

Southwood Church

2016

Annual General Report

Annual General Meeting
Sunday, March 12, 2017

Vision Statement:

Southwood Church is a Spirit led, Biblically based, transformational community of faith following Jesus on His mission to change the world.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from Ed.....	3
Message from Council Chair.....	4
Worship Update	5
Choir	5
Management Committee Update	6
Treasurer's Report.....	7
Caring Ministries Update.....	8
Outreach & Global Missions.....	9
Christian Development Committee Update	12
Youth Ministry	12
Children's & Family Ministries	13
Ministry and Personnel Committee Update.....	14
UCW Update.....	14
Trustee Update	16
In Memorium/Baptisms & Dedications	17
Appendices	
2015 Annual General Meeting Minutes	
UCW Financial Report	
2016 Financial Statements	
Draft 2017 Budget	

Message from Ed, Minister of Word and Sacrament

Annual reports give a snap shot of what we've been doing over the past year. This one will be no different. But what reports don't reveal are the seeds of love and grace that have been sown in our community and wider world that are bearing fruit:

- Families have grown stronger.
- Marriages have been restored.
- Children and students have responded to the wonder and awe of Jesus.
- Friendships have blossomed.
- Those in need have found hope.
- New immigrants find help to improve their English skills
- The sick have been cared for.
- Those living in Haiti and Kenya have received educational support, food and more.
- People attending worship and small groups have found rich spiritual food to nourish their souls.

So many lives have been impacted. Through prayer and worship and concrete acts of love and compassion, our church has experienced the true blessings of God in our midst. But God isn't finished moving in our church! He is calling us to courageously follow Him into the next chapter in the story that he is writing through the people of Southwood Church.

The next chapter I'm sure will stretch our faith as God calls us to take new steps to reach younger generations and different cultural groups in our surrounding neighbourhood. But if the past is any indicator of the future, I know that we are ready to rise to the next challenge to build a congregation that continues to be vibrant and outward focused.

Thank you for all your dedication and support for the work being done through Southwood this past year. And thank you in advance for all you will do as we lean into God's work for the year ahead.

Philippians 1:3-5

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you I pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Message from Jan McLean, Chair of Council

Last year, my report was all about church renewal and this year I am continuing on the same theme because it is so important. Personally, I hope this process of church renewal continues forever here at Southwood United, because I believe a church must constantly renew and refresh itself in order to be a vibrant and healthy community of faith. I also believe that a healthy, vibrant church is more than just a collection of like-minded individuals. The “more” (of course) is the presence of God.

Last year, I wrote that church renewal begins with individuals and moves outward from there, which raises an interesting issue. You see, we in the western world put great value on individuality, which can create some complications in forming a group mentality. We may support a group’s vision and goal with our whole heart, and still be reluctant to commit personally to the visions and goals.

I am sure that most of you would agree that God is present in our church and congregation, but do you believe that God is present in your own, ordinary, day to day life? That can be a bit of a stretch for your faith, with many possible underlying causes. Perhaps you believe “God just doesn’t do that”. Perhaps you believe that even if God was present in your life, it wouldn’t make a difference anyway. There are probably as many reasons to deny God’s presence in our own life as there are people.

They are powerful, because these reasons separate us from God, but each of us must understand that this power comes from ourselves. They are excuses, not reasons, and I would challenge each and every one of you to carefully examine them to facilitate your own personal spiritual renewal and transformation.

An easy way to do this is to take advantage of different events at Southwood. Attend a church wide prayer gathering like Arise or the regular Tuesday morning prayer group. Go to a weekend retreat like the Encounter God weekend. Participate in a small group study like The Journey. There are so many possibilities! Do it – the risk is minimal and the rewards are great! Deus vobiscum (God be with you)

2 Corinthians 3:18

*And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being **transformed** into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

Message from Sandy Annesley, Chair of Worship

Every Sunday throughout 2016, many volunteers contributed their time and energy to ensure that everyone who comes through our doors to worship feels welcome.

