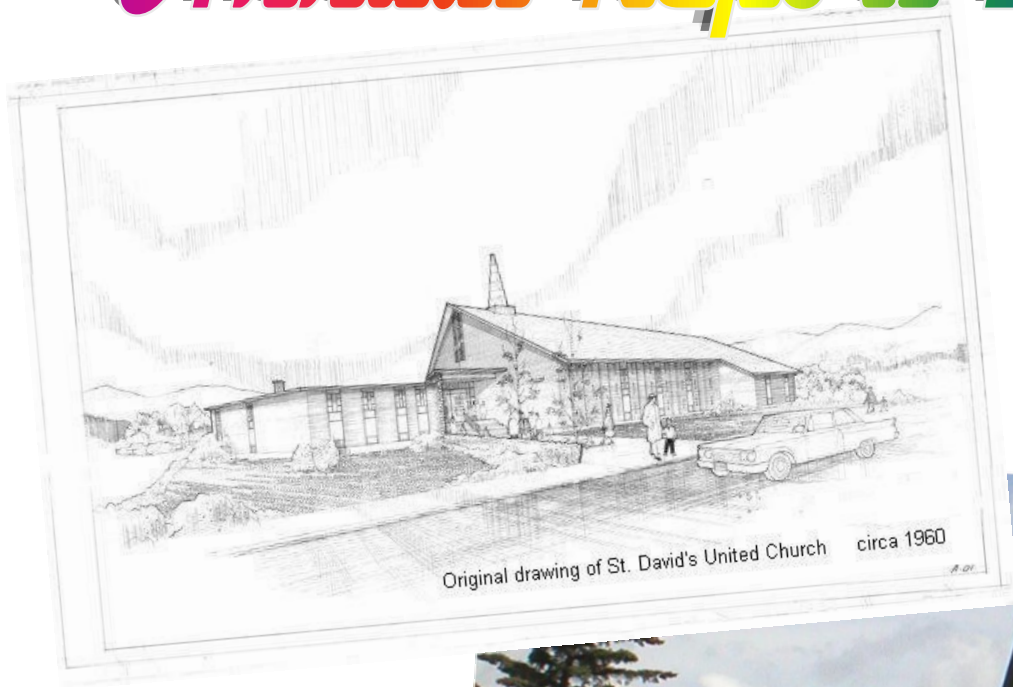


St. David's United Church

Annual Report 2015/16



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

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ST. DAVID'S CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

2016/2017

CHAIR		SECRETARY	
Deb Chamuski	Jun-18	PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES	<i>Vacant</i>
		Gary Koehler (2005)	
VICE CHAIR		Marion Whitman (2005)	
- vacant -		TREASURER	Bob Clare (2010) Jun-19
PAST CHAIR			
- vacant -			
		WORSHIP	
A.C.T.S.		MINISTRY & PERSONNEL	
Brenda Wallace Chair	Jun-18	Sheryl Schoenthaler (Chair)	Dec-16
Jock McTavish (2003)		Bill Way	Jun-17
Bonnae McTavish (2006)		Wendy Day	Jun-17
Marlene Holst (2011)		Joan Gray	Jun-17
Joan Gray (2012)			
		Peggy McDonagh	Brent Tucker (Music)
			Peggy McDonagh, (Minister)
			Kelley Warner (Pastoral Care)
		MUSIC	
Wayne Holst (adult ministry)		Ad Hoc if required	
Peggy McDonagh (minister)		Brent Tucker (music director)	
		COMMUNICATION	Chantal Marentette Jun-19
PSALT		PASTORAL CARE	
Brenda Wallace	Jun-19	Dana Young	Jun-14
PSALT members		Audrey Bridgewater	Jun-17
		Sharon Larson	Jun-17
		Janet Larson	Jun-17
MINISTRY OF FAMILIES		Kelley Warner, Minister	
Shauna Hansen	Jun-19		
Barb Holte ????		TRUSTEES	(open-ended term)
Janet Stewart (2017)	Jun-20	PROPERTY	Ian Halladay (Chair)
Denise Carroll	Jun-19	Bruce Sunderland	Jun-18
Rachelle Harden	Jun-19	Sherri Melrose	Jun-18
Alison Demeter (children's ministry)		Dave McMurtry (2012)	Jun-18
		Ron Lowe	Jun-16
FINANCE			Peggy McDonagh (minister)
Bob Clare	Jun-16		
Mitch Holte	Jun-17		
Marc Slater	Jun-17		
Kyle Carroll (filling in for Mitch)		FOUNDATION	
Janet Zatka (Accountant)		AFFIRMING COMMITTEE	Jan Frolich (Chair) Jun-18
		Jennifer Ferleyko (Chair)	Jun-19
		Heather Chubb-Way	Jun-19
		Darlene Heynan	Jun-19
REFUGEE		Lori McLaren	Jun-19
Ruth Cross (2015) (Chair)	Jun-18	Dianne Trew	Jun-19
Bob Little (2015)	Jun-18	Michael Trew	Jun-19
Sally Hodges (2015)	Jun-18		Norm Shannon Jun-19
Donna Falon (2015)	Jun-18	Kelley Warner, Minister	Tapas Sikder Jun-19

Council Policy: Maximum length for a term of service is two consecutive 3-year terms; then 2 years off before re-joining.

