



# the Parish of St. Dunstan

*The Parish of St. Dunstan humbly gathers, worships and bears witness on the unceded traditional lands of the *qʷa:n̓ən'* (Kwantlen), *q̄̄čay'* (Katzie), *Máthxwi* (Matsqui), and *se'mya'me* (Semiahmoo) First Nations.*

## Vestry Report 2025





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# Agenda of Annual Vestry Meeting

Please sign in at the front desk when you arrive at the 10 am worship on February 22, 2026. The community will gather for a Contemplative Eucharist from 10:00 – 10:45 am. The Annual Vestry Meeting will convene following a short coffee break following the service.

1. Call to Order
2. Appointment of Secretary
3. Adoption of Minutes of AVM of February 23, 2025
4. Reception of 2025 Annual Reports
5. Presentation on Property & Grounds
6. Reception 2025 Financial Report
7. Adoption of 2026 Ministry Budget/Forecast
8. Adoption of the Report from the Nomination Committee
9. Ratification of Parish Appointments
  - 9.1. Rector's Warden
  - 9.2. Parish Council/Trustees
  - 9.3. Signing Officers
  - 9.4. Lay Administrators
  - 9.5. Ministry to the Sick practitioners
10. Vote of Thanks
11. Adjournment

# Minutes of Annual General Vestry Meeting of St. Dunstan's Aldergrove Sunday, February 23, 2025

In person during the 10:00 am Worship Service

**1.0** Call to Order at 10:50 am by Rev. Clarence Li - We have a quorum

**2.0** Appointment of Secretary – Lin Neifert

**3.0** 2024 Vestry Minutes: (Motion to adopt)

Be it resolved that the minutes of the February 25, 2024 Annual General Vestry Meeting of St. Dunstan's be adopted as presented. Moved by -Joe Baker, Seconded by - Robert Tancock

Carried

**4.0** Annual Reports: (Motion to receive)

Be it resolved that the Annual Reports of St. Dunstan's Ministries and Programs be received as presented in the 2024 Annual Vestry Report. Moved by - Morgan Montgomery

Seconded by- Linda Hardy

Carried

**5.0** 2024 Financial Report (Motion to Receive)

Be it resolved that the 2024 Financial report be received as presented.

Moved by - Dwight Martin - Seconded by – Jim Hober

Carried

**6.0** 2025 Parish Budget: (Motion to adopt) Be it resolved that the 2025 Operating Budget be adopted as presented. Moved by - Dwight Martin. Seconded by Donelle Clarke

Carried

**7.0** Nomination Committee Report: (Motion to Adopt) Be it resolved that the slate of nominations for Parish Council be adopted as presented.

Janette Kovacs - Warden

Jaqui Pesek - Warden

Peter Wolfe - Treasurer

Bruce Kennedy - Synod Delegate

Lin Neifert - Synod Delegate

Janette Kovacs - Alternate Synod Delegate

Kathleen Wiens - Alternate Synod Delegate

Dave Dedrick Member at Large

Jim Hober - Member at Large

Vacant – Youth Delegate to Synod

Moved by -Joe Baker Seconded by -Linda Hardy

Carried

## **8.0 Ratification of Appointments:**

**8.1** Rector's Warden: Be it resolved that Janette Kovacs be appointed as the Rector's Warden.

Moved by -Tracey Schroeder Seconded by – Jean Martin

Carried

**8.2** Trustees: Be it resolved that the Parish Council be appointed the Trustees of the

Corporation. Moved by -Bruce Kennedy      Seconded by – Noreen Jones

**8.3 Signing Officers.** Be it resolved that any 2 of the following be authorized to sign cheques.  
Lois Curtis, Doug Tindall, Charlie Fox and Theresa Tancock.

Moved by - Bruce Kennedy      Seconded by - Noreen Jones

**8.3 Treasurer:** Be it resolved that the Parish of St. Dunstan appoint Peter Wolfe  
as treasurer of the corporation.

Moved by -Bruce Kennedy      Seconded by - Noreen Jones  
Carried

**8.4 Lay Administrators of the Sacrament of Holy Communion:** Be it resolved that Bishop John Stevens be  
requested to authorize the following persons as Lay Administrators of the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the  
year of 2025

Lois Curtis	Bruce Kennedy	Tracey Schroeder
Elaine Chatwin	Janette Kovacs	Leon Schroeder
Donelle Clarke	Morgan Montgomery	Brian Smith
Joe Baker	Katherine Murray	Laura Wallace
Marissa Farr	Lin Neifert	Leslie Wieler
Jan Fung	Jacqui Pesek	Kathleen Wiens
Charlie Hamilton	Kerry Pope	Annette Wolfe
Jim Hober	Eleanor Rushton	Peter Wolfe

Moved by - Bruce Kennedy      Seconded by - Noreen Jones  
Carried

**8.5 Ministry for the Sick Practitioners:** Be it resolved that the Parish of St. Dunstan appoint the following as  
Ministry for the Sick Practitioners for 2025.

Joe Baker	Jim Hober	Kerry Pope
Donelle Clarke	Patricia O'Connor	Leslie Wieler
Lois Curtis	Jacqui Pesek	Kathleen Wiens
Marissa Farr		

Moved by – Rev. Linda Varin      Seconded by – Jim Hober  
Carried

**9.0 Vote of Thanks:** Katherine Murray - outgoing Director of Centre for Spiritual Development

**9.0 Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn the 2025 Annual General Vestry Meeting of the Parish of St. Dunstan   Moved  
by – Darlene Hotner @ 11:23 am.

