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## MINISTER'S REPORT – AGM JANUARY 2000

As I take pen to hand (actually fingers to keyboard), I realize I must mentally clear out head of plans for the winter and spring in order to focus on what has been in the short time I have been here.

Squamish United Church is indeed a busy faith community and I am happy to be the minister of such a thriving church. God's Holy Spirit is living and breathing in your energy, dedication, and enthusiasm. I am constantly amazed at the volunteer work that happens and the dedicated souls who not only look after the church but also reach out into the community. The outreach isn't always obvious or advertised but it is very real and caring. I think of Christmas Community Care, Hilltop, First United, Christmas Shoebox, Youth Food bank Packing, just to name some of the outreach.

It takes many people to run a church. The reports on the following pages are written by dedicated people who are supported by others in their work. As your minister I work with some more closely than others. So I especially thank Retta for all her hard work in the office; Ian, Joanna, and Carol for coordinating music; Vicki for being so focused on children in Sunday School and worship, Tara for weekly consultations on "Cool Dudes" trading cards, Maureen for her caring and pastoral care, Wilf for energy and passion.

There have been many wonderful memories since July. Two highlights for me were the Retreat and Baptism classes. Both were wonderful times of sharing the faith journey and bonding. Both moved me out of the daily routine into the Spirit of the Sacred. We all came away richer and deeper in our faith and God's call to us as individuals and as the church. Another highlight was my son's wedding at the manse in September. There couldn't have been a lovelier setting (or weather)!

There has been many times of fun events and community building. The Alice Lake weekend was not well attended by campers, but Saturday night around the fire drew a good crowd. For me it was a wonder time in nature with new friends big and small. The work bee at the manse was another time of fun around work. Not only were many repairs done but also a fire-pit was created! Good reason for future gatherings under the stars. And last but not least there was the fabulous "Guess Who's coming to Dinner." Thanks Grace.

Weekly Bible Study is never dull. It's a good thing I don't have false teeth, because I'm sure I would have laughed them out more than a few times. We have proven that we can almost match any self-respecting kindergarten with crafts and acting. In between the gift of laughter, there has been the deep sharing of ourselves and our faith while reflecting on God's presence within our lives.

Book Club has been equally entertaining. Starting off a bit too large for good small group dialogue, the numbers have now settled down to about 9 people. The books we are reading are meant to broaden our horizons and to make us think about what we do believe and why. I am impressed at the level of trust that permits people to express their view, while agreeing to disagree. We just about "lost" Peter at the final Christmas meeting. With a fire blazing and hot mulled wine in hand, his eyes began to glaze over and his eyelids drooped. He was saved before the snoring began. ☺ We read Marcus Borg's, Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time. Next is Richard Rohr's, Jesus' Plan For a New World Order.

We begin our ministry together as we enter the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with, I feel, mutual trust, much optimism, and many plans. Deeply grounded in the bonds of long established caring relationships there exists the strong commitment necessary to embrace change and growth. Our youth leader needs help if we are to have our youth actively involved in ministry and worship. We begin the journey of mentoring our youth as a faith community, and looking for ways of reaching out and including them. We begin the journey of better communicating with one another, of creating a network for those needing help, of offering additional worship to Sunday Mornings, of annual retreats, of seeking managable ways for all to share their gifts in ministry.

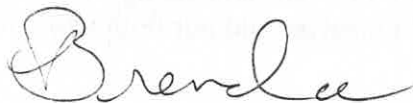
I know many of you deeply miss your previous minister. It is a joy to say what a delight it is for me join in the wonderful fertile soil of spiritual life she nurtured. Blessings on you all. May our journey together grow in depth and richness in the years to come.

### ***A Celtic rune of Hospitality***

*We saw a stranger yesterday.  
We put food in the eating place,  
Drink in the drinking place,  
Music in the listening place  
And in the Sacred Name  
of the Triune God,  
He blessed us and our house,  
Our cattle and our dear ones  
As the lark says in her song:  
"Often, often, often, goes the  
**CHRIST** in the stanger's guise."*

Yours in Christ,

Brenda





## **MINUTES FORM THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 1999**

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Squamish Untied Church was held in the church on February 7, 1999, with 50 members present. Dessert and coffee was served.

The Chairperson, Syd Pudney, called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

M/S by Dave Doubek/Wilf Grolman that all present be given voting privileges. Carried.

M/S by Philip Harness/Patsy Riecker that the minutes of the 1998 Annual Congregational Meeting be adopted. Carried.

### **1998 Committee and Group Reports:**

The following Committee and Group Reports were named and opened in block for questions and discussion: Official Board, Worship and Music, Senior Choir, Ministry and Personnel, Caring Ministry, Youth Group, Sunday School, Sunday School Financial, Vancouver Burrard Presbytery, U.C.W. Financial, Toques, Property.

United Church Women: An amendment was make, noting that in December, the Bethany Unit and Harmony Units sent seven Buckets of Love to Honduras.

Men's Group: Rainer Schwarz was named as the author of this report, but it should read Dave Elliot.

M/S by Walter Huber/Trevor Harris that the above-named reports be accepted. Carried.

### **Finance Reports:**

Dave Doubek presented the Financial Reports.

M/S by Dave Elliot/George Gilmour that the Financial Reports be accepted. Carried.

### **Caring Ministry and Congregational Life and Work:**

June Halvorson said both these committees need new mandates from the Board, before new personnel take over for 1999. Until these positions are filled, the Caring Ministry is not able to continue.

A vote of thanks was offered by Patsy Riecker to members of the Caring Ministry for their work, often behind the scenes.

### **Proposed 1999 Budget**

Thanks from Dave Doubek on behalf of the Finance committee for the good contributions, enabling us to enter 1999 with a surplus. This budget differs from the previous, in that a search for a new minister has to be allowed for. A question was raised about moving expenses: how much does the local congregation have to pay? The answer is that \$6,000.00 has been budgeted and national help could be available. Moved/seconded by Walter Huber/June Halvorson that the proposed 1999 budget be accepted as presented. Carried.

