	0
Confirmations	0
Weddings	1
Renewal of Marriage Vows	0
Burials	4
Households on Parish List	154
Individuals on Parish List	283

### **Special Services during the Year**

Ash Wednesday Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes

Holy Week Vigil: Maundy Thursday to Good Friday

## **ST PETER'S FINANCIAL St Peter's 2018 Treasurer's Report**

### Jean Hicks, Treasurer:

Despite unforeseen expenses, St. Peter's finished the year with a surplus of \$4,448. We had entered December with an \$18,061 deficit, and generous December offerings from our congregation enabled the return to our "in the black" position. Parish Council thanks all of you for your sustained donations throughout the year and for the open-hearted response to the Easter and December letters.

Total 2018 offerings at St. Peter's were above budget by \$14,033 and totaled \$273,033. The total amount includes designated offerings for the Curacy, Missions/Outreach, Repair & Maintenance, Unity Cupboard, and Flowers. As grant revenue, St. Peter's received \$4,000 specified for Christian education from the St. Athanasius fund, and \$6,000 (\$500 per month) from the Diocese of British Columbia as support for the curacy position. Neither the St. Athanasius grant nor the curacy grant will be received in 2019. The curacy grant was extended by four months from the original commitment of eight months because of the extension to the curacy position. Income from the designated Curacy Offering and the Diocesan curacy grant have partially offset the unbudgeted expenses incurred in September, October, November and December.

With the exception of Human Resources, expense categories were fairly close to budget. Costs for Curate's Stipend and Housing Allowance were more than budgeted. Rector's Housing Allowance was less than budget because of the rector's retirement, and Rector's Stipend was more than budget because of the retiring rector's accrued vacation time being paid while interim rector costs were incurred. Total 2018 Human Resource Expense was \$185,530, and \$17,315 more than budget.

Total Assets in the General Fund are \$29,241 including \$22,000 held in trust for the Kurdish Refugee Fund. The trust funds are expected to be completely disbursed over the coming year.

Thank you to our office administrator, Leslie Dojack for her hard work and patience, also to People's Warden Brenda, Bishop's Warden Marj and Parish Council for their ongoing support. Special thanks to Don Jaquest for his much appreciated work in taking on the year-end review of St. Peter's financial records.

## MINISTRIES

### Curacy Report

Leslie Dojack for The Rev Christopher Samsom: Christopher was many things to many people here at St. Peter's, fulfilling many roles. Please read Christopher's reports covering Prayers of the People, Servers, Youth and the Parish Weekend to see the scope of how Christopher served at St. Peter's during his curacy here. We are richer for having had The Rev. Christopher Samsom in our parish.

### Honorary Associate Report

The Rev Dr Irene Gifford-Cole: This year I am writing the report alone, since David died of dementia on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. He had stopped preaching a couple of years earlier, and by last year could no longer celebrate either; a painful journey in so many ways, but also eased in so many ways by the love of this parish family.

I have continued to celebrate and preach on the fourth Sunday of each month, and have also hosted Quiet Days in our home during Advent, Epiphany and Easter.

On March 24, 2018, we at St. Peter's hosted a workshop entitled "The Last Chapter", examining such end-of-life issues as ethics, law, palliative care, hospice and MAID. A number of parishioners teamed together to bring it all about and to make the workshop a huge success. Our panel of experts included Jennifer Pass, Dr David Arnold, Jane Murphy and Dr Margaret Keresztesi. We ended the morning with a simple luncheon, and the opportunity to visit and discuss further. The workshop was over-subscribed and very well received.

### Pastoral Associate Report

The Rev Gordon Strain: With Canon Jim's retirement at the end of September after 14 years as Rector of the Parish, and the Rev. Christopher Sampson's impending departure at the end of the year, 2018 has certainly been a year of change and transition. Since I have been doing a portion of Canon Jim's job, I contacted Bishop Logan in September and asked for his direction. The Bishop told me to continue what I have been doing [ (adult Bible studies and Christian education, pastoral care, services at Cumberland Lodge, Parish meetings, representing the Parish (e.g. Nimpkish regional meetings and Diocesan events, etc.) and leading worship (ten services at St. Saviour's in 2018 and other occasional services as required) until the new Rector is in place.] At the point when the new Rector arrives, I will retire from formal duties at St. Peter's. It will be over ten years since coming to St. Peter's. This has been a time of service and blessing and I thank you all for your support.

### Library

Leslie Lindsay, St. Peter's Librarian: During 2018 we added:

#### LIBRARY

36 adult non-fiction titles \*\*\* 4 adult fiction\*\*\* 9 DVDs\*\*\*5 children's title



Many of these titles were donated by parishioners while others were purchased through the library budget. While we welcome donations, please remember that we cannot use every donation. What we don't use will be passed on to others.

There are currently many books and DVDs in parishioners' homes. Some have been out for a long time. IF YOU DON'T RETURN YOUR BOOK, NO ONE ELSE GETS TO READ IT!!

LOOK for these NEW additions—

Becoming Mrs. Lewis: The Improbable Love Story of Joy Davidman and CS Lewis. 92 — DAV

Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, Mohammad Cross the Road: Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World. 261.2 MCL

Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor. 956 HAL

Mully. [DVD] 92 — MUL

## 20/20 Women's Network

Leslie Dojack for Linda Rutherford: This year has seen little activity in the 20/20 Women's Network aside from 2018 calendar sales. This ministry was originally created to be a meeting place for women and evolved into fundraising to support outreach in 2017. As we go forward, with the Lord's blessing, we will seek his direction in how this ministry will proceed.

## Parish Weekend

The Rev. Christopher Samsom: In June 2018 seventy members of our parish went to Camp Homewood for our Parish Retreat. We engaged with Jesus's promise of living water in an intergenerational learning time involving crafts, music, and bible study. We engaged in games and activities including launching bottle rockets, spending time on the water, among others. It was a great weekend.

## St. Peter's Walkers

Ron & Mickey Girard: We have about 20 e-mail addresses who are notified weekly of the upcoming walks. We walk from April through the end of October. We try to vary walks from easy to moderately difficult so that everyone has a chance to participate in some walks. They are led by different people and the walks are planned by the group at meetings about once a month, after the 8 am service. The walkers group is a great way to get to know each other in a casual way and also to incorporate new people into the St. Peter's church life.

## Saturday Morning Men's Breakfast

Greg Knowles: Let me begin with a very warm and sincere thank-you to all the men who helped with organizing, preparations and clean up after our breakfasts. In particular, I'd like to acknowledge Chris Burton for his many years of service to our group. We had the same number ( 7 ) events as last year, but I was away for the January gathering – thank you David Moore for taking charge of that one. All numbers except expenses were up slightly from last year, see the summary below.

TOTAL	\$ 477.49	\$ 261.29	\$ 216.20	93
2017 TOTALS	\$ 460.04	\$ 282.04	\$ 178.00	88

If you would like to attend, please contact Tony Reynolds ( 250-339-1932 or [tonyray@shaw.ca](mailto:tonyray@shaw.ca) ) to get on our email contact list, as the number attending is confirmed via email a few days before our events (last Saturday of the month ) to ensure there's enough food for all attending.

The Lord is calling me to places other than the kitchen, and so I wish our new group's leader the same pleasure and fulfilment that I have had throughout my decade in this position.

## **Thursday Morning Men's Breakfast**

The Rev. Christopher Samsom: Men, are you hungry at 8 a.m. Thursday mornings? If so, you're invited to join us for breakfast at the Early Bird Café on 4th Street at Duncan in Courtenay. The table for 12 has experienced a few new faces, and a few familiar faces are less regular or can't come anymore, but there's always room for more. Come for a good meal and fellowship!

## **FACILITIES Building & Grounds Report**

Leslie Dojack: As in years past, our buildings and grounds require care and attention. We are fortunate to have parishioners, with talents they can donate to help keep us in good repair. A future maintenance item that will need to be addressed in the spring or summer of this year will be replacement of the screws in the metal roof of the Parish Hall. This was on the repair list for 2017, but the rainy spring and soaring summer temperatures kept the crew off the metal roof. The projected cost for this project will be approximately \$500. If you wish to make a donation towards it please contact the office.

We were further blessed to have Zac Kregosky of Plants I Dig, volunteer his time along with parish volunteers to contribute to our Spring and Fall Cleanup of the grounds. Zak brought with him his knowledgeable crew. Much was accomplished in a short period of time. To cover the cost of our landscaping, you are invited to submit the full name(s), date of birth, and date of death of the person(s) you wish remembered to the office via the collection plate or during office hours, with a suggested donation of \$60 towards the ongoing maintenance of the Memorial Gardens. A brass plaque in their name will be added to the Memorial Garden Plaque in the Narthex.

Many thanks go out to our many volunteers for their dedication to keeping our buildings and grounds in good repair and beautiful. I would especially like to thank Gary Wiffen & Rob Savage for agreeing to be my on call guys for snow removal and the many minor maintenance jobs that come up from time to time. Tim Dojack, for graciously stepping in when major maintenance is required. During the summer our weekly roster of lawn mowing volunteers, and Maggie Barnett and Ruth Allen who have faithfully tended the flowers along the rock wall. Maggie has now moved to Manitoba to be near her family and our prayers are with her. We have been truly blessed with the Lord's provision to continue to care for our Church home.

