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## *Random Thoughts from Claire*

I thought I might as well call this "report" what it truly is; thoughts and memories as they come to me. Since I am not a committee reporting on what has been done in the past year, I have the privilege and the challenge of putting some random thoughts together. And of course,, it is very much on my mind right now that this is my last report and that we are now really at the junction of saying good-bye to each other. That being the case, I would really like to take a few minutes to muse with you on what the last 5 1/2 years have been about, as I see them.

First of all, let me say what an enormous privilege it has been for me to be able to be with you through these years. I have to say that they have not been easy years for the congregation or for the town of Squamish. There has been so much tragedy. I'm sure that your prayers, as are mine, are prayers that this all come to an end and that happiness prevail for everyone. As is the case with everyone who walks these paths, I have grown tremendously, both as a person and in my soulfulness. My heart is bigger and I am a more accepting and tolerant person. Thank you for being God's instrument in my growth. Over the past few years I have experienced the holiness and mystery of life as they spill over into the boundaries of my very normal human existence.

Many Sundays I felt the presence of the Spirit among us, as some of you have told me that you felt it, too. On occasion it seemed that the Spirit took over and we rode its wave of Sacred blessing and gave in to its direction. This had little to do with me and everything to do with a community open and ready to accept the guidance of a power far greater than itself. This, of course,, means that you can expect to continue to feel the presence of the Spirit in your midst. All you have to do is ask for it and expect it to show up.

It is wonderful and also humbling to see what a strong community you have come to be for each other. My hope for you is that you allow that community to continue to grow and not be afraid of it growing, for this is the Spirit's gift to you. Someone new to our Church family recently said to me that many congregations talk about being community but this congregation actually is a community. The town of Squamish really needs you to be the Spiritual community that you are. Many changes will come for Squamish as the next millennium approaches and your strength as a community can be a powerful gift. Congregations don't, aren't supposed to exist, in and for themselves. We exist for the sake of the world, to be of service to the world. We also exist to be a support for each other, to pick up a sister or a brother when she/he falls, to find reasons for joyfulness and to be the presence of hope to each other when the light of hope burns dim.

I confess I feel a bit like a parent who is sending you off on your own. While I don't want to patronize you, I do have a need to find ways to say to you what's most important for me to say, and so I will probably say these things again a few times in the next four months. What I most want to say is don't be afraid. Don't be afraid to say to a person attending worship, "I don't know your name, and I'd like to." Don't be afraid to follow your intuition and take bold steps. The Spirit often speaks to us through that still small voice inside. Don't be afraid to state your thoughts, even if you suspect they are different from the majority. Usually the majority is a place where the fearful gather anyway. Don't be afraid to let the Spirit lead you to places and in ways you never expected or in ways that so delight you, you thought they were too good to be true. Our God is a God of abundance and grace who expects greatness from us and yearns for great things for us.

Releasing the past year, let's all be grateful for what was, and turn in trust and expectation to the year to come.

Respectfully, Claire Bowers



## MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 1998

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Squamish United Church was held in the church on February 8, 1998 with 28 members present. Dessert and coffee was served. Syd Pudney read Psalm 84 and offered an opening prayer. The hymn "Take My Life and Let It Be" was sung.

The Chairperson, Shelley Smith called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

M/S by Wilf Grolman/Syd Pudney that all present be given voting privileges. Carried.

M/S by Syd Pudney/Irene Vickers that the minutes of the 1997 Annual Congregational Meeting be adopted. Carried.

### 1997 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, Congregational Life and Work, Caring Ministry, Ministry and Personnel, Sunday School, Sunday School Financial, Youth Group, Vancouver Burrard Presbytery, B.C. Conference, United Church Women, U.C.W. Financial, Toques, Community Christmas Care, Men's Group, Property.

M/S by Peter Gordon/Carol Grolman that the above named reports be accepted. Carried.

### Nominating Committee Report:

Wilf Grolman presented the following slate of Chairs, officers and committee members for 1998:

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

Worship Committee - Chair: Syd Pudney. Members: Lynette Halvorson, Christine Tribe, Judi Jenkins, Joanna Schwarz, Sue Puchmayr, Patsy Riecker, Walter Huber.

Congregational Life and Work Committee - Chair: Peter Gordon. Members: Dave Elliot, Shelley Smith, Kathy MacKenzie, Retta Behrner.

Finance Committee - Chair: Dave Doubek. Members: Bert Ionsen, Gill Hotston, Wilf Grolman, Dave Smith.