### **Search Committee:**

Trevor Harris reported that the Search Committee was meeting every second week.

With regards to the manse, the minister may choose to have his/her own accommodation. If so, the Committee recommends that the congregation rent out the manse and make a rental allowance to the minister as income. Rental estimated at \$800 - \$900, from Dave Elliot's research. It was noted that this could limit acceptance of the job by prospective employees. A motion was made/seconded by Trevor Harris/Peter Gordon that the congregation be prepared to accept the possibility of the new minister not using the manse, and getting a rental allowance in lieu. Carried.

An advertisement is now in the United Church Observer for March 1999.

### **Nominating Committee Report:**

June Halvorson presented the slate of Chairs, Officers and Committee Members for 1999. Caring Ministry and Congregational Life and Work have been left blank, as there are no candidates.

Executive: Chair: Syd Pudney, Vice Chair: Trevor Harris, Treasurer: Dave Doubek, Secretary: Retta Behrner.

Worship Committee: Chair: Syd Pudney. Members: Patsy Riecker, Lynette Halvorson, Christine Tribe, Joanna Schwarz, Carol Grolman, Philip Harness, Muriel Shephard.

Congregational Life and Work: No candidates. Needs mandate from Board.

Finance Committee: Chair: Dave Doubek. Members: Wilf Grolman, David Smith, Sue Puchmayr, Jean Marshall, Bert Ionson.

Ministry and Personnel: Chair: Grace Halvorson. Members: Rainer Schwarz, Mary Larcombe, Kevin Haberl.

Property Committee: Chair: Wilf Grolman. Members: Burt Minshall, Bill Rempel, Don Behrner, Norm Halvorson, Jill Gould, George Gilmour, Mike Smith.

Members at Large: Kevin Haberl, Carol Ann Epele, Dave Elliot, Pat Pawlett.

Presbytery Representative: Patsy Riecker.

United Church Women: Cathie Bourgh.

Men's Group: Rob Wotherspoon.

Sunday School Coordinator: Vicki Haberl.

M/S by June Halvorson/Dave Doubek that the Nominating Committee slate of officers be accepted, with the power to add any additional members. Carried.

**Votes of Thanks:**

Thanks were extended to Claire for her Ministry, to Ian Brown for his wonderful work with the Choir, to Marilyn and Gary Caldwell for their work with the Youth Group and to Joanna Schwarz and Carol Finnie for their fine organ music and dedication.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

+++++



## SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH OFFICIAL BOARD

1999 had its time of sad farewell at the leaving of Claire and Tom Bowers, but then we had the time of looking forward to the arrival of our new minister Rev. Brenda Faust, and the pleasure of welcoming her. From all reports the "Search Committee" made an excellent selection. Brenda is already accepted in the Church and the community, not only as the Minister but also a warm friend.

With regards to the "Search Committee" and the "Needs Assessment Committee", as Chairman of the Official Board, I wish to say that I appreciate (as I am sure all the members of this congregation do) the many hours of dedicated work these committees put in to carry out their important task. We were very fortunate to also have two dedicated representatives from presbytery working with us. Mr. Brian Smith and Rev. Glen Baker braved the Squamish highway in terrible weather to meet with us. Their service is appreciated very much.

During the past calendar year the Official Board has been concerned about the obvious need for more ongoing communication with all of the people of our Church, adherents as well as full members, seniors as well as our youngsters. This was especially so because we no longer had a functioning "Congregational Life and Work" committee. It was decided last Spring therefore, that the Board would look at the problems involved, and would review the methods of church administration or government, by holding a retreat. This would give the Board a chance to study the entire issue in detail. It was further decided that this retreat would be put off until the Autumn when our new minister would be able to participate.

The idea grew and instead of a retreat restricted to Board members it became a great opportunity for all members of the congregation to participate and contribute their input. All who attended this two day event which was held at the SunWolf resort in Cheekye, in November came away full of enthusiasm and with feelings of spiritual exhilaration. Whether or not the original questions raised within the Board were fully addressed is a moot point, nevertheless the retreat was undoubtedly an important and successful event for both our new minister and the congregation.

Late in the year our Finance Chairman, Dave Doubek tendered his resignation due to his leaving the Squamish area. Dave has been an invaluable contributor to the Board not only in his important capacity as Finance Chair, but his input on all matters was much appreciated.

Other matters which came before the Board during the year are not commented on here since they appear in reports of the committees directly concerned.

In closing I wish to say that it has been a privilege to be able to serve once more as chairman. My fifth time in the thirty-four years that Shirley and I have been here. We both think of all the members of Squamish United Church as being almost family, and so it is with considerable emotion that I tell you we will be leaving the Squamish area later in the Spring.

Respectfully submitted  
Syd Pudney, Board Chair



## WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

1999 has been another very rewarding time for the members of the Worship Committee. Being responsible for the format and content of the worship services brings us very close to the heart of what our church is all about. The Minister of the Church is an important integral part of the Worship Committee, and having our new minister Rev. Brenda Faust participating and bringing her own style and methods has made the latter half of the year very interesting for all of us. One noticeable feature has been the increase in the frequency of Communion services. This has been with the approval of the Worship Committee and as yet there has been no complaint heard back from the congregation.

Our lunch time meetings have proven to be quite successful, allowing almost all of the committee members to attend most of the meetings.

This year we again offered two Christmas Eve services which were both well attended. Once more the services were kept the same as much as possible to keep any extra preparation time needed to a minimum, but still accommodating families with small children as well as adult worshipers. From the feed-back received it would seem that two services will continue as the regular Christmas Eve practice.

The Worship Committee has only indirect responsibility for the music provided for worship services, however we would wish to say that we appreciate the efforts of the choir and its Director, Ian Brown. In the several people we now have that play the keyboard "instrument" so beautifully, this Church is very fortunate indeed to have so much musical talent and knowledge to call upon.

Numbers of baptisms, new members etc. are shown on the last page of the annual report.