The welcome is enriched by the kitchen crew who set up coffee service in the Lobby before the service plus more coffee and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall after the service. A team of 10 volunteers is needed each Sunday not only to provide coffee and refreshments but also to Greet, collect the Offering, attend the Welcome Desk and, of course, Clean Up. The hub of the church is the kitchen just as it is the hub of the home; busy and filled with laughter.

Since 2013, the Welcome Team has been using the online program, SignUpGenius, with moderate success, to recruit the 10 volunteers needed each Sunday. To all those who respond quickly to our email Invitations to help each Sunday, and to those “regulars” who willingly agree to Usher, Greet or make coffee with a phone call late in the week. THANK YOU!!!!

We are reminded in *1 Corinthians 12:28* that *helping is a spiritual gift*. All kinds of gifts are handed out by the Spirit to all kinds of people; some can heal and some can preach and ...some of us can make coffee and shake hands. We are hoping everyone will consider helping with Welcome Team a few Sundays in the year ahead. Please reply to our invitation on SignUpGenius.

THERE IS NO “I” IN TEAM, BUT THERE IS A “U” IN VOLUNTEER

Message from Aletha Monroe, Choir Director

The choir continues to be blessed with the opportunity to share choral anthems on a weekly basis. This has been a challenging year for the choir with decreased numbers and members dealing with various illnesses, but through these challenges we have grown together as a stronger choir family, supporting, encouraging and praying for one another.

Because of the challenges we have faced, the music that we sing has ministered to choir members in a very powerful way as they truly allow the music and words to touch their hearts. This, in turn, allows us to share God's love on a more meaningful level through our music. Once again, a highlight of the year was the Christmas cantata in which we shared the story of God's love through a combination of music and story. It was very well received by the congregation.

We are always looking for new choir members! If you love to sing God's praises and are interested in joining the choir please contact me at aletha@southwoodchurch.ca or come and participate in a rehearsal on Thursdays at 7pm to see what's involved. No choir or music reading experience necessary.

Message from Randy Dahlman, Management Team

The management Committee meets on a regular basis to support the stewardship of our property, finances, and administration. The committee membership consists of Randy Dahlman (chair), Susanne Huggard, Nicole Chernish, Derek Carroll, Earl Pearce and Jeff & Judi Meyer.

Following are the 2016 key activities:

1. 2017 Budget preparation
2. Addressed financial and debt management issues as they arose.
3. Began a process to simplify our accounting ledgers.
4. Property repairs and maintenance (roof repairs, interior minor renovations, landscaping)

It is our privilege to serve and support God's work here at Southwood. I welcome and look forward to your comments and thoughts.

Contribution Statistics 2016

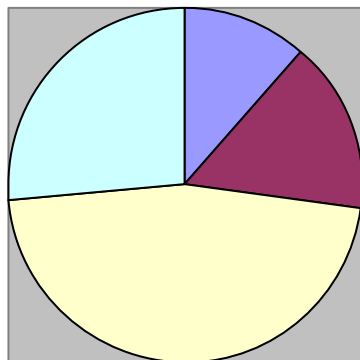
Southwood United has 242 regular contributors who gave \$332,194 in 2016. One contributor made an extra donation of \$50,000 in addition to their regular donations - it is not included in these statistics. These statistics do not include gifts in kind.

11 individuals/families each gave over \$5000 totaling **\$94,265** or approximately **29%** of the giving's

52 individuals/families each gave between \$1500-\$5000 totaling **\$147,174** or approximately **43%** of giving's

The remaining 179 individuals/families contributed the remaining **28%** of the giving's.

The average contribution amount for our contributors is \$1373/year or \$114/month.



■ \$1-15/week = 131 families
■ \$16-50/week = 74 families
■ \$51-100/week = 27 families
■ \$101+/week = 10 families

Message from Derek Carroll, Treasurer

In my first report as your Treasurer let me begin by thanking you all for your ongoing commitments to Southwood. I know that this has been a tough year financially for many of you. Your commitment combined with careful cost control has allowed the church to run a small surplus this year. Moreover our current account ratio has improved substantially. These events have combined to leave the church with approximately \$36000 in the bank to start the new year. Please let us continue to pray for those people suffering serious financial hardship in hopes that the Lord will be their provision.

AS part of my initial take over and as a result of my naval experience I determined that a number of procedures relating to information security needed to be revised. Approximately 24 banker boxes of old contribution records dating back to the 1980s were destroyed in a secure matter. Moreover we were the subject of a break in in April of this year and therefore the council approved the installation of an alarm system in the building. The safety and security of your information is one of my chief concerns.

IN reviewing the chart of accounts I found a number of old and redundant accounts for projects which were no longer being pursued by the congregation. Moreover our ongoing commitments to Bridge Africa, Haiti etc were contained in a number of often confusing different account balances. The Council acting on my recommendations has consolidated or eliminated some of these accounts.

As a church, we benefited from an increase in operational contributions although we have seen a reduction in MEG account commitments in the last few months. Special giving has allowed total revenues to increase by approximately \$38,000 year to year. Management responded with their historical strength of expense control however we have had to make some careful capital expenditures on the roof and other projects. Accordingly, I believe we are still the envy of other Calgary United Church churches.

I find myself in a position of being held in quiet gratitude for the people of Southwood. Generous sizable one-time donations, and the commitment of Southwood United Church Women have made the year a financially positive one. These people and all who gave sacrificially in the face of family financial turbulence deserve a great round of thanks.

Message from Leslie Giacomelli, Caring Ministry Pastor and Ingrid Dahlman, Outreach Chair

CARING MINISTRIES

As a Christ-centered community of faith, caring for each other is part of the fabric of life at Southwood. A big thank you to all those who prepared or delivered food, visited, phoned, drove or prayed for those who needed support at difficult times in their lives; whether you acted as part of the caring ministries team or on your own initiative.

As the Caring Ministries leader, I strive to provide meaningful support to individuals and families who are dealing with illness, grief and other life challenges. I meet with people privately in their homes or at church, as well as visiting in hospital and hospice. I am available for day or evening appointments. Connect with me at church or through Nicole in the church office.

Programs:

Congregational Support: Through this ministry, members of the congregation provide individual support such as visits, and rides to appointments or to visit family members in hospital/ long term care. This program is flexible and changing based on the needs of the people in the congregation. It is available to anyone who requires assistance due to illness, grief, mobility issues or other reasons.

Card Ministry: Sheila Nicholas - Coordinator - Sheila continues to send out Sympathy, Get Well and Thinking of you cards to people in the congregation who are going through challenging times.

Coping and Caring: A small support group for those caring for themselves, friends or family members with an illness meets on the first Monday of the month from 10 – 12. Joanne McNair is the leader.

Dementia Caregiver Support: This group provides information and support to people who are caring for or concerned about someone with Alzheimer's or Dementia. The group meets the first Monday of each month from 1 - 3 and is led Leslie Giacomelli. The group has received several referrals from the Calgary Alzheimer's Society this year.

Education Sessions for Seniors: The speaker series continued in 2016. Topics included Exploring Social Media, Optimal Nutrition for Aging, Creative Cooking for 1 or 2, Facebook 101, and How to Help When You're Loved One is Hurting. Presentations ran from 1:00 – 2:00 pm on the third Friday of the month, following the Seniors' & Friends' Lunch. The sessions continue to be well attended.

Food Ministry: The casserole ministry provides meals to families or individuals in crisis. Volunteers are contacted to donate food when needed. In addition, a group of volunteers provide soup which is kept in the freezer and offered to those who could benefit from it.