In Loving Memory
October 2015 – October 2016

Jesse, Grace Florence.....November 11, 2015

Follett, Karen Joan.....November 25, 2015

Rasmussen, Kevin Lenard.....January 2, 2016

Avery, Marion Rose.....March 3, 2016

McVeigh, Geraldine Louise.....March 7, 2016

McIntosh, Robert Benson.....March 10, 2016

Layton, Hugh Cecil.....March 18, 2016

Ritter, Georgianna Isabella.....May 11, 2016

Hobbs, Allan William.....May 15, 2016

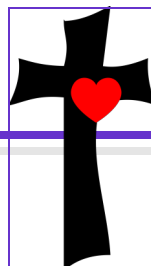
Eremko, Ann.....June 1, 2016

Weiffenbach, Armin.....August 10, 2016

Holte, Clara.....August 17, 2016

Evans, Betty.....August 22, 2016

Ferris, Sharon.....September 23, 2016



Rev. Peggy McDonagh, Minister of Congregational Operations and Worship Annual Report for 2015/16

With each passing year October and autumn seem to arrive exceedingly more quickly leaving the summer season as a precious memory. Was I not just strolling through a beautiful wooded park in Kimberly, BC or giggling uproariously with my grand niece at Christina Lake, or consuming a tasty ice cream the Port Alberni Quay savoring a beautiful ocean scene and the surrounding mountain splendor. Those July and August summer days have been too soon replaced by the hectic pace of church life.

As I reflect on the past year my heart is touched by the love that has been extended to me by so many of you and how kind-hearted and understanding the people are of this congregation. Throughout the year we have connected our voices, hearts and faith as we dreamed, shared, cared, loved, and grown on this journey of faith we continue to walk with one other. As is true with each year this annual report reflects the vibrant and active faith life at St. David's and the commitment, energy and time given by so many volunteers to enable us to be a spiritual presence not only in the lives of those who attend but within the larger community.

It has been fulfilling to help plan and participate in all the events, worship experiences, meetings, sacred moments, and pastoral care that have occurred throughout the year. I recall working with faithful and inspired people such as Yvonne Jobin, Clarence Wolflet, Jr. and Dorothy Walker who brought their spirituality to our First Nations worship on June 19th. It is always a delight to work with Yvonne as we plan the service together. During the Advent season we invited people who work for outreach programs in Calgary to share their stories, wisdom, and mission with us; their work honors and supports the lives of so many people in this city and beyond. This year we welcomed guests Brian Bradley from the Mustard Seed and Thunder from the Women's Centre.

I recall all the memorable worship experiences by the ACTS ministry. We heard of the remarkable tour made to the Holy Land, inspired insights from the Monday Night Book Study Group and Thursday morning Bible Study group.

On the journey to become an affirming congregation the Affirming Committee created and led some insightful and inspired moments during worship, opening our hearts and minds to what it means to be an inclusive, caring, and courageous church family. As always, I appreciate sharing ministry and creating worship experiences with Kelley, Aaron, and Alison. We said farewell to Aaron Navrady, our youth leader, who decided it was time for him to explore his art in a deeper more intentional way. Kathryn Doherty, the Office Manager also took her leave this year. Both staff members were committed, hard working, fun and a pleasure to work with during their time at St. David's.

During our worship times we have been pulled into moments of deeper reflection, of questioning more intentionally the meaning and purpose of life, of heartfelt laughter, and blessed hope. Together we have celebrated rites of passage, bid farewell to long time members and friends, celebrated the lives of those who died, welcomed new people to the community, and volunteered hundreds of hours of time and energy to the variety of events, lunches, meetings, and activities that give life to our faith family.

...cont'd

My work at St. David's is blessed as I share ministry with a supportive staff team, each one offering grace, diversity, determination, commitment, silliness, and insight to the team. I sincerely thank the team for a divine blessed year of adventure and to the congregation for letting our team share your adventure of faith in this place and in these times. We welcome to our team Chantal Marentette, our new Office Administrator.

Richard Holloway describes a divinely enlivened church as a community of faithful, spirit-filled people who do not live frightened and cautious lives, but live extravagantly, giving warmth and kindness. A burning passion kindles a spirit community "into life, into thought, into love and compassion, into laughter and daring."

As we move into the future may we be generous, warm, kind-hearted, affirming, and adventurous, not allowing ourselves to be held back by fears and limitations and to keep before us the values we set for the 2016/2017 church year: Expectancy, Beholding, Empathy, Anticipation, Encouragement, Light-heartedness, Mindfulness, Rebirth, Enthusiasm, and Delight.