Ministry and Personnel - Chair: Grace Halvorson. Members: Rainer Schwarz, Trevor Harris, Mary Larcombe.

Property Committee - Chair: Burt Minshall. Members: Bill Rempel, Don Behrner, Norm Halvorson, George Gilmour, Harry Whale, Jill Gould, Romeo Tayag.

Caring Ministry - CoChairs: Maureen Gilmour, June Halvorson. Members: Lynette Halvorson, Olly Adams, Tara Lynn, Evelyn Dawson, Irene Vickers, Christine Tribe.

Members at Large - Wilf Grolman, Kevin Haberl, Gill Hotston, Carol Ann Eppele.

Presbytery Representative - Patsy Riecker.

United Church Women - June Halvorson.

Men's Group - Dave Elliot.

Sunday School Coordinator - Sue Ferguson (until June'98).

Nominations were opened to the floor. Sue Ferguson's name will be added to the Congregational Life and Work Committee. Judi Jenkins asked that her name be deleted from the Worship Committee as she is unable to make the meetings. Phil Harness agreed to let his name stand as a member of the Worship Committee.

M/S by Wilf Grolman/Trevor Harris that the 1998 slate of officers be accepted with the power to add any additional members. Carried.

A vote of thanks was given to the members of the Nominating Committee: Wilf Grolman, Dave Elliot, Dave Doubek and Patsy Riecker.

#### Finance Reports and Proposed 1998 Budget:

Dave Doubek highlighted the 1997 Financial Reports with emphasis on the shortfall, especially the M & S shortfall.

M/S Dave Doubek/Bert Ionsen that the 1997 Financial Reports be accepted. Carried.

The Proposed 1998 Budget was presented for approval.

M/S Dave Doubek/Grace Halvorson that the Proposed 1998 Budget be accepted as presented.

Votes of Thanks:

Thanks and Appreciation was extended to Claire for her supportive and loving ministry.

Thank you's were given to Gary and Marilyn Caldwell for their work with the Youth Group and also to Choir Director, Ian Brown and the members of the choir for their wonderful ministry of music.

Thanks once again to Dave & Shelley Smith (Black Tusk Reality) for printing the Annual Reports and also to Trevor Harris (Squamish Elementary School) for the loan of the binding machine.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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## SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH OFFICIAL BOARD

For the Official Board, 1998 started off as a year of enthusiasm. We looked forward to continuing on the course begun by the previous Board to determine by visioning meetings and self questioning, just how the Board might best serve the Church, and how the Church in turn might find its place in the community at large, as well as serving as the spiritual home of our congregation.

I must report, however, that the Official Board of necessity found itself pre-occupied with two other major concerns:

(1) Our minister Rev. Claire Bowers gave notice in April that she would be leaving us at the end of May 1999. As we struggled to accept this very sad news which seemed to come so soon after the very emotionally charged Bob MacIntosh tragedy, we had to pull ourselves together in order to continue to properly discharge our duty.

In addition to our normal function as the Official Board, we were faced with the immediate responsibility of setting in motion the complex procedure which hopefully will enable us to find a new minister. In this connection I cannot say enough about the dedication of the Board members, who all agreed to act as the "Needs Assessment Committee". This saved time by eliminating the need for nominations and forming a separate committee, but it did place a heavy burden on the Board members, requiring extra weekly meetings beginning in September and continuing right to the year end. We tried to keep the work of the Committee at arms length so to speak from the Official Board function, but this was difficult at times since they were, after all, the same individuals. Not only was the dedication of these people noteworthy, but the skill with which they carried out their tasks in preparing the various profiles for the final submission was indeed impressive.

That phase, the "Needs Assessment", has now been completed and approved. The members of the joint committee, which was chaired by Mr. Trevor Harris certainly deserves our applause and appreciation. Also we thank Rev. Glen Baker and Mr Brian Smith for their participation and important contribution as Presbytery representatives.

(2) For the greater part of 1998 the financial position of Squamish United Church was indeed a very serious one, with our normal operating expenses out-running our income.

Ironically in our early efforts to induce greater contributions, we appealed to the congregation by saying that if there was not an improvement in weekly offerings, we might even be in danger of losing Claire.



At the year end as you can see by the report of our Finance Chairman, Dave Doubek, things had turned around. The contributions had increased, the auction in November paid off, and our good U.C.W. ladies made their annual major financial contribution, all adding up to an exceptionally good financial result.

It has been a pleasure to have Vicki Haberl join us on the Board this year as the Sunday School Coordinator. Her wisdom, energy and "up-beat" manner have been much appreciated. On the other hand we have greatly missed Dave Elliot who has been in hospital over the past several weeks.