# Reports

## *Leadership*

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### **Rector**

*the Reverend Clarence Li*

*Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless.*

*Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted, but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

*~ Isaiah 40.28-31*

Last year at the Annual Vestry Meeting, I invited the people of St. Dunstan's into a **Year of Re-gathering**, acknowledging the effects of the pandemic and leadership transition had on the mission and life of the parish. Among the seven areas of the focus presented, the Parish Council decided to prioritize on two in 2025:

#### **#3 Get to know our neighbours (old & new) in the growing municipalities where we live and work to discover common grounds and longings**

- We are developing an intentional relationship with the Dhillon family, St. Dunstan's immediate neighbour by exploring ways to mutually support each other.
- We renew & re-consolidated our relationship with the Aldergrove Rotary Club, Aldergrove Food Bank, Aldergrove United Church, Langley Meals on Wheels, Langley Hospice Society, New Directions (ESL classes), and Trinity Western University's Fraser River Counselling program.
- We had a sit-down Thursday Meal around Christmas time with the support from Langley Meals on Wheels volunteers

#### **#6 Revamp Newcomer Ministry & formation opportunities (Anglican 101, Confirmation / Reception classes)**

- We developed new leadership for the Centre for Spiritual Renewal and began offering a full range of formation opportunities in collaboration with the Inter-parish Centre.
- A four-week stewardship focus was launched in the fall. 18 individuals/families returned the "My Response to God's Mission" form, resulting in a total pledge of over \$64,000 for 2026.
- Anglican 101 launched in 2026 was well subscribed.
- A Newcomers' Tea is in the work for 2026.

In case you might be wondering what are the areas of responsibilities of the Rector, below is a helpful primer excerpted from my Letter of Agreement with the parish and the Bishop:

1. Senior Leadership – To work collaboratively with Church Wardens, Trustees, Parish Council, and other Clergy and Lay Staff of the Parish in the leadership of the liturgical, social service, educational and pastoral ministries.
2. Parish Liturgies – To be the lead in the liturgical life of the Parish
3. Pastoral Care and Community Development – To oversee, lead and participate in the ministry of pastoral care for members of the Parish
4. Faith Formation and Education – In collaboration with the Parish’s lay leadership, to develop, implement, and coordinate, and coordinate an annual calendar of faith formation opportunities for all ages
5. Children, Youth, and Families – In collaboration with the Parish’s lay leadership, to develop and offer support, guidance, and leadership for ministry with children, youth, young adults and family ministries
6. Community Engagement – To engage with other organizations – faith-based, civic, and business – to build fruitful relationships and provide moral leadership

I had tremendous joy collaborating and sharing ministries with the dedicated and passionate people of St. Dunstan’s this past year. Thank you for all your personal support to me and Dave.

## **Wardens**

*Janette Kovacs, Rector’s Warden & Jacqui Pesek, People’s Wardens*

For those of you who may be new to St. Dunstan’s, the role of the Wardens is to monitor the church finances to ensure that there is adequate provision for the maintenance and support of the church. It is our responsibility to appoint parish staff, to make sure that we have sufficient insurance coverage and to monitor the state of the building and any projects. The Wardens, the Treasurer, Peter Wolfe, and Clarence meet once a month to discuss any business that needs attending to or for follow up at the monthly Parish Council meetings. With Clarence’s collaborative leadership, much has been accomplished in the past year. Some highlights are:

- New email addresses for the rector, administration and team leaders to simply access implemented
- New photocopier contract obtained, with special thanks to Sherri for the hours she put into this project
- New waste disposal contract with recycling becoming available in the next month or so
- Repainting of the lines and fixing of cracks in the tarmac of the parking lot completed, with special thanks to the maintenance team for their work on this project
- Posting of office volunteer and facility use coordinator completed
- Staff and salary reviews conducted

- Compliance with Safe Church Screening commenced
- A very successful gala, a special thanks to Irene and her team
- A very successful art show, with special thanks to Donelle, Lin and the team
- Substantial efforts made to facilitate use by third parties of our wonderful facility with efforts ongoing
- Children's time during the service implemented, thanks to a team of volunteers
- Continuing growth of the Centre for Spiritual Renewal, special thanks to Ginny and the team
- Return to rosters for altar guild, chalice administrators, Eucharistic assistants, intercessors and readers

It is only through the contributions of each and every one of you in so generously giving of your time, talents and financial support that so much is accomplished by St. Dunstan's.

# *Prayer & Worship*

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## **Worship Team**

*Theresa Tancock, chair*

Worship Team is a collaboration of ministry members here at St. Dunstan's. We meet monthly to plan and prepare our weekly worship. Our vision is to embrace the Hospitality, Reverence and Joy of our wonderful St. Dunstan's community and to ensure these are expressed in our services.

This past year has been one of reflection and hope as we journeyed with Clarence through his first year with us. Our services are inclusive of all and the presence of children in our midst has often brought a smile to our lips and ponderances to our minds.

Light is a common theme for our worship. Candles were lit for Candlemas, our All Saints' service and 'Silent Night' and fires were set for burning palm crosses and Easter Vigil. In contrast, we walked in darkness during Holy Week.

We continue to keep the spirit of giving and tradition alive, from purging our homes to donate goods and offering food items during Lent, to letting the Alleluias out of the box and our daffodil cross at Easter, to adorning the altar with the goodness we reap at Harvest.

Worship Team has also undertaken other tasks within our St. Dunstan community. We assisted with setting up the roster for Chalice Bearers and Readers, supported the Liturgical Arts Team with ensuring our space reflected the theme of worship, and more recently have begun to coordinate Children's Ministry.

Our year always ends with the eloquence, beauty and hope that Advent brings. Again, the theme of Joy and Light filled our space. We are a wonderfully innovative, inviting and supportive community and for that, we thank you!

Please know that we strive to meet the spiritual needs of our St. D's family. We welcome your feedback and should you feel the call to join us, please let one of us know!

Worship Team members: Theresa Tancock, Clarence Li, Joe Baker, Laura Wallace, Annette Wolfe, Wendy Williams, Lin Neifert, and Linda Varin

## **Liturgical Arts**

*Ginny Sawatsky, Coordinator*

The Liturgical Arts Committee is a small, but mighty group that supports and works alongside the Worship Team, to create an environment that is reverent, hospitable and full of joy! We do this primarily through décor, arranging the church space and aligning with the liturgical colours, seasons, themes and special events at the church.