## **Fire and Safety Report**

Duane Paulson: January – concern raised about air quality of our 10:00 am service through fall & winter months. Action – pastoral staff to adjust air movement as deemed sufficient.

December – annual Fire & Life Safety Inspection by the Comox FD. Action – postponed to the new year.

## **WORSHIP Altar Guild**

Canon Rae Seale: Have you noticed the gleaming brass, the wrinkle free linens, the cleanliness of the cruets and chalices, the beauty of the Sanctuary at St. Peter's?

A very dedicated group of ladies makes certain this occurs for all the regular weekly services, plus all the special Christian remembrances that are celebrated. The work of St. Peter's Altar Guild is very important to the life of our Church and we would be delighted to welcome others, to share those responsibilities. Please contact Rae at 250 339-2533 if you see this as an area of ministry you would like to participate in.

Thank you ladies for your devotion in the Lord's service.

## Chalice Bearers

Lynore Harrington: We currently have sixteen persons on the roster for Chalice Bearers at the 10 a.m. service. Duties are a) reading the first lesson; b) serving wine to the communicants and c) helping the priest in any other way needed during the service.

## Children's Feature

David Moore: As always I'd like to express my gratitude to the CF presenters who have taken up this ministry in 2018: Jim and Rosanne, Christopher, Andrea, Mary, Denny, Jocelyn, Wendy, Lyn, Mickey, Ron, and MJ.

In view of the fact that the number of CF-aged children regularly attending the 10 a.m. service has dwindled considerably, the decision was taken in September by the Parish Council to discontinue the feature until such time as numbers increase, which seemed sensible to all of us.

To paraphrase our Saviour when He spoke using King James' English: "Suffer the little children to come unto...our worshipping community at St. Peter's".

## Coffee Rota

Jocelyn Bystrom & Sydney Hall: Our Coffee Rota is comprised of volunteers who take on the task of preparing the coffee and tea on a weekly basis for the 10 a.m. service. Sometimes there are goodies to put out but the most important feature of this ministry is to provide fellowship time in the hall following the service. There are usually two volunteers per Sunday responsible for preparing coffee and tea ahead of time, putting out cups, sugar, and cream, and then the clean up after. Thank you to those parishioners who've served on the coffee rota ministry throughout the past year. We'd also like everyone to know that we still have an ongoing need for new volunteers to join the rota for 2019! Please contact our wardens, Marj Aitken 250 830-8704 or Brenda O'Brien 778 427-1965 to volunteer.



## Communion Bread

Sheila Storey: The bread is the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ and Christ's Body is the Cornerstone of our church.

The bakers of the Communion Bread for 2019 are as follows:

Ruth Allen  
Denny Beeman  
Brenda Robson  
Jocelyn Bystrom

Volunteers are always a welcome sight in this cheerful group of ladies and men are invited too! Ruth Allen is taking over for me this year. If you wish to become a communion bread baker, please contact Ruth at 250 339-4482 or [rfallen7@shaw.ca](mailto:rfallen7@shaw.ca).

Thank you all for your ministry.

## Old Testament & Epistle Readers 8 a.m.

Rosemarie Henning: At this time we have four regular readers and one extra reader who reads on the fifth Sunday of a month with five Sundays. I want to thank all who are participating in the readings. If you

would like to join the readers please contact myself at 250 338-7936 to volunteer, especially during our summer months.

### **Epistle Readers 10 a.m.**

Marjorie Aitken: We have an ever enlarging group of parishioners who seem happy to read the Epistle each Sunday and at special services. We keep saying we will have a lesson time to explain how the readings should go, but everyone is so good at providing the readings, so far, that it has seemed unnecessary. We did experiment with introductions to the readings this past year, but found them to be a bit unwieldy.

The one change I would like to make would be for the readers to simply read out of their own Bibles at the lectern instead of constantly shuffling through all those papers that are ever present on the lectern, making it difficult to find your place when going up to the lectern to read. Using our own Bibles gives us a chance to feel totally comfortable with the scriptures as we would have practiced them at home, using the same reference material as on Sunday morning. Having discussed this at the Worship Committee and with our interim priest, it has been determined that as long as the NIV translation is used, reading from a personal Bible is acceptable. This will allow the parishioners to continue to follow the readings in the pew Bibles.

### **Greeters**

Alison Knowles: Thank you to all the Greeters. We have a team of 12 people and 2 back-up Greeters. I feel the Greeters have played an important role in making St Peters a welcome place. Thank you for your dedication in all our tasks including ringing the bell loud and clearly reminding people of God's love for them and calling them to worship.

### **Audio-Visual Team**

Catherine Porter & Jim Peacock: It was a year of transition for our team. In March we started using the new version of Easy Worship which enables us to present videos seamlessly. Jim and Catherine shared the Sunday service programming while Pastor Jim programmed the 5:40 Express. With Pastor Jim's departure in September, Catherine took on the additional task of programming for 5:40 Express. We have a dedicated team of seven AV operators who run the computer during the services. Thank you so much for your behind-the-scenes service every Saturday and Sunday.

We also purchased a new audio system over the summer which greatly improves the sound quality of our music. We are still in the process of fine-tuning the system.

We need new volunteers for all these positions. No need to be a "techie." We provide all the necessary training. And we are an "equal opportunity employer"—women are welcome to join the team! Please call Catherine @ 250-898-2277 if you are interested in joining our team.

### **Music and Praise**

Helen Dawson: *"Speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord." Ephesians 5:19*

Praise lifts us up into the presence of God. There is power in praise. As we continue to meet weekly to practice and prepare for the various services, we again ask for your prayers and encouragement. I am thankful for our faithful singers and musicians. Some have chosen to step down and others have joined our ministry. I would like to acknowledge the faithfulness of Rae Seale over the past years. She had been a part of our ministry for many years and was a great support. We wish her all God's many blessings!

If you are interested in joining and helping out in some way, please call me at 250 339-2593 or email [eandhdawson@shaw.ca](mailto:eandhdawson@shaw.ca).

## **5:40 EXPRESS!**

Mickey Girard, on behalf of the 5:40 Team: The 5:40 Express is alive and well at St. Peter's Church. We now have a leadership group made up of five people who can speak on the bible but also do planning for the services.

We have many more who are willing to speak, read scripture, do skits or art projects. Catherine Porter has taken over the video projection, a real necessity.

We have had lively services, recently having completed a series for Advent called, "The Advent Dilemma" and are currently involved in a series called "Blind Spots", dealing with Revelation.

The 5:40 Express remains bible centered, focusing on teaching the bible in an experiential way. The services are kept no longer than an hour so that they move along quickly.

The shared meal following the 5:40 service is a way of building community. People are always welcomed to come and eat after the service.

## **Servers**

The Rev. Christopher Samsom: Participating in worship is an exciting adventure that belongs to all the baptized people of God. The assembly of God's people on Sunday is at the centre of the life of the church. Servers, provide leadership to the assembly as they do the work entrusted specifically to them.

Within our regular 10 a.m. services, including special services at Easter and Christmas, servers fill roles of preparation, leadership and assistance. Arriving before the service, the server robes and lights the candles in the sanctuary and chancel if not already lit. During processions, the server doubles as a crucifer to carry the cross into the service and finally leading the procession at the end of the service. During the service, the server has a number of tasks. He or she presents the Gospel binder to the Priest or Deacon for reading and receives the communion elements and alms (offerings plates). A server assists in setting the Lord's Table and cleaning up (the Ablutions) after Communion.

We give thanks to all our youth servers. During 2018, Alexander, Johannes, Claire and Sion held responsibility for this ministry, but there's room for others. If you're one who is interested, speak to Rob the interim or the future rector. Training sessions will be planned as needed.

## **Sidesmen**

Greg Lindsay: There are currently 10 men and women on the roster. Ushers are present mainly at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday services but may be asked to serve at other services - such as funerals and weddings. A duty roster is drawn up and circulated to participants well before the next series of services. Any one person or couple will be on duty approximately every seven weeks. At Christmas and Easter there will be extra services scheduled. We pass out the bulletins, help people find a seat, take up the offering and direct traffic during communion. Any person or couple who wishes to join this group will be welcome. Schedules are made up two or three times a year, the current schedule runs until June, 2019. If you are interested contact Greg or Leslie Lindsay [gregles@shaw.ca](mailto:gregles@shaw.ca) or phone 230 338 2442 .

## **Worship Committee**

Marj Aitken: This committee meets monthly to discuss the upcoming Worship events in the parish. There have been some lively discussions over the past few months in regards to various changes that have occurred since the departure of our former Rector. The committee is committed to providing the most pleasing worship environment for both the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday services, particularly the musical part of the worship services. Thanks to the representatives of each of these services who faithfully attend the meetings.

## **Prayer**

### **Home Prayers**

Ron & Mickey Girard: The Wednesday night prayer is a gathering of members of St-Peter's who seek revival in the church and in the Comox Valley. It's started in the Spring of 2018 in the house of the Girard's with a few others joining along the way. The number varied from 3 to 16, depending on the night, 7 is usually the number of people attending. We start with scripture reading, we lift our heart in praise and thanksgiving and let the Holy Spirit guide the night. We often end in spontaneous songs. Recently, since Jim has left the leadership, the focus has been on the transition but our main goal is to pray fervently for revival in Comox through all the churches in the Valley.

In the winter, we meet at Irene Gifford Cole because it is more convenient for the people. The rest of the year, we will meet at our house. We envision including people from other churches in the future.

### **Prayer Desk**

Rachel Reynolds: Some of you in the congregation may not be aware that every Sunday at the 10 a.m. service there is someone sitting in the vestry chapel waiting to pray with you during the Eucharist. The faithful prayers will pray with you for healing, for thanksgiving, for concerns that you may be carrying in your heart for friends or family. We believe God's healing power is at work during the Eucharist and through the Eucharist and our prayer is that more in the congregation will take advantage of this opportunity and our sacred offering.

### **Prayers of the People 8 a.m.**

Sally Rondow: Prayers of the People continue with our faithful parishioners who lead us in the prayers of the people at the 8 a.m. service. Many thanks to you all and may you be richly blessed.

### **Prayers of the People 10 a.m.**

Ed Dawson: I want to thank all the people who are on the team heading up the "prayers of the people". They have been doing a stellar job each Sunday.

If there is anyone else who would like to join, please let me know by either telephoning 250 339-2593 or email [eandhdawson@shaw.ca](mailto:eandhdawson@shaw.ca).

## **PRAYER MINISTRY**

### **First Friday Prayers**

The Rev Christopher Samsom: 16 Be joyful always; 17 pray continually; 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Through another year, a small group has gathered on the first Friday of the month (generally) beginning at 7 pm. We join the great cloud of witnesses that scripture tells us is constantly praying, as we seek God's will and to offer prayers on behalf of his church. Our Curate, the Rev'd Christopher Samsom led this time of prayer the past couple years.

The Apostle Paul exhorts us to pray without ceasing—to be always praying. I would echo that encouragement, knowing that many of our parishioners already do. Pray! Many of our small groups include times of intercessory prayer in their meetings. That's great. Pray! Many parishioners have personal prayer times. That's great, too! Pray! I want to encourage everyone to set aside time for personal prayer.

It would be a great blessing if you would come. You would be blessed and encouraged in your praying for St Peter's ministries as well as for the church, community and world beyond our walls. And you would bless your fellow brothers and sisters in the faith by your presence and your prayers. Let's lift our hearts to God. Come and Pray!

## Prayer Chain

Tricia Marr, Prayer Chain Coordinator: St. Peter's e-mail prayer chain is very busy, this year has been no exception. The folks on the chain are intercessors, trusted to pray for those who are in need, they are faithful in prayer and gracious in love.

Thank you so much for encouraging me in this ministry, I know when there is a need we stand together in prayer joined by the Holy Spirit. I have had many people tell me, that when they are being prayed for on the chain no matter how things look at that time, they feel 'THE PEACE AND THE PRAYERS SURROUNDING THEM.'

Glory to God for all things.

To be a member of the prayer chain or to request prayer please email [triciamarr@shaw.ca](mailto:triciamarr@shaw.ca).

## CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

### Sunday School

Joyfully submitted by Brenda O'Brien: As I assumed the responsibility for coordinating the Sunday School this fall, I was blessed to find myself working in the midst of a dedicated, skilled and enthusiastic group of teachers, helpers, and other supporters! We chose the online curriculum from St. Matthews in Abbotsford, which allows us to operate a single, multi-age class. The four regular teachers: Lyn Crampton, Andrea Burch, Anne Clar, and Don Jaquest are joined by regular helpers, Judith Hocking and Jean Duggan, and on a back up basis, Rachel Reynolds.

A number of other parishioners have come out to our seasonal Youth and Family meetings along with the VBC Leaders, and their input and ideas have been most valuable and much appreciated. This years' Christmas pageant enabled all children, regulars and visitors alike, to engage in the retelling of the Christmas Story by dressing up in costume and acting out the narrated story. Thank you to Andrea Burch and Rachel Reynolds for organizing the children and to Rev. Rob for providing the script.

We are still looking for helpers that can commit to 1 Sunday per month (no prep needed) to assist the regular Sunday teachers. Also, we are looking for leaders who can help develop programming for our older children and teens and/or build community through organizing a Family Fun event during the year.

Children and Youth are a vital part of our community and need the support, encouragement and guidance of their adult parish family. Come join the team and you'll be sure to feel young at heart if not in years!

## **Vacation Bible Camp - 2018**

Lisa Taylor on behalf of Alison Knowles & Angela vanKessel-Crozier: This past summer, St. Peter's again continued the long tradition of hosting a VBC, but the group of three co-directors decided this year thought a slight name change was in order – we would call the program “Vacation Bible Camp” instead of “School,” as the traditional name no longer really applies, or has the same draw for kids today! The theme of VBC was “Shipwrecked! Rescued by Jesus,” and it turned out to be a great theme to work with.

Our directing team was made up of Lisa Taylor, Alison Knowles and Angela Van Kessel-Crozier. We met many times for planning meetings, and thought of our team as a ‘three-legged stool’ – each of us was essential to the others. Alison planned and led the craft, a wooden boat that kids put together during the week, as well as planning and spearheading the set decorating; Angela took care of the registrations, and managed the volunteers and kids during the week, making sure all ran smoothly; and Lisa taught the Bible sessions, and ran the welcome and farewell sessions in the church. We were grateful for the chance to work together, and incredibly grateful for the many, many amazingly talented and dedicated volunteers who led small groups of kids, planned and led games, helped with singing and skits, planned and served the snacks, helped with the hands-on tools and work of building boats, helped teach the Bible lessons, ran the AV and music, took photos, ran into town to pick up anything that was needed, and countless other pieces of the VBC puzzle! Our church was overwhelmingly supportive and the 48 kids (up to 50 on some days) who attended felt cared for and had fun!

We once again held a BBQ at the church on the closing day, also run by fabulous volunteers, with many families staying and visiting together, and also had a mid-week picnic on the beach that families were welcome to come to.

Our budget ended up running slightly over, partly because we purchased a banner to go over the sidewalk entrance to the church advertising VBC. That cost won't be repeated, as we can now just change the dates and use the same banner, so the budget for this next year's VBC is lower.

We also thought we would plan two VBC reunions for the kids who had come, so we could keep some momentum in between our summer programs, and we sent out email invites for a get-together in September and one in December. Both were not well-attended, and we think that was largely due to the fact that email is not the best medium for busy young families.

Our plan is to continue with our directing team for this next year, and we're in the process of choosing a theme for the next VBC. We want to send out a HUGE thank you again to all of the volunteers, and people who prayed, and people who told their friends and grandchildren about VBC – we hope to continue to be a place of fun in the summer (July 29-August 1, 2019), and to make St. Peter's an integral part of our busy downtown Comox community for young families – and also as a place to feel welcome all year long. Please pray for us and for the ministry of VBC as we look ahead to this next year.

### **St. Peter's Youth Group (AKA SPY Comox)**

The Rev Christopher Samsom: Throughout 2018 the St. Peter's youth had few events. Eight youth went to the Valenteen Retreat. A number gathered in March for a chilli making competition. We gathered in June to go bowling and in July for a small BBQ. The Halloween Outreach was a fun activity in October. With the curate leaving there is at this point no one overseeing this ministry.

### **Youth and Family Life**

Brenda O'Brien: With growing concern over the decreasing numbers of families with children in our congregation, the People's Warden and Curate began an initiative in the spring of 2018 to try to better understand both the strengths and challenges our congregation faces in meeting the needs of this valued part of our family. Six interviews were conducted and several more are still to be completed. An update was tabled with Parish Council in June.

Families told us that they value joyous and meaningful worship, a sense of belonging and opportunities for both adults and children to utilize their gifts. A culture of encouragement and teamwork and having a multigenerational church family were also important to families. Things that were identified as working well included: VBC (Vacation Bible Camp); the Parish Retreat at Camp Homewood; Valenteen; and Sunday School. The 5:40 Express was viewed as a significant opportunity for engaging younger members in meaningful ways.

Some of the challenges identified by families included a lack of peer group due to low numbers of children; the need for flexible options for parents to get involved; encouraging children's participation that allows them to find their place in the family and making room for new ideas.

Many expressed a desire for the parish to hire a Family/ Youth Worker that could build relationships with families, reach out to the community, provide educational and social programming and address the pastoral needs of this "younger" demographic. In addition, this staff position could develop volunteer capacity for family ministry, provide continuity and succession planning in both program and leadership development.

Parish Council has had a number of discussions regarding this topic since the report was tabled in June and, although it was not feasible at the time of deliberation to include such a position in the 2019 budget, Council remains committed to meeting the needs of this population. Engaging the entire congregation in a process to determine parish priorities and explore the means of making our priorities a reality will be a major challenge for the 2019 Parish Council.

## **FELLOWSHIP GROUPS**

### **Daytime Bible Study Groups**

#### **Tuesday Morning Bible Study**

Gordon Strain: The Tuesday morning Bible study, which meets in Ellis Hall at 9:30 a.m. and lasts for one hour, continues to be well attended. The Bible, along with Christian history, theological issues and apologetic material comprise the subject matter for the group to study. The topical presentations usually take 20–25 minutes followed by discussion and a time of prayer. One outstanding study in 2018 was entitled "Jesus the Game Changer", a ten-part series on how the life and teaching of Jesus changed the world and why it matters. Another interesting study was a four-part series on Advent, which was coordinated with the Season. The group does not meet in July and August. Thanks, once again, to Shirley and Gerry Anderson for twice hosting the group at their home in 2018 for a time of refreshment and fellowship.