As chairman of the Worship Committee I thank all who served on it this year for their great support and concern for the church. Carol Grolman has agreed to serve next year as the Chair of this committee and with the new members who are coming on, I am sure that only good things are in store for Squamish United Church.

Respectfully submitted  
Syd Pudney, Chair

# CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT 1999

## REFLECTIONS ON CONGREGATIONAL REVITALIZATION

As your new minister I am honoured to be part of such an enthusiastic journey for spiritual formation and fellowship that has taken place this fall. As you know this journey began more than a year ago when members of the church and board felt that while life was OK at the church the support structure had become more business than people oriented. This was brought to a climax when the Congregational Life & Work Committee fell by the wayside. Perhaps it was a committee that was doomed to fail from the beginning. Established in 1995 it represented a pooling together of five committees that up to that point had been left leaderless (Christian Education, Membership, Fellowship, Communication, Youth, Early Childhood). It was to also:

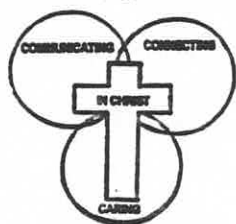
- Coordinate and encourage different groups within the church to provide fellowship opportunities.
- Highlight the work of the wider church.
- Facilitate educational opportunities about the wider church and in S.U.C.

Too large in scope it was a band-aide measure at best. However, what this does say is that the need for looking seriously at congregational life and spiritual formation has been present for awhile.

There has been more ideas and feedback than I can report at this time. All the wonderful feedback is and will be fed through the board and back to the committees who provided feedback. Overall, people want to create meaningful ways to involve the youth, reconnect with families that only occasionally come to church, provide an alternate worship time and format that addresses the needs of busy lifestyles, make more of a presence in the community, more fellowship and intergenerational events, and provide more educational and spiritual formation opportunities. There are many wonderful suggestions around how this might take place.

It is important to say that what is happening is not more "needs assessment" or visioning. It is about how what has already been named is now beginning to take form and place. It is about the process of birthing the presence of the Holy Spirit into who we are here and now. The retreat weekend was a sacred time of sharing the faith. Coming together as God's family in an intentional time apart is like taking time in our daily routines for prayer and for God.

Transformation is what the Christian faith is all about. The Christian faith is a living transforming organism. When it becomes fixed in time it begins to die. The call to follow Jesus is a demanding one. Always needing to be heard in the context within which we live. Jesus pointed to a God that loves with a passion, and who cries and laments for the ways we hurt or neglect one another. How do we live our faith with integrity, intentionally, teaching it through our works and actions to the next generation? Will we send our youth out into the world not being spiritually grounded?



We are on a journey. This fall, this retreat, is part of that journey. The richness of the journey is ours for the sharing. As we begin to define ourselves as caring, communicating and connected people grounded in Christ, may our prayer life be deep, our mission clear, our faith united.

Since I wrote the above report I would like to add the following;



Recently a parishioner told me that we need to add another "C" to our logo. This "C" is **Commitment**. I agree. May we wisely choose what we commit ourselves to and may we invite others to share in commitment through our example. This person also told me of a past parishioner who not only tithed 1/10 of her money, talents, but also her time weekly to church/mission and God. Ummmmm!

Don Robertson and Ariel Crieghton were as uplifted and energized by the retreat as we were. Don would love to do a follow-up with us in the spring. It would be wonderful to have an annual retreat.

Ideas are underway to explore: alternate worship services for those who can't make Sunday Mornings, a communications board, a caring network for ongoing support for families who need temporary help, a grief support program, ways for men and women groups to mentor and include youth.

Yours in Christ,  
Brenda

### RETREAT REFLECTIONS

Fresh into Brenda's tenure with us and on the cusp of Advent, the congregation of Squamish United Church participated in a Board sponsored retreat. The rustic SunWolf Conference Center was the setting for a Friday evening and Saturday session facilitated by the Rev. Don Robertson from the Water Project, and assisted by Ariel Creighton. The participants came away with many thoughts and inspirations revealed through a spiritual process. Some are listed here. . .

I appreciate the Board for showing leadership in adapting our church to be spiritually relevant and vibrant within the congregational member's limits of money, time and talent. To that end, Squamish United sees itself as "fertile ground" where seeds of love, support, education and outreach can grow and flourish. I came away from the Retreat enlightened by the possibilities of "Second Hour." Simply stated this would be a time for congregational gathering after Sunday service, where any group could present information or challenge us with some relevant issue, with the intent of gauging interest, reaction and/or commitment to that idea or project. Typically, it would generate short term; goal oriented actions that should better fit today's lifestyles and time constraints. I hope to see "Second Hour" become a working model for expression of our Christian ideals.

Submitted by  
Wilf Grolman



# SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH CHOIR

The choir continues to provide musical leadership to all of our Sunday worship services, preparing an anthem, hymns and an introit for the majority of Sunday services.

As usual, we took on a number of special projects, last year, including Singing the Faith (the ecumenical evening of church music), Carol's Carols, The Evergreen Christmas Service (with the McKenzie family), Celebrate a Life (with the Squamish Hospice Society), and two special farewell evenings for Claire and Tom Bowers.

The choir continues to be an honour to direct and I would like to recognize the support and contribution of all our long term choir members - sopranos: Jennie Anderson, Irene Bryant, Denise Evans, Grace Halvorson, Judi Jenkins, Sue Timms - altos: Evelyn Dawson, Carol Grolman, Billie Hildering, Sue Puchmayr, Arlene Smith, Christine Tribe - tenors: Trevor Harris, Syd Pudney - and basses: Maurice Carlson, Graeme Galloway, Peter Gordon, Norm Saugstad and Roy Shepard. I'm so impressed with the level of dedication, commitment and vocal quality of this choir.

Again, special thanks to Arlene Smith who provides such a huge service to our church in her work as our choir's principal accompanist. The job is huge and pressure packed. We appreciate her commitment and talent. Thanks also to Irene Bryant and Maurice Carlson who have agreed to take on the responsibility of the music library in the new year.

