



Penticton United Church

# ANNUAL REPORT: OF THE LIFE AND WORK OF PENTICTON UNITED CHURCH 2015

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## The Mission of Penticton United Church

The mission of Penticton United Church is to create a community in caring partnership with God through Jesus Christ.

We fulfill this mission through:

**Nurturing faith-**

through worship, healing, teaching, music, example and action.

**Offering a sanctuary and strengthening place-**

where people can feel God's Spirit.

**Accepting and loving all –**

poor and rich, strong and weak, young and old.

**Striving for justice, self-worth, wholeness, and inner peace.**

**Responding in service-**

to the varied and changing needs of our congregation, community and world.

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## Memorials 2015

NOTT, Evelyn	January 4, 2015
DUNCAN, Alexander (Sandy)	January 8, 2015
EVERALL, Ethel Joy	February 1, 2015
GEARY, Lawrence	February 10, 2015
TAYLOR, Matilda (Tillie)	February 13, 2015
MAJOR, Glenn	March 1, 2015
RUDIGER, Elsie Ann	March 12, 2015
BRAATEN, Engvar	March 16, 2015
ROBINS, Lois	April 12, 2015
BARTEN, William	May 18, 2015
LOGAN, Suzanne Mary (nee Street)	July 3, 2015
GARTRELL, Arline	July 22, 2015
GODDARD, Shirley Lillian	August 5, 2015
SMITH, Clara Jardine	August 17, 2015
MULLIS, Margaret E. Blanche	November 18, 2015
MYERS, Shirley	December 22, 2015

## Minister's Report

“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

This much loved scripture passage reflects well the realities for Penticton United Church in 2015. At last year's Annual Meeting we reflected on 2014 with the “I Can't Funeral”, where we buried our resistance, reluctance and uncertainties. We committed ourselves to making 2015 a year of opportunity.

This past year we continued the tradition of participation in shared worship services with our friends from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and St. Saviour's Anglican Church for The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Remembrance Sunday. Many thanks go to our Wise Elders group who work hard to make these opportunities possible.

In February, we hosted Kamloops Okanagan Presbytery's weekend meeting and did an outstanding job of providing welcome, hospitality and good food. Thank you to everyone who helped make this weekend so successful.

We have said good bye to many of our friends as we mourn their deaths. As an aging congregation we find ourselves missing more of the people who were important in our lives. Thank you to Patti Skinner, Fern Gibbard, and Marjorie Murton for conducting funeral services while I was on sabbatical.

Yard sales, turkey suppers, UCW teas, and wonderful concerts have meant that Penticton United Church is a busy place. Many volunteers have made each of these events possible. However, if you look at who is helping, you tend to notice the same people. We are aware that we have a limited number of folk who can do the lifting, serving and bending required for these events.

Our wonderful worship services are framed around the beautiful music provided by Orma Baker and Doug Stark and our tremendous choir under the leadership of Alice DeRoche. A big

thank you to all. The sanctuary looks gorgeous each week thanks to the creativity of Jacquie Bird, Cheryl Filipenko and Sheila MacDermott.

This past year our various committees have worked diligently and faithfully to ensure that the many facets of ministry, outreach, and building upkeep are carried out. Although some of the committees have been rather short handed, they have served with dedication.

Our council has had to be creative as there has not been a chairperson or treasurer throughout 2015. Thank you to each committee chairperson for taking a turn at chairing a council meeting. Deep appreciation goes to Bob Garrett who unofficially has kept an eye on our finances and has advised the Finance Committee. The council is indebted to Doreen Bobbitt and Barb Godsmark for their wisdom, leadership and support this past year.

Out of an awareness of a leadership and financial crunch, the Council has decided to have Rev. Richard and Joanