

St. David's United Church *Annual Report 2016/17*



Growing & deepening our spiritual lives
in an affirming and inclusive community

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ST. DAVID'S CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES 2017-2018

CHAIR

Deb Chamuski (2015) Jun-18

VICE CHAIR

- vacant -

PAST CHAIR

- vacant -

A.C.T.S.

Brenda Wallace (Chair) Jun-18
Jock McTavish (2003)
Bonnae McTavish (2006)
Marlene Holst (2011)
Joan Gray (2012)

Wayne Holst (adult ministry)
Peggy McDonagh (minister)
Kelly Warner (minister)

PSALT

Brenda Wallace Jun-19
PSALT members

MINISTRY OF FAMILIES

Rachelle Hardin Jun-19

Alison Demeter (minister)

FINANCE

Bob Clare (Chair) Jun-18
Colin Outtrim
Kyle Carroll (filling in for Mitch)

Janet Zatka (Accountant)

REFUGEE

Ruth Cross (2015) (Chair) Jun-18
Bob Liddle (2015) Jun-18
Sally Hodges (2015) Jun-18
Donna Falon (2015) Jun-18

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES

Gary Koehler (2005)
Marion Whitman (2005)

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

- vacant -

- vacant -

- vacant -

Peggy McDonagh

MUSIC

Ad hoc committee when required

Brent Tucker (music director)

PASTORAL CARE

Dana Young (Chair) (2014) Jun-17
Sharon Larson (2014) Jun-17
Janet Larson (2014) Jun-17
Audrey Bridgewater (2014) Jun-17

Kelly Warner (minister)

PROPERTY

Bruce Sunderland Jun-18
Sherri Melrose Jun-18
Dave McMurtry (2012) Jun-18
Ron Lowe Jun-18

AFFIRMING COMMITTEE

Jennifer Ferleyko (Chair)
Heather Chubb-Way
Darlene Heyne
Lori McLaren
Dianne Trew
Michael Trew

Kelly Warner (minister)

SECRETARY

- vacant -

TREASURER

Bob Clare (2010) Jun-19

WORSHIP

Rachelle Hardin Jun-18

- vacant -

- vacant -

Brent Tucker (music director)

Kelly Warner (minister)

Peggy McDonagh (minister)

COMMUNICATION

Chantal Marentette Jun-19

TRUSTEES

(open-ended term)
Ian Halladay (Chair)(2000)
Dave McMurtry (2000)
Jack Beaton (

Peggy McDonagh (minister)

FOUNDATION

Janet Frolich (Chair) Jun-18
Frans Heynen Jun-18
Bill Dickson Jun-18
Mike Stockdale Jun-19
Ruth Cross Jun-18
Ross Purvis Jun-19
Norm Shannon Jun-19
Tapas Sikder Jun-19

Compiled by Deb Chamuski. Start years in brackets after names; terms end in stated month/year.

In Loving Memory
October 2016 – October 2017

Chisholm, Florence.....October 30, 2016

Bull, Sharon.....November 2, 2016

Glockner, Peter.....November 5, 2016

McKinnon, Perry.....November 19, 2016

Farguharson, Emma.....November 23, 2016

Hewitt, Viola.....December 11, 2016

Cebuliak, Sue.....December 19, 2016

Layton, Marjorie.....December 29, 2016

McBean, Allan.....January 5, 2017

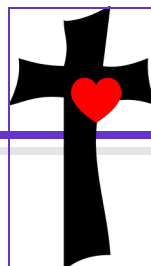
Caunt, Mildred.....January 30, 2017

Hobbs, Joyce.....September 27, 2017

Young, Homer.....September 30, 2017

Dymsky, Jesse.....October 2, 2017

Young, Thelma.....October 12, 2017



**Rev. Peggy McDonagh, Minister of Congregational
Operations and Worship
Annual Report for 2016/17**

“There is something that emerges when a certain group energy begins to flow together. There is a current among us happening. That current. . .allows you to see the oneness, the identity with all that we have – then you say – there is in this connection not what I am doing to you or you are doing to me, but an experience that is totally interactive.”

This quote by Rabbi Zalmar Schachter-Shalomi articulates well the life and work of St. David’s congregation this past year. Once again we stop for a moment to reflect on the year that has passed and to affirm the ways we have, as a community, connected our voices, hearts and faith as we have dreamed, shared, cared, loved, and grown on our journey of faith. As you read through this Official Annual Report you will notice the many successes that we have experienced, the various events and decisions that shaped our story, what we have learned and how we have grown. As you read these reports you will observe that St. David’s is a centre of human relatedness and we have endeavoured to see the best in one another, we shared our dreams and concerns in affirming ways, and we worked hard to be a community that welcomes, accepts, learns, cares, and supports.

I feel blessed to be a minister at St. David’s. There is so much I treasure and love about this community. In particular I want to express my deepest appreciation to the sacred service team leaders and their teams. We are into the second year of running this program that has proven to be a great success. The Sacred Service program has widened the volunteer participation in helping with the coffee fellowship time, communion, ushering, greeting, preparing the sanctuary for worship, to name only a few of the activities these team oversee.

This year we have continued to grow and deepen our spiritual lives in an affirming and inclusive community upholding as always our monthly values. This year some of the values include expectancy, anticipation, diligence, empathy, open-heartedness, and justice, to name a few. As we strive to reflect these values in our words and actions we nurture and strengthen our interactions, care, understanding and respect for one another ensuring that we are being generous and loving toward one another. We have grown and deepened our spiritual lives by attending worship, educating ourselves through book studies, communing with nature, making deep connections with people, sharing meals, volunteering, performing random acts of kindness, sharing stories, praying, meditating, extending hospitality to young and old, being friendly and welcoming, challenging our faith, and thinking positively. God’s spirit permeated it all with a gentle quiet, a calming hovering, and a blessed feeling of wonder.