Gathering in a faith community to deepen 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. May this church year enrich, renew, and give us vision, strength, and energy to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, and to be the compassionate presence of God in the world.

Bless to us, O God, the moon that is above us,
The earth that is beneath us,
The friends who are around us,
Your image deep within us.

Bless to us, O God,
The earth beneath our feet,
The path whereon we go.
The people whom we meet. Amen.

*Namaste,
Reverend Peggy*



Pastoral Care Ministry Annual Report 2015/16

This last 2015/2016 year provided an opportunity for stability and growth within St. David's pastoral care ministry. With Kelley Warner at the helm and our dedicated committee and petal group members standing strong we were prepared to take on new challenges in addition to the wonderful work already being faithfully done.

The Pastoral Care Committee continues to focus on visioning and enacting ideas that are felt to benefit the community. During the first part of our year we had the opportunity to envision and form possible new activities and directions that we developed in the upcoming year and will continue to offer in the year to come.

Some of the committee's work included the brainstorming of workshop ideas that serve both the congregation and the community at large. The Living with Unexpected change series ran for three sessions over the year and focused on supporting those experiencing change with community encouragement and coping strategies. The Blue Christmas service was supported by both ministerial staff, several committee members, and the Healing Touch team. The final event of the year, the 'Thank You Tea', is our chance as a committee to celebrate the contributions 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 communities 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 together three times each year to share their understanding of both praying for those struggling and their appreciation of meditation with the spirit. 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 to the congregation monthly and at the Blue Christmas service where their team continued to offer a laying on of hands and blessing. 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.

In the face of a challenging year St. David's Pastoral Care 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Young-Shermack
Pastoral Care Committee



Children's Worship and Education Ministry

Annual Report 2015/16

FAITH QUEST

Statistics

- Thirty-four children were registered in the Faith Quest program representing 21 families.
- Eleven additional children remain connected to SDUC representing eight additional families
- An average of 17 children attended each Sunday.
- Three children were registered in the nursery.
- An average of 1.4 children visited the nursery each Sunday.

Structure

- Most Sundays the children of varying ages worked together, with the younger and older children often working together in pairs.
- Claire Hunter, and then Abby Hunter provided children in the nursery with care. A flexible entry point for three-year-old children into Faith Quest remains.
- Alison went on a three month sabbatical from the last week of September until just before Christmas. She then continued in her role of shepherd in the large group to ensure the unit concepts were taught and taught consistently. Many thanks to the volunteers who facilitated the Faith Quest activities and hosted different classes each week.

Volunteers and Paid Staff

- Approximately 800 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 and Nursery take down.
- Alison Demeter filled the Children's Ministry position with 15 hours per week.
- Claire Hunter who was a paid staff in the nursery resigned in the spring. Abby Hunter was hired to replace her, each working 3.5 hours per week.

Units

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

Cooking. During this unit, the children explored the practice of cooking with foods from the Bible. Upon the completion of the unit, they had prepared watermelon/pomegranate juice, country chili and cinnamon buns – all gluten, nut, egg and dairy free!

Quilting. Through this unit, the children began making personal quilt hangings. They explored stories and songs about the Underground Railroad and learned how quilts have been used to help enslaved people gain their freedom.

Sherlock Holmes: 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.

Pottery. Through this unit, we explored "God the Potter" and who God created each of us to be. The children took home hand-built clay containers that represent the outer and inner aspects of who they are as well as sculptures that represent the gifts that make each of them unique.

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Night Sky Gazing. In this unit we explored the night sky. The children created a night sky mobile, a night sky prayer lantern, and, using drama, the children explored the shepherd's life in the "Parable of the Lost Sheep."

Mindful Listening to Music. Music is everywhere; on TV, in elevators, in the grocery stores and on our devices. But how often do we really listen to music and allow ourselves to feel its impact? In this unit, we embarked on a journey of the soul through mindful listening.

Communion. In this unit we explored why, as Christians, we engage in the practice of communion by exploring the story of "The Last Supper," and working together to prepare a "child friendly" communion prayer.

Service. We concluded our formal Faith Quest program this year by utilizing what the children had learned in the previous unit. The children and their families were invited to assist in leading worship, the communion prayer and serving communion within the service.

YOU ARE MY FAMILY

Celebrating its sixth 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. Four times this year in September, 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:

- Fall Gather & Hot Dog Roast at Sandy Beach Park
- Church Decorating & Pizza
- Advent Intergenerational Brunch
- Year End BBQ
- Three 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 Detective Sherlock Holmes and his assistant Dr. John Watson.