Prayer Group: This group meets every Tuesday morning at 9:30 to pray for our congregation and our wider community. The group is led by Doreen Gower, with 12 – 15 people in attendance.

Prayer Room: The prayer room is open during the week and Sunday morning for individuals needing a private space for prayer. Members of the prayer team are available before and after the Sunday service for people needing prayer support. Leaders include Doreen Gower, Ina Wrigley and Marilyn Gloeckler.

Prayer Shawls: A dedicated group of knitters meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month to knit, crochet and chat. 25 shawls were given out this year to people in our Church family, and wider community. In addition to prayer shawls the group is now knitting baby blankets for baptism. 2 blankets were given out. As an outreach project, 25 of the blankets were donated to the babies of the young mothers attending the Louise Dean Centre.

OUTREACH

NEW PROGRAMS

Community Dinners: September 28th marked the launch of a new Outreach Program *Community Dinners*. A great response was seen by volunteers of SWU. Over 50 guests of diverse backgrounds attended. A second dinner was held January 11th. Again great support by church volunteers was seen. All new guests attended. As a result of these dinners two new families have joined our Sunday School. Discussion about increasing the frequency of dinners is in progress.

Rhubarb Festival: In July a group of Outreach Volunteers staffed a booth at the Southwood Community Rhubarb Festival. Church Program information was made available as well as snacks and water. Nearly 400 people came by the booth. Children's Ministry head Corrine Nairn was in attendance and spoke with guests. Bridge Africa had items displayed for sale.

Winter Festival: Outreach set up a display at the Southwood Community Winter Festival to advertise the January Community Dinner.

CONTINUING PROGRAMS

Hampers: Grocery Gift Cards (hampers) were given out at Easter, Christmas and Thanksgiving to those in need both within our church and greater community. Christmas Gift cards were given to the SWCRC for the amount of \$300. Also two Dr. E P Scarlett students received each a \$100 gift card.

Good Food Boxes (GFB): GFB delivery continues. Two new volunteers have come forward to help with this Ministry area. Thanks Gaylene Hennan and Shirley Housden. Connection has been made with Dr. E.P. Scarlett to aid students living on their own with a fresh food box and Outreach hopes to provide additional support.

ESL: ESL (English as a second language) has been operating from Southwood United church for the last number of years. We offer classes to those who wish to improve their English skills by participating in conversation led by our six dedicated volunteers.

Classes are held Monday's 7-8:30 pm and run from September to May. They are free to all. Though the number of students can vary from week to week and year to year we attempt to provide stimulating conversation each week while occasionally planning special events such as pot luck meals, games nights and field trips to enhance the program.

The Beverly: Monthly services continue to be held at The Beverly. Attendance is very good. Rick Wedel agreed to join the worship leadership team, thanks Rick. We benefit from your knowledge and gift of music.

Community Clean Up: A Community Clean up was held September 17th in collaboration with Southwood Community. The event was well organized, including a new addition of The Salvation Army picking up used clothing. Noteworthy, a total of 10 residents had their large item refuse removed free of charge by Sanil Dosaj.

CANCELLED PROGRAMS

Inn From The Cold (IFTC): In early 2016, we received a letter from the IFTC organization, stating that the Program was being discontinued. We were all saddened by the IFTC decision. Volunteers celebrated their faithfulness with a wrap up supper.

NEW PROGRAM PROPOSALS

Outreach Prayer Ministry: St. Peter's Anglican Church designed doorknob hangers that they distributed around their neighbourhood with offers to pray. Outreach is in discussion with the Coordinator of Prayer Ministries, Doreen Gower and Caring Ministries Pastor, Leslie Giacomelli, about the possibility of doing the same for the neighbourhoods around SWU.

GLOBAL MISSIONS

Under the direction of our council, our church provides approval for all the budgets and work that will be undertaken on our behalf in Kenya and Haiti. The financial resources for these projects are provided by our congregation and other supporters and then used by our partner agencies to fulfill our agreements with them.