I express my deepest thanks to all people within this community for the time and talent that has been graciously and generously shared to create some memorable community events, worship experiences, meetings, sacred moments, and pastoral support. Whatever you have offered this community throughout the year, whether it be your presence in worship, volunteering, leading, or learning, each offering has blessed this community with grace, diversity, beauty and joy.

I offer thanks to the staff team for their perseverance, diligence, and commitment, and for all the diverse gifts, skills and talents we offer that enable us to live our ministries effectively and caringly with the congregation.

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Gathering in a faith community to nurture and grow our spiritual lives allows us to look within and to others for the answers to life's purpose and meaning and we can gain confidence in our ability to face the circumstances of life within and outside the church whatever they may be. In community we have the opportunity to embrace moments away from the busyness of life, to be in calm, to be in sacred space, and to be refreshed and renewed.

Each of us is an integral and beautiful part of the St. David's spiritual community on an exciting journey of faith, discovery and growth. Let us continue to walk together with anticipation, commitment, faith and hope with open minds and open hearts, and never stop loving wastefully, living responsibly, venturing beyond safe boundaries, exploring the crevices of the unknown, reaching past our comfort zones, touching other hearts, lifting other spirits, embracing wisdom, and living extravagant lives of God infused with wonder, beauty, goodness, and compassion. May our Christ consciousness lived in community honor the highest within each of us and be the light by which all life is guided.

*Namaste,
Reverend Peggy*



Council Chair Message

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who comprises the family of St. David's United Church for your support and belief in our vision of ***Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an Affirming and Inclusive Community*** during the past year of 2016-2017.

We are grateful to all of our staff here at St. David's United Church for their tireless efforts on our behalf. From our ministerial team of Peggy McDonagh, Kelley Warner and Alison Demeter, who have provided us with thought-provoking, spiritual direction and programming this past year, to Brent Tucker for his tireless and inspiring work with three choirs ensuring that their music spiritually enhances the worship experiences, to Chantal (Marentette) Winslow, who has done an incredible job as she stepped into the role of our office administrator, to Wayne Holst, who oversees adult spiritual development and growth, to Janet Zatka, our accountant who does much more than just crunching numbers, to Abby Hunter, Nooshin Esmaeli and Trent Burke who ensure our nursery and Faith Quest programs are conducted in a safe and nurturing environment and to Wally Pelley, our custodian, who keeps our property and grounds in ship shape and throws in a hand where needed. The ongoing efforts of each of these individuals are vital to ensuring that the *growing and deepening our spiritual lives* component of our mission statement is realized by all.

We have many things to celebrate and be thankful for. We continue to provide support to our refugee family and the Tibetan Resettlement project. This past year St. David's became a member of the Metro Alliance for the Common Good via the ACTS program. The congregation financially supported a member of the Affirming Committee to attend the Affirming Conference in Vancouver this year. Our much beloved music ministry outdid themselves. From Sunday worship to concerts and recitals, the sound of music truly did grace our church this year. The Sacred Service team initiative, which began in September of 2016, has been a great success and has provided a small group ministry, increased the volunteer stream and created a greater sense of belonging to all those who participate.

As you read through this 2016-2017 Annual Report I hope you are proud of what has been accomplished, the result of many volunteers and their time and talents that are given freely to ensure we have a healthy congregation, both spiritually and financially. The Church Council will continue to provide leadership by being responsible for the work of the church and bringing to the table those issues, plans and ideas that need our attention. On a personal note, I truly feel privileged to work with such a dedicated and spirit-infused group of people that presently comprise our Council.

The year has not been without its challenges. Our revenues and attendance are declining. We are struggling to find people to volunteer on our committees. Our hard-working finance committee, in conjunction with Council, continues to remain vigilant on keeping our expenses side of the budget in check while exploring options on a path forward to ensure the future of St. David's. More information on this and chances to become involved will be forthcoming.

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As we look to the future of our community I do encourage everyone to believe that whatever big or small talent you have to offer and the time you can afford, is truly a generous gift to our church family. Of course, the most valued gift is that of your continued faith and beliefs that make us who we are.

The journey of being a relevant, effective, inspiration and seeking Church continues my friends. We have many challenges ahead of us and as we walk the “pathway of hope” together it reminds me of one of my favourite verses of the bible – Micah 6:8

What does the Lord require of you?

to seek justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Yours on the journey in Faith,
Debra Charnuski, Chair of Council

Pastoral Care Ministry Annual Report 2016/17

September 2016 - 2017 has been busy for the Pastoral Care Committee and its Petal group ministries. The Pastoral Care Committee continues to focus on visioning and enacting ideas that are felt to benefit the community. After a successful year, we had the opportunity to envision and formulate possible new activities and directions that we developed for the upcoming 2017-2018 year.

These events and ministries are possible because of the dedication, compassion and commitment of those participating in Pastoral Care at St. David's United Church. We would like to acknowledge the contributions of some of the team who are moving on to other opportunities. Dana Young-Shermack has been an invaluable chair of our pastoral care committee but she has agreed to offer her considerable gifts and insights to the Ministry & Personnel committee. We will deeply miss her. We are also grateful to Louise Taylor for her dedication to the Benevolent Card Ministry and to June Martin in her capacity to offer hospitality as a driver, for those that might otherwise be unable to attend, our Sunday worship service. We wish both June and Louise well as they seek other ways to participate in the life of St. David's.

Some of the committee's work included brainstorming workshop ideas that serve both the congregation and the community at large. We conceived the notion of an Embodied Spirituality through: Walking, Yoga and Drumming. In the Fall of 2016, we launched the Spirituality of Walking series that included over the year: an introduction, a walking meditation through Canmore Park, and a Labyrinth. The drumming series led by Heather Johnstone and Linda Michel and the yoga sessions led by Kristen Goudo and Sara Glessing, were well attended and participants' feedback indicated the sessions were worthwhile and meaningful.