2025 was a full year for our team! During the season of Lent, our team brought out the button tree (in the church entranceway) that had been lovingly made in 2009, and parishioners were invited to sew a button on. The button tree was then hung in the sanctuary, for Holy Week and for many coming weeks. Additionally, a Lenten Reflections Display encouraged personal contemplation through self-reflection questions. Throughout Holy Week, the team was busy changing out the curtain colours, adding a garden display, hanging stations of the cross and wall hangings. For Pentecost, the hoop hanging was hung, which received positive feedback! In keeping with a theme of “re-gathering,” a tree outline was added to the sanctuary wall, and during the Season of Creation, parishioners contributed weekly reflections (on different shapes) that were placed on the tree. This was well received! Following Thanksgiving, the team prepared for Advent. This included changing the curtains, adding the candle hangings & moving the star each week in the Sanctuary, adding décor to the Entranceway and putting up the Christmas tree in the sanctuary and ensuring ornaments were ready to hang on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent.

Our current team is Patricia O'Connor, Marisa Farr, Lin Neifert, and Ginny Sawatsky, with support from Jacqui Pesek. In 2026, we are excited for Erica Grimm and Amber Eves to join the team! We look forward to the year ahead and continue to look for inspiration to create an environment that fosters a meaningful worship experience.

## **Eucharistic Assistants**

*Elaine Chatwin, Coordinator*

The Eucharist Assistant team at St. Dunstan's includes 8 dedicated volunteers. Our team has the privilege and joy of supporting the Sunday service as well as special services during the church year. Starting with reviewing the list of Sunday volunteers

and ending with extinguishing the candles at the end of the service, we make sure that all is in place. I think everyone on our team will tell you that the most remarkable part of the service is participating in the Eucharist; in gratitude we offer ourselves to God and St. Dunstan's church family in this beautiful sanctuary.

## **Altar Guild**

*Laura Wallace, Coordinator*

Altar Guild had our usual year with some minor tweaks while we and Clarence found our way.

I think our need is in members. If we had a few more, no one would be doing this ministry on their own on any given Sunday or other special service.

I would ask anyone who feels drawn to this rewarding work to contact me.

## **Healing Prayer**

*Jacqui Pesek, Coordinator*

Healing Prayer takes place every Sunday morning at the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Two (or more if necessary) Healing Prayer ministers are available to intercede the parishioners needs to God.

The parishioner might need to pray for themselves, for others, or to receive a blessing. If they are not able to share, just to be still and be present in the arms of God. Whatever their needs, we will pray with all who come to the prayer table.

In January 2025 the Healing Prayer ministers gather together with the Rev. Clarence Li to review St Dunstan's Healing Prayer manual which includes reflecting on the Theological Foundation, reviewing the Rites for our Ministry to the sick and renewing our Healing Prayer Covenant.

There were 11 dedicated compassionate individuals on the Healing Prayer team. Joe Baker, Jim Hober, Kerry Pope, Lois Curtis, Patricia O'Connor, Donelle Clarke, Kathleen Wiens, Marisa Farr, Lesley Wieler along with myself.

In February 2025 these lay ministers were invited to be "Licensed Ministers to the Sick Practitioners " and the team was introduced at our annual vestry meeting.

The attendance for Healing Prayer was stable in 2025. We are committed in encouraging more of our church family to come forward to receive Healing Prayer or simply receive the Anointing of Oil. New blessed oils were presented on the "Trinity Sunday "service in June 2025 and these new oils were offered individually to the whole congregation following communion. The response from the congregation was inspiring and very spiritual.

Later in June 2025, the Diocese formalized the Licensing of a number of lay ministries which included the Lay Healing ministry. All Lay Healing ministers are now required to complete the training and to obtain a Police Record Check with the Vulnerable sector.

At the Longest Night service held in December 2025 there were two Healing Prayer stations present between the two services.

With Gods help, we will continue to administer Healing Prayer and the Anointing of Oil at St Dunstan's on Sunday mornings. We pray that the Holy Spirit will stir people's hearts, direct them to us so they can feel their burdens being lifted and find some peace within.

## **Listening Prayer**

*Katherine Murray, coordinator*

Listening Prayer is the spiritual practice of listening to what God is making known to our hearts. It takes the form of coming into silence, prayerfully asking God questions, and tuning into our hearts to be aware of what God is making known to us.

The ministry of listening prayer is a facilitated prayer session where recipients are supported as they tune in to God for intimacy, healing, and transformation. The listening prayer ministry continues to be offered through in person or Zoom opportunities. Coordination of the Listening Prayer Ministry is facilitated by Lesley Wieler.

In October 2025 a listening prayer facilitator training was scheduled but was cancelled. No new dates are planned at this time.

Deep gratitude is extended to all who facilitate listening prayer and who generously give of their time and gifts to serve others to encounter God's Presence.

## Contemplative Ministries

*Elaine Chatwin & Joe Baker, coordinators*

This past year the ongoing group **Contemplative Practice and Fellowship** continues to be offered the second Saturday of each month at 9:30 - noon. Due to competing contemplative options, we did break for the months of June, July and September. A feature of this very quiet time is a full hour of private unstructured contemplative time during which participants have access to the whole church and grounds. This group typically consists of 3-8 participants. It is always open to all who might like to explore and experience an intense but relatively brief dive into a half hour Centering Prayer sit, 15 minutes of Lectio Divina without comments, the hour of private time, concluding with about 10 minutes of shared prayers at midday. No registration fee but we appreciate sign up in order to arrange seating and handouts. This is always announced in St Dunstan newsletter and in the Centre for Spiritual Renewal calendar.

This past year we also hosted a shared session 9:30 - 3:00 October 11 with Contemplative Outreach of Greater Vancouver for a session of what they title **A Taste of Silence**. This featured several Centering Prayer sits, prayers at midday followed by a shared soup and bagged lunch, Lectio Divina and individual time. For this enjoyable day we were joined by many new faces to St Dunstan's with about 25 participants in total. Leadership was shared among Contemplative Outreach and Elaine and Joe with great thanks to Doug for his hospitality through the day.