HAITI Wow what a great year we've had supporting the work in this impoverished nation. Here are some highlights:

- Over 500 food hampers given out for hurricane
- Over 300 elementary kids went to school
- About 15 high school and university kids school funder
- Art program for disabled kids!
- Soccer team organized and outfitted
- 2 small after schools started... teachers teaching for free!
- \$5000 raised by our church for hurricane relief
- Over \$30,000 raised beyond the church through Friends of Haiti and Dave Botterill

Here is some news from Maxeau, our Haitian administrator, talking about the after school programs: I am sending this message to give you an idea about how the \$500 you sent for the kids program were used. However I am also taking advantage of this moment to congratulate you and thank you for having decided to help the Haitian people. We are really making a huge difference in many people lives in Haiti. Let's keep up this good work. 24 chairs 2 tables 1 board 1 principal desk. We are ready to start the kids program in Monchil where lots of kids are uneducated and living without their parents. \$438 was used to transport the materials from Cayes to Jacmel. Thanx a lot for helping Haiti. Maxeau PIERRE. Together as one

BRIDGE AFRICA Bridge Africa Canada opened the year with good news. The 10 girls who had done their exam in 2015 had all passed. Since Madam Alice came on board in 2015, the model changed. The school trained 10 girls in a year with the girls staying at the school for one full year and then doing the exams at the end of the year i.e. grade 3. Now we have 2 streams running. This was the Catholic Church model which we have adopted.

Madam Alice changed the program to two streams running in a year. i.e grade 3 and 2 running in a year. All the grade 3 girls were sent out for attachment (practicals) and they would be back in March this year but they all got employed where they went except 2. So the two have been given the chance to come back and do grade 2.

Our aim is to make the girls to be employable. So that purpose was accomplished.

2016 girls did their exam in December 2016. Madam Alice being one the teachers who is sometimes used to grade and send in exam questions has called the exam centre in Nairobi and she was told that all 10 girls passed. They are now out for field attachment. They will be coming back in March for those who will not have gotten jobs, will continue to doing grade 2 as the government's requirement.

Grade 3 girls have started arriving at the school. We have 3 girls who have arrived early. We might be getting 2 girls from the northern part of Kenya near Somalia, a referral from the High Commissioner.

School Activities The girls started a small garden where they planted vegetables. This has gone very well because the school does not buy vegetables for consumption any more.

Planned Projects The board of directors' has been coming up with projects the school can do but the school is in a rented house. The board has been suggesting that the school get its own land so that the following suggested projects could be run:

- Chicken breeding
- Chicken keeping/ egg production
- Button holing machine (Many seamstresses do not have a button holing machine so they go to one Asian store of which the owner has retired. The board felt that the school would be able to take over many customers in their area who used to go to that shop.)

Hair-Dressing School Maxine started this project in 2012. To run the school, a qualified teacher is needed. Hairdressing qualified teachers are paid according to government pay scale of \$315 and above. The last time the school had hired a teacher, she would bring in \$760 per month which was enough to pay her and run the Hair Dressing school and have surplus. The school moved to a new location and the teacher felt it was not convenient for her. The school right now has a student who runs it and she makes about \$50.00 which is used to buy the chemicals used. If this is re-established well, the school can make some good income.

Land Opportunity

Madam Alice has found land which is about 2 acres in a prime place where electricity and water has been installed by the government. The lady selling the land has a not for profit organization running a drug treatment centre. Nothando talked to the lady about the land. She was selling it for \$51,000. After talking to her on how we could work together getting some of the girls from her organization and giving them a skill when they completed the Addiction-free Program, she reduced the price to \$39,000. She also gave us an opportunity to buy one acre if we wanted. Getting land in Mombasa is not easy or cheap. I asked her if we could be paying in installments and she agreed.