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. (42 people led the service)

Family Service: With Kelley and Alison, the young families led worship, the communion prayer and served communion. Two of three children received their bibles and six children moved up to youth church. (39 children and adults participated)

Flower Planting: The children planted the gardens under the direction of Barb Holte, 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 2015-16 CWE Committee:
Denise Carroll, Barb Holte, Jennifer Marr



Youth Church

Annual Report 2015/16

Our theme for the 2015-16 season was "The Language of the Unheard" about exploring white privilege and minority black and aboriginal voices in the North American context. "A Riot is the Language of the Unheard." - Rev Martin Luther King Jr.

In Youth Church:

- We watched MTV's documentary "White People". The film breaks the ice about dominant culture and privilege in the context of different communities in the United States. We also explored responses to the film from members of the African American community.
- The Lemon Exercise helped us look at how perceived racial similarities affect our perception of otherness
- We explored exercises and material from the Storytelling Project Curriculum, dealing with dominant and subversive narratives in race and racism. This work cast a light on the stories we tell about ourselves in the context of our world, and how some stories remain hidden from view, either because they are uncomfortable or they interrupt the main narratives that we hold close to us.
- One of the segments looked at the history of race, and how race is in fact a construct. Using our genetic science, scientists have shown how genetically inter-related individuals are, even as they have different 'races' or live in different parts of the world.
- We explored the Story of Canada, our home and native land ... a story of a nation that is a multicultural beacon, inclusive and welcoming to all cultures. But does this match the lived experience of ordinary citizens?
- We looked at the history of indigenous cultures in Canada, including what Canada looked like as a map before the arrival of Europeans.
- We explored representations of Canadian stories in the media (through the Heritage Minutes series) and in advertising.
- We looked at depictions of Aboriginals in Hollywood in the film "Reel Injuns"
- We had Métis Scholar Greg Lowan-Trudeau come and talk about Aboriginal Identity and Culture, Idle No More and the relationship between First Nations and Canadian peoples
- We had Brenda Johnstone from the Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre give a presentation on dominant culture and racism
- Godly Play stories were heard on Sunday mornings throughout the season.

Teen Spirit Events:

- Real World Monopoly
- Mustard Seed Night Tour
- Nativity Christmas Event
- Volunteering at the Drop-In Centre

Aaron Navrady, SDUC Youth Leader

On behalf of the 2015/16 St David's UC Youth Church:

Shawna Hansen, Kathy Krug, Becca Chubb-Way, and Cathie Kernaghan



ACTS
(AWAKENING COMPASSION THROUGH THEOLOGY & SPIRITUALITY)
ADULT SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT
Annual Report 2015/16

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, 2015)

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

2015-2016 Theme - Regrowth

ACTS has continued on its path toward re-growing and re-defining our sense of faith and re-discovering our history 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 understanding and awareness of the complexity of issues facing us as Christians in the post-modern world.

The projection capabilities in the Tatanga Mani Room continue to augment programming opportunities and the reading corner in the main foyer attracts both conversation and meditative reflection, thanks to the continuing efforts of Kerri Duncan McCartney who ably stewards our books.

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.

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 Holy Land Tour: October 2015 — Wayne and Marlene Holst, working with Rostad Travel, led a group of Spiritual Travellers through a journey of the Holy Land and then shared their experiences with us during Sunday morning service. Jock McTavish edited a much-enjoyed video of their travels.

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 third annual retreat was held, February 29, 2016 at Mt. St. Francis with Susan Campbell, director of MSF, leading us through a delightful afternoon of reflection. The theme of the retreat was “OPENING THE JUBILEE DOOR: A FOCUS ON THE ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI”. The retreat was well attended and we look forward to next year.

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. As a community of learners, in the fall of 2015, we journeyed through the books “**Learning to Walk in the Dark**” by Barbara Brown Taylor and “**Between the Dark and the Daylight**” by Joan Chittister, considering the value of challenge and darkness in our lives. During the winter of 2016 we moved out of our comfort zone to tackle global issues. Our study of “Chosen” by Walter Brueggeman and “Islam” by Karen Armstrong was often challenging and, at the very least, provided a much needed broader perspective on issues facing the modern world. With almost 40 books in their archives, Monday Night Book Study offers a variety of opportunities for adult theologic learning 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 2015, a study of Exodus grounded lively conversation while a focus on the Books of Job and Daniel 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 13th year with Wayne Holst.

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. The fall program of Monday Night Book Study (Fall 2016) has 36 registrants.

The third Spiritual Travellers Tour took place in October 2015, to Israel and Jordan and plans are in the beginning stage for 2017. 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



Music Ministry

Annual Report 2015/16

As we begin another musical year at St. David's, we look forward to new musical offerings that will assist in worshipping. Let this beginning also be a time to reflect on the music we have already made and worshipped with. The following includes highlights from the past year in the music program:

- Sunday October 18 saw the first Evening Compline of the year taking place. While these services have been previously held once or twice a year, we launched an experiment by holding a Compline on the third Sunday of the month from October to March. Although the congregations did not number greatly, those in attendance expressed deep gratitude and appreciation for the meaningfulness of this worship style. Due to the success of this venture, Complines will once again be held on the third Sunday evening of the month from October to March, 2016-17. Many thanks to the various choirs and ministers who made this all possible.
- On Sunday November 29, we were once again blessed to have the University of Calgary Chorus, under the direction of our own Colleen Whidden, leading music in worship. This 90 voice choir sang several selections to help us begin the season of Advent.
- Once again, the Latter Day Saints Church invited us to participate in their annual Easter Choral Festival. Sunday March 6 saw the Sanctuary Choir and other local choral ensembles from various denominations singing sacred Lenten and Easter music
- In April, a major choral concert was held at St. David's in which our Chamber Choir combined forces with the Foothills Philharmonic Chorus and performed Mozart's Great Mass in C minor with soloists and orchestra. Our own Brittany Rae and Alex Hart were two of the soloists. This concert was also performed for two nights in May at Okotoks United Church. Funding for this monumental choral event was made possible by a generous donation from the estate of Alexa Church.
- The Angel Voices concluded their season by taking part in the Water Valley Celtic Music Festival held annually in the middle of June. They sang both sacred and secular Celtic and Spiritual anthems to appreciative audiences.

While these musical events are highlights of the past year's activities here at St. David's, it must be noted that every week we are blessed with music from our dedicated choral ensembles, parish musicians, and guest instrumentalists. These individuals allow us to worship through music each Sunday and on special church calendar days. My sincerest gratitude is extended to two people in particular who assist immeasurably in making all of this happen: Garrett Krause and Colleen Charter. These outstanding and talented accompanists help make our music program possible and I am deeply indebted to them. To each and every choir member and musician – a most heartfelt thanks for sharing your time and talents in worship. For all the appreciation given by the congregation to the music program, a genuine thanks is given to you.

May we continue to make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Respectfully Submitted
Brent Tucker, Organist and Director of Music



Worship Committee

Annual Report 2015/16

The Worship Committee feels a sense of gratitude, hope 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. As well, we have responsibility for the preparation of the sacraments of Communion and Baptism.

The committee meets monthly; we met 5 times in the 2015-2016 year. There were two committee members in this past season, Rachelle Hardin and Marne Harding. Ruth Cross continues to be in charge of changing the paraments seasonally. She also organizes the Christmas sale of poinsettias and the Easter sale of Easter potted chrysanthemums because we are short-handed. The proceeds of the flower sales go to the Flower Fund.

Each month, St. David's places a banner in the sanctuary announcing and naming the value of the month. The values held up this year were Connection, Blessings, Courage, Surprise, Diligence, Growth, Calmness, Open-heartedness, Recognition and Justice. Peggy McDonagh has researched more cost effective options for banners and has taken on a leadership role to find a solution.

It was noted that the announcements during the service are too long and hence a Minute Speak form was constructed to allow members of the committees at St. David's to provide short announcements at the beginning of the services. Kelley Warner has provided valuable options into how to reduce the announcement time and yet still show a face of the committee members. The Minute Speak form has been an effective administrative document.

Brent Tucker has provided Evening Compline Services for the 3rd Sunday of each month. The Compline services have been well attended and the Worship Committee expresses gratitude to Brent for providing this service.

The Worship Committee supported the inclusion of guest speakers throughout the year. As part of the Advent season and support for social services in Calgary through the Giving Tree; Brian Bradley from the Mustard Seed, Thunder from the Women's Centre and a short film about the Inn from the Cold program. St. David's ACTS group gave a presentation of the Jerusalem Tour (November 15, 2015) as well as a service that highlighted the Bible Study group (January 17, 2016) and the Monday Night Study Group (April 17, 2016).

The Worship Committee arranged for outside artists to add stylistic expressions to some services. The Corp Bara Dancers danced for the Easter Sunday service and the Perfect Cadence Wind Quintet played on December 6, 2015.

Worship at St. David's continues to be inclusive, affirming, inspiring and meaningful. This year the congregation journeyed through the Affirming process. Kelley Warner and the Affirming Committee lead a number of services: September 20, 2015, January 10, 2016 and May 8, 2016 with a variety of guest speakers. On May 29 following worship, the Congregational Meeting voted on becoming an Affirming congregation.

...cont'd

Aaron Navrady and the Youth Group lead five services during the year and Alison and the Faith Quest children lead two. Alison and Peggy lead the December 27, 2015 service and Alison and Aaron helped with communion on February 14, 2016. There were four evening Compline services, December 20, 2015, January 17, February 21 and March 20, 2016 with the Christmas Compline having the best attendance.

There were eight communion services, a confirmation service and grad service. During worship on May 29 we said good-bye to Aaron Navrady. On June 17, 2016 we welcomed Yvonne Jobin, Teacher; Clarence Wolfleg Jr. Singer & Drummer and Dorothy Walker, Singer for another inspiring First Nations Sunday.