#### **Tuesday Women's Fellowship**

Mickey Girard: In 2018 we started our study of Colossians in September. It ran for 8 sessions. We use "Right now Media" with a short 10 to 12 minute lesson, then read and discuss the material using prepared questions. We used Louie Giglio's study for Colossians. There is always a lively discussion and good attendance. We have anywhere from 8 to 12 ladies attending. We finished the year studying Galatians.

Once again we used "Right now Media," a study by Kyle Idleman. The Ladies Bible Study gives us a great chance to look intently into the word and to share our thoughts and feelings about all that these books teach. We do this with a sense of joy and freedom. I'm very thankful to be able to spend this time in bible study with ladies who I really enjoy learning with. We have been joined now with several women from other churches as well.

## **Monday Men's Bible Study**

Ed Dawson: I want to thank the men who are attending our group study. We have eight men who regularly attend each week. We are open to any men who would like to join us. Currently we are studying the Book of John in the back hall. We start 10:30 a.m. until noon. Please contact me at 250 339-2593 or [eandhdawson@shaw.ca](mailto:eandhdawson@shaw.ca).

## **Evening Fellowship Groups Henning Fellowship Group**

Gordon Strain: 2018 was another meaningful year of study and Christian fellowship in the Henning Group, which meets at Rose Henning's home on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm, except for July and August. The group studies a variety of topics including selected books of the Bible, Christian history and apologetics, and various theological topics (e.g. the meaning and celebration of Advent). One very interesting and relevant study completed near the end of 2018 was a six-part series entitled "Jesus Among Secular Gods: The Question of Culture and the Invitation of Christ" by Ravi Zacharias, et al.

Early in 2019 the group will begin a 13-part series "How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth" given by Old and New Testament professors. There is a time for discussion of the material followed by prayers for individual concerns, the church and other matters. The evening ends with coffee and goodies. Rose is a wonderful host. Twice a year, near Christmas and in June, the group goes out for a fellowship dinner.

## **Pastorate Fellowship**

Tony Reynolds and Glenn Lawson: The Pastorate small group meets every Thursday night at 6 p.m. to share a pot luck meal followed by a discussion time. Breaking bread and fellowshiping together in Corker Hall never disappoints. The food almost always works out providing a well-balanced meal. The odd time we've had more desserts than mains, but no one complains.

The group is composed of around 30 members, from youth (the Van Kessel-Crozier kids) to some octogenarians. Generally, there are about 20+ folks attending any given Thursday. The Pastorate represents a good cross-section of the membership of St. Peters.

At 7 p.m. we retire to Ellis Hall to spend about an hour to an hour and a half, opening with a hymn or song, doing a check-in, and then moving on to discuss different aspects of our faith, and share personal stories. The sessions are generally led by an individual who will have prepared a bit on an agreed to topic. We generally don't do "Bible studies" per se. The evening is closed in prayer. In the Pastorate, we listen without judgement and love unconditionally. The Pastorate benefits from a group leadership; while some individuals help tee things up, we all share the load. The Pastorate has shared its culinary talents with the Parish by doing the "catering" for several events.

The Pastorate welcomes all with an open mind and heart, and love of God.

## **MISSION & OUTREACH ACTS**

Jeff Golby: The St. Peters Comox Community!

Thank You for the love you have shown to the people of Uganda this past year through providing clean, accessible water to those who desperately need it.

It's such a privilege to be able to pause for a moment, reflect on what you have helped Acts accomplish not just in this year gone past, but for decades. I feel as though I am standing on the shoulders of giants. I wanted to share a bit of an update on what has happened over these past twelve months, in large part because of your support.

Our team in Uganda has spent the start of this last year finishing Nkomero, which delivers clean, accessible water to 4500 people. This is the second water project completed without the support of the Canadian Government. Our team then began conducting structural and impact audits of our previous systems to better understand the impact your gifts are having in the communities - decades later. We've learned how we can improve, where we need to re invest and how to build an even stronger program strategy for 2019 and beyond. In August we then broke ground on the most ambitious water project we've ever done: Kicuzi. This was a momentous effort and quite literally only happened because of your generous support.

For 2019 we're eager to implement a model that combines rehabilitating our oldest systems to extend their life for decades to come, while launching Kota our newest project designed to bring clean water to 5786 people. It's the most comprehensive initiative we've ever undertaken.

We would love your continued prayers for Acts as we seek to draw new people into the ministry to help fund the work of bringing clean water to the many who still go without. In addition to this, your prayers for wisdom as we continue to build, improve and adjust the work we do in Uganda are appreciated. The decisions we make here in Canada have a profound effect on people in Uganda and we want to be wise with those choices.

There's much more to say, and I look forward to the next time we can connect in person. Until then, may God bless you and your community richly.

### **Café Justicia! – Campesino Committee of the Highland (CCDA)**

Neil Crouch: We have a wonderful and ongoing relationship with the Guatemalan Highland Coffee Farmer's Cooperative which I was lucky to become a part of starting in 2001 when I took a group of students from Highland School to the Highlands of Guatemala. I took students again in 2003 and then a group of adults - mostly from St. Peter's in 2005. I was back again in 2006 to see many of the improvements they have made in their growing and processing of coffee.

Life for them is hard for two basic reasons: their history in the late 20th Century is a story of terrible agony as an anti-communist proxy war was fought out on their land. Four hundred and forty villages were simply wiped off the map. A few rich families dominate the country and the people are subject to a very unfair imbalance of remuneration for their labour and product. World coffee "futures" determine what the big corporate buyers will offer for their coffee.

The Coop has connections with the Fair Trade movement which is very present in the western world - and growing - but has a terrible fight to overcome the power of the status quo. Community organizers run the risk of losing their lives if they are targeted by hired guns and there are many guns remaining from the late 20th century in spite of Peace Accords in the 1990's.

Fair Trade coffee costs a little more than you might pay in a supermarket, but the money is key to sustaining the lives of these people. You may not know that this coffee - medium roast or dark, beans or ground - is available for sale in the church office at \$14 for a full pound.

### **Comox Valley Pregnancy Care Centre**

785 6<sup>th</sup> Street Courtenay V9N 8M1  
250-334-0058



Lisa Brown, Executive Director: Dear St. Peter's Anglican Church,  
I have just finished going through our stats for 2018 which is a painful job but it's always so encouraging to see the final report!

#### 2018 Stats

Overall Client Visits: 334

New Clients: 79

Teens (Sexual Health Presentations): 214

Post Abortion Recovery Groups: 7 Women Finished the Program and 9 males participated in part of the program.

Options Counselling: 39

Miscarriage Support: 5

Spiritual Support: 9

Couples Counselling: 7 couples

Resource Room: 48

Soul Care Group (Education, financial and parenting education): 20

Referrals (Housing and other social supports): 12

Depression & Anxiety Group: 13

As I reviewed the numbers and reflected on 2018, what stood out to me was that clients finished the programs this year. When you're dealing with grief, mental health issues and being exhausted with life, just showing up is a tough thing to keep doing week after week. One thing we did intentionally this year is we ran the groups even if it was just for one person. So many scriptures come to mind that put that strategy on my heart. Jesus always made time for the one. The shepherd leaving the 99 to find the one lost sheep.

I believe this is why we saw so many clients finish their programs this year.

As well we have a very well trained and committed team that is running our programs.

Please pass along my thanks to your congregation for their generosity and their support. Grace Clarke is a fantastic church rep. I pray God continues to bless your church!

## Dancing Waters

Murray and Ann O'Coin: Dear Friends and Supporters of Dancing Waters,

We are so grateful for so many friends who have stood with us very faithfully in prayers and in generous giving through this past difficult year of Murray's illness and the resultant strain on our family. We have experienced the goodness of God's people in an unforgettable way.

We met with the doctor on October 31, 2018 and unfortunately the future remains uncertain for us with respect to Murray's health and so after prayer and reflection, and in conversation with the leadership of Sanctuary, we have made the difficult decision to take the next several months to wind up the ministry of Dancing Waters.

Many of you have supported us financially for many years and even throughout Murray's illness. We are grateful beyond words for your participation in this ministry with us. Because of your generosity, Sanctuary is holding a healthy reserve of funds for us. And Sanctuary is committed to making sure that we receive those funds as we wrap up Dancing Waters, but ***they will stop receiving donations for us effective immediately.***

This was not something that we anticipated a year ago when the illness began. Neither did we foresee this when we communicated with you in February or in September of this year. Throughout this experience, we have felt that it was just a matter of time before things got back to normal. But after a few setbacks in October and even more in November, we feel that it is a necessity.

We love this community of Tyendinaga very deeply and plan to continue to live here. And there is even a possibility that, at some future time, if God so directs, we might start up something that looks like Dancing Waters, Part 2. Even if that were to happen, however, we are aware that it will be good for us to step back for a while and to let that opportunity take its own shape rather than being constrained by what we have done previously. But for the moment, our future and future ministry are entirely in God's hands.