We look forward to continuing in our role, in the music ministry of our church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ian Brown, Director

[illegible]

## MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Ministry and Personnel Committee is a committee that is confidential in nature and provides the opportunity for consultation with and support and assessment of all staff persons.

The committee reports to the Official Board, making recommendations when applicable. We meet quarterly reviewing working conditions and remuneration of the staff, dealing with study leave and compassionate leave, supporting staff in general and organizing summer replacement for our organist and minister.

We feel very fortunate to have had the services of Retta Behrner, secretary, Joanna Schwarz, organist, Elisabeth Galbavy, custodian and Claire Bowers, minister this past year. It has been a pleasure to work with these ladies. It was difficult to say goodbye to Claire and Tom Bowers in June and we wish them well in their new home in Ontario. Claire nurtured us each Sunday with her inspirational messages and provided wonderful leadership during her time with us.

Fortunately, our prayers were answered, and Brenda Faust, our new minister joined us in July. We also welcome her and look forward to working with her. Welcome Brenda! We also welcome Carol Grolman as another "official" church organist. She and Joanna will share the duties of organist. We greatly appreciate the musical talents in the church noting especially the voluntary time given to us from Ian Brown, choir leader and Arlene Smith, choir accompanist.

Members of the M & P Committee are Rainer Schwarz, Mary Larcombe, Kevin Haberl and Grace Halvorson. Any questions or concerns regarding church staff and their work may be directed to any M & P member as we strive to promote harmony between staff and the congregation.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Grace Halvorson, Chair

[illegible]

## CARING MINISTRY REPORT

Looking over my notes from the past year, members of Caring Ministry have been in touch with many people in our congregation.

Without exception, when we visited someone who had suffered a loss, someone recovering from an illness, or a senior or shut-in, we were always warmly received.

Those who received flowers, a plant, one of our little care lambs, a phone call or cheery not, seemed genuinely touched by our caring. Perhaps they didn't realize how much they gave back to us and I reckon that's what caring is all about.

Special thanks to the Sunday school class who made special get well cards for CM to give out to those who were ill. The youngsters really expressed themselves in the cards and the recipients were pleased to receive them.

Six residents of Hilltop House are members or adherents of our church and we visited with them near Christmas and gave each a small box of chocolates. It was a warm feeling chatting with them and sharing some of their stories.

We first met with our new minister in July and we will continue to assist and support Brenda as we are able.

CM committee members include Dave Elliot, Irene Vickers, Carol Ann Eppele, Christine Tribe and myself. There is always room for others to join us.

Submitted by,  
Maureen Gilmour

[illegible]



## VANCOUVER BURRARD PRESBYTERY

We are members of this Presbytery which consists of 24 "pastoral charges" and includes congregations from Pemberton, to the Sunshine Coast, the North Shore, East Vancouver, West End, the West Side South to 16th Ave. Each congregation has both "lay" and "ordained" reps, and some Youth reps., we welcome Gillian Bullen as ours.

Presbytery meets 7 times a year. The meetings are hosted by the member churches, so we have the opportunity to visit and worship in other churches and to hear some of their history and accomplishments. Meetings start with dinner followed by a short worship service and either a workshop or business meeting is held where the various committees report on the work they have been doing.

The purpose of Presbytery is to do the work associated with the running of the regional church through various committees; to share faith, insights and pastoral work with neighbouring churches; to hear and participate in themes of mission and ministry in the United Church; to participate in workshops that deal with issues that congregations deal with on a regular basis.

Workshops presented include Home Missions - stories from First United and Long House Native Ministry, Budget, Healing Touch Ministries, Conference Re-Design, Development & Fundraising, and the Nisga. Part of the role of being a Presbytery rep is to take part in one of the 10 committees, this year I have been placed on the Congregational Relations, but have not been called to participate so far, and due to my variable 12 hour shift work schedule, plus distance, it would be difficult. I have been a rep for several years so would like someone else to participate in the regional church which is a rewarding experience.

A new idea is Presbytery Prayer Partners - ours being University Hill United congregation, while Highlands United in North Vancouver, prays for us. We were all saddened by the resignation of Jen Cunnings after 7 years as Youth and Young Adult (YAYA) Ministry Facilitator, she has done a wonderful job with her enthusiasm and dedication and we have been fortunate for her visits to Squamish.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Patsy Riecker

## YOUTH GROUP

Gary and I and several other adults from the congregation have carried on in the Youth Group ministry at Squamish United Church over the past year, finding many challenges and rewards. Our objective has been to meet every second Sunday, but often other projects have enabled us to meet more often. Our membership is officially at 39, but our attendance can vary from 6 - 24 at any given time. Of note, our older members, competing with jobs and school have had difficulty staying connected to our group. However, four new members moved up in the Fall.

This has been a time of transition as we said goodbye to Claire and have got to know Brenda. We were thankful for the faithful participation of Tara Richardson in the selection process for a new minister. It was wonderful to have a Youth voice in that process.

Our year in 1999 continued to include sessions that have focused on service, recreation, and spiritual development. Claire led us in several spiritual sessions throughout the year, and led the group through another retreat at Galiano Island. A focus for the Spring was Confirmation. Six youth were part of that process. We continued to Food Pack for the local Food Bank every month through the school term. We have been blessed with the help of many other members of the congregation in this ministry. THANKS!