Why buy land? This will help the school to get doing some projects on the land which will help the school to be self-reliant. The chicken project will be able to bring money to the school if they can rear chicken which is very marketable in Kenya. It is not very costly to start chicken projects in Kenya.

This will enable school to raise money and get a loan to build a house for the school. This will enable the school to expand and bring in some other programs like Pastry and Cake decorating, Henna application which is an art used by the Muslims and Arab communities in Mombasa for celebrations e.g. baby naming, weddings, and during Idd.

Building a house to accommodate the girls, to start with will cost the school about \$25,000.

Message from Christian Development

2016 was another successful year for Christian Development.

With a group of dedicated leaders, we continued to offer a variety of Connect Groups in 2016. From the Journey and Encounter God Workshops to a women's home group and Bible studies, we had over 60 people regularly engaged in deeper study of the Scriptures and Christian topics. These groups have enabled people to deepen their faith, all the while as they strengthen their relationships with others in our congregation. Our annual Women's Retreat was led by a dedicated group of ladies who met regularly to ensure that this event is a highlight in the life of our church.

Below are specific reports for our Children's and Youth ministries

Message from Riley Harper, Youth Pastor

Were you able to deliver your program as planned this year, based on your program plan? Thus far SWYM has been delivered according to plan. The main apprehension as of late, has been the Afterschool Program.

What worked well? Everything aside from the after school program has went well.

Were there any incidents? There were no Incidents

What are the youth telling you? Students have been enjoying programming in every way.

What have you heard from parents? Our parents are amazing and supportive - I get "thank you" and "if you ever need additional help let me know."

What were highlights? This year the highlights have ben the JR.High's coming in, and inviting friends. We have had a number of new faces, again, dispute having lost a number of Gr.12's last year we have not felt the impact regarding numbers. This is majorly thanks to the Jr.high's. Also Sunday mornings have been immensely successful.

What do you plan on changing? I plan on changing nothing.

Message from Corinne Nairn, Children's & Family Ministries

Wow! What a year 2016 was for Children's & Family Ministries at Southwood. We had a lot of big and exciting program changes and we are grateful for the support of the Council, Congregation and Staff as we continue to make these transformational changes in how we do ministry.

- From January – May we continued with our existing program, with an eye to making changes for the Fall, with preparations over the Summer. We had Emily Sunderland & Samantha Harrison working with the K-Grade 6 classes and Kirstin Paradis teaching in Preschool. Emily taught a group session each Sunday all summer for Pre-Grade 6.
- Over the Summer Youth Pastor Riley and Children's & Families Pastor Corinne worked together (with guidance from Pastor Ed) to develop Catalyst, a leadership training program for Youth. This program ran throughout the summer, focusing on Faith, Service, Connection and direct training for Youth to lead Small Groups and participate in Children's Ministry Leadership.
- VBS 2016 was incredibly successful with 94 students attending our full week of full days camp! Our largest attendance in recent memory, by far. Dozens of volunteers went into making it a great week and we had very good feedback from campers and parents. Special Thanks to the Leadership Team: Leslie Giacomelli (Kitchen), Heather Myers (Preschool Teacher), Isabelle Chernish (Crafts), Emily Sunderland (Music & Theatre Games) Johanne Fraser (Theme & Mission) & Robert King (Games).
- After two years as our Preschool Teacher, Kirstin Paradis 'retired'. We are grateful for her service and thankful to have Kirstin, Chris and their two kids as part of our congregation. We welcomed our new Preschool Teacher, Heather Myers, in September. Heather is a teacher with experience in teaching elementary and taught Kindergarten for several years.
- Fall brought wholesale and very exciting changes to our Sunday Morning kids program. After many years of using the 'Workshop Rotation Model' (with Corinne writing curriculum) and one year of trying a 'Group' curriculum, we made the leap into ORANGE! We are now using 252 Basics, a program built around the idea that YELLOW represents the Church and the light of Christ and RED represents the unconditional love of home. Put the two together and you have ORANGE, and the greatest possible impact on the life of a child. We also have added Student Leaders to our program. Each week Youth help set-up our environment, lead worship, run tech, lead small groups and assist in preschool. It's been amazing to watch these students grow as leaders and develop deeper relationships with each other and connect to our Sunday School students. Sunday mornings now include Parent Connect Time prior to service. We have upbeat worship in the renovated board room, bible story and small groups to reinforce the weekly message.
- We continued our successful Musical Theatre Program this year with Narnia in the Spring, which had 35 students Grades 3-12 and 7 adults in the cast and saw an attendance of nearly 600 people over 4 performances. In the Fall we started our 5th year of the program with 33 children ages 6-Grade 9 participating in our Christmas Musical: Christmas Shop Around the Corner. We performed the Pageant at the 10:30 service and again at 1:30 and had a total of over 400 people attend. Donations to the program at these two performances were very generous and will allow us to purchase some equipment that will further enhance the program and also benefit the church overall.