You may wish to continue giving to Sanctuary Ministries after December 31. We have been grateful for our partnership with Sanctuary for these many years, value their ministry in Toronto, and know that they would be glad to welcome you as a financial partner of theirs. If you wish to do this, please contact Kathleen at 416 922-0628 (225) or [kathleens@sanctuarytoronto.ca](mailto:kathleens@sanctuarytoronto.ca) and she will help you change over. If you prefer to simply discontinue your giving altogether, then Sanctuary will stop the Pre-Authorized withdrawals after December. If you have been giving monthly through Canada Helps, then you need to go to the Canada Helps site to deactivate your donation.

Again, we deeply thank you for your support, generosity and loyalty over the years. We know that while we are disappointed in this ending for us, God does not stop working to bring all of those we love into relationship with him.

With heartfelt thanks and gratitude,  
Ann & Murray O'Coin

### **Grace Life Ministries**

Kell & Lorri Frandsen: This year we mark 25 years of ministry in India and 20 years involvement in Nepal. God as always has been incredibly faithful. I believe as we honor Him He fully releases His blessings!

Our ministry has been growing. We are very proud of our leaders they are doing a fantastic work for God. We have added 4 new little girls to our daycare and increased staff. We have 2 facilities where we look after 75 children. They receive protection, schooling, healthy food, as well as loving ministry. As God blesses we will expand. These are part of the millions that come from India's slums. It is a wide open door to bring the gospel to the many who we know so well. This year we have ten in higher education. Four in engineering and one in degree nursing and the rest are in college. Our oldest has her degree in nursing and is pursuing a career in the hospitals. We plan to have her work in Singapore and connect with a great church there. She is my daughter and we wish to have her part of the ministry.

Our leaders spent several months in Odisha training about 40 young people and ministering in many of the churches.

This year they started six churches plus opened up 10 new preaching points in 10 new villages with our team of young evangelists and pastors. God moved in miracles and a very sick woman was instantly healed in one village!

We have broken poverty in our prototype village plus provided them with safe drinking water. We hope with the help of Rotary to bring similar projects to 12 more villages.

At present we are preparing with a team of 11 to head back to Singapore, India and Nepal. We have started Grace Life Nepal Trust and we believe to rescue vulnerable children plus women caught in slavery. We would ask for prayers, as we will be in Nepal 1-8 March to start this part of our ministry. Thanks so much for your love and support last year. It means a great deal to have you as our friends!!

### **L'Arche Comox Valley**

Wendy Dyck, on behalf of L'Arche Comox Valley: 2018 has been a learning year for L'Arche Comox Valley. We are always working toward a better understanding of how to make the best use of the I Belong Centre, how to be a place of welcome for people with disabilities, and where to focus our energy and effort.

The Outreach program of the I Belong Centre continues to provide daytime opportunities for meaningful activity. Our Signature Arts program provides opportunities to participate in the performing arts (theatre, dance, music), and the L'ArcheWorx Collective offer people a chance to earn money for their work in candle-making, soup-cone construction, and art. Outreach to Seniors through shared meals, memoir

writing, and art programs continues, and we are pleased to provide many excellent opportunities for volunteering.

We are truly a blessed community. Shared meals, prayer times, fundraising events, and all the informal gatherings celebrating milestones of individuals continue. We are delighted to be able to use our own facility for gathering, but we remain grateful for the use of the St Peter's hall on occasion. The support and connection with St Peter's parish continues to be an anchor that allows us to celebrate the unique gifts of individuals.

## **Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship Canada**

Ian Elliot: I cannot thank you enough for your faithful and generous support - financially, practically and through your prayers. It means a tremendous amount to us to be cared for in this way, we are deeply grateful.

I continue to have three roles with IVCF, by God's grace all of them are going well.

Regarding our partnership with our sister IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students) movements in Israel and Palestine, FCSI (The Fellowship of Christian Students in Israel) and CSPU (Christian Students at Palestinian Universities), I am pleased to report that we will be visiting them again this year from May 12 to June 4, 2019. We learned a lot from the year we brought 14 staff and students from their ministries to partner with us here in BC in August 2017, most significantly the value of having as much time as possible together (as opposed to travelling from place to place, campus to campus) and so we will base ourselves primarily in two places, Ramallah and Haifa. We look forward to seeing Father Fadi, by the way, when we are in Ramallah and Berzeit. We will bring him your greetings.

In my role as the Director of Evangelism for IVCF I continue to criss-cross the country encouraging staff and students to share their faith. Good fruit is beginning to come from this effort. On the whole we have been referencing two books, I Once Was Lost and Breaking the Huddle (Doug Schaup). The students are relating very well to the material.

This year, as the Advocate for International Student Ministry (ISM) with IVCF, I will be hosting a five day gathering of all the IVCF staff who focus on ministry among international students in Toronto from June 11-15, 2019. It's going to be really helpful, especially for the younger ISM staff, to have an opportunity to learn from one another in this way.

Well, that's it in brief. Thank you once again for your warm welcome and very tangible support, Ian Elliot

Ian Elliot  
Director of Evangelism,  
Advocate for International Student Ministry,  
Director Israel/Palestine Global Partnership

Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada, 1 International Boulevard, Toronto, ON M9W 6H3, Canada, 1-800-668-9766,  
www.ivcf.ca  
Orkney Farm, 1171 East Road, Denman Island, BC, V0R 1T0, Home: 250-335-1663, Cell: 647-228-2387, ianelliot0@gmail.com

## **Kurdish Refugee Family**

Neil Crouch: Hello everyone,

A fair bit to update.

Saeed, Noor and the boys are leaving the Comox Valley on Thursday, the 31st of January. This has, as you might imagine, been brewing for some time.

I visited them again yesterday, Monday the 28th and we went over their plans. Dianne, the property manager, had been there over recent days and was assisting them with furniture measurements and photos to put on Craigslist. They had already had a call about the dining hutch 5 days ago and when I walked in yesterday, there was no couch or easy chair to sit on. We agreed that whatever they could sell – it had all been donated - they were to keep the money to help with travel expenses. Dianne is very sad that they were going but is doing what she can to help and will not ask for the next month's rent despite their not giving a month's notice. She is even allowing them to simply leave what they don't sell and she'll look after it (she's buying a couple of the beds).

There have been a number of incidents with a quite unreasonable and sometimes nasty neighbour (which Dianne feels awful about) that have tipped them over in terms of their desire to depart now, as opposed to in a month or so. My personal take is that they are a family suffering from PTSD and issues like this only serve to trigger anger and the desire - on Saeed's part - to fight. When the family was at our house a couple of weeks back, he showed us some pretty ugly scars on the back of his neck from an attack on him back in Iraq when he was stopped while driving his truck, hauled out, and severely assaulted - close to death blows. Having a person next door pound on the walls and verbally attack them is such a sad thing. Noor tried to take food to the woman (who is about 25 years old) but had the door slammed in her face.

The scene they are going to in Aidrie, Alberta will be so very welcoming as they will be enfolded by family who live 3 houses in a row. They will stay with Ghania and Najih till a separate house can be found. House rental costs are from about \$900 to \$1,200, so, once found, the financial burden will ease in that respect. From my perspective, Noor is not leaving here to be dominated by a mother-in-law - she is really looking forward to having a grandma around with whom she can share the kids. The boys (4 and 8) have really never been to school. Noor needs a break as she has had an ongoing series of migraines; everything has gone through her as translator/mother/wife, etc.

All the issues we have worked on here such as medical, dental, resident status cards, Saeed's driving license, language lessons for all, work for Saeed, etc. are now to be shared by their family. Najih's brother is well versed in much of this and Ghania will be tireless in making things happen. She has been the registered secondary sponsor since the beginning of all this, so I have very little paperwork to do to make this change. You may not remember that Ghania and Najih were living here in Comox when this whole process started over 3 ½ years ago, but they had to go back to the Calgary area because of lack of opportunity to work.

The financial issues will also be simple. The remaining St. Peter's account money that we all helped to fundraise will be divided by 9 and sent to them monthly. No further funds will be solicited or accepted.

Very important for us as a committee and larger community to understand – they are SO thankful for what we have done and they are doing this because it's their choice as the only reasonable thing to do.

### **Operation Christmas Child**

Linda Hughes: A total of 47 boxes were filled by parishioners this year, and the final number for the Comox Valley was 1736. Boxes from Canada will be sent to countries in Central America, West Coastal Africa, and the Ukraine.

A heartfelt thank you to all at St Peter's who participated in Operation Christmas Child.

### **Remembrance Day Open House**

The Rev Christopher Samsom: Tom Morgan was injured this year and needed a break so I stepped in. As always the provision of beverages and goodies was enjoyed by a crowd in excess of 100. The occasion is

much appreciated by the Remembrance Day attendees. My thanks goes out to all the volunteers for their hard work and enthusiasm! Hopefully Tom is up for taking this back up in 2019.

### **Sonshine Lunch Club**

Tom Morgan: the Sonshine Lunch continues to be open Monday to Friday inclusive. The number of guests can range from 80 to 120.

The kitchen at St George's United Church is to be renovated in the Spring, at which time the venue will be changed to another site yet to be named.

The Sonshine Lunch Club thanks the congregation of St Peter's Church for their support given to it for the year 2018.

### **Unity Cupboard**

Denny Beeman: The Unity Cupboard at St. Peter's once again provided generously to the Comox Valley Community in hospitality, groceries, household essentials and winter clothing articles to 359 adults, and 133 of their children.