## Centering Prayer & Lectio Divina

*Elaine Chatwin & Joe Baker, coordinators*

Friday **Centering Prayer & Lectio Divina** continues to gather a long-dedicated group of 4-10 participants, both in person in the knave of the church, as well as via Zoom. It consists of a twenty-minute Centering Prayer sit followed by about 20 - 30 minutes common lectionary based Lectio Divina; offering opportunity for participant sharing of impact but without discussion or analysis. Leadership is provided by Elaine, Joe and Jim. All are welcome, no fee or registration required. Listed in the St Dunstan newsletter and CSR calendar.

The final offering which falls within the contemplative umbrella, is the Zoom only weekly offering of the ancient **Service of Compline or Night Prayer**. Joe, Elaine and Helen alternately provide the leader voice of this liturgy. Typically, 6-12 people join at 9:30 pm every Wednesday for about twenty minutes. All are welcome to join, no fee, just contact Joe to be included for a copy of the service. This service too, is listed in the St Dunstan newsletter and now in CSR calendar.

## Intercessions

*Kerry Pope, coordinator*

The Intercessions group consists of 6 people who prepare the prayers for church each Sunday, as well as additional services at Christmas and Easter.

They are a dedicated group who trust in God to guide them (as well as using resources online for inspiration). It is not everybody's idea of fun to stand before a group and lead prayers, but if you are able to pray to God, you could help others to do the same, by speaking from your heart the words you trust that God is wanting you to say at that moment, in that space.

Believe me, the trusting is the hard part, as we are not always too good handing over the reins to someone else to lead us. Let go; Let God is a phrase all of us try to adopt.

We would love to have more of you join us. Try your own leap of faith and come talk to some of us!!

## **Worship Technology**

*Peter Wolfe, coordinator*

The Worship Technology Team consists of Peter Wolfe, Jeremy Wiebe, and Leon Schroeder. Thank you to each of them for their hard work and ongoing commitment. This past year has been a welcome period of stability for our technology systems, including the church sound system and support for those who join worship services via Zoom, typically between two and six participants.

One ongoing challenge over the past few years has been low audio volume for Zoom attendees, despite the Zoom output being set to maximum within our sound system. Recently, we discovered a Zoom setting that appears to resolve this issue for spoken portions of the service, though it negatively affects the music. At present, we are manually toggling this setting during the service to provide the best possible experience for those joining online. Our overall goal is for worship services to run smoothly and without incident, so that our work goes largely unnoticed—even as we remain an active, behind-the-scenes part of the worship team. We also extend our thanks to Lois and other choir members who assist by advancing the projector slides, helping everyone participate fully by seeing the words for singing and speaking.

## **Sunday Morning Greeters**

*Diane Fox, coordinator*

A “greeting team” has been in place for the last year. It is an excellent team. I have received very positive acknowledgements how nice it is to enter a church with “Welcome”. We are always looking for more people so if you feel this would suit you, please contact: Diane Fox, ([diane.fox@me.com](mailto:diane.fox@me.com))

# *Christian Formation*

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## **Children**

### **Messy Church**

*Carol Tindall, coordinator*

Messy Church meets every third Saturday at 4:30 from Jan. to May and Oct. to Dec.

We begin our time together with fun activities and games in the hall or outside. Once we have used up some of our energy, we join together in the Gathering space for a story.

Craft time is next and is usually related to a bible story or the theme of the church year. Some examples are:

- star glasses and paper candles for Epiphany,
- cookies and stained glass crosses for Holy Week,
- wooden bird houses for creation
- leaf art
- Christmas ornaments

When our craft and story time is complete we spend time in the sanctuary to celebrate communion together.

And lastly, we move into the hall where we are fed an amazing meal cooked by members of St. Dunstan's. We are so grateful to those of you who do this for us. Thank you!

Since September, we have been joined by new families and now have 10 families who come when they are able.

The planning, preparation and execution of Messy Church is more than worth it!

I retired as Messy Church coordinator in May and John and Janice Vanderleek took over in October. They are doing an amazing job!

If you would like to help with Messy Church, please let them know.

Come and check us out one Saturday.

## **Children's Ministry on Sunday**

*Theresa Tancock, coordinator*

It's finally happening! St. Dunstan's will again experience Children's Ministry through Sunday School. Our children and their families have continued to be blessed with the all that Messy Church has to offer, as well as an often active children's center during our worship, but it has been evident that our children are growing up and are becoming thirsty for more.

We have begun to coordinate teachers and have met with parents to discuss the future. Currently, we have four gracious volunteers who are anxious to begin a Sunday School routine.

A weekly children's education program has been chosen and we are gradually getting started. The children will leave our space following the Gospel to enjoy their own worship and learning. They will then return following the Prayers of the People.

Our hope is that this transition to a new spiritual path for our children and their families will be smooth and comfortable. We are looking for more volunteers to either lead or simply support this new ministry. Please let one of our team know if you are interested.

On behalf of the coordinating team: Annette, Clarence, Lesley, Theresa and Wendy

## **Adult**

### **the Centre for Spiritual Renewal**

*Ginny Sawatsky, Program Coordinator for the Centre for Spiritual Renewal*

The Centre for Spiritual Renewal is part of adult spiritual formation at the Parish of St. Dunstan's. We are always seeking to be transformed by the inner working of God through study, personal prayer, and spiritual practice. St. Dunstan's Centre for Spiritual Renewal is our method of doing this. Our centre provides a wide variety of spiritual support and practices to help us on our Christian journey. Retreats, conferences, study groups, practitioner groups, prayer groups, spiritual direction, and more are offered at St. Dunstan's. We want to connect you to the things that will help you *grow in grace!*

Offerings at the Centre at St. Dunstan's support our own Parish community, participants from the wider Anglican community and especially non-Anglicans from the Fraser Valley area. With online options, we also have participants from different parts of Canada and the United States.

The Centre at St. Dunstan's is part of a vibrant Christian community of other parishes in the Lower Mainland. ([www.thecentreforspiritualrenewal.org](http://www.thecentreforspiritualrenewal.org)).