- Once again on Christmas Eve we had an 'Instant Pageant' at the 5PM service. We invited all the children and youth in attendance to don a costume and join in the telling of the Christmas Story. It is such a blessing to see tons of little ones all dressed up and so excited to be a part of the service.
- We want to thank all those volunteers and staff who have shared their time and gifts in Children's and Family Ministries this past year. You have made an impact on the faith journey of a child! Your service in Christ makes a big difference in the lives of the children and parents in our midst. Thank you!

Message from Rick Wedel, Ministry & Personnel Chair

In the fall of 2016, the M&P committee undertook a review of Southwood's staff reporting to Pastor Ed. We conducted interviews with our staff to determine their current duties, to get a more accurate determination of the hours they were working, and to engage them as experts in their areas of ministry to identify opportunities for improvements at Southwood. We also confirmed the extent to which these ministries supported Southwood's vision and goals, including church renewal. The committee received excellent feedback from all the staff who were interviewed.

Prior to the interviews, the committee did a benchmarking study with other United Churches in Calgary and with hundreds of churches in Canada, to ensure that our current pay scales were correct. We presented a report on our findings and our recommendations to Council, and received approval to make the necessary changes to staff hours and pay.

I came away from this process with a huge increase in my appreciation for our staff and all they do. We are blessed to have these wonderful, dedicated people working at Southwood.

Message from Pauline Dowell, Chair of UCW

On looking back over the year, I see that we have been involved in many, many different activities including, fund raising, mission support, feeding the hungry, crafting, and learning about and supporting both our church, the people in our city and the world beyond. The UCW Card Ministry sends out greetings to members reminding them they are in our thoughts and prayers, whether feeling ill, lonely, missing a loved one, or just need cheering up. The UCW Phone Ministry provides members with information about our programs and activities, also asking if rides are requested in order that ladies may attend events. Along with email, these two ministries complete our communication network.

In 2016 we supported the bereaved as we prepared and served for funerals. We made donations to many causes, namely \$1700.00 given to provide Good Food Boxes for needy people, \$1000.00 to Bridge Africa, \$100 to Unlocking Potential, over \$1400.00 towards equipment for the new kitchen, \$2326.94 paid to the church towards the renovation debt, and \$5000.00 paid to the church to use as needed. During 2015-2016, UCW contributed \$32 226.00 towards our kitchen renovation. We also continued our investing, through KIVA, in micro loans to women in developing countries as they start and run small businesses, repair their homes, or upgrade their education.

In all, we try to make the world a better place for everyone while enjoying fellowship amongst ourselves and having a good time together.

Each month, except July and August, we had a Business Meeting which was attended by up to 19 ladies, a special event in the evening or on a Saturday, and a very popular Seniors' and Friends' Lunch attended by 70-100+ guests. This event always began with a lively performance by members of the Prairie Mountain Fiddlers. Creative Conversations met weekly to create unique, quality crafts for sale at the Strawberry Tea and Christmas Bazaar.