The number of adults that arrived once a month on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. diminished this year by 50 persons from last year and is expected to be the case for the following reasons. Transportation costs have risen and it may be more important to do 'one stop shopping' monthly at the regular Food bank where there is a greater variety of groceries available. As well it has been noted that other neighboring churches have opened their hearts and practical resources to neighbors in need so more help is possible on a monthly basis.

Regardless the importance of our help is valued by our guests and is always received with grace and thanks and with 404 visitors from the congregation through the year who visit regularly, the outreach has produced a reputation for being a good place to come every month for social and practical reasons. We appreciate as always the 'extras' provided by the congregation to include produce in season, delectable treats, and white gift packages of clothing and cosmetic items.

The Church Street Wood Fire Bakery continues to provide every week, day old breads and bakery items that are a very special addition to the grocery bags and we remain very grateful for their help and continued support.

Besides monetary help from the congregation to assist our annual budget, donations from other agencies in the Valley like the Ladies Auxiliary of the Comox Legion, Comox United Church, and valley neighbors also contribute financially to the program and certainly make a difference to some of the extra articles we can add to the grocery bags. Tops '907' contribute articles of clothing and food on a monthly basis.

A special thanks as always to Gary and Dot Wiffen who weekly bring homemade cookies and tasty surprises to enhance the coffee time together. Their generosity is an important part of the hospitality that we can provide to our guests and our volunteers.

Our faithful volunteers for Tuesday and Thursday mornings include Betty Liddle, Marjorie Warke, Marguerite Toogood, Tricia Marr, Betty Wiegerinck, and Denny Beeman with help from Comox Valley neighbour Bill Woodcock. Extra help when needed includes Leslie Lindsay, Mary Hopwood, Ruth Allen, Rachel Reynolds and Shirley Anderson. We miss the contributions of Maggie Barnett who has returned to Manitoba to help out with her extended family.

As well we have appreciated help received with transport of groceries from car to church house kitchen from the Reverend Christopher Samsom over the two years he has been with us and of course this outreach couldn't be managed without support and practical help from Jim Peacock who over ten years

has shopped, carried groceries, and supported every aspect of this endeavor to help the writer manage the project in its entirety.

The cost of groceries increases substantially and without ongoing financial and volunteer support this outreach certainly couldn't continue.

It's important to note that the work of shopping, transporting groceries, stocking shelves, filling bags, and being present to offer a cup of coffee to guests as well as to converse with care is the important work started years ago by Ingrid Joy Braathen. It was her belief that the 'gifts of God for the people of God' fulfilled a commitment of Christian charity that made a huge difference in the lives of those helped and those who did the helping. Here's to another year of doing both at St. Peter's'.



## Youth for Christ / Youth Unlimited 2018 Report

Robbie Taylor, Executive Director: Thank you for including Youth for Christ Comox Valley in your Annual Report. We believe this partnership in the Gospel work is essential. YFCCV seeks to engage local youth in the Comox Valley and we desire to share Jesus with the 8000 teens between 10-19. Our findings are that there are only 2% of youth that are connected to a faith community and approximately 1% claim to follow Jesus. The Comox Valley youth desperately need Jesus and the life He offers. Therefore YFC steps in that gap to advocate on their behalf and seek to bring Jesus, His love, and life to all youth. Jesus' kindness flows thru His people whose lives are missional focused and desire to see YFC and our staff team be effective. Your investment allows us to seek first His kingdom in this way.

### 2018 YOUTH UNLIMITED WEEKLY ACTIVITIES:

**LUNCH GROUPS:** (Vanier, Highlands High School, & Lake Trail) This gives us relational time with youth and a place to start engaging with them, providing us an opportunity to invite them to youth group, church and other Gospel outreach programs.

**COACHES CORNER:** (Lake Trail and Cumberland Junior Schools on Thursday and Friday at lunchtime) Allows young people time to enjoy lunch in the gym, but gives us a place to speak a truth value into their lives each week as well as supporting and loving the local schools.

**SCHOOL SPORTS ASSISTING:** We assist with the supervision of the Gym Tuesday & Friday at lunchtime we assist in soccer coaching the school boys & girls team and assisting in basketball coaching. Being a coach in a young person's life really gives you an opportunity to encourage, build up youth and show a caring attitude towards them.

**COMMUNITY SPORTS COACHING :** Supporting the community with assisting the coach of local youth teams. Using sports to walk with young people and their families in the local community on a weekly bases. We've found this to be a great way to build bridges into lives of youth and invite them to other church events.

**LOCAL YOUTH GROUPS:** We continue to serve & support all the church youth groups that run in the valley. We are currently staffing and supporting most youth groups. We have seen a direct connection from serving in the schools at lunch and youth joining staff at the youth groups they invite them to, also staff have had the privilege this year to not only lead young people to Christ but have them connected to a church body that they can be a part of.

**YOUTH ALPHA:** We have been assisting in doing a Youth Alpha at local churches.

**"ONE- ON- ONE MEETINGS":** Are set up by our staff with youth on a regular/weekly basis. We've walked through books of the Bible, hard questions needing answers or books like Multiply by Francis Chan or

topics like “sharing faith”. We are seeing fruit from these groups or one on one meetings as they are personal to the needs of the youth involved.

**THE LINC DROP IN CENTRE:** We provide support and volunteer at the local drop-in centre working with marginalized kids in our community. We support them by running programs, cooking meals and helping in supplying resources for the youth in need.

**GLACIER VIEW SCHOOL :** Recently in the fall we were invited into Glacier View Alternative school. This school is a place for at risk teens and many whose school experience so far hasn't work out well. Personal lives in crisis and general setbacks, this school seeks to really empower students to learn and get an education. But many students need help on a daily basis, and we get to walk alongside these teens each day. We have continued to be a part of the life of this school and the principle is thrilled to have such a positive impactful presence. This has allowed staff to connect with many unchurched kids and help them in life. We've been invited to increase our staff and hours here.

#### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**VALENTEEN WEEKEND:** Camp Homewood each February. We provide transportation for the youth groups in the valley. And staff serve and attend.

**DVBS SUMMER CAMPS:** Staff volunteer at all the local DVBS in the Comox Valley.

**SUMMER CAMPS:** Summer camps on Vancouver Island. Staff served as leaders and councilors and engaged with teens all summer. Our involvement allowed students from the Comox Valley to connect with local leaders and start relationships with staff who serve at youth groups throughout the year. Our staff take important leadership roles which benefits the camps with experienced leaders.

**PARENT RESOURCE MINISTRY:** We have recently spent some time building a platform for a resource to get into parents hands in an easy and timely way, helping many parents navigate the culture and help lead their kids with gospel centered parenting. This is still in a planning stage but with the hire of a staff member full time we could have this needed ministry live and active

**STAFF CREDENTIALING:** We also have put a few of our staff through 2 years of formal youth worker training to give them the equipping they need to reach a culture vastly changing. YFC Canada offer training to allow field staff the best tools to reach lost students and to inspire and encourage youth to pursue Jesus. Our involvement allowed students from the Comox Valley to connect with local leaders and start relationships with staff who serve at youth groups throughout the year. Our staff take important leadership roles which benefits the camps with experienced leaders.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and financial support. At this time YFCCV's greatest need is for more field staff. Therefore, financial partnerships and increased support lets us make more impact. Our detailed Executive Director's Annual report and 2018 financial statements will be completed in February. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call the office at 250-338-8416 or email [comoxvalley@yfcanada.org](mailto:comoxvalley@yfcanada.org).

### **Parish Council Nominations**

It's time again to prepare for our Annual General Meeting and for the selections of our Parish Council. Some Council positions are honorary, some filled by appointment and some by election.

The Chair of Council is the incumbent or in the incumbent's absence a warden. The Rev. Gordon Strain, as licensed by the Diocese, is automatically a member of Council. Fr. Lars Olsson and The Rev. Dr. Irene Gifford-Cole are honorary members. The Rector's Warden is appointed by the Rector or in the absence of an incumbent becomes the Bishop's Warden (must be a baptized communicant) and the Treasurer is appointed by the Rector and Wardens.

Appointed positions are:

- 1) The Rector's (Bishop's) Warden, appointed by the Rector (Baptised communicant of the parish).
- 2) The Treasurer, appointed by council.

Elected positions are:

- 1) People's Warden (Baptised communicant of the parish).
- 2) Three (3) delegates to synod (Baptised communicant of the parish).
- 3) Three (3) alternates to synod (Baptised communicant of the parish).
- 4) Up to five (5) members at large.

What sort of people should be on council?

- 1) a person motivated to serve from a loving heart
- 2) a person whose personal life is a worthy example (1 Timothy 3 & 1 Peter 5: 1-4)
- 3) a person of commitment
- 4) a person of prayer and spiritual insights (Acts 10: 9-23)
- 5) a person of dependability
- 6) a flexible person with a cooperative spirit
- 7) a good listener
- 8) a person of maturity and good judgment (Acts 6:3)
- 9) a person with a gift for administration (1 Corinthians 12:28)

Nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.

## **ST. SAVIOUR'S Peoples Warden's Report**

Naomi Elliot: This has been a year of transition for St. Saviour's; with Jim's retirement from St. Peter's we have been the beneficiary of having Jim focus solely on our little church spending 24 hours per month here. This happened at the end of September and coincided with a decision from the bishop to move St. Saviour's towards being an entity in itself apart from St. Peter's. Nevertheless, we still feel very connected to you and hope to continue the partnership in prayer and support, even if not financially.