### Highlights from 2025:

#### Spiritual Practices & Contemplation

Weekly:

- **Compline** – Wednesday evenings at 9:30pm, online
- **Centering Prayer** – Friday mornings at 11:30am, in-person & online
- **Lectio Divina** – Friday mornings at 12:00pm, in-person & online
- **Contemplative Eucharist** – Friday mornings at 12:30pm, in-person

Monthly:

- **Contemplative Fellowship & Spiritual Practice** – second Saturday of each month, 9:30am – noon, in-person

#### Other Offerings

- **Feasting into Fasting – March 4, 2025.** A Shrove Tuesday celebration with delicious pancakes, community around tables, and a time to connect with God as we prepared our hearts for the season of Lent. Led by Rev. Helen Tervo and Rev. Clarence Li.
- **Touched by the Land – September 6, 2025.** A guided walk on Yewstone Gardens, a 7-acre healing garden created by Suzanne Robinson and her husband Mike, in Aldergrove. Participants learned about Camino Divina (Path of Divine Encounter), the plants and trees of the gardens, how to listen to the land with your whole body & experienced walking on the sensory labyrinth.
- **Spirituality & Chronic Pain – May 24 / October 4 / November 30, 2025.** A conversation facilitated by Rev. Helen Tervo, Rev. Jeanne Forte and Rev. Clarence Li. This included discussing the journey of chronic pain (including physical, mental, emotional & spiritual) – not as a problem to solve, but as a space to encounter God.
- **Taste of Silence Retreat – October 11, 2025.** A partnership with the Centre at St. Dunstan's & Contemplative Outreach of Greater Vancouver. This day included Centering Prayer in community, Lectio Divina, Personal Retreat Time & Space and Liturgy of the Hours.
- **The Role of Mutuality – October 22, 2025.** A conversation between guests, Ray Sawatsky & Deborah Garcia (Mexico) discussing how historically church-based charities have used an approach where recipients are treated as objects of benevolence / pity. The discussion interacted with participants to reflect on the role of mutuality in Christian service.
- **The Cross and the Olive Tree Book Launch – October 25, 2025.** An evening with Shadia Qubti, a Palestinian lived theologian, discussing the book release of The Cross and the Olive Tree: Cultivating Palestinian Theology amid Gaza.

- **Time with Mary Advent Retreat – December 6, 2025.** A retreat morning facilitated by Rev. Lorie Martin. The group participated in the life and heart of Mary through art and image, with the spiritual practice of Visio Divina, and the sacred practice of gazing. This included a time of silence, sharing and creative stations.
- **The Longest Night – December 21, 2025.** A simple service for Hope & Healing offered at 4:30pm and 6:30pm, with a drop-in quiet time between services. Led by Rev. Paul Guiton.

The Centre at St. Dunstan's has an engaged and active leadership team. The team includes Rev. Clarence Li (Director), Elaine Chatwin, Joe Baker, Helen Tervo, Marisa Farr, Kathi Renaud, Darlene Daniels. Ginny Sawatsky took on the role of Volunteer Program Coordinator in September of 2025.

*All who desire to follow Christ and grow in the image of God are welcome.  
 All who are on a spiritual journey are welcome.  
 All who are curious are welcome.  
 All who are tired and need rest are welcome.  
 All are welcome.*

## *Outreach*

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### **Thursday Meal**

*Larry McGuinness, Peter Wolfe, Doug Tindall, & Joe Baker*

Garden to Table began as an offering from the community garden in the backyard grounds of the Parish in 2010. Today it has grown exponentially and offers food security to many needy families.

We now refer to the meal program as Thursday Community Meal. We have recently attracted new cook teams from the community outside of the parish congregation.

We currently have 7 volunteer cooking teams on a rotating schedule that prepare and serve upwards to 80 meals every Thursday evening. Those in our community that need a warm meal are invited to come into the hall to enjoy some soup while hot

meals are assembled and distributed to them in compostable take-out containers. We are licenced by Fraser Board of Health which involves regular inspections regarding codified regulations on cooking and food practices

Given the increase in food costs, we gratefully receive support from the diocese by way of a 3-year Parish Development Grant. We also have received donations from the Rotary club of Aldergrove, neighbouring businesses, and members of the parish. A fundraising gala was held in September 2025 where \$11,500 was raised. From some of the recent initiatives to raise funds outside of our congregation, we have been able to replace some of our aged cooking equipment and budget for the repair and maintenance of our kitchen.

Each week, Tannis Percival secures a variety of free products from bread to desserts, and even fresh fruit, to name a few. These items are offered over and above the soup and take out meal. Together with Noreen Jones they write down names and make check lists with the necessary contact information. If some people don't show, Noreen and Tannis

and occasionally a couple others will deliver a hot meal to them. Janice DeRuiter has become quite involved and serves a hot cup of soup for those coming in to warm up and share some fellowship.

Looking ahead, our goals are to further promote the community meal garnering steady financial and food support from local businesses and to secure additional teams as some of our volunteers are aging out. Langley Meals on Wheels has recently offered to provide volunteers, share donated food items and has offered to host an in-house, sit-down buffet style dinner, like we always did prior to COVID 19 when we changed to a take out meal.

To-date the program continues to grow and expand. Managing it has been a group effort and we're thankful for all the willing workers who faithfully step up and support the hungry needs of our community.

## **Aldergrove Food Bank Soup Kitchen**

*Tannis Percival, coordinator*

As the year progressed for the food bank our “stock” diminished and our client numbers increased and the one thing that was consistent throughout the year was the regular delivery of soup. Our clients are so fortunate and most appreciative of hot soup every week.

There is a bi-monthly rotation of soup makers between two churches. Every other week 2 of St. Dunstan's soup makers arrive at the food bank with a large pot of soup each. It's lovely for the clients to have a choice. This is a wonderful service for our clients and we, the volunteers, greatly appreciate the goodness a warm bowl of soup brings to them. Our thanks to everyone for supporting your community.

## **Craft Circle**

*Noreen Jones & Ladonna Stroup*

Craft Circle is all about fellowship!

The group meets every second and fourth Friday of the month, from 10:00 – 12:00 AM, in the St. Alban's Room. There are no requirements, restrictions, commitments or costs for attending Craft Circle. Everyone is welcome to just drop-in.