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

The members and aderents of Squamish United Church can justly be proud of the way they have responded to the needs and the events which have taken place both in the Church and the community at large over the past year. On a personal level Shirley and I sincerely thank all of you in our "Church Family" for the expressions of friendship and affection at the time of our 50th anniversary last April.

Respectfully submitted,  
Syd Pudney, Board Chair

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## WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

1998 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.

We had been holding our meetings at noon whenever we saw an obvious need for having a meeting, but this method was found to be too vague to enable us to really take hold of our task. In the later part of the year we started holding regular meetings every other month at noon on the same day as the Official Board meets. While it is still too soon to properly evaluate, we believe we will have much more continuity in our deliberations. Meeting at noon time is intended to make it easier for most members to attend. Unfortunately there are a couple of members who could not attend at that time due to their vocational obligations, and they will be resigning from the committee at the end of this term. While we will miss them very much, we have been very fortunate in having excellent replacements ready to take their places.

Two Christmas Eve services were offered this year, one at 7:00 p.m. and the second at 9:30 p.m. The earlier service was primarily to accomodate families with small children, while the second was identical in almost every aspect the congregation was mostly adults or older youngsters. With the second service being a repeat of the first, the amount of preparation time needed by our minister Rev. Bowers was kept to a minimum, allowing her more freedom to enjoy her personal holiday celebrations with her husband. We appreciate the way in which the choir and their director Ian Brown did double duty to provide special music for both services.

The second service time was put at 9:30 to allow plenty of time to safely empty the parking areas around the church before the arrival of second service people. We have come to the conclusion that a 9:00 p.m. start would have given us plenty of time.

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. I know I can speak for all the members of the committee when I say that the opportunity to serve in this manner has been greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,  
Syd Pudney, Chair



## SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH CHOIR

1998 was another busy year for the choir, which continues to provide musical leadership to all of our Sunday worship services. The choir prepares an anthem and an introit for the majority of Sunday services, it also rehearses and leads the singing of the hymns each week. As usual, we took on a number of special projects, last year, including Sing the Faith (the ecumenical evening of church music) in February, Carol's Carols, The Evergreen Christmas Service (with the McKenzie family) and Celebrate a Life (with the Squamish Hospice Society).

We took on an exciting new challenge, last year, presenting a full evening concert of choir music, on May 24. We called the event Voices United and we enjoyed presenting an evening of our favorite anthems and songs of the year. We had an excellent audience and we appreciate their support. (We raised about \$700 in donations, that night.)

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

Of course, 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 and we appreciate her commitment and talent.

We look forward to continuing in our role, in the music ministry of our church and we wish Claire the best of wishes, in the changes that lie ahead for her.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ian Brown, Director.

## 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.

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

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## CARING MINISTRY

This past year the Caring Ministry team has done its best to keep in touch with those who were sick, grieving or depressed as well as on happy occasions such as a milestone birthday or special anniversary.

For those who didn't hear from us and should have please accept our appologies as it was never our intention to ignore someone who was in need of a little cheering.

For many years June Halvorson and myself have coordinated Caring Ministry and now we feel it is time to step aside and let some new ideas surface with new coordinators. Could this be your ministry in our congregation? Please give it some thought. New members on the committee are always welcome. If visitation isn't your thing perhaps you would be comfortable making a phone call or two or writing a cheery note to someone.

Submitted by,  
Maureen Gilmour  
June Halvorson

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## 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 32, but our attendance can vary from 6 - 24 at any given time. Communication and team building have continued to be goals.

We have been truly inspired by the enthusiasm and spirit of the youth we meet with. They are truly wonderful. We are all ever so thankful for the education and leadership from Claire.

Our year in 1998 has included sessions that have focussed on service, recreation and spiritual development. Claire has led us in several spiritual sessions throughout the year, and led the group through wonderful sessions at Galiano Island. 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 1998:

Skiing at Blackcomb.

Skating with the Baptist Church Youth Group.

Fund Raising for our Year End Rafting Trip.

Car Wash.

Mexican Dinner Night (the dinner night was an extraordinary intergenerational evening with great food and awesome dancing).

Rafting on the Squamish River.

### Highlights of our Fall Term 1998:

Retreat at Galiano Island.

Estuary Tour.

Rock Climbing with the Haberls.

Food Packing Again.

Alice Lake.

Trick or Treating for the Food Bank.

Christmas Spit n' Polish Night.

Helping with the Clay Event and Participating in the Sunday School Christmas Service.

Goals for the coming year include Youth Group participation with the Confirmation Class, including a weekend Presbytery event. Selecting 2 Presbytery representatives, and solidifying our ever evolving group.

We would like to offer special thanks to Claire for the positive influence she has had with the youth of our church. In particular we would like to thank her initiating the Confirmation process two years ago. The process really helped to formulate a more cohesive youth group in the church. Her influence in the Spiritual Development of our youth will be missed. Thank you.

Faithfully submitted,  
Marilyn and Gary Caldwell

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Susan Ferguson was the Sunday School Coordinator for the January to May portion of this year, resigning her position when she moved to Alberta. Classes ended with the Outdoor Service on May 31. The Outdoor Service had a "Noah's Ark" theme, complete with the theatrics of Peter Gordon, and the children. A gift of appreciation was presented to Susan for all her hard work and commitment.

The week of the fall Outdoor Service, Vicki Haberl commenced as Coordinator. A meeting was held to give parents and prospective teachers an overview of the plans for the coming Sunday School year. Sunday School began the following week.

Sunday School is approximately 40 minutes total, and begins with taking the collection, then singing some music, followed by the classroom sessions. This year the Theme Conversation at the beginning was led by each of the teachers in rotation. This alleviates the Coordinator from being in Sunday School every week.

A wonderful addition to the program is a greater focus on music. Lynn Brown volunteered to be the Music Director for the Sunday School. Lynn leads the children through one or two songs before going to their classes. On Children's Sunday, November 22, the children sang two of the songs they had learned.

November 29 was Advent Sunday. During the Sunday School hour, a puppeteer, Astrid (Tara Lynn's mother) led the Primary Children (Grades 2, 3) through a puppet workshop. They learned how to make puppets come alive, and after the Church service, made a small presentation to the Congregation.

The Congregational Advent Celebration took place after the service. The Youth Group, and some parents, assisted in setting up the two working stations and worked with the children to create clay figurines for the creche display in the main foyer. The second work station involved making advent table centres. This is an annual tradition which the children really enjoy. It is worth the mess! Thanks to the Youth Group!

The next focus was the Christmas Concert, held on December 13 during the regular service. Children who are in regular attendance at Sunday School were given the opportunity to have a "part." All children who were present on that day participated in some way. The Christmas Story was told through dialogue and songs by angels, shepherds, and kings. All children sang "Away in a Manger."

The final classes were December 20. During the two weeks of Christmas holidays, videos were shown.



During Unit 3 (November 29 to January 3) it became apparent that it was difficult to recruit enough teachers for five classes. It was decided that the older groups (Grades 4, 5, and 6, 7) would be combined into one class.

Submitted by,  
Vicki Haberl,  
Sunday School Coordinator.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT

Bank balance as of January 1, 1998 301.80

### Receipts:

Sunday School Offering	515.70	
Special Congregational Offering	<u>425.45</u>	
		941.15

### Disbursements:

Sunday School Curriculum	459.30	
M & S fund	60.00	
Sunday School Supplies	97.54	
Miscellaneous	<u>80.00</u>	
		[ 696.84 ]

Bank balance as of December 31, 1998 \$ 546.11

Submitted by,  
Patsy Riecker,  
Sunday School Treasurer

## VANCOUVER BURRARD PRESBYTERY

We are members, with 23 other pastoral charges of the Vancouver Burrard Presbytery, which is the regional area of decision making in the United Church, B.C. Conference being the provincial and General Council being the national area. There was no B.C. Conference meeting in May this year as they have changed their annual meeting to a biennial event to save money.

Each congregation has both lay and ordained representatives to presbytery, which meets 7 times a year, each meeting is hosted by a different congregation which gives us an opportunity to visit and worship in other churches and to hear some of their history and accomplishments. After a dinner together there is 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; to share faith, insights and pastoral work with neighbouring churches; to hear and participate in themes of mission and ministry in the United Church. Also to participate in workshops that deal with issues the congregations deal with on a regular basis, like the Indian Residential School issues, local missions, stories from First United Church and the Long House Native Ministry; changes in Pastoral Relations, how to go about doing a "Needs Assessment." Also Jean Moore, a long standing member, who constantly reminds us of our commitment to M & S and the good work that is done by our giving.

In May, I attended a very enjoyable Celebration of Ministry dinner for those retiring: Patricia and Glen Baker, Jim Elliot and Bob Smith; and 50th Anniversary of Commissionings, it 's amazing and humbling to hear all the accomplishments of these wonderful United Church people.

In May, the Executive received a letter from Claire Bowers requesting a change in Pastoral Relations effective May 31, 1999, thus, starting the process we are continuing with the Search Committee.

Camp Fircom on Gambier Island celebrated it's 75th anniversary as a United Church camp. Many of the annual 500 summer campers are helped financially. 1,500 use the very special facilities in the spring and fall, plus a youth team leader course, and now they will have office and meeting space in the renovated basement of Trinity United Church in Kitsilano and will be able to continue their good work year round.

YAYA continues to grow under the enthusiastic leadership of Jen Cummings and some of our youth here attended in the various workshops and United Church camps.

They are trying to restart the Global Concerns Committee which I am a member of, but no meetings by year end.

Participating in the wider church and meeting many dedicated people is a rewarding experience others should have, as I am unable to attend every meeting due to work and the travel to Vancouver has it's problems including a 3 hour wait after the November meeting due to a storm road closure.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Patsy Riecker, Presbytery Rep.

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## UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The U.C.W. continued to have three active units working throughout 1998. Membership remains steady. Each unit meeting consists of programs, devotionals and planning of projects. Much strength and support is gained from being together in a social setting.

Some of the good work accomplished was:

- Jan. - Church kitchen cleaned and inventory taken.
- Mar. - Hosted World Day of Prayer.
  - Friendship night held for the women of the congregation.
  - Rummage sale.
  - Tea for Maria Halvorson funeral.
- Apr. - Hosted tea after church for Pudney's 50th anniversary.
  - Chicken sales.
  - Tea for Edith Campbell funeral.
- May - Sponsored Plant and Garage sale.
- Aug. - Tea for Dick Dawson funeral.
- Sept - Chicken sales.
- Oct. - Provided pies and workers for Hilltop House Harvest Tea.
- Nov. - Baskets of gifts for the Goods and Service Auction.
  - Calendar sales.
- Dec. - Refreshments for Carol's Carols.
  - Fair Trade coffee sold.

Highlighted for me, personally, this year was the World Day of Prayer. For the first time in many years we tried an evening service and it was well attended. Having our church choir take part in the worship was very special. Also, it was a privilege to join with the Pudney family for their anniversary.

As I end my term as U.C.W. president, I would like to thank everyone for their support over the past two years. There are many willing and capable women working for our church. How blessed we are.

Submitted by,  
June Halvorson,  
President, U.C.W. Executive.



## U.C.W FINANCIAL REPORT

Opening balance 157.34

<u>Income:</u>	Units	2,308.17	
	Catering	396.71	
	Rummage Sales	2,199.23	
	Regal Sales	1,308.84	
	Chicken Sales	17,727.85	
	Other	<u>495.25</u>	
			24,436.05

<u>Expenses:</u>	Chicken costs	15,321.64	
	B.C. Project fund	500.00	
	M & S	750.00	
	Squamish United	6,500.00	
	Calendars	102.29	
	Other	<u>442.67</u>	
			[23,616.60]

December 31, 1998 closing balance \$976.79

Submitted by,  
Arlene Smith,  
Treasurer, U.C.W. Executive.

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## TOQUES

In 1997 Annual Report I suggested that knitters might like to make one toque a month for First United. Several people appear to have done that or even more so this year's total was 216. I'm sure that "the little bald-headed men" (and those with hair, too) would say thank-you if they could speak to us.

Submitted by,  
Lou Rempel

#####

## MEN'S GROUP

For many years, this group has met monthly to enjoy breakfast together followed by discussions on a variety of topics.

During 1998, the attendance remained solid. On average 10 - 15 men came out to participate. Different people played leadership roles by presenting a topic and challenging the group to respond to key questions. This group does not need any motivation, different perceptions and backgrounds, personal experiences, a great sense of humour and sometimes boisterous singing make these sessions a unique experience.

After the discussion, the group sometimes does some maintenance work and gardening.

We would like to invite all other men to join us. It's an excellent opportunity for fellowship and personal growth. With an early 8:30 a.m. start we usually finish around 10:30 a.m. and there is still plenty of time for personal weekend activities.

Special thanks to those who co-ordinate and lead these meetings, the cooks who come in early to prepare the meal, and the other people who participate during discussion time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rainer Schwarz

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

In 1998, a few changes happened to the property committee. After a number of years Bill Rempel, the former committee chair, stepped aside to allow someone else to try tend to the task of maintaining and improving the buildings and property of the Squamish United Church. With Bill's advice and assistance we managed to keep the church in a fairly good state of repair.

A wish list of hopeful improvements was formulated with the help of a number of people. Some ideas and suggestions did get done. The most notable and needy on the list was the installation of a monitored security system. ADT was the successful contractor and in the spring of this year installed the system which they continue to monitor today.

Work at the Manse was also the target of some of the funds and work of the property committee. In the summer, new flooring and a couple of skylights were installed in the kitchen of the Manse.

Maintenance to the buildings and grounds depends on the efforts and care of volunteers from the congregation. We did have a couple of "work-bees" this spring and early summer, at which time some painting and exterior work was carried out. My thanks to all those that took part. The cutting of the lawns and some gardening was looked after by those people who pledged time on the sign-up sheet for those duties on an as needed basis.

The Annex is seeing continued use by some community groups in addition to our Sunday School. The facility is being used by the Soup Kitchen, cooking and providing meals to the less fortunate twice a week, as well as by five or six other groups which all totalled adds up to almost daily use.

There is plenty of jobs seeking attention for 1999, from this years wish list. At present we are looking at replacing the heating system in the manse and building lockers for the choir in the Annex. I would like to thank all the people on the property committee, the volunteers and friends of the Squamish United Church for all their help.

Respectfully submitted,  
Burt Minshall, Chair



## FINANCE COMMITTEE

The finances of your church went through the typical rollercoaster ride during 1998 that has been the norm for a number of years. We went into the year with a modest surplus of \$4407.26. The late winter and spring saw this surplus dwindle to the point where we once again found it necessary to borrow \$2,000 from our Building Fund to keep the General Operating Account from going into negative territory. During the late fall and December though the congregation once again rallied and we find our church going into 1999 with a surplus of \$10,955.92. The easiest way that we can smooth out this annual rollercoaster ride is if more of us were to make our contributions by way of PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance). Most of us make house payments or car payments or insurance payments by way of an automatic withdrawal from our bank accounts. You can take care of your church commitment in the same way - PAR Forms are available from the church secretary or in the foyer of the church.

Actual expenses for 1998 were approximately \$3000 under budget and this was primarily due to a large drop in heating fuel costs. The reasons for this drop are the new gas furnace in the church, improvements to the windows in the manse, and of course El Nino which did provide us with a warmer than normal winter. The other major reason for being under budget was the fact that we fell \$1,515 short of our Mission and Service goal of \$12,165 despite allocating \$500 from the Fall Auction to the M & S Fund.

Our Building and Maintenance Fund grew by approximately \$4,000 during 1998 to \$10,968.77. Expenditures were made during 1998 to upgrade the security system in the church and for kitchen flooring in the manse. The coming year will see a major expense in the manse of replacing the furnace, as well as the ongoing expenses of keeping our physical plant in good condition.

This past fall we held the third of our biennial auctions. What a fun and eventful evening it was too, resulting in receipts of \$4,000 buoying our General Account just when it needed it the most. A hearty thanks to all those who spent time in the organization of this event, and a special thanks to all of you who attended and competed for the items of your choice.

Once again, the Finance Committee would like to thankfully acknowledge the contributions of individual church members, family groups, and adherents. 1999 sees us going into a year of change. Please continue to assess your level of support for your church and positively change it when you can.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Dave Doubek, Chair



**COMPARISON OF 1998 BUDGET VERSUS ACTUAL EXPENDITURES**

**SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH - GENERAL ACCOUNT**

<b><u>Catagory:</u></b>	<b><u>Budgeted:</u></b>	<b><u>Actual:</u></b>
Remuneration	57,100.00	57,022.06
Extended Education	1,500.00	1,627.32
Service Contracts	4,564.00	4,249.00
Worker's Compensation	130.00	126.07
Insurance	2,200.00	2,107.00
Municipal Services	2,200.00	2,207.86
Heating Fuels	6,000.00	3,869.36
Electricity	1,600.00	1,545.46
Telephone	1,700.00	1,791.62
Duplicator lease & service	1,600.00	1,684.65
Maintenance	1,000.00	591.90
Security		415.75
Sundries	300.00	59.00
Capital Additions	500.00	60.31
Mission & Service	12,165.00	10,650.14
Presbytery Allocation	3,198.00	3,198.00
Observer	300.00	270.00
Guest Speakers	800.00	395.00
Caring Ministry	300.00	325.56
Stationary & Church Supplies	2,200.00	2,072.95
V.S.T.	100.00	100.00
Music	600.00	291.71
Christian Education	500.00	239.64
Youth Group	100.00	56.65
Youth Retreat		598.12
Special Appeals		1,870.50
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100,657.00</b>	<b>97,425.63</b>

RECEIPTS AND DONATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1998  
SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH - GENERAL ACCOUNT

**A. LOCAL RECEIPTS AND DONATIONS:**

By envelope & P.A.R.	65,159.20
Open offering	5,391.97
Gifts & donations	4,347.00
U.C.W. donations	6,500.00
Fund Raising (auction, fall dinner, swags)	4,675.73
G.S.T. Rebate	897.96
Observer	253.00
Annex & Church honorariums	4,600.00
Miscellaneous Credits	81.09
Youth Retreat receipts	560.00
	<hr/>
Subtotal	92,465.95

**B. MISSION AND SERVICE:**

By envelope & P.A.R.	9,340.14
U.C.W. donations	750.00
Sunday School donation	60.00
	<hr/>
Credited M & S	10,150.14
Special Appeals	
Canadian Food Grains Bank	743.00
First United Church Mission	515.00
	<hr/>
Total for missions	11,408.14

**C. TOTAL RECEIPTS AND DONATIONS:**

103,874.09

EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1998

SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH - GENERAL ACCOUNT

EXPENSE:

1. Salaries & related expenses	57,022.06
2. Extended Education	1,627.32
3. Worker's Compensation	126.07
4. Service Contracts (Janitor, Organists)	4,249.00
5. Insurance	2,107.00
6. Municipal Services	2,207.86
7. Heating fuels	3,869.36
8. Electricity	1,545.46
9. Telephone	1,791.62
10. Maintenance	591.90
11. Security	415.75
12. Capital Additions	60.31
13. Sundries	59.00
14. Observer	270.00
15. Guest Speakers	395.00
16. Caring Ministry	325.56
17. Church & Office Supplies	2,072.95
18. Duplicator lease & service	1,684.65
19. Music	291.71
20. Christian Education	239.64
21. Presbytery Allocation	3,198.00
22. Youth Group Retreat	598.12
23. Youth Group	56.65
24. Mission & Service	10,650.14
25. Canadian Food Grains Bank	743.00
26. First United Church Mission	515.00
27. Honduran Relief	612.50
28. Vancouver School of Theology	100.00

**TOTAL:** 97,425.63



**SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH**  
**YEAR END FINANCIAL STATEMENT (unaudited)**  
**DECEMBER 31, 1998**

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

Carry over from 1997	4407.06
1998 Receipts	103874.09
1998 Expenses	[97425.63]
	<hr/>
Carry over into 1999	10855.92

**B. Benevolent Fund Account:**

Carry over from 1997	492.09
1998 Receipts	1014.05
1998 Expenses	[550.06]
	<hr/>
Carry over into 1999	956.08

**SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH**  
**YEAR END FINANCIAL STATEMENT (unaudited)**  
**DECEMBER 31, 1998**

**C. Building & Maintenance Fund: (Nova Scotia)**

Carry over from 1998	7,059.58
Envelope & P.A.R. donations	6,476.00
Donations	500.00
Check off deposits	48.00
Interest	18.59
Spearhead Security Systems	[1,733.40]
Glacier Interiors	[1,400.00]
	<hr/>
Carry over into 1999	10,968.77

## ENVELOPE SECRETARY'S REPORT

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
Envelope and P.A.R. contributors	93	89	93
Bank Check off users	1	1	1
Contributors by yearly donation	6	6	7
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTORS:</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>101</b>
Contributors to M & S Fund	51	56	56
Special Fund Contributors	55	47	66

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>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
\$1.00 - \$100.00.....	15	15	12
\$101.00 - \$200.00.....	11	9	12
\$201.00 - \$300.00.....	10	10	8
\$301.00 - \$400.00.....	8	3	6
\$401.00 - \$500.00.....	6	7	8
\$501.00 - \$600.00.....	5	9	4
\$601.00 - \$700.00.....	5	8	8
\$701.00 - \$800.00.....	6	5	5
\$801.00 - \$900.00.....	5	2	4
\$901.00 - \$1000.00.....	3	2	3
\$1001.00 - \$1100.00.....	4	3	4
\$1101.00 - \$1200.00.....	1	4	5
\$1201.00 - \$1300.00.....	3	2	3
\$1301.00 - \$1400.00.....	2	4	1
\$1401.00 - \$1500.00.....	5	1	1
\$1501.00 - \$1600.00.....	-	1	6
\$1601.00 - \$1700.00.....	-	3	-
\$1701.00 - \$1800.00.....	1	1	1
\$1801.00 - \$1900.00.....	2	-	-
\$1901.00 - \$2000.00.....	-	-	1
\$2001.00 - \$2100.00.....	-	1	2
\$2101.00 - \$2200.00.....	-	-	1
\$2201.00 - \$2300.00.....	-	-	-
\$2301.00 - \$2400.00.....	2	-	-
\$2401.00 - \$2500.00.....	-	-	-
\$2501.00 - \$2600.00.....	-	-	-



\$2701.00 - \$2800.00.....	-	1	-
\$2901.00 - \$3000.00.....	1	1	1
\$3301.00 - \$3200.00.....	-	1	-
\$3201.00 - \$3300.00.....	-	-	2
\$3301.00 - \$3400.00.....	1	-	-
\$3401.00 - \$3500.00.....	1	-	1
\$3901.00 - \$4000.00.....	-	1	1
\$4901.00 - \$5000.00.....	1	-	-
\$5101.00 - \$5200.00.....	-	1	-
\$5201.00 - \$5300.00.....	1	-	-
\$5701.00 - \$5800.00.....	-	1	-
\$7201.00 - \$7300.00.....	-	-	1
\$9501.00 - \$9600.00.....	1	-	-
	<hr/> 100	<hr/> 96	<hr/> 101

Respectfully submitted by,  
Retta Behrner, Envelope Secretary

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## MISSION AND SERVICE FUND

In 1998 Squamish United Church members collected \$10,650.14 for the M & S fund. \$750 of this was from the U.C.W. and \$500 was contributed from the Auction proceeds. The national office had asked for \$12,165 so our total represents approximately 82% of this amount.

Groceries and clothing were also taken to First United in Vancouver. The proceeds of the fall dinner were given for Hurricane Mitch relief. Neither of these efforts are considered in our M & S givings.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lou Rempel, M & S Secretary

**SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH  
PROPOSED 1999 BUDGET**

	1999 Budget
<b><u>Remuneration</u></b>	
Ministers Salary	28000
Pension, Insurance, Medical	4600
WCB	130
CPP & EI	3300
Book Allowance	400
Study Allowance	1000
Travel Allowance	2500
Secretarial	9000
Janitorial	2800
Organist	1816
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>53546</b>
<b><u>Secular Expenses</u></b>	
Search / Moving Expenses for new Minister	6000
Insurance	2200
Municipal Services	2300
Heating Fuel	5000
Electricity	1600
Telephone / Internet	2100
Security System Monitoring	300
Copier Lease / Service	1700
Maintenance	1000
Sundries	800
Capital Acquisitions	500
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>23500</b>
<b><u>Outreach</u></b>	
Mission & Service	12400
Presbytery	2719
Observer	300
Seminars (B.C. Conference)	300
Guest Speakers	1600
Caring Ministry	300
Stationary / Supplies	2200
V. S. T.	100
Music	600
Christian Education	500
Youth Group	100
Confirmation Classes	400
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>21519</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>98565</b>

Note: The Ministers salary portion of budget detailed above includes 5 months for current minister, 4 months for new minister, and 3 months interim period with no minister.

## FROM OUR CHURCH REGISTERS 1998

### IN MEMORIAM: (11)

Robert William McIntosh - January 1  
John Mason Daykin - March 4  
Maria Halvorson - March 8  
Edith Louis Campbell - April 13  
Kathrine Wright Mulhern - June 13  
Dorothy Annie Elizabeth Shaw - June 24  
Rose Ethel Julien Tatlow - July 23  
Richard John Dawson - August 23  
Donald Neil Bamsey - October 5  
Isabel Margaret Fellows - October 19  
Nora Elizabeth McDougall - November 13

### MARRIAGES: (1)

Scott Brian McLarty and Deborah Lynn Richie - August 29

### BAPTISMS: child (5)

Wyatt William James, son of Bob and Shae Versluis - May 10  
Calvin James, son of Ron and Liz Elliott - May 10  
William Ross, son of Ross and Jocelyn Taylor - May 10  
Scott Alan Machum, son of Glen and Laura Gene Pardoe - May 10  
Kevin Christopher, son of David and Annette Young - November 29

### BAPTISMS: adult (2)

Lois Ann Cudmore - May 10  
Elizabeth Anne Elliott - May 10

### NEW MEMBERS: (7)

Sue Timms - May 10  
Melanie Timms - May 10  
Barbara Stover - May 10  
David Elliot - May 10  
Mary Elliot - May 10  
Muriel Shephard - November 22  
Roy Shephard - November 22