This year we did not have as many extra events as the previous one, but we did have a beach service on Easter Sunday, a Blessing of the Animals service and a Christmas Eve service, the latter which was attended by over 90 people. The church was busting at the seams, so next year we will have to have two Christmas Eve services or hold the service somewhere else. We also raised the church's profile with a stall at the Blackberry Faire handing out free cupcakes.

The congregation has a strong community feel with a coffee time after church and a weekly bible study. This year we hope to do some more outreach with ideas yet to be determined, we also intend to switch from the 1962 Book of Common Prayer to a booklet modelled after the one used by St Peter's.

We have appreciated the "umbrella" that St. Peter's has provided for the past many years and welcome any of you to come and visit, our services are at 10.30 am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Paul Janz: 2018 Treasurer's Report

2017 Balance Forward	\$1,556.92
<b>INCOME</b>	
St. Peter's Monthly Remittances (Dec 2017 – Sep 2018)	2,000.00
CTF distribution	118.90
Open DI Christmas Hamper Offering	150.75
DIRA (Bottle return income)	321.00
Open Donations to St. Saviour's (for Christmas Hamper, January 2018)	150.00

Donation to St. S (through St. Peter's, anonymous)	1000.00
ECP Offering (Oct-Dec 2018)	3,220.00
Plate Offerings (Oct – Dec 2018)	2,547.00

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Total Income	\$9,507.65
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EXPENSES

Anglican Synod Payroll (Lyster Oct-Dec)	\$2,976.46
Fees & Charges	25.00
Gifts (DI Food Bank Christmas Hamper)	150.00
Hydro	370.62
Altar Supplies	76.11
Travel (Lyster)	297.15

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Total Expenses	(\$3,895.34)
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Closing Book Balance at December 31, 2018	\$7,169.23
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**Consolidated Financial Statements  
Unaudited  
Year Ended December 31, 2018**





Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)  
Year Ended December 31, 2018

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# Independent Review Engagement Report

**To the parishioners of St. Peter's Anglican Church in Comox, BC:**

I have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of St. Peter's Anglican Church (Comox, BC) that includes the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2018 and the consolidated statements of changes in net assets, operations, and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

## **Management's responsibility for the financial statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

## **Practitioner's responsibility**

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on my review. I conducted my review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require me to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

## **Basis for conclusion**

The parish expenses capital assets fully in the year of acquisition rather than capitalizing them and amortizing the costs thereof over the useful lives of the assets. The effects of this departure from Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations on these consolidated financial statements have not been determined.

## **Conclusion**

Except for the failure, as described in the preceding paragraph, to capitalize and amortize capital assets, based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these consolidated financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

## **Report on other legal and regulatory requirements**

As required by the Societies Act of British Columbia, I report that, in my opinion, these accounting principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

*Donald Jacquest*

Donald Jacquest, Comox, BC

January 17, 2019



**Consolidated Statement of Financial Position  
(Unaudited)**

	As at December 31,	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Bank and cash	Note 3	\$ 26,833	\$ 31,147
Government receivable		1,145	866
Payroll deposit with Diocese of BC		2,436	2,874
		<u>\$ 30,414</u>	<u>\$ 34,887</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable		\$ 1,551	\$ 1,878
Future payroll obligations		2,436	2,874
		<u>3,987</u>	<u>4,752</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>26,427</u>	<u>30,135</u>
		<u>\$ 30,414</u>	<u>\$ 34,887</u>

**Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position  
(Unaudited)**

	Year Ended December 31,	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Net Assets at beginning of year</b>		\$ 30,135	\$ 37,366
Deficiency of Revenues over Expenses		<u>(3,708)</u>	<u>(7,231)</u>
<b>Net Assets at end of year</b>		<u>\$ 26,427</u>	<u>\$ 30,135</u>



**Consolidated Statement of Operations  
(Unaudited)**

	Years Ended December 31,	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2017 Actual
<b>Revenue</b>				
Offerings		\$ 270,000	\$ 283,700	\$ 267,929
Bequests		-	-	10,336
Christian education		5,000	5,230	2,805
Refugee and immigrant support		-	1,500	300
Other offerings		1,000	4,055	112
Diocesan grants		2,700	6,000	14,000
Hall rental		4,000	5,176	4,534
Interest income		100	303	163
Fund raising events		500	338	550
Fees	Note 5	-	9,195	7,125
Other income		1,400	933	1,506
Government grants		-	-	8,843
		<u>284,700</u>	<u>316,430</u>	<u>318,203</u>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Operations and office		30,870	30,091	29,626
Buildings and grounds		13,700	12,685	14,844
Capital expenditures	Note 1(b)	-	6,263	-
Outreach		22,750	20,144	21,640
Refugee and immigrant support		-	9,467	2,659
Programs	Note 5	14,175	20,316	19,515
Human resources	Note 4	167,563	185,530	200,326
Synod assessment		35,642	35,642	36,824
		<u>284,700</u>	<u>320,138</u>	<u>325,434</u>
<b>Deficiency of Revenues over Expenses</b>		<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (3,708)</u>	<u>\$ (7,231)</u>

**Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows  
(Unaudited)**

	Years Ended December 31,	2018	2017
<b>Deficiency of Revenues over Expenses</b>		<u>\$ (3,708)</u>	<u>\$ (7,231)</u>
<b>Changes in non-cash working capital</b>			
Decrease (increase) in receivables		(279)	518
Decrease (increase) in deposits and prepaids		438	(1,669)
(Increase) decrease in liabilities		(765)	2,945
		<u>(606)</u>	<u>1,794</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash		(4,314)	(5,437)
Bank and cash at beginning of year		<u>31,147</u>	<u>36,584</u>
Bank and cash at end of year		<u>\$ 26,833</u>	<u>\$ 31,147</u>



## Notes to the Financial Statements (Unaudited) December 31, 2018

### 1. Reporting Entity

St. Peter's Anglican Church, Comox is an unincorporated parish of the Diocese of British Columbia of the Anglican Church of Canada. The Diocese was incorporated by the 1889 Synod Incorporation Act of the Province of BC. The parish includes St. Peter's Anglican Church in Comox and (until September 30, 2018) St. Saviour's Anglican Church on Denman Island. Starting October 2018, St. Saviour's began receiving its own offerings and paying for its own ministry costs.

### 2. Significant Accounting Policies

#### (a) Basis of Presentation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations, with the exception of the treatment of capital assets (see note 2 (c) below).

#### (b) Fund Accounting

The parish uses the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions, which includes a general fund (for all normal operations), a building fund (used to account for internally restricted funds raised for capital expenditures), and other designated funds as required (to account for funds raised for other specific expenditures - currently for refugee and immigrant support).

#### (c) Capital Assets

Capital assets are treated as expenses at the time of acquisition and if any proceeds are ultimately received upon disposal, they would be recorded as revenue. The effect of this divergence from generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations is unknown because the historic cost of the capital assets has not been accumulated, nor has the parish adopted amortization policies or rates.

### 3. Linked Banking Arrangement

The Diocese of British Columbia banks in a linked banking arrangement with most of its parishes (including this parish) and several other Anglican Church related organizations. Each participant has an individual sub-account, designates its own signing authorities and is paid (or charged) interest based on its average monthly balance (or overdraft).

The parish participates in this arrangement and has been granted permission to operate in an overdraft position. Limits on the maximum overdraft permitted are at the discretion of the Diocesan Council. In the event that one or more of the participants should be unable to honour its commitment to repay any overdraft, the Synod would be contingently liable for the amount of any loss. In 2018 St. Peter's Comox received \$74 interest income and paid \$71 interest expense (\$29 and \$127 respectively in 2017).



Notes to the Financial Statements (Unaudited)  
December 31, 2018

**4. Employee Future Benefits**

Human resource costs (remuneration and benefits) of the parish are its single-largest expense. Staff (both lay and ordained) are employed and directly paid by the Diocese of British Columbia, with the full cost being charged back to and expensed by the parish.

To ensure that funds are available to pay for future vacations of staff, the Diocese charges the parish as vacation pay is earned by the employees, and then draws upon those deposits as vacation time is taken. At year-end, the parish adjusts the balances reported for the future payroll obligation and the offsetting deposit with the Diocese, to the amount that the Diocese reports is required for future vacation pay.

Through the Diocese of British Columbia, parish employees participate in either a multi-employer contributory defined benefit pension plan (the General Synod Pension Plan of the Anglican Church of Canada) or in a multi-employee contributory defined contribution pension plan (the Lay Retirement Plan of the Anglican Church of Canada). The Anglican Pension Corporation administers the Plan, including payment of pension benefits on behalf of employers and employees in accordance with the Public Sector Pension Plans Act. The risks and rewards associated with the Plan's unfunded liability or surplus are shared between the employers and the Plan's members and may be reflected in their future contributions.

The current year pension plan expense for the parish (included human resource expense) was \$13,243 (\$12,974 in 2017), and the total pension plan contribution for parish employees was \$20,035 (\$19,713 in 2017).

**5. Comparative Figures**

Certain accounts in prior year figures have been reclassified to conform to the presentation in the current year.