Yes, it's called Craft Circle, and there are often crafts in the hands of the participants, which they're always ready to share, but working on something is not a requirement. It's perfectly OK, to just have a coffee and a cookie while chatting with some really nice, interesting people. Becky, bless her heart, makes a pot of coffee, cookies usually appear and then we just enjoy each other's company.

In a nutshell, Craft Circle is the most relaxed, no stress activity you could hope for. Please come and join us, we'd love to have you.

# *Community Care & Engagement*

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## **Community Care Team**

*Kerry Pope, Coordinator*

It never ceases to amaze me that another year has passed, and it is Vestry Report time again. But in the same vein, it also amazes me at the achievements and growth that the Team has achieved.

With Clarence's help and guidance, we have redefined areas for development. We are pleased that Clarence has committed to visiting parishioners on a more regular basis when required/requested, or even, just because.

We are still considering re-establishing the phone group, to ensure contact is improved with parishioners, so that we are more confident in being aware of peoples' needs of support and feelings of connection. Plus, it brings back another way of ensuring regular contact with many people who may be more housebound.

We have expanded looking at ways to identify where local services can be found to assist the needs of individuals, rather than trying to carry the loads ourselves. This ensures care as required, as well as freeing us up to consider all the needs within our community.

We are always looking at new ways of ensuring that our community of this parish and the community as a whole feel we are an open and welcoming place

If you have ideas for more ways we can provide care; are aware of people who may need some support; or wishing to assist with the Community Care group, I would love to hear from you.

## **Garden of Remembrance**

*Charlie Fox*

The Garden of Remembrance is well established at the end of the walkway on the west side of the church. The vegetation we planted three years back is definitely flourishing and is beautiful when in bloom.

This past year we had the ashes of 1 individual of the congregation spread in a beautiful ceremony in the garden. It must be noted that we have had families return on a specific anniversary to the garden and leave a memento to their loved ones which is perfect, that is what we enjoy seeing.

The big challenge now is the long-term maintenance to ensure the garden is well maintained and it is kept in pristine condition for the years to come. Anyone willing to assist in this and would like to put their name forward can do so through Pastor Clarence or myself.

This is an amazing project and it is a very scared place of remembrance and contemplation. I want to thank those who continue to support the garden financially as we still have our monthly loan payments and the diligence of the few of us who work to keep and maintain the garden project.

## Annual Gala

*Irene McGuinness*

The recent fundraising gala in support of the Thursday evening community meal was a resounding success. The night sparkled with music and community spirit as Aldergrove's own Alyssa Nielsen brought the room to life with her powerful renditions of classic Patsy Cline favourites. Behind the scenes, many helping hands from our church community came together to handle the décor, setup, and cleanup, making the evening seamless from start to finish. Held on Saturday, September 27, 2025, the event welcomed 120 guests who enjoyed a full turkey dinner prepared by Larry McGuinness and Doug Tindall, with delicious desserts generously provided by Janice De Ruiter. Alongside the ever-popular silent auction, donation cards were placed at each table, inviting guests to contribute beyond their auction bids — a new approach that was warmly received.

As of October 15, 2025, the gala has raised more than \$14,000 through ticket sales, beverage sales, donation cards, 50/50 tickets, and silent auction items — a wonderful testament to the generosity and spirit of our community.

## Annual Art Show & Sale

*Donelle Clarke*

This was our second year doing the Art Show & Sale. We opted to do it for two days, on Black Friday and Saturday. This was not the best idea because we did not have the customers we did the first year. Considering the competition with the big stores, and with our current economic state, we have decided never to do an art show & sale on this weekend in the future.

Lin Niefert and Noreen Jones make up the rest of the team, and barely anything would happen without the two of them! We also had so much help from so many parishioners in countless ways. We are forever grateful this community!

Each year we review what went well and what needs to be improved. This year we had 11 amazing fine artists, & artisans, which was an increase from the previous year. We again made money for the Thursday night meal which was our intention. And, we had homemade soup, all with protein, which was appreciated.

This year we aim to keep it simple, go back to just one day, November 21st, not serve any food, and focus on local artistic talent here in the valley.

### Money raised in 2025:

Artists fees: \$2,200.00

Noreen & Lin: \$2,500.00

50/50, Door prizes + soup: \$711.50

TOTAL: \$5,411.50

Kitchen costs: - \$250.00

**TOTAL Donation to the Thursday Night Meal: \$5,161.50**

# *Parish Building & Grounds Report*

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*Doug Tindall*

Our goals regarding the maintenance of our building are as follows: to keep on top of all regular maintenance, to promptly deal with issues as they arise and to be aware of and plan for longer term major repair items.

Ongoing maintenance: Items typically dealt with are as follows:

- Repair to gyprock as required
- Painting of interior walls as required
- Replacement of broken floor tiles
- Cleaning of carpets and chairs
- Weeding, cutting and trimming of grass and shrubs

Issues which arose or are likely to need attention:

- Significant trees and shrubs in our parking lot have been lost due to excessive heat and drought. Replacements should be planned for 2026
- Our lawn has sustained extensive damage due to predators going after the Chafer Beetles. A multi-pronged approach with work parties and new products will be required with no guarantees of success. Along with various interventions to replace the many damaged areas we will also initiate proactive lawn care measures to improve the health of any existing grass.
- Our labyrinth has been made unusable, and an informed group of users will need to make decisions regarding repair; seed, turf or gravel
- Parking lot lines were painted and cracks filled. The one remaining area adjacent to the hall will require our attention.

Longer Term:

- Replacement of South and West facing windows in which the seals have deteriorated
- Ongoing repair or replacement of HVAC units as required
- Initiating an informed preventative maintenance program for the care of our roof.

# Financials

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## Envelope Secretary

*Sherry Wright*

Thank you to everyone who has continued to give faithfully in this year and. All of the contributions received throughout the year have allowed St. Dunstan's to continue to be a thriving house of worship and community. This past year we had 91 identified donors, up slightly from 88 identified donors in 2024. Online donations through CanadaHelps were consistent from last year. Our PAD (Personal Automatic Donation) donors this year was up slightly from last year going from 31 to 34 active contributors at the end of the year. The overall dollar amount of contributions was up this year. This increase was in part, due to the plea from the treasurer, Peter Wolfe, to reduce the predicted year end deficit.

There are a variety of ways to make your monthly contributions. PAD is a convenient way to make donations, especially when people are not able to attend church in person. Your donation is debited from your bank account, or credit card, on the 15th of each month. If you are not already using PAD, this may be something you would like to consider. If you would like to use PAD please talk to Sherry for information. If you prefer, you are now able to make donations through e-transfer using our email address [office@st-dunstan.ca](mailto:office@st-dunstan.ca). Any contributions sent via e-transfer are automatically deposited into our bank account. CanadaHelps donations can be made online through our website. As we approach Vestry (AGM), please, prayerfully consider what you can give back to God, be it financially and/or through giving of your time and talents.

## Treasurer's Report

*Peter Wolfe, treasurer*

I am pleased to report that the parish ended the 2025 year with a deficit of \$(3,832), smaller than our budgeted deficit of \$(7,356). This is a great outcome considering where we were at the end of summer. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Key items that contributed to the operations are:

- Fundraisers and events provided additional funding throughout the year.
- Our income includes a transfer of around \$10,000 from a Thursday meal fund.
- Janitorial caretaking services were greatly reduced due to the generosity of individuals providing services for free or significantly reduced costs.
- The Parish this year supported the cost of a full time Rector.
- Property insurance and our diocesan assessment continue to be significant expenses.

The Garden of Remembrance project has a loan from the Anglican Foundation requiring monthly payments of \$316.32. Presently the balance owing to the Anglican Foundation is \$30,958.

As of December 31, 2025, St. Dunstan's had the following bank balances:

- General Fund \$79,300
- Contingency Fund \$50,668

Regarding the 2025 budget, parish council has approved the budget based on previous years actual operating costs and slightly increased revenues.

Other key items in the 2025 Budget are:

- Additional donations of \$8,000 from Parishioners
- Losing rental income from a partner as of April
- Revenue from community business owners to support Weekly Community Meals of \$5,000.
- Awarded a \$7,000 grant from the Diocese to support Weekly Community Meals.
- Spending inline with 2025 actuals except for 2% salary increases and 5% tax increases.

This results in a significant 2025 Budget Shortfall of \$(21,645). We will need to focus on our financial performance this coming year to avoid a significant shortfall.

Thanks again to Sherry Wright for all her hard work that makes my job as Treasurer much easier. I continue to rely on her a lot.

## Clergy Discretionary Fund Report

*The Rev. Clarence Li, Rector*

According to the Letter of Agreement when the Rector was called in November 2024:

*A Clergy Discretionary Fund is established and will be funded by designated gifts and from honoraria given to the Fund. The Fund is under the Rector's sole control and must not be used for personal benefit of the Clergy. To preserve confidentiality, the Rector shall present an accounting by category to the Annual Vestry. Use of the Fund shall be reviewed with the Rector annually by the Regional Archdeacon.*

Policy C21 of the Diocesan Policy Manual provides further guidance for the Fund:

*Clergy Discretionary Funds should be primarily used for the relief of poverty, distress and need. Payments for food, rent, utilities and other basic necessities are among appropriate uses of the fund. In addition to this, a clergy person may use discretionary funds for other purposes that benefit the parish (underwriting training fees, buying some materials that are not covered by the parish's budget but that are nonetheless needed to support a program or effort, etc.) The Fund should not be used for the personal benefit of parish clergy.*

For transparency purposes, the Rector is pleased to report:

Between November 1, 2024 (start date of the current Rector) and December 31, 2025, a total of \$6,228.73 designated gifts was received. The 2025 budget also provides an additional \$1,000 to the Fund. A total \$6,263.73 was disbursed for the following causes:

- \$5,988.73 travel assistance for a parishioner's participation in the Peace Train Mission
- \$200 emergency relief to a local individual
- \$75 phone & grocery gift cards for one local couple

The running balance, taking into consideration of the 2025 budget provision is \$965. Moving forward, the Rector recommends creating a designated line on the balance sheet to keep track of the balance of the Fund.



# the Parish of St. Dunstan

## Budget for 2026

### INCOME

Comments based on 2025 actuals

2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	Donations	2026 Budget	
101,800	89,106	89,945	100,000	PAD	95,000	+5000
92,093	100,385	113,365	100,000	Envelope Regular	115,000	+2000
4,775	5,124	13,765	3,500	Envelope Festivals	15,000	+1000
		5,989		Clergy Discretionary		
2,362	2,074	1,024	2,000	Open Giving	1,000	
1,824	1,990	407	3,000	General Outreach	500	
660	-	-	500	Time, Talents		
-	-	1,008		Evensong	2,500	5 x 500/evening
10,972	7,360	1,920	10,000	Spiritual Renewal	2,000	
<b>214,486</b>	<b>206,039</b>	<b>227,423</b>	<b>219,000</b>	<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>231,000</b>	

2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	Weddings & Funerals	2026 Budget
2,630	8,637	50	3,000	Funerals	
	-	-	4,000	Weddings	
10,619	1,364	2,806	1500	Donations	
<b>13,249</b>	<b>10,001</b>	<b>2,856</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>Total Weddings &amp; Funerals</b>	<b>0</b>

2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	Property	2026 Budget
14,156	17,403	24,203	26,000	Rent	19,125
<b>14,156</b>	<b>17,403</b>	<b>24,203</b>	<b>26,000</b>	<b>Total Property</b>	<b>19,125</b>

2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	Other Income	2026 Budget
	200		50	Bank Interest	
-	-	19,149	10,000	Community Meal Funding	5,000
				Outreach Grants	
6,750	11,000	-	7,000	Diocese Grant	8,000
12,579	18,438	22,129	15,000	St. D's FunRaisers	20,000
15,926	2,244	1,961	2,000	Miscellaneous	3,122
<b>35,255</b>	<b>31,882</b>	<b>43,239</b>	<b>34,050</b>	<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>36,122</b>
<b>277,146</b>	<b>265,325</b>	<b>297,721</b>	<b>287,550</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>286,247</b>