Several events focused on dealing with grief and they included a fantastic presentation by Mary Maxwell, a woman who experienced much loss in her life. She offered us ritual, poetry and story-sharing as a means of experiencing peace and wellness. The Blue Christmas service was well-attended and was supported by both ministerial staff, several committee members, and the Healing Touch team. In the New Year we were blessed to have Evie Wallace, and Dr. Michael Trew, who addressed the timely topic of Medical Assistance in Death. Their personal connection to this topic was heartfelt and deeply compassionate.

Other events included: a First Aid Course, participation in the Thursday Muffin Ministry and lastly the final event of the year, the 'Volunteer Thank You Luncheon', which was our chance as a committee, to celebrate the contributions that the Petal Groups make to the lives of those that attend St. David's.

Each Petal Group Ministry is dedicated in their service to the St. David's community. The Prayer Shawl Ministry continued to offer their gifts to those in need, by creating stunning prayer shawls and baptismal shawls; a physical reminder of this community's strength. Members of the Prayer Chain Ministry continued to extend their time and the mediation of their hearts to those that are facing difficult times. They meet three times each year to share their understanding of both praying for those struggling and exploring the wisdom around prayer. The Healing Touch Ministry takes that same focus of care and offers it through their thoughtful healing of the 'whole person'. Open sessions are available the first Wednesday of each month. The Card Ministry shows their support to those that are sick or in grief by sending a card from the St. David's community. The Sunday Drivers provide our community members, that would not have a way to get to Sunday Service, a ride from the Seniors Residence at the Colonel Belcher. The Sunday Office Volunteers are a warm and informative voice to those that call on a Sunday morning looking for information regarding worship and those needing assistance navigating the office. Not often heralded but truly appreciated are those that step up to man the elevator when there is an event in Robertson's Hall.

The Pastoral Care Team at St. David's has proven that it takes everyone to care for a community. In the face of a challenging year, the St. David's Pastoral Care team has not only continued to support this congregation with our many enduring programs but also looks to explore new ways to live out the values we uphold.

Going forward our team recognizes the need for meeting our aging congregation with appropriate workshops and invite those that feel they can contribute to our compassionate team to consider joining us. If you feel called to this ministry, please contact me.

Faithfully submitted,
Rev. Kelley Warner
Minister of Pastoral Care



Children's Worship and Education Ministry

Annual Report 2016/17

FAITH QUEST & YOUTH

Statistics

An average of .3 children visited the nursery each Sunday,

2 children from 2 families were registered in the Nursery.

1 additional child from 1 family remains connected to St. David's.

An average of 10 children attended Faith Quest each Sunday:

25 children from 19 families were registered in the Faith Quest program.

14 additional children from 11 families remained connected to St. David's.

An average of 2.9 youth and .7 young adults (18-20 years) attended Youth Group each Sunday.

9 youth from 10 families were registered

16 additional youth from 9 families remained connected to St. David's.

Structure

- Most Sundays the children of varying ages worked together with the younger and older children often working together in pairs.
- Abby Hunter provided children in the nursery with care as well as helping with the Faith Quest program when there were no children present in the nursery. A flexible entry point for three-year-old children into Faith Quest remains.
- Although Alison continued to be connected with the Faith Quest children through the Faith Chat and cooperative units, most Sundays, she led the Youth Program.
- Nooshin and Trent were hired to lead the large group, concepts and activities. Abby joined them when there was no one in the Nursery. Many thanks to the staff and volunteers who facilitated the Faith Quest activities while we were in transition.

Volunteers and Paid Staff

- Approximately 60 adults, youth, and children volunteered to be Lead, Shepherd & help with Faith Quest, YAMF, Planting Sunday, Christian Family Service, and the Family Christmas Eve service.
- Although Alison continued to engage with the children at the beginning of the service, during the Faith Chat, within particular units, and with YAMF visits, Alison Demeter filled the Ministry of Families position with 19 hours per week. This involved supervising the Faith Quest leaders and leading the Youth Group.
- Due to a decline in volunteers for weekly units, Nooshin Esmaeili and Trent Burke were hired for 4.0 hours each to lead the Faith Quest program. Abby Hunter worked 3.0 hours per week in the nursery/Faith Quest Program.

FQ Programming

Over the course of this year, the children explored seven different spiritual practices and how each relates to the spirit and scripture.

Grieving. In response to the passing of Clara Holte, the children explored the book "Tear Soup" for their first unit.

Beholding God's Creatures. Through this unit, the children learned about St. Francis of Assisi and participated in a "Blessing of the Animals" service.

Beholding God's Creations. Through this unit, the children explored the Biblical story, "The Bent Over Woman", They walked outdoors, played the "Beholding Game" and completed a craft activity in which. They practiced beholding themselves, each other and the world around them.

Christmas She Wrote: A White Gift Mystery. The children participated in a secret mission that experientially taught them about the importance of Advent, White Gift Sunday, and the charities that St. David's supports during the Christmas Season.

Caring for Our Sacred Space. After exploring a "Blessing" ritual, the children gave the "Gathering Room" some care and attention. We created a sacred ark with a number of special objects to take home to use in spiritual practice.

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Sacred Reading. In this unit we explored the ancient spiritual practice “Lectio Divina” or “Sacred Reading.” We focused on scriptures from the Bible that speak about the importance of love.

Seeds of Goodness in Me. Through this unit, we explored the unique seeds that God “the Gardener” has planted in ourselves and how we can nurture those seeds so we can grow into who God intended us to be.

Seeds of Goodness in You. Through this unit, we explored the unique seeds that God “the Gardener” has planted in others and how we can nurture those seeds so we can support others to grow into who God intended them to be.

God the Gardener: Sowing Seeds of Goodness. We concluded our formal Faith Quest program by presenting a play that utilized the learning from the previous units. The children and youth worked cooperatively to lead the service.

Youth Programming

In addition to collaborating with the children for the White Gift and Family Services, the youth spent many Sundays planning and then renovating the Youth Room. They followed the Faith Quest themes that were presented to them in the framework of the Skills & Principles of Loving.