The Flower Fund had substantial resources. A motion was made by Marne Harding and seconded by Rachelle Hardin to allow some funds to be designated to the bathroom construction.

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 the PSALT team, ushers and greeters, offering counters, communion servers, banner and church decorating teams, coffee hosts, scripture readers, music ministry and the placing of flowers in the sanctuary each week. 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 would be delighted to have others join our team. The 2016-2017 year many of our duties will be overseen by the new Sacred Service program and we are delighted to have greater congregational assistance to enable the preparations for worship to be done.

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



Communications Annual Report 2015/16

Change is afoot within the Communications Ministry at St. David's. Our chair, Kathryn Doherty, has moved on to other opportunities and our new office administrator, Chantal Marentette has taken over several of Kathryn's responsibilities 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 has been undertaken 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 will be administered jointly by incoming Chair of PSALT, Brenda Wallace and, projection specialist, 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 outgoing Chair, John Whidden and his technical crew.

Special thanks as well go to members of the PSALT team who faithfully participated in the Sunday morning service and other PSALT functions: Mike Trew, Alison Slater, Tapas Sikder, Meryl Arnott, David Mitchell, Erwan Goasdoue, Barry Marcellus, Johnathan Sharp, George White, Tauran Wood and Claire Sharp. We will miss the contributions of Joanne Wiens, Aleida Whidden, Twila Whidden and the invaluable dedication to PSALT and SDUC by John Whidden. We wish the Whidden family all the best in their future undertakings.

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

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

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.

We said goodbye to Claire Hunter in the Nursery and welcomed Abby Hunter. We also bid farewell to Aaron Navardy our Youth Leader and Kathryn Doherty our Office Administrator.

During the summer, we interviewed quite a few candidates for the Office Administrator position and hired Chantal Marentette, who began working early in August.

Alison Demeter's role has changed as she was called to work with our youth. Alison is now the Minister of Families as she oversees Faith Quest with the children as well as working with the youth. We hope to hire two Faith Quest Leaders to work with the children.

We look forward to continuing our spiritual journey with each other, committee members, staff and our faith community.

Sheryl Schoenthaler (chair), Joan Gray, Bill Way (recorder) & Wendy Dey



Property Committee Annual Report 2014/15

The Property Committee as it is presently constituted was formed in November 2015. We have four members: Sherri Melrose, Dave McMurtry, Ron Lowe and myself. Fortunately, we encountered no major emergencies and were able to finish the year under budget.

Due to several wonderful donations from the Church Family and the Friendship Club, we were able to start two significant projects which are just now being completed.

1. The second upstairs bathroom.
2. Replacements of nosing on the front steps.

Peter Adams, church Member and exceptional contractor has been a God send to our committee. His foresight and diligent work at the church has made our job much, much easier.

Our committee is responsible for hall rentals and Public Parking rentals during the week. We wish to express our thanks to Kathryn Doherty, Chantal Marentette and Peggy who actually arranged the rentals, and with Sherri's assistance, administered the parking. Parking and Hall rentals contributed to more than 20% of the Church Income for 2015-2016.

It has been a rewarding year for our committee and I am pleased to tell you that the entire committee is in place for the current year.

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 surplus of \$13,099 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. This was good news, and much less than the budgeted deficit of \$(42,545). This surplus 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 \$21,850 and is consisted with the decline in attendance. PAR donors decreased over the year from 118 to 100. Income from church parking and church rentals resulted in an increase of \$21,925 over last year. New rental revenue was received for part time use (music exams) by the Royal Conservatory of Music. Other revenue was received from the St. David's United Church Foundation and private donors for specific projects which we are very grateful. These donations helped to fund a number of projects such as the new chancel floor and the additional main floor washroom. Overall, total revenue was greater than last year by net \$2,367 and 24% 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 (95%) leaving \$18,458 unspent to contribute to the surplus. We would like to thank all Committees for staying within budget.

Looking to the current 2016-2017 year, the congregation has approved another challenging deficit budget of \$(41,777). We are referring to this as "Sustainability Fundraising" and place it as a line item in Revenue to show a balanced budget. This budget was passed based on a 10% cut in committee expenses, but keep Ministry and Personnel (M&P) the same amount as last year. We need to have existing ministry programs to gain new members and retain our current membership. We will be working on various initiatives to again eliminate this deficit. We feel that this is a conservative budget given the momentum that we have seen over the past year and 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, Mitch Holte and Marc Slater for their contribution and also thank Janet Zatka, Financial Administrator, for her invaluable contributions.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Clare, Treasurer



Affirming Committee Annual Report 2015/16

Last September our faith community launched a formal process as laid out by Affirm-United towards the possibility of receiving the official designation of being an 'Affirming Congregation'. Over the year many of us engaged in activities and conversations to educate ourselves around inclusivity and diversity. Some of these events were as follows:

September: Affirming Launch - three guest speakers, in worship, shared 1) what it was like for St. Thomas to go through the process 2) what it was like to be hurt by the church growing up because you are gay and then the blessing and acceptance of belonging to a church which has the designation 'Affirming Congregation' and 3) lastly why it is particularly important for the LGBT community to have this designation because being LGBT means life-long caution and fear about revealing your true nature.