### Highlights of our Winter Term 1999:

- Skiing at Blackcomb
- Taize Service in Vancouver
- Jazz Vespers at St. Andrew's Wesley
- Walking the Talk Retreat
- Passion of Jesus. . . awesome and was held at our Church
- Pizza days at Caldwell's
- We made lunch for the Presbytery Youth Group that came up
- Car Wash
- The going away evening for Claire and Tom - creation of a Y/G scrapbook

### Highlights of our Fall Term 1999:

- Pot Luck Lunch
- Canvassing for CCC with the Anglican Y/G
- Food Packing again
- Pizza night at the Church
- Trick or Treating for the Food Bank
- Christmas Dinner at White Spot
- Helping with the Clay Event
- Participation in the Christmas Sunday Service

We are most pleased to recognize Josh Eppele and Gill Bullen as our Presbytery Reps. We are also sad to say goodbye to Jen Cummings, our Presbytery coordinator. Goals for the coming year include Youth participation with the confirmation class, including a weekend presbytery event, and finding more help with leadership. The needs of the Youth in our Congregation are growing. We currently need a second leader(s) to address the wide age range. We also need someone who is willing to track our members as they leave after graduation to keep them informed and connected. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Marilyn Caldwell

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## 1999 SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

It was a year of transition and change for the Sunday School. January through June was the completion of one Sunday school year, and September to December was the beginning of the next.

The first half of the year was a holding pattern, due to the congregation's focus on making preparations for Claire's departure in May, and finding a new minister.

On Sunday, June 5, ten teachers attended a luncheon at the home of Vicki Haberl. It was a day to thank the teachers, and to evaluate the year and determine how it could be improved. One of the main concerns was the irregular Sunday School attendance.

Some solutions were proposed for the fall.

- Implement a registration system and call children who are not attending.
- Implement an attendance incentive.

Another main concern was the difficulty recruiting teachers. This year, due to a shortage of teachers, grades 4 & 5 and 6 & 7 were combined into one group. At times, the "Nursery" children joined the "Primary" children. The following suggestions were made:

- Make sure potential teachers are aware of how easy it is to teach using *The Whole People of God Curriculum*.
- Have a fall planning meeting to discuss the entire Sunday School year, and a brief meeting prior to the start of each unit to discuss the curriculum and any special plans.
- Consider "team teaching" for some adults who are interested but may not be willing or available to commit to every Sunday of a unit.
- Encourage more members of the Youth Group to get involved in teaching the younger age groups.

Most of the above solutions were implemented, and have resulted in many improvements. At the fall planning meeting we were able to secure teachers for all units. This allowed the Sunday School Coordinator to focus more on program content rather than finding teachers each week!

The most notable aspect of the fall/winter session is the creation of "**Cool Dudes from the Bible**" Trading Cards. Tara Lynn offered to produce a bible-friendly "Pokemon" trading card that tells a shortened version of the theme being discussed in church each week. It's a big hit with the children, and it seems to be having a positive effect on attendance.

The arrival of our new minister also brought about many changes and fresh ideas. Brenda has many ways of involving the children in services. Each week a child is chosen to light the holy candles and the Sunday School Christ candle.

Advent Celebration was held again on the first Sunday of Advent. Children and their parents enjoy this opportunity to "get messy" making clay figurines for the church creche, as well as an advent wreath to take home.

The Sunday School participated in the Operation Christmas Child "shoe box" program, and a total 55+ shoe boxes were put together for needy children around the world. This program should be supported again next year, but an earlier start would allow the congregation to contribute even more generously.

Special thanks to Lynette Halvorson for her special role in organizing the shoe box program, and for offering summer Sunday School classes throughout the summer, all on her own! I'm sure the children appreciate it, as well as the parents!

Special thanks to Randi Halvorson who seems to be following in her Grandma's footsteps. She took on the pre-school class every other Sunday from September through December. She is a fine example to our children.

Special thanks to all the teachers and parents who have helped out with the Sunday School in so many ways. It is a pleasure to see our children enjoying their early years of learning of God's grace and the love of Jesus Christ.

Finally, there was a limited response to the Haberl's Alice Lake Group Campsite idea this summer. People seemed more interested in the daytime barbecue aspect of the event, but preferred to go home to sleep in their own beds! Maybe we will try a "Sunday School Picnic" in June next year!

Submitted by Vicki Haberl  
Sunday School Coordinator

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT

Bank balance January 1, 1999		546.11
<b><u>Receipts:</u></b>		
Sunday School Offering	<u>381.65</u>	927.76
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>		
S. S. Curriculum	390.81	
Supplies	<u>134.31</u>	
		<u>[525.23]</u>
Bank balance December 31, 1999		<b>402.64</b>

Submitted by Patsy Riecker  
Sunday School Treasurer



## UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

This was my first term as president and with the support of all members it was a successful year. However, it was also a time of change and a year of loss. Sadly, we bid farewell to two of our dedicated members. In February Shirley Saugstad of the Harmony Unit passed away and in August the McKenzie Unit grieved the loss of Doreen Bullington.

On May 16 we were pleased to present long time member Helen Bachuk with her Life Membership.

May was a busy month with two farewell evenings for Rev. Claire Bowers and husband, Tom. The Bethany Unit hosted a supper followed by hilarious presentations from each of our talented units. The McKenzie unit hosted the community entertainment evening. The Harmony Unit hosted the coffee hour following Claire's final service on May 30th.

The three units host monthly coffee hours, supply workers and pies for the Annual Hilltop House Bazaar & Tea, refreshments for Carol's Carols and donate toys and food to Community Christmas Care.

Our new minister Rev. Brendal Faust's induction service was held September 19 and the Bethany Unit hosted the reception. This unit also held two successful chicken sales, coupon book sales, and promoted Fair Trade Coffee.

The Harmony Unit sponsored two rummage sales, the October one being their last. They thank all U.C.W. members and others in the church for their help over the years. The unit donated two gift boxes for the Christmas Child project.

The Plant & Garage Sale sponsored by the McKenzie unit in May was well supported as is their Regal catalogue sales.

The three units meet each month as follows:

Bethany Unit on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Harmony Unit on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

McKenzie Unit on the 1st Monday of each month.

The members extend a warm welcome to any women in the congregation who would like to join one of the units.

Thanks are extended to Arlene Smith, our treasurer for many years who has retired from this position.