YOU ARE MY FAMILY

Celebrating its eighth year, **You Are My Family** (YAMF) is a time set aside to intentionally spend time with our nuclear families and our church family. It is through these shared experiences that we create community within and beyond the church. Three times this year in November, December and May, we met in community, shared a meal, and engaged in activity. For the remaining months, Alison shared lunch and visited with families in their homes. This year included the, Church Decorating & Pizza, Advent Intergenerational Brunch, Year End BBQ and Home Visits with Families.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Ice Cream Sunday: Parents registered their children for nursery and Faith Quest and families were invited to share ice-cream and fellowship.

White Gift Sunday Service: This year we engaged in a mission that involved amateur detective, Jessica Fletcher and her friend Seth. (33 adults, youth & children led worship)

Christmas Eve Service: All families were encouraged to take part in a Christmas Eve play at 4:30. Many adults, youth and children were given speaking roles (practiced ahead of time) and all were encouraged to dress up in costume. (56 people led the service)

Family Service: With Kelley, Nooshin, Abby and Alison, the young families led worship. Two of three children received their bibles and six children moved up to youth church. (22 children and youth participated)

Flower Planting: The children planted the gardens under the direction of Alison, Nooshin, Trent, Marie Couch and Karen McKeown.

Church BBQ: Held in partnership with other committees, the BBQ & Potluck was a success. Games and face painting were offered outside after lunch. Dixie cups were received with great excitement!

Respectfully submitted by Alison Demeter on behalf of the 2016-17 Family Ministries Committee:
Denise Carroll, Shawna Hansen. Rachele Hardin, Lisa Hay, Claire Sharp, Janet Stewart



ACTS
(AWAKENING COMPASSION THROUGH THEOLOGY & SPIRITUALITY)
ADULT SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT
Annual Report 2016/17

Mission:

To affirm and expand opportunities for adult spiritual development and learning within the context of the Christian faith both at St. David's and in the wider community.

Committee Members (as of June 30, 2017)

Brenda Wallace (Chair), Wayne Holst (Staff), Bonnae McTavish, Jock McTavish, Marlene Holst, Joan Gray and Peggy McDonagh (Staff)

2016-2017 Theme - Spreading our Wings

ACTS has continued on its path toward growing and defining our sense of faith and reflecting upon our roots as Christians and citizens of the global community.

ACTS News

The ACTS Ministry continues to play a vital role in the ongoing story of St. David's United Church. With our dual focus on spiritual growth and social justice, we are challenged to deepen our understandings and awareness of the complexity of issues facing us as Christians in the post-modern world.

Thanks to the continuing efforts of Kerri Duncan McCartney who ably stewards our books, we celebrate the circulation of books and the comfortable and enticing arrangement of books and furniture in the conversation/reading area in the foyer.

By the nature of our program, ACTS' presence is visible Sunday morning before and after church as members of the congregation have an opportunity to purchase books or register for programs that we offer. The ACTS banner with its overview of our programs offers a daily reminder to those visiting SDUC over the week. Thank you, David Layton, for designing and donating the banner.

Brenda Wallace, as the current chair of ACTS, keeps our Ministry informed by "Council Briefs" following monthly Council Meetings and, in her new capacity of webmaster of SDUC.ca, keeps the congregation informed as well.

Special Events:

The South Africa Tour: October 2017 — Wayne and Marlene Holst, working with Rostad Travel, are preparing to lead a group of Spiritual Travellers through a journey of South Africa. As has become customary, the travellers will share their experiences with us during Sunday morning service during the 2017-2018 church year.

Christmas Book Sale: ACTS sold and took orders for some 15 books, selected for the annual Christmas Book sale. Samples of the books were added to the Library collection.

Silent Retreat: Our fourth annual retreat was held, March 1, 2017 at Mt. St. Francis with Susan Campbell, director of MSF, leading us through a delightful afternoon of reflection. The theme of the retreat was "**Encountering Mercy**" which gave us cause for contemplation as we adjourned to the beauty of the location, either at rest on the chairs opening to the gardens or walking the perimeter on the fresh fallen snow. Mark your calendars for the beginning of Lent, 2018 and make it a goal to attend the ACTS annual retreat.

Programming:

ACTS continued to offer our regular programs, including the following:

Monday Night Book Study - Our Monday Night Book Study continued to draw in many participants and, for those unable to be present, many followers of the book studies did so online, thanks for Jock McTavish and Wayne Holst for their faithful input.

ACTS theme for the church year book studies was “**Rediscovering the Bible for Today**” so, as a community of learners, in the fall of 2016, we journeyed through the book, “**Reclaiming the Bible for the Non-Religious**” - by Bishop John Shelby Spong and during the winter of 2017 we studied “**How Jesus Became God**” by Bart D. Ehrman. With more than 40 books in their archives, Monday Night Book Study offers a variety of opportunities for adult study of theology and spiritual growth.

Thursday Morning Bible Study - A faithful group of adults joined with Wayne Holst in their study of the Bible. In the Fall of 2016, a study of Mark grounded lively conversation while a focus on the Books of Joshua and Judges provided the backdrop in the winter session. Participants use the study resource, “The DK Complete Bible Handbook” in their journey through the Bible. This program is entering its 14th year with Wayne Holst.

An exciting extension of our **commitment to outreach** has been the decision to support the **Metro Alliance for the Common Good**. St. Davidians have attended seminars and planning sessions as St. David's has joined with several city churches and Calgary institutions to work cooperatively with other institutions to “**Organize the power of communities to shape a just and compassionate city.**” The hope is to create a broad-based shared diverse organization that is dedicated to building relationships from various community, ethnic, non-profit, labour and religious groups. MACG strives to use the principles and techniques of community organizing to address current issues of reconciliation with Indigenous people, aging and poverty facing Calgarians.

Conclusion:

In the past few years, the ACTS ministry has contributed \$500 yearly to the general fund of SDUC in addition to being a self-funding ministry. During this church year, we have contributed an additional \$500.00. The Monday Night Book Study continues to draw in well more than 30 registrants.

The fourth Spiritual Travelers' Tour will take place in October 2017, to South Africa. This outreach program continues to meet congregational needs and wishes. Again, thanks to all who participated in or supported our programs through the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Wallace
Chair, ACTS Committee



Metro Alliance for the Common Good (MACG)

"One of the things I appreciate about the organizing tradition is that it starts at another place, listening and trying to understand each other. Think about a good one to one. We begin by trying to understand what make the person in front of us tick. We try to discover each other's passions, joys and suffering in the hopes of discovering the possibility of working together for our common good. Someone once poetically described it as a mixing of souls. This is how we build relationships, and our shared power to tackle our city's issues."

-Ryan Andersen

After hearing a presentation about MACG, last February, St. David's made the decision to support the organization for a trial period of a year. The Metro Alliance For the Common Good brings together organizations and communities of Calgary to transform our city into a community which acts justly and respects all. MACG is directed by a team of leaders from participating institutions and a few of our church members are participating in this work

Objectives:

- Create a network involving people from diverse religious, non-profit, labour, neighbourhood and ethnic groups to foster meaningful relationships between and within these communities,
- Develop leaders who can promote healthy and effective civic life,
- Effectively address the key justice issues facing Calgary,
- Harness the voice and the power of the people of Calgary to transform our city by addressing the systems, policies, and underlying causes of poverty and injustice.

Over the last year it was decided to focus on two issues facing Calgarians presently: reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous people and supports for seniors. Two research action teams, both of which then engaged in research and finding concrete goals to work on.

Seniors Team - has chosen to focus on helping people, become aware of, and accessing the supports that already exists for seniors, and they are working with the city to develop a plan for how this can happen. The seniors team is also focused on having a sliding scale and verified contractors so that people can access non-medical home supports to help them stay in their homes. The Greater Edmonton Alliance participated in a pilot project in Edmonton which was successful at providing such services and we are exploring how something similar could happen in Calgary. Regular Meetings for this Seniors team are held the second Thursday of each month from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour at 8831 Fairmount Dr. SE.

Reconciliation Team - is focusing on land being set aside for an Indigenous Gathering Place in Calgary and how to provide education rooted in relationships to help us address our colonial legacy. Regular Meetings for the Reconciliation team are held the third Wednesday of the month from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church located at 1703 1st NW.

Foundations of Community Organizing Workshop – as a member organization of MACG anyone interested in leaning more about the 'community organizing process' is invited to attend, for free, a nine hour session offered over three evenings November 13, 20th and 27th from 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm.

Music Ministry Annual Report 2016/17

Another active and exciting year has come and gone in our musical life at St. David's. This fall has proved no different with engaging concerts already taking place within the first few weeks. Here are the highlights from the past year in parish music life

- Sunday October 16 was the first of six Evening Compline services this year. An additional element of each service this time around was a pre-Compline recital provided by various soloists and ensembles. Many thanks to each of the choirs, instrumentalists, and ministers who made all of this possible.
- What has become annual tradition for us saw the Sanctuary Choir participating in Latter Day Saints church's Easter Choral Festival. Sunday April 2 featured our choir, along with other local choral ensembles from various denominations, singing sacred Lenten and Easter music
- This year, our annual choral project was Faure's Requiem performed by the Chamber Choir and conducted by guest conductor Graham Fast. As 2017 also marked the 30th anniversary of the installation of our Keates-Geisler pipe organ, the first half of the concert featured organ selections performed by Brent Tucker and Garrett Krause. This concert saw the world premiere of Garrett Krause's *Celestial*, a work commissioned specifically for this concert and which was met with great enthusiasm from the audience.
- The Angel Voices were invited to return to the Water Valley Celtic Music Festival held annually in the middle of June. Sacred and secular Celtic and Spiritual anthems were sung to appreciative audiences. We were delighted to deliver the world premiere of Garrett Krause's *Traces*, a newly commissioned work written for the Angels.
- This fall got off to a roaring start with Stephen Ross performing Mozart's Piano Concerto in C minor along with a full orchestra on Friday, September 29.
- Less than one week later, October 4 saw Irish tenor Emmet Cahill, of the group Celtic Thunder, delivering a concert at our church. He was joined by the combined choirs of our parish for 2 selections.

Due to this anniversary year of our pipe organ, some enhancements were made by installing two new ranks of pipes and removing old ones. These new pipes add increasing color to the palette of sounds capable of being produced by our wonderful instrument.

I would be remiss in not mentioning a sincere gratitude to our two fine accompanists Colleen Charter and Garrett Krause. Without their talents and spirit, it would not be possible to accomplish the ministry our music program is able to provide.

A huge thanks is also due to each and every choir member, instrumentalist, and "behind-the-scenes person" who gives of their time and talent so generously. These folks continuously strive to help make music an integral part of worship and carry on the long-standing tradition of fine music making at St. David's.

Let every instrument be tuned for praise!

Respectfully Submitted
Brent Tucker, Organist and Director of Music



Worship Committee

Annual Report 2016/17

The Worship life at St. David's this past year was active, meaningful, eventfilled and creative. The Worship Committee's feels a sense of gratitude and appreciation for all the evolving and inspiring worship life here at St. David's. Its main function is to oversee the various components of the worship life at St. David's United Church.

There were two committee members in this past season, Rachelle Hardin and Marne Harding. Ruth Cross continues to oversee the Christmas sale of poinsettias and the Easter sale of Easter potted chrysanthemums because we are shorthanded. The proceeds of the flower sales go to the Flower Fund.

Each month, St. David's places a banner in the sanctuary naming the value of the month. Some of the values honored this year included Expectancy, Cheerfulness, Empathy, Anticipation, Encouragement, Optimism, Mindfulness, Rebirth, Enthusiasm and Delight. Chantal Winslow located an organization that makes the banners that offer much more cost effective options and also allowing her to give her own spin on the lettering and colors. Peter designed a new technique to display them.

A new Sacred Service Team program was initiated that began in September 2016. There are 12 teams, each with its own team leader, covering one month during the year. Sacred services teams provide all the preparations for Sunday Worship, such as: ushering, greeting, coffee, set up, to name a few of their responsibilities. The Worship Committee is no longer responsible for overseeing communion. This task is now covered by this new program.

On September 26 we had our official Affirming Celebration in recognition of St. David's completing the United Church of Canada Affirming Process that culminated in a majority vote on May 29. This was followed by a welcome back lunch. In October we celebrated World Communion, Thanksgiving, and World Food Sunday. We had a delightful Intergenerational Blessing of the Animals service on October 23. There were two baptisms in October: Jasper Isom and Chase Latam. Arise Dance graced our worship on November 27 with their dance prayer performance.

The Worship Committee invited guest speakers throughout the year. As part of the Advent season and support for social services in Calgary through the Giving Tree; Amanda St. Laurent from CUPS, Kate Hawsworth from the Alex Centre and Janet Stewart from Wood's Homes. The Blue Christmas service was held December 4 led by Kelley Warner. The Choir presented their Lessons and Carols service, December 18 and there were two Christmas Eve services: Family Service at 4:30 pm and Candlelight Service at 8:00. Kelley Warner led the December 25th service with the help of Brent Tucker.

The Worship Committee arranged for outside artists to add stylistic expressions to some service for example the Arise group performed their prayer dance for two services: November 27, 2016 and Easter Sunday.

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Worship at St. David's continues to be inclusive, affirming, inspiring and meaningful. As part of our affirming mandate the Affirming Committee led a number of our worship services throughout the year. The Refugee Committee participated in worship on January 22 and officially introduced the Yalda family to the congregation.

Other guest speakers were Dr. Mike Trew (January 15) who spoke about medical assistance in dying and Ryan Anderson (February 5) who spoke to us about the Metro Alliance for the Common Good, a group we have partnered with that brings like-minded citizens from different faith traditions, non-profits, unions, health care advocates, and others to work on the large issues facing Calgary.

There were six evening Compline services, October 16, November 20, December 18, January 15, February 19 and March 19, 2017 and seven communion services. On June 11 we experienced the Blanket ceremony during worship and on June 18 we welcomed Chantal Chagnon, Cheryl Chagnon Greyeyes, Clarence Wolfleg Jr., and Dorothy Walker for another inspiring First Nations Sunday.

The Worship Committee would like to thank all the volunteers for making this past year memorable, successful, and meaningful and ensuring that the worship life at St. David's continues to grow and nurture our spiritual lives. Our gratitude goes out to all volunteers: to the PSALT team, the sacred services teams that oversaw the ushers and greeters, offering counters, communion servers, coffee hosts, and numerous other functions. Thanks also to our scripture readers overseen by Eileen Ladd, Sunday morning office personnel, and the flowers in the sanctuary overseen by June Martin. Your dedication and commitment to serve in some aspect at St. David's to contribute to its vitality and ministry are invaluable and deeply appreciated.

The Worship Committee now has only one member. We are deeply in need of people to help on this committee. This committee works with paid accountant staff to ensure that the worship life at St. David's is meaningful, creative, and affirming. The 2017-2018 year many of our duties will continue to be covered by the new Sacred Service program and we are delighted to report that this service has been of great benefit to the staff and congregation.

Respectfully submitted by Peggy McDonagh and Rachelle Harding
Staff Reps on the Committee: Brent Tucker, Kelley Warner, Peggy McDonagh



Communications Annual Report 2016/17

Our new office administrator, Chantal Marentette, has moved into her role with ease and competence as she has assumed many responsibilities including tasks within the Communications Ministry. Developing monthly Newsletters and other advertising matters as well as dealing with computer issues are being handled by the office while maintaining the **church website** sduc.ca continues to be handled by Brenda Wallace. Coordinating and funding activities of the PSALT (Projection, Sound and Light Team) and providing sound and projection support for weddings, funerals, and other special events at the church is administered jointly by co-Chairs of PSALT, Brenda Wallace and Meryl Arnott in conjunction with Chantal Marentette, office administrator.

Work has continued on the improvement and maintenance of the sound, light and projection capabilities at SDUC with special thanks to the amazing and dedicated PSALT team. Special thanks to the Purvis' and Wallace-Layton's for their generous donations of LED lights for the sanctuary.

Special thanks go to members of the PSALT team who faithfully participate in the Sunday morning service and other PSALT functions: Mike Trew, Alison Slater, Tapas Sikder, Meryl Arnott, David Mitchell, Erwan Goasdoue, Barry Marcellus, Jonathan Sharp, George White and Tauran Wood. We will miss the contributions of Erwan Goasdoue who served the team for 10 years.

We are always looking for more people to be involved in this committee, so if you are interested, **please** contact the church office or Brenda Wallace.

Brenda Wallace, chair
Communications Committee



Ministry and Personnel Committee Annual Report 2015/16

The Ministry and Personnel Committee met regularly throughout the year. Each committee member was responsible for two or three staff members. We contacted or met with staff members and listened to their concerns and supported their work and ministries.

Committee Members: Sheryl Schoenthaler (chair),
Bill Way (recorder), Wendy Dey and Joan Gray.



Property Committee Annual Report 2014/15

On behalf of the Property Committee, I am pleased to report that, in spite of the off emergency, the church remains standing and we have high hopes that it will continue to do so for the coming year.

The second bathroom on the main floor has been a resounding success. Due to extremely generous donations from the Church Family and The Friendship Club again this year, we have been able to replace the carpet in the foyer and hallway to the TM room. We have also replaced the worn carpet at the front of the sanctuary and aisles. This has improved both the appearance and acoustics. Just to be clear, this work was not funded from the church budget but from designated givings.