October: Come to the Banquet- a fun event which had us role-play, wear costumes, and sing while we acted out the parable of the King's Banquet. We then discussed who has been excluded from church in the past and who is excluded today and why?

Different Families- the children in our Faith Quest program explored how family configurations can differ greatly.

November: Story Sharing Circles had us hearing rich stories from people who have experienced or witnessed what it is like to be different: including people from other countries of origin, others dealing with physical or mental health issues and others.

Movie, Popcorn and Discussion –we watched *For The Bible Tells Me So*, an American film about church leaders who are parents of children who are LGBT.

January: Panel Discussion – three guests were interviewed, in worship, about their life experience being gay, lesbian and transgendered.

February: Anti-discrimination Workshop focused on looked at our inherent judgements and pre-conceptions about people, our prejudices and the reality of white skinned privilege in our Canadian society.

April: Affirming Workshop - St. David's council worked on creating an affirming mission and vision statement and an Affirming Action plan for 2016-17 to be submitted to Affirm-United if the May 29 vote passed and if the council approved them.

May: Conversation Café on Diversity- during worship small groups were given different case studies and considered how St. David's would receive and be challenged by their differences.

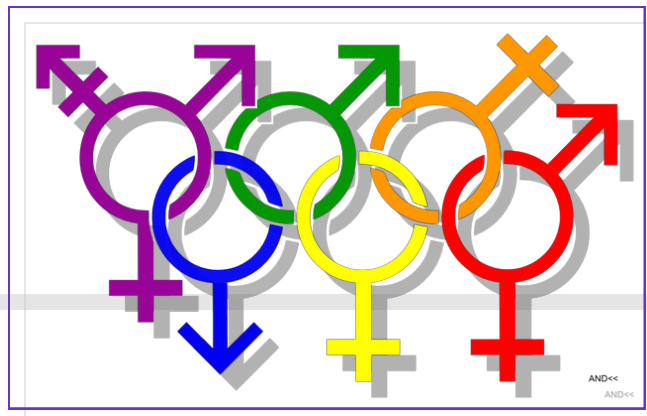
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Congregational Meeting - On May 29 there was a congregational meeting to vote on whether St. David's should apply to Affirm-United for the designation of an 'Affirming Congregation'. The motion was approved by 92% with 134 Yes' and 11 Nos. We are the eleventh Calgary United Church to earn this designation. As of mid-2016, of approximately 3,000 congregations across Canada, there were 130 designated Affirming and 110 were in the process.

September: Pride Parade – wearing yellow T-shirts we proudly walked with others to show our love and support for the LGBT people in our midst. **Affirming Celebration**- Affirm-United presented us with a certificate officially recognizing St. David's United Church as an Affirming church. We celebrated after with a meal.

Although we are pleased with the result we are very aware of those that voted against the motion. We hope over the coming years there will be opportunities for more discussion and times to celebrate the value of inclusiveness that already exists at St. David's United.

Faithfully submitted by the Affirming Ministry Committee,
Jennifer Ferleyko, Chair
Heather Chubb-Way, Darlene Heynen, Lori McLaren, Dianne Trew & Michael Trew



Refugee Committee Annual Report 2015/16

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 6 from Baghdad.

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

In August 2014, Sultana Yalda, whom St. David's helped to resettle in Calgary in 2001, approached several St. David's members to request assistance in bringing her brother Abid Yalda and his family to Calgary. They had fled from Baghdad, Iraq to Beirut, Lebanon due to religious persecution. Calgary Catholic Immigration Society agreed to be our Sponsorship Agreement Holder, and upon receiving approval from St. David's Council to sponsor the family, we completed and submitted the sponsorship forms to Immigration Canada in February 2015. Little did we know that we - and they - would wait for more than a year for their approval to come to Canada, and even longer for them to actually get here!

While they lived in Beirut, Abid could not legally work, so they had no income of their own. We celebrate the St. David's families, the Friendship Club and several other donors who made it financially possible for the family to live in Lebanon while awaiting immigration to Canada (\$1,900/month).

The family met the qualifications of refugee status in August 2015, and "passed" their medicals in September 2015. By January 2016, with no further information available to us, we approached a Calgary MP's office for assistance with Immigration Canada, and we are most grateful for that assistance. The family was approved to come to Canada on March 21, 2016, and they finally arrived in Calgary late on August 30, 2016 – with many family members and St. David's folk to greet them!