A new policy has been introduced and there will now be a fee charged for all funeral receptions catered by the U.C.W.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Patsy Riecker  
President, U.C.W. Executive



## U.C.W. FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1, opening balance

157.34

### Income:

#### Units

Plant/White Elephant Sale 1,111.22

Rummage Sales 2,168.00

Chicken Sales 13,697.00

(profit 1,841.79)

Regal Sales 1,393.23

Calendars 210.00

Carol's Carols 153.00

Coffee hours 229.40

Miscellaneous 202.15

Catering 100.00

19,039.10

### Expenses:

First United Mission 150.00

Life Membership 55.00

Mission & Service Fund 750.00

U.C.W. Projects Fund 500.00

Squamish United General Fund 4,600.00

Enhance the Manse Fund 1,400.00

Gift for Claire 100.00

Chicken Costs 11,855.21

Kitchen Petty Cash 200.00

Fair Trade Coffee 65.85

[19,777.06]

December 31, 1999 closing balance

238.83

Respectfully submitted by  
Arlene Smith,  
Treasurer, U.C.W. Executive

## ONGOING SERVICE PROJECTS

Toques:

Again, as in years past, members of this congregation and their friends have knit toques for the people at First United. Maxine Kent was the one who "clacked" her needles the most often -- she made 44 toques. Special thanks to Leona Ingraham for her contribution of 25 toques. Thank-you to all the others who contributed be it one toque or one toque per month. If everyone who knows how to knit would do so, we would be able to continue to help warm the cold heads in the downtown Eastside.

**First United Supplies:**

For many years there has been a grocery cart in the foyer. This cart has a sign on it so that you will know that the non-perishable food items placed in it will be taken to First United. We empty this cart several times a year. We also take in many clothing and bedding items, as well as mugs for their soup lunches. Thank you for remembering those in our inner city who are less able to provide for their basic needs than most of us are.

From time to time the people at First send us specific requests for food and supplies that they need. The last three times that we went to deliver what we had collected, all the dry goods were heaped in plastic bags on the floor. How do they find what they need? Maybe they would welcome a sorting and cleaning-up group to help them?

### Campbell Soup Labels and Postage Stamps:

We collect labels from Campbell's Soup to help the Evangelical School for the Deaf in Puerto Rico and the Ashcroft Figure Skating Club. Please turn in the complete label, flat, if possible, since the labels need to be cut, counted and bundled.

Postage stamps need to be left with 1/2" of envelope around them. These are passed on to the Ladies of the Eastern Star to deal with.

Submitted by  
Lou Rempel

[illegible]

## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARE

Although not an official committee of our church, members of this congregation have played a large role in this organization since it was first formed. Lois Cudmore, Gwen Rattray, June Halvorson, Sue Puchmayr, Brenda Faust, Retta Behrner and Lou Rempel were on the committee. Many others helped with sorting, counting, packing and delivering. Many thanks to those of you who donated your time, toys, food and money. More than \$29,000 was donated by people and businesses in Squamish and more than 268 hampers were prepared to help make Christmas a little brighter for about 800 people.

Submitted by  
Lou Rempel

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## MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

The Men's Breakfast group met on nine Saturdays in 1999. Average attendance per meeting was about fifteen. While the group is always open to new members, there are currently 31 members listed on the phone list for the group.

The Men's Breakfast Group continued to operate on a fairly informal basis providing an opportunity for fellowship for members. At each breakfast one of the members presents a theme which is then opened for discussion. Most of the topics include strong spiritual or personal growth elements.

While not operating as a service-oriented group, the Men's Breakfast continued to provide some service functions for the Church in 1999. For instance, members of the group participated in Manse renovation work, landscaping, painting and maintenance work at the Church and setting up for functions at the church.

Submitted by  
Rob Wotherspoon, Coordinator



## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The final year of the millennium has been for the Property Committee, one of new beginnings and renewal. New members to the committee include: Wilf Grolman, Chair and Mike Smith, electrical support. It would not have been possible for me to take on this important portfolio without the long-standing commitment and support of the group. My gratitude to Bill Rempel, Burt Minshall, Don Behrner, George Gilmour, Norm Halvorson and Jill Gould for their excellent service, experience and advice. Also everyone who participated enthusiastically in our work bees and projects are by extension ad hoc members of the Property Committee - their efforts greatly appreciated.

The highest profile project this year was a retooling of the manse property. Replacing the old shake roof on the garage with long-lasting metal and strengthening the framework has rescued its future from near collapse. Our minister's home itself was upgraded substantially in many areas for security, safety and efficiency. An all new heating boiler and conversion to propane fuel gives us better and more affordable heat. Seven replacement thermal pane windows complete the window upgrade. A monitored security system ensures personal and property protection. Satellite TV and inter-net connection put the manse on the cutting edge of the news and information world. Electrical upgrades, better lighting and improved washer/dryer complete the makeover. Other improvements were carried out by congregational work bees to paint the exterior of the garage and apply vapour barrier and insulation in the basement. To round out the coziness of the manse, Brenda can now toast her toes by the propane fireplace insert in the living room. The only remaining job is installation of a new basement heating loop and minor plumbing upgrades - dependent on availability of a plumber.

In advance of this large scale project was the "Enhance the Manse" drive. A goal was approved by Board while the congregation responded with their cheque books and imaginative fundraising (Collette Brown and Monique Lynn even ran a bottle refund depot.) The final tally fell somewhat shy. However, the shortfall was negated by a considerable savings in the very competitive home security sector.

The manse project received major focus necessitated by the opportunity to "catch up" between Claire and Tom's departure and Brenda's arrival. It was a chance for our congregation to physically work through our transition from Claire's tenure toward our open armed welcome for Brenda.

But by no means will our other buildings be neglected. An inspection in the spring revealed a short list of repairs and upgrades which were carried out in due course. Even the church keyboard was sent out to be serviced and repaired after a minor malfunction. Hopefully it will serve us well for another ten years or more.

Technological advances occurred in the form of two new computers - one in the minister's office and one in the general office. Software upgrades and a consultant ensure our phones, computers, fax and printer network effectively so that we are now "on line" as requested by Presbytery.

Brenda also rolled up her sleeves to (among other things) have a paint and pizza party. The result is an attractive fresh office in which to work, meet and counsel.

In conclusion, this year has seen more effort and money spent than usual. The results have been in some cases sorely needed and in most other cases aimed toward greater effectiveness, reliability and efficiency. Barring any unforeseen disaster I expect our buildings and property are in fair (annex) to good condition. We, as the Property Committee will carry out our duties diligently in the pursuit of dependable buildings and property in the future.

Many blessings!

Respectfully submitted by  
Wilf Grolman, Property Chair

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## FINANCE COMMITTEE

This years Finance Committee report sees its writing before the fiscal year end and thus before I have the benefit of knowing how our finances bring in the new year. It also gives me the opportunity to discuss the past year without having to dwell too much on bank balances, expenses, and receipts for our church. I will briefly though, as it is your givings that take us from one end of the church financial year to the other. We started the General Fund year with a substantial surplus, in excess of \$10,000. However in typical spring and early summer fashion we were brought back to zero balance reality and in fact we were forced to pay several large bills from the Building Fund. At this time (late December) I still do not know whether the Building Fund can be repaid.

The year in review saw us make change to the composition of our Church Board and witnessed our striking forth with renewed vigor with our new minister. Our office is now equipped with two new computers that will hopefully see useful service well into the new century and the manse benefited from new expenditures and several very productive work bees.

Unfortunately our Mission and Service goal sees us falling short again this year, an unfortunate pattern of the last several years.

A hearty thanks from the Finance Committee to all individual church members and adherents for sustaining the level of contribution that you have over the past year. Special thanks to groups such as the U.C.W. for their active fund raising events which go so far in sustaining our programs.

Respectfully submitted by  
Dave Doubek, Chair

[illegible]



# COMPARISON OF 1999 BUDGET VERSUS ACTUAL EXPENDITURES SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH - GENERAL ACCOUNT

<u>Category:</u>	<u>Budgeted:</u>	<u>Actual:</u>
Remuneration	47,800.00	51,071.29
Extended Education	1,000.00	936.00
Worker's Compensation	130.00	153.18
Service Contracts	4,616.00	4,162.50
Insurance	2,200.00	2,230.00
Municipal Services	2,300.00	2,134.99
Heating Fuel	5,000.00	5,346.49
Electricity	1,600.00	1,837.38
Telephone/Internet	2,100.00	2,078.43
Security System	300.00	693.80
Copier Lease/Service	1,700.00	1,877.40
Maintenance	1,000.00	1,156.88
Sundries	800.00	106.14
Capital Acquisitions	500.00	182.38
Search/Moving Expenses for Minister	6,000.00	1,082.41
Farewell for Claire & Tom Bowers		556.76
Mission & Service	12,400.00	9,678.11
Special Appeals		987.54
Presbytery	2,719.00	2,719.04
Presbytery Dinners		24.00
Observer	300.00	360.00
Seminars (B.C. Conference)	300.00	200.00
Guest Speakers	1,600.00	1,017.90
Caring Ministry	300.00	268.73
Church & Office Supplies	2,200.00	1,832.22
Vancouver School of Theology	100.00	100.00
Christian Education	500.00	697.10
Music	600.00	1,005.83
Youth Group	100.00	
Confirmation Class	400.00	75.35
Congregational Retreat		387.08
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>98,565.00</b>	<b>94,958.93</b>

**RECEIPTS AND DONATIONS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1999  
SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH - GENERAL ACCOUNT**

**A. LOCAL RECEIPTS AND DONATIONS:**

By envelope & P.A.R.	61,638.50
Open offering	5,853.74
Gifts & donations	4,605.01
U.C.W. donations	4,600.00
Observer	101.00
Annex & Church honorariums	4,416.00
Miscellaneous Credits	46.05
Manse Fuel Installments	200.00

**B. MISSION AND SERVICE:**

By envelope & P.A.R.	8,928.11
U.C.W. donations	750.00
<b>Credited M &amp; S</b>	<b>9,678.11</b>
Special Appeals	
First United Church Mission	636.00
Teresa's Roses	87.00
Presbytery Student Education Fund	214.54
<b>Total for missions</b>	<b>10,615.65</b>

**C. TOTAL RECEIPTS AND DONATIONS: 92,075.95**

# EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1999

## SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH - GENERAL ACCOUNT

### EXPENSES:

1. Salaries & Related expenses	51,071.29
2. Extended Education	936.00
3. Worker's Compensation	153.18
4. Service Contracts (Organists & Janitorial)	4,162.50
5. Insurance	2,230.00
6. Municipal Services	2,134.99
7. Heating Fuels	5,346.49
8. Electricity	1,837.38
9. Telephones	1,987.42
10. Maintenance	1,156.88
11. Security (Church & Manse)	693.80
12. Capital Additions	182.38
13. Sundries	106.14
14. Mission & Service	9,678.11
15. Special Appeal (Teresa's Roses)	87.00
16. First United Church Donations	80.00
17. White Gift Appeal (First United Church)	606.00
18. Presbytery Allocation	2,719.04
19. Presbytery Dinners	24.00
20. Seminars & Session	200.00
21. Guest Speakers	1,017.90
22. Caring Ministry	268.73
23. Farewell for Claire & Tom Bowers	556.76
24. Church & Office Supplies	1,832.22
25. Internet Connection	91.01
26. Duplicator Lease & Service	1,877.40
27. Music	1,005.83
28. Christian Education	697.10
29. Search Committee Expenses	1,082.41
30. Congregational Retreat	387.08
31. Confirmation Class	75.35
32. Vancouver School of Theology	100.00
33. Presbytery Student Education Fund	214.54
34. Observer	360.00

**TOTAL:**

**94,958.93**



**SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH**  
**YEAR END FINANCIAL STATEMENT (unaudited)**  
**DECEMBER 31, 1999**

**A. General Operating Account: (Royal Bank)**

Carry over from 1999	10,855.92
1999 Receipts	92,075.95
1999 Expenses	[94,958.93]
	<hr/>
<b>Carry over into 2000</b>	<b>7,972.94</b>