We are responsible for hall rentals and public parking. Both continue to be a strong source of Church revenue. We have increased the number of church member parking spots for easier access during the week. Sherri Melrose and our office administrator, Chantal, have done a wonderful job monitoring the parking.

I wish to thank Peter Adams, our on call contractor for his continuing work in maintaining and improving the church facility. As you no doubt noticed, we have experienced a problem with the front steps. Peter immediately came to our assistance as soon as we noticed the problem.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their enthusiastic support throughout the year. Your property committee members are Sherri Melrose, Dave Mc Murtry, Ron Lowe and myself. I am proud to announce all are staying for the coming year. I could not ask for a finer group to work with. Thank you to all.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Sunderland, Chair



Finance Committee Annual Report 2015/16

The Finance Committee is responsible for the annual budget, monitoring and reporting of our finances and working with Council to assist in the betterment of the Church's financial position.

This year we ended with an overall deficit of \$(29,931) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. This was anticipated, and somewhat less than the budgeted deficit of \$(41,777). This deficit included the expense of a full complement of Ministry and Support staff for the entire year. Revenue from receipted offerings was down from last year by \$26,808 and is consistent with the decline in attendance. PAR donations decreased over the year from 101 to 91. Income from church parking and church rentals resulted in an increase of \$904 over last year. Increased rental revenue was received for part time use (music exams) by the Royal Conservatory of Music. Our Salt & Light program yielded \$4,096 and stewardship initiatives was \$3,900 both well below budget. Other revenue was received from weddings and funerals, St David's United Church Foundation, the friendship club, etc. A number of donors gave to restricted funds for specific projects for which we are very grateful. These donations helped to fund a number of projects such as new carpet in the foyer and the additional main floor washroom. Overall total revenue was less than last year by net \$35,681 and 26% of operating revenue comes from renting out the parking lot and building. Our church programming continues with the support of facility rentals and parking revenue.

Our Committee expenses were close to budget target (96%) leaving \$20,631 unspent to contribute to reducing the deficit. We would like to thank all Committees for staying within budget.

Looking to the current 2017-2018 year, the congregation has approved another challenging deficit budget of \$(51,970). This budget was passed based at the June 4th meeting. All expenses including Ministry and Personnel (M&P) will be roughly the same amount as last year. We need to have the existing ministry programs to gain new members and retain our current membership. Council will be working on various initiatives which will be presented to the congregation at the Nov 26th AGM to again reduce this deficit. We feel that this is a conservative budget and with new initiatives we are optimistic that our results will be better.

Our Challenge in the upcoming years remains in our membership. We have a vibrant and active community and we need to ensure that we continue to grow this base.

The Finance Committee wishes to thank our members, Colin Outtrim and Kyle Carroll for their contributions and also thank Janet Zarka, Financial Administrator, for her invaluable contributions.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Clare, Treasurer



Affirming Committee Annual Report 2016/17

St. David's United Church moved into its second year of being an official "Affirming Congregation" following receiving the designation from Affirm United.

In looking at new ways we can support St. David's United Church continuing commitment to being an inclusive and welcoming place for all, the committee has worked on a variety of things over this past year.

Many ideas were shared about how we were going to bring a visual representation of our commitment. We now have a few rainbow flags proudly hung to do so along with some rainbow ribbon designed window stickers on our doors.

Throughout the year, numerous items were added to the library around inclusivity. Also added were some heart shaped stickers placed on the spine of any books that involve these topics as well.

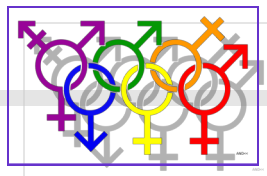
On April 30th, the affirming committee was proud to host a Sunday service that included in it, three special speakers. They came to share their monologues that they had performed earlier in the year at the "Coming out in Faith Monologues" that was held at Hillhurst United Church.

In July, I was able to represent SDUC at national level while attending the annual Affirm United conference that was held in Vancouver, hosted by St. Andrew's Wesley United Church. This year, Affirm United was also partnered with Spirit Pride that was being held at the same time in Vancouver. I couldn't take notes fast enough from all of the amazing speakers that I had the privilege of listening to. I'd like to take this opportunity in this report to also express my appreciation for being able to attend. Thank you.

Throughout the year, we have also been connected to the Affirm Gathering Network here in Calgary by attending the quarterly meetings of which we were able to host one in September. This year, 13 of the Affirming Churches in Calgary all put some money and people together to participate in the Pride Parade in Calgary. This included having a float in the parade as well as having a booth for the first time at Prince's Island Park. An information pamphlet was put together that had all of the network affirming churches information on it. It was handed out at the booth along with a variety of goodies that the churches all put together. The people who walked with the float in the parade said that they were happy to see how much the parade had grown over the past year. They talked about the amazing level of love and acceptance that was thick in the air throughout the parade except for one corner that had a group of very vocal individuals that were clearly against everything that the parade stands for. Although, it was unfortunate to hear how this dampened their experience of the parade, I believe it is actually a very important reminder of why we still need to march. Why we still need to assertively advocate acceptance and inclusivity for all. I was able to be at the booth at the park for the day and was really happy to see the surprise and appreciation that was shown in people's faces when they learned what an affirmed church meant: That there are churches that accept them fully!

We are making a difference.

Faithfully submitted by the Affirming Ministry Committee,
Jennifer Ferleyko, Chair



Refugee Committee **Annual Report 2016/17**

The St. David's Refugee Committee exists to assist in resettling refugees in Calgary. Currently, there are two parts to our mandate. In 2013, St. David's committed to support the Calgary Tibetan Project, and in 2014, St. David's also committed to sponsor and resettle an Iraqi Christian family of six from Baghdad.

St. David's Refugee Sponsorship and Resettlement for Abid Yalda Family

The Abid Yalda family arrived in Calgary from Baghdad, Iraq, on August 30, 2016 after a very long wait.