During the spring, a Kitchen Information Sheet was prepared to assist those using our new kitchen, so that all items may be cared for appropriately.

January – 2016 Budget planning meeting. Annual General Meeting. Memorial painting, WINTER WREN by Julia Hargreaves; was purchased, in memory of our long-time and dearly loved member, Marie Milne.

February – Death by Chocolate, a delightful way to spend a Saturday afternoon with family and friends, enjoying delectable chocolate treats in this pot-luck dessert extravaganza. 40+ attended

March – Several ladies from Southwood attended and participated in the annual World Day Prayer at St. Andrews Presbyterian church. Soup and bun lunch served to the congregation following service on the day of the church AGM. A free-will offering was taken.

April – Presentation by Jessica Williams from Unlocking Potential, on their mission supporting the Louise Dean School for high school age single mothers and their infants. Items were donated for the students and their babies, as well as an honorarium given as thanks for the presentation. 14 ladies signed up to participate in a scholarship program for students who pursue a post grad program or course lasting 2 years or longer.

May – One Saturday afternoon the church was decorated with spring flowers and garden ornaments to complement the annual Strawberry Tea. In addition, a Spring Craft Sale drew lots of attention and helped raise many more dollars for our worthy causes.

June – Potluck dinner and traditional British Beetle Drive; an evening event wrapping up activities before summer vacations. Over 40 ladies attended to share delicious food and enjoy lots of laughter.

July/August – Pies and cakes were provided by many of Southwood's UCW for the charity auction at the Stampede breakfast. Fort McMurray United Church received the funds raised by the sale.

September – Wiener Roast with pot-luck side dishes was planned for Fish Creek Park, but moved into a home due to poor weather.

October – THE LADY IN THE VAN, starring Maggie Smith, was our choice for a very relaxing movie night in the youth room, with popcorn, snacks and cold drinks. A Pie Bee was held in the kitchen, making 75 pies for the Bazaar Bake Room.

November – Christmas Tea and Bazaar, our largest and most intensive volunteer effort of the year! It was a very successful bazaar, thanks to the work of Creative Conversations and all the others who provided in so many ways, as well as all those who attended and supported the event. In total, \$11,509.51 was raised at this event and several subsequent craft tables sponsored by Creative Conversations at local markets. At our business meeting, Pastor Ed Lewis presented a short overview of the church's role and commitment to the BRIDGE AFRICA project. 44th Advent Evening with the ladies from the Lutheran Church of the Cross: Southwood UCW, along with ladies from our choir, hosted and presented a worship service titled HAVE A MARY CHRISTMAS. The Lutheran ladies provided games which we all enjoyed. Again, a pot-luck extravaganza completed the evening. Over 90 women attended that night.

December – Randy Dahlman presented at our business meeting. He spoke of the Southwood church budget, financial needs, and future planning.

We are truly thankful for all volunteers and members of our church family who donate their time, skills, and so much effort for each event. We sincerely appreciate all who come out and support us with their presence and monetary gifts.

Ultimately, in 2016, UCW provided many opportunities for women of all ages at Southwood Church to do God's work while sharing friendship, fellowship, and often way too much delicious food. If you would like to know more about the work we do, or contribute your time and efforts, please contact Pauline Dowell at 403 281 4021 padowell@shaw.ca

Message from Trustees

The trustees for our church are Deb Lemco, Al Kostyniuk, Phil Rodd, Bruce Macintosh and Ed Lewis.

As always, many of our building concerns were addressed with the property committee for many of the minor repairs needed on the building. The committee also liaises with volunteers who cut the lawn during the summer months.

Thanks to all the trustees who volunteer their time to ensure that our building is well maintained.

In Memorium
Pauline Bietz
John
Carmichael
Leila
MacWilliams