St. David's commitment is 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, getting 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 he learns English, helping the family to understand Canadian ways – and the list goes on. St. Thomas United in Hawkwood came on board with great enthusiasm in October 2015, and they collected sufficient donations, together with St. David's and the Friendship Club, to furnish a townhouse in Ranchlands in September 2016. St. Thomas and St. David's, together with other Yalda family members already settled in Calgary (Sultana and children 2001, Nadia and children 2008), are working jointly to provide services such as those listed above. Many hours of time are needed from our groups to support Abid, Aedah, Mirna, Meron, Veron and Aider in their successful resettlement in Calgary.

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The Refugee Sponsorship Restricted Fund provides the financial support to which we have committed. We thank and celebrate all those who have contributed to the Fund to date – individuals from St. David's, St. Thomas, Woodcliff United, Symons Valley United and the St. David's Foundation. Our sponsorship of the family would be impossible without your support. The Fund is healthy, but will require replenishing, as current support amounts to about \$3,300/month, including rent. This figure will reduce when government child benefits start to arrive.

St. David's Tibetan Refugee Resettlement Project

St. David's is to be celebrated for its generosity in support of the Tibetans new to Calgary. Financial donations have come from the St. David's Foundation and from individuals, as well as many donations of furnishings and time. This past year Symons Valley United Church members have helped the Project with donations and furnishings.

This all helps St. David's to continue to support the Calgary Tibetan Project which started in 2013. The remaining 60-70 of the 400 to resettle here will arrive later this fall after a hiatus of six months for arrivals.

St. David's volunteers have taken the Transition Home residents grocery shopping weekly, as needed, for more than two years now. Our Fund has been able to pay for this from the donations mentioned above. \$500-\$600 is spent each month for groceries for Tibetans in their first two months here.

The number of Transition Homes was reduced this past year and Bina House was acquired last fall for Transition Home use. Some newcomers stay at Bina for a month and some longer. Bina can house up to 14 people in a multi-suite converted house downtown. The need for Transition housing has reduced as some arrivals go directly to live with a family member who came earlier to get established.

Adults are employed soon after arrival and the children into school. The Tibetan community is one which supports one another and also reaches out to 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 2016**

Within the United Church of Canada, St. David's Board of Trustees holds title to St. David's property for the use and benefit of the Congregation. The Trustees are elected by the Congregation and are governed by public statute, the requirements of the United Church of Canada and the direction of St. David's Council. At St David's, the Property and Finance Committees are responsible for matters relative to their areas of expertise. Legal and insurance matters are handled by the Trustees.

St. David's Trustees: Carol Liddle, Peggy McDonagh, Jack Beaton, Ian Halladay and David McMurtry have taken pleasure in serving St. David's and the United Church.

Carol Liddle is retiring from the Board after fifteen years of service. We thank her for her wisdom and contribution to St. David's.

Respectfully submitted
Ian Halladay, Chair

Inn From the Cold Annual Report 2015/16

All volunteers were shocked when suddenly in February all Community Inns in Calgary were shut down by the Inn from the Cold Society. Several meetings were held to explain the Inn from the Cold Society Board's decision but we were not able to change their mind. For some time we had not received any families and they wanted to concentrate solely on families not on the single homeless. The churches wanted to look after singles and were all very upset by this decision.

A celebration luncheon was held at St David's on June 19th 2016, well attended by fifty volunteers. We were celebrating 18 years of faithful service and after lunch Peggy McDonagh led us in a very meaningful ceremony of closure. A huge clean out of cupboards was held and some items were held back for a while. The rest was taken to many charities including the Drop In Centre, the Interfaith Food Bank, Women in Need, the Mustard Seed, the Humane Society, Good Will, Inn from the Cold Society and Cerebral Palsy. This past week the last items were taken to the Drop In Centre and the cupboards are now completely empty.

The money left in our Designated Fund will possibly be used for the next Outreach Project.

Respectfully submitted
June Martin



Friendship Club Annual Report 2015/16

2016 marked the 55th year of the Friendship Club's successful operation at St David's. We have 100 members who enjoy the opportunity to attend any or all of our ten monthly meetings (September to June) to be entertained in a variety of ways and to renew the ongoing bonds of friendship. Anyone, member or not, is always welcome to drop in to any of our meetings. Our goal is to be a caring and sharing group through food, fellowship and fun. As part of this caring and sharing, we annually choose a St. David's project to support. In 2016 we donated \$2000 to the Yalda family refugee project.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob and Carol Liddle, Presidents



Congregational Statistics

2015 –2016

Confirmed Membership.....	521
Households Under Pastoral Care.....	324
Number of Households Financially Supporting Local Operations.....	301
Received by Transfer.....	1
Adult Baptism.....	0
Child Baptism.....	3
Youth Confirmation.....	0
Received by profession of Faith.....	0
Removed by Certificate of Transfer.....	2
Removed by Death.....	13
Marriages.....	3
Funerals & Memorials.....	13