**B. Benevolent Fund Account:**

Carry over from 1998	956.08
Receipts for 1999	600.00
Expenses for 1999	[504.81]
	<hr/>
<b>Carry over into 2000</b>	<b>1,051.27</b>

**C. Advance the Manse Fund:**

Donations	5,887.00
Mountain Building Centre	[3,350.31]
Radio Shack	[581.40]
Speedy Auto & Window Glass	[2,055.82]
Mountain Building Centre (overpayment)	571.19
	<hr/>
<b>Credit @Mountain Building Centre</b>	<b>470.66</b>

**D. Building Fund Account: (Nova Scotia)**

Carry over from 1998	10,968.77
Receipts for 1999	4,772.50
Interest	23.16
Duncan Moving & Storage	[2,768.75]
Squamish Heating & Sheet Metal	[3,944.02]
Dave Doubek (computer)	[1,610.94]
Cheque Printing	[18.77]
Service Charges	[8.20]
	<hr/>
<b>Carry over into 2000</b>	<b>7,413.75</b>

[illegible]

## ENVELOPE SECRETARY'S REPORT

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Envelope and P.A.R. contributions	89	93	88
Bank Check off users	1	1	-
Contributors by yearly donation	6	7	6
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTORS</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>94</b>
Contributors to M & S Fund	56	56	53
Special Fund Contributors	47	66	43

Are you interested in where you stand in the financial picture of the church? The following figures are from the total identifiable contributions and include local support, M & S donations and special appeal donations.

	<u>Number of givers in:</u>		
	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
1.00 - 100.00.....	15	12	9
101.00 - 200.00.....	9	12	14
201.00 - 300.00.....	10	8	7
301.00 - 400.00.....	3	6	8
401.00 - 500.00.....	7	8	4
501.00 - 600.00.....	9	4	3
601.00 - 700.00.....	8	8	8
701.00 - 800.00.....	5	5	3
801.00 - 900.00.....	2	4	3
901.00 - 1000.00.....	2	3	2
1001.00 - 1100.00.....	3	4	5
1101.00 - 1200.00.....	4	5	6
1201.00 - 1300.00.....	2	3	3
1301.00 - 1400.00.....	4	1	1
1401.00 - 1500.00.....	1	1	3
1501.00 - 1600.00.....	1	6	4
1601.00 - 1700.00.....	3	-	-
1701.00 - 1800.00.....	1	1	3
1801.00 - 1900.00.....	-	-	1
1901.00 - 2000.00.....	-	1	1
2001.00 - 2100.00.....	1	2	-
2301.00 - 2400.00.....	-	1	-
2701.00 - 2800.00.....	1	-	-
2901.00 - 3000.00.....	1	1	1
3001.00 - 3100.00.....	-	-	1
3101.00 - 3200.00.....	-	-	1





## FROM OUR CHURCH REGISTERS 1999

### IN MEMORIAM: (10)

Leslie Osborne Magee - January 17  
Shirley Saugstad - February 15  
Gordon Charles Nicholas Mattheos - March 7  
William James Elliott - March 12  
Kenneth Marshall McHale - May 12  
Colin Wesley Banner - August 15  
Doreen Maria Bullington - August 30  
Kenneth Alfred Nash - September 28  
Robert Roger Desjardins - October 24  
Robert Troy Church - December 10

### MARRIAGES: (4)

Daniel Graham Steeves and Jennifer Pieroto Duarte - May 22  
Mark David Smode and Catherine Elizabeth White - July 17  
Gwyer Victor Webber and Laura Michelle McCarthy - August 14  
Anthony Augustine Faust and Jennifer Heather Marten - September 12

### BAPTISMS: child (3)

Jae Alexandra Makitalo, daughter of Antti & Lisa Makitalo - March 28  
Abigail Suzanne Sorensen, daughter of Peter & Miranda Sorensen - March 28  
Tessa Aileen Wotherspoon, daughter of Rob & Barbara Wotherspoon - March 28

### BAPTISMS: adult (2)

Karen Louise LaRiviere - March 28  
Tara Jeannette Lynn - March 28

### NEW MEMBERS - CONFIRMATION: (5)

Josh Eppele - April 11  
Katie Gordon - April 11  
Courtney Kent - April 11  
Amy Pawlett - April 11  
Sonja Pedersen - April 11

**NEW MEMBERS: (10)**

Ian Brown - April 11  
Carol Ann Eppele - April 11  
Denise Evans - April 11  
Kevin Haberl - April 11  
Micki Haberl - April 11  
Karen LaRiviere - April 11  
Tara Lynn - April 11  
John Morey - April 11  
Louise Teichman - April 11  
Joan Gravkin - May 16

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# SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH PROPOSED 2000 BUDGET

<u>Remuneration</u>	
Minister's Salary	30,480
Pension, Insurance, Medical	4,800
WCB	160
CPP & EI	3,400
Book Allowance	400
Extended Education	1,500
Travel Allowance	3,000
Secretarial	9,900
Janitorial	2,800
Organist	1,816
<i>Subtotal</i>	58,256
<u>Secular Expenses</u>	
Insurance	2,300
Municipal Services	2,300
Heating Fuel	6,000
Electricity	2,000
Telephone/internet	2,200
Security System Monitoring	900
Copier Lease/Service	1,600
Maintenance	1,000
Sundries	800
Capital Acquisitions	500
<i>Subtotal</i>	19,600
<u>Outreach</u>	
Mission and Service	10,600
Presbytery	2,860
Observer	360
Seminars (B.C. Conference)	700
Guest Speakers	800
Caring Ministry	300
Church & Office Supplies	2,200
V.S.T.	200
Music	1,100
Christian Education	500
Youth Group	300
<i>Subtotal</i>	19,920
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>97,776.00</b>

HOUSE  
12000

30,480  
4,800  
160  
3,400  
400  
1,500  
3,000  
9,900  
2,800  
1,816

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+ TAXES  
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INSUR  
ETC  
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