St. David's commitment was to provide the Yalda family with financial resources for one year, and to assist in their resettlement in Calgary with such things as: setting them up in a home, assisting with the many federal and provincial applications, enrolling the three school-age boys into schools, getting parents Abid and Aedah and 19-year-old Mirna into ESL classes, providing friendship, driving them to appointments and for groceries and clothing, assisting Abid to find part-time work while learning English, helping the family to understand Canadian ways – and the list goes on. St. Thomas United Church came on board with great enthusiasm in October 2015, and they collected sufficient goods, together with St. David's and the Friendship Club, to furnish a townhouse in Ranchlands in September 2016. St. Thomas and St. David's have worked jointly in providing services such as those listed above. Volunteers from our churches provided many hours of time to support Abid, Aedah, Mirna, Meron, Veron and Aider in their successful resettlement in Calgary.

Mirna started English classes in a youth program in mid-September, 2016, and the boys were enrolled in the Catholic system in late September, with Meron in Grade 10, Veron in Grade 7 and Aider, who had never been to school before, in Grade 3. Mirna had already learned a lot of English, but not so the boys. We have seen their abilities in English improve steadily over the year; they have all worked hard to learn. Aedah began English at Bow Valley College as a beginner in January, 2017, with Abid following in May in a higher level. They too have worked hard to learn this new language.

Mirna is dedicated to her learning, hoping to go to university one day, and outside of class, she spends a great deal of time on her homework, as well as helping her brothers with theirs. Meron and Aider love soccer, and played community soccer in the spring as well as at school. Veron enjoys playing basketball at school.

Abid found a part-time job in early June, and was very happy to help to support his family. Together with Canada and Alberta Child benefits, GST credits and Alberta Income Support, the family income is now adequate. Abid hopes to increase this income with a second part-time job he has been offered, which, at the time of this writing, he is trying out.

St. David's official sponsorship ended on August 30, 2017, but we haven't stepped away yet! The Refugee Sponsorship Restricted Fund has sufficient funds remaining to help the family make the transition to independent living. We have paid one extra month's rent and will put the rest toward such items as grocery cards, dental bills and gift cards for Christmas. Members of St. David's and St. Thomas continue to support the family with driving to appointments, English classes for the three boys twice a week, helping to set up a new lease between Abid and the management company, answering the family's questions on confusing items or situations, and extending friendship to them.

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The family has progressed remarkably over the past year, and we believe that they are well prepared to be self-sufficient. And although our Refugee Committee financial support will end, the friendship will not.

The whole family is very, very grateful for all the assistance we have provided to them. They are delightful, happy people, and they love having visitors!

We thank and celebrate all those who have contributed financially and with goods and services – individuals from St. David's, St. Thomas, the Friendship Club, Woodcliff United, Symons Valley United and the St. David's Foundation. Our sponsorship of the family would have been impossible without your support!

St. David's Tibetan Refugee Resettlement Project

The Canada Tibet Project Society has successfully resettled almost 1000 Tibetans in five Canadian cities and almost 400 of those came to Calgary. Nima Dorjee of Calgary leads both the Canada and Calgary projects.

St. David's is to be celebrated for its role in making this Project happen successfully. We have had monetary donations from individuals and the SDUC Foundation and many donations of furnishings and time. Symons Valley United Church members continue to assist us.

The Canada-wide Project and us are looking forward to when all of the applicants chosen have arrived as the Project has extended well past the expected two years. Government policy changes and the numbers of Syrian refugees have contributed to this extended time. There are only 12 still to come to Calgary.

St. David's volunteers continue to take the Bina Transition Home residents grocery shopping weekly as needed.

We had an exception this year though when an April arrival, a single mother of three, needed more support. She has an old arm injury that has made any employment very painful. She is being assessed for a surgical repair. The Calgary Project continues to support her at Bina and St. David's extended grocery shopping for her and her two teenagers. So that she could learn to manage her grocery costs and shop by herself, St David's donated \$500 to the Calgary Project in July to dispense to her for groceries. She does receive Child Benefits and does limited employment.

Between April and September there were no arrivals. Twelve arrived in September and all but two mature men moved from Bina to live with relatives or to work in Canmore. The single mother is enjoying her ESL classes and the two single men at Bina will need classes too if employment does not come soon. The final 12 to arrive do not have family already here so we expect they will need our two months of support at Bina.

The Calgary Tibetan community very much supports fellow Tibetans and they in turn support others in need in Calgary.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth A. Cross, Chair, and Donna Fallon, Member
St. David's Refugee Committee



The Board of Trustees **Annual Report 2017**

St. David's Board of Trustees holds title to St. David's real and personal property for the use and benefit of the congregation. The trustees are elected by the congregation and are governed by the public statute and the requirements of the United Church of Canada.

At St. David's property matters are handled by the Property Committee and financial matters are the joint responsibility of the Trustees and the Financial Committee. The trustees endeavour to see that St. David's financial assets are managed to provide reasonable returns in line with prudent investment practices. All other relevant matters including insurance are handled by the trustees. Insurance coverage is regularly updated to reflect the value of St. David's assets and to cover its various activities.

St. David's Trustees Peggy McDonagh, Jack Beaton, Ian Halladay and David McMurtry take pleasure in serving St. David's congregation and the United Church.

Respectfully submitted
Ian Halladay, Chair

Congregational Statistics

2016 –2017

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| Confirmed Membership..... | 507 |
| Households Under Pastoral Care..... | 292 |
| Number of Households Financially Supporting Local Operations..... | 262 |
| Received by Transfer..... | 2 |
| Adult Baptism..... | 0 |
| Child Baptism..... | 4 |
| Youth Confirmation..... | 0 |
| Received by profession of Faith..... | 11 |
| Removed by Certificate of Transfer..... | 2 |
| Removed by Death..... | 10 |
| Marriages..... | 12 |
| Funerals & Memorials..... | 8 |