Non-Consolidated Schedule of Financial Position  
(Unaudited)  
As at December 31, 2018

		General Fund	Building Fund	Designated Offerings	Total 2018	Total 2017
<b>Assets</b>						
<b>Current Assets</b>						
Bank and cash	Note 3	\$ 25,675	\$ 1,158	\$ -	\$ 26,833	\$ 31,147
Government receivable		1,131	14	-	1,145	866
Payroll deposit with Diocese of BC		2,436			2,436	2,874
Interfund receivable				22,000	22,000	29,967
		<u>\$ 29,242</u>	<u>\$ 1,172</u>	<u>\$ 22,000</u>	<u>\$ 52,414</u>	<u>\$ 64,854</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Accounts payable		\$ 1,551	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,551	\$ 1,878
Future payroll obligations		2,436			2,436	2,874
Interfund payable		22,000			22,000	29,967
		<u>25,987</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,987</u>	<u>34,719</u>
<b>Net Assets (Liabilities)</b>		<u>3,255</u>	<u>1,172</u>	<u>22,000</u>	<u>26,427</u>	<u>30,135</u>
		<u>\$ 29,242</u>	<u>\$ 1,172</u>	<u>\$ 22,000</u>	<u>\$ 52,414</u>	<u>\$ 64,854</u>

Non-Consolidated Schedule of Changes in Financial Position  
(Unaudited)

Year Ended December 31, 2018	General Fund	Building Fund	Designated Offerings	Total 2018	Total 2017
<b>Net Assets (Liabilities) at beginning of year</b>	\$ (1,194)	\$ 1,362	\$ 29,967	\$ 30,135	\$ 37,366
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenses	<u>4,449</u>	<u>(190)</u>	<u>(7,967)</u>	<u>(3,708)</u>	<u>(7,231)</u>
<b>Net Assets at end of year</b>	<u>\$ 3,255</u>	<u>\$ 1,172</u>	<u>\$ 22,000</u>	<u>\$ 26,427</u>	<u>\$ 30,135</u>



Non-Consolidated Schedule of Operations  
(Unaudited)

Year Ended December 31, 2018	General Fund	Building Fund	Designated Offerings	Total Actual 2018	2018 Budget
<b>Revenue</b>					
Offerings	\$ 283,635	\$ 65	\$ -	\$ 283,700	\$ 270,000
Bequests	-	-	-	-	-
Christian education	5,230	-	-	5,230	5,000
Refugee and immigrant support	-	-	1,500	1,500	-
Other offerings	4,055	-	-	4,055	1,000
Diocesan grants	6,000	-	-	6,000	4,000
Hall rental	5,176	-	-	5,176	4,000
Interest income	295	8	-	303	200
Fund raising events	-	338	-	338	-
Fees	9,195	-	-	9,195	-
Other income	933	-	-	933	500
Government grants	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>314,519</u>	<u>411</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>316,430</u>	<u>284,700</u>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Operations and office	30,091	-	-	30,091	30,870
Buildings and grounds	12,084	601	-	12,685	13,700
Capital expenditures	Note 1(b) 6,263	-	-	6,263	-
Outreach	20,144	-	-	20,144	22,750
Refugee and immigrant support	-	-	9,467	9,467	-
Programs	20,316	-	-	20,316	14,175
Human resources	Note 4 185,530	-	-	185,530	167,563
Synod assessment	35,642	-	-	35,642	35,642
	<u>310,070</u>	<u>601</u>	<u>9,467</u>	<u>320,138</u>	<u>284,700</u>
<b>Excess (Deficiency)</b> <b>of Revenues over Expenses</b>	<u>\$ 4,449</u>	<u>\$ (190)</u>	<u>\$ (7,967)</u>	<u>\$ (3,708)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Year Ended December 31, 2017	General Fund	Building Fund	Designated Offerings	Total Actual 2017	2017 Budget
<b>Revenue</b>					
Offerings	\$ 278,215	\$ 50	\$ 31,147	\$ 309,412	\$ 294,000
Bequests	-	-	-	-	-
Christian education	2,805	-	-	2,805	1,000
Refugee and immigrant support	300	-	-	300	-
Other offerings	112	-	-	112	1,000
Diocesan grants	14,000	-	-	14,000	15,000
Hall rental	4,534	-	-	4,534	4,000
Interest income	157	6	-	163	250
Fund raising events	-	550	-	550	-
Fees	Note 5 7,125	-	-	-	-
Other income	1,506	-	-	1,506	500
Government grants	8,843	-	-	8,843	12,500
	<u>317,597</u>	<u>606</u>	<u>31,147</u>	<u>342,225</u>	<u>328,250</u>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Operations and office	29,626	-	-	29,626	25,750
Buildings and grounds	14,108	736	-	14,844	13,100
Capital expenditures	Note 1(b) -	-	-	-	-
Outreach	21,640	-	-	21,640	27,250
Refugee and immigrant support	300	-	2,675	2,975	-
Programs	Note 5 19,199	-	-	19,199	15,050
Human resources	Note 4 200,326	-	-	200,326	210,276
Synod assessment	36,824	-	-	36,824	36,824
	<u>322,023</u>	<u>736</u>	<u>2,675</u>	<u>325,434</u>	<u>328,250</u>
<b>Excess (Deficiency)</b> <b>of Revenues over Expenses</b>	<u>\$ (4,426)</u>	<u>\$ (130)</u>	<u>\$ 28,472</u>	<u>\$ 16,791</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

## **St. Peter's Anglican Church**

### **Notes on the Simplified Budget for 2019**

A detailed budget for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019 was presented to and approved by Parish Council. This simplified version of the budget is offered for presentation to the Annual General Meeting.

#### **1. Building and Grounds**

Includes all costs related to the heating, cleaning and maintenance of the physical plant.

#### **2. Operations and Office**

This category includes all major expenditures relating to the office and general operations of the parish. Travel within the parish and to diocesan events is also included.

#### **3. Outreach**

Includes the ministry of pastoral outreach and missions within the Comox Valley and to the wider world. Expenditures related to the Unity Cupboard are included here. The budget does not include funds which are now being disbursed to the refugee family. This money was collected in the past, held in trust, and is not part of the operating budget.

#### **4. Programs**

- 1. Christian Education:** Expenditures related to the regular Sunday School program, summer Vacation Bible Camp, and Christian Education for adults.
- 2. General:** Includes the other major programs of the parish, including Evangelism and Discipleship, Library, annual Parish Weekend, Family Life Ministry, Pastoral Support Ministry, Youth related activities.
- 3. Worship:** Includes expenditures related to our weekly services, including flowers, wine, music, media and other liturgical resources. A digital soundboard and technical accessories were purchased in July 2018 and expensed under this category. Because this expense is non-recurring, the 2019 budget has been set at \$4,600 less than 2018 Actual.

#### **5. Human Resources**

- a) Clerical:** The Budget approximates that a new incumbent rector will be in place mid-way through the year. Salary costs were calculated for six months of the Pastoral Associate Clergy (0.5 FTE) plus six months of the interim rector (3 days per week). This would be for the first part of the year. For the remainder of the year, a stipend and housing allowance at the mid-range level of the Diocese of British Columbia standard were calculated for six months of employment. Neither the time of arrival nor the rate of compensation for the new rector is certain and hence all salary budget figures have a high degree of uncertainty.

- 6. Synod Assessment/Shared Diocesan Ministry.** The parish shares in the ministries and programs of the collective Diocesan and National Churches by way of an annual contribution based on parochial income. This contribution is 16.5% of assessable income (parish income less that portion used for Outreach ministry). The parish contribution for 2019 is based on 2017 income.

**St. Peter's Anglican Church  
General Fund Simplified Budget**

	<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Offerings St. Peter's	\$ 273,033	\$ 258,410
Christian Education & VBC	5230	850
Refugee/new immigrant support	1500	0
Other income (including grant income)	12,044	5,750
Other offerings (St. Saviours, Ministry Related Donations)	<u>14,657</u>	<u>500</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>306,464</u>	<u>265,510</u>
<b>Expense</b>		
Buildings & Grounds (Note 1)	12,756	14,800
Operations & Office (Note 2)	31,187	43,520
Outreach (Note 3)	21,643	20,100
Programs--see Schedule "A"	15,256	14,150
Human Resources--see Schedule "B"	185,531	137,677
Synod Assessment (Note 6)	<u>35,642</u>	<u>41,456</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>302,015</u>	<u>271,703</u>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<u>\$ 4,449</u>	<u>\$ -6,193</u>

**Programs Expense--Schedule "A"**

Christian Education (Note 4)	\$ 2,762	\$ 3,000
General	2,670	5,950
Worship	<u>9,824</u>	<u>5,200</u>
	\$ 15,256	\$ 14,150

**Human Resources Expense--Schedule "B"**

<b>Clerical Ministry (Note 5):</b>		
Associate Clergy	\$ 22,245	\$ 11,355
Curate	47,202	0
Locum	2,850	3,000
Rector	41,784	59,852
<b>Other Ministries:</b>		
Custodial services	13,424	13,710
Music ministry honorarium	4,250	4,250
Office administration	21,941	22,310
Employee benefits	31,835	22,200
Administrative/Labour Support	<u>0</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	\$ 185,531	\$ 137,677