# EXPENSE

2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	Diocesan Assessment	2026 Budget	
35,145	37,323	41,812	41,812	Assessment	44,315	actual
<b>PARISH MINISTRY</b>						
<i>Goal is 10% of post-assessment expense</i>						
2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	Prayer & Worship	2026 Budget	
		230		Evensong	1750	+50% of Evensong income
525	2,798	285	500	Funerals		
-	-	-	500	Weddings		
1,105	772	1,071	1,000	Altar Guild	1,000	
666	385	-	500	Liturgical Arts Team	500	
481	1,096	773	1000	Worship Music	1000	
3,901	1,606	1,766	2,000	Worship Other	2,000	
<b>6,678</b>	<b>6,657</b>	<b>4,125</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>Total Prayer &amp; Worship</b>	<b>4,500</b>	
2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	Christian Formation	2026 Budget	
500	225	58	0	Adult		
13,169	2,412	320	2,000	Spiritual renewal	1,500	
1,485	510	236	1,000	Children	1,000	
-	-	-	500	Seniors		
<b>15,154</b>	<b>3,147</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>Total Christian Formation</b>	<b>2,500</b>	
2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	Community Care	2026 Budget	
4,213	3,004	2,640	3000	Social Team	3000	
1,464	250	6,239	1000	Clergy Discretionary	1000	
<b>5,677</b>	<b>3,254</b>	<b>8,879</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>Total Community Care</b>	<b>3,000</b>	
2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	Administration	2026 Budget	
6,365	3,625	5,331	5,000	Office Equipment	5,500	
		1,315		Power Church subscription	1,400	
5,028	5,050	5,234	5,000	Telephone, Fax and Internet	2,500	reduced price from Telus
670	1,331	305	1,000	Office Supplies	1,000	
1,202	947	859	1,200	Bank Charges	1,000	
273	28	130	200	Postage & Courier	200	
-	512	512	0	Professional Fees	500	
1,815	1,714	1,608	1,300	Interest- Garden of Rem	1,600	
200	225	128	100	Miscellaneous Gifts	100	
855	753	142	500	Miscellaneous Other	500	
<b>16,408</b>	<b>14,185</b>	<b>15,563</b>	<b>14,300</b>	<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>14,300</b>	
<b>43,917</b>	<b>27,243</b>	<b>29,180</b>	<b>27,300</b>	<b>Total Parish Ministry</b>	<b>24,300</b>	

OUTREACH					
Goal is 10% of post-assessment expense					
2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	Outreach	2026 Budget
7,822	10,025	14,078	7,500	Thursday Meal	15,000
-	-	77	2,000	Advertising	500
<b>7,822</b>	<b>10,025</b>	<b>14,155</b>	<b>9,500</b>	<b>Total Outreach</b>	<b>15,500</b>
SALARIES & HONORARIA					
Goal is 55-60% of post-assessment expense					
2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	Salaries & Honoraria	2026 Budget
91,066	50,141	113,964	110,000	Rector	116,445
15,287	18,598	18,909	16,250	Office Administrator	19,188
11,477	11,524	11,797	11,500	Music Director	12,039
		278		Salary - Evensong	0
6,307	11,211	-	10,000	Associate Director	0
3,472	8,762	1,021	3,500	Clergy Relief	2,000
-	-	-	6,000	Children/Youth	0
1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	Caretakers Honorarium	1,500
<b>128,809</b>	<b>101,436</b>	<b>147,169</b>	<b>158,450</b>	<b>Total Salaries &amp; Honoraria</b>	<b>151,172</b>
PROPERTY					
Goal is 20% of post-assessment expense					
2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	Property	2026 Budget
15,886	17,547	18,344	18,344	Insurance	18,711
5,967	7,581	7,983	7,500	Property Tax	8,400
1,438	928	929	1,000	Security	1,000
13,113	10,007	17,989	10,000	Church & Hall Maintenance	20,000
462	671	5,358	500	Grounds Maintenance	5000
410	613	461	500	Snow	500
1,003	1,459	924	1,000	Maintenance Supplies	1,000
231	-	104	500	Kitchen Supplies	500
9,527	7,025	6,141	8,000	Gas	6,800
6,523	6,668	6,031	6,000	Hydro	6,000
2,068	2,509	2,304	2,000	Sewer/Water	2,450
2,167	2,670	2,670	2,500	Waste Removal	2,244
<b>58,795</b>	<b>57,678</b>	<b>69,238</b>	<b>57,844</b>	<b>Total Property</b>	<b>72,605</b>
CONTINGENCY & SAVINGS					
Goal is 0-5% of post-assessment expense					
2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	Contingency	2026 Budget
			0	Contingency	0
<b>274,488</b>	<b>233,705</b>	<b>301,553</b>	<b>294,906</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>307,892</b>
<b>2,658</b>	<b>31,620</b>	<b>(3,832)</b>	<b>(7,356)</b>	<b>SURPLUS (SHORTFALL)</b>	<b>(21,645)</b>

# Passages

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November 1, 2024 - December 31, 2025

## Baptism

## Confirmation

Chimamanda Tariebi Nora Seweniyoror-Iloabachie    None

## Holy Matrimony

None

## Faithful Departed with their lives celebrated at St. Dunstan's

William (Bill) John Calvin Betts       June 15, 1930-Oct. 25, 2024  
Trevor Davies March 11, 1939 - March 18, 2025

## Faithful Departed with celebration pending

Hans De Ruiter

## New parishioners/friends of the Parish welcomed and registered

Jolene Daignault  
Art Hoehn  
Mary Kydd  
Doris Froese  
Chijioke Ifedi Iloabachie  
Andy & Dora Mwandacha  
Colin O'Neill  
Faye Phipps

Sophie Rosen  
Kathryn Shaw  
David & Andrea Tsen  
John & Janice Van der Leek  
Pieter Van der Leek & Eleanor McComb  
Dalton Vegh  
Derek Weiss

## Moved/Membership transferred

Ian & Greta Elliott  
Dede & Tommy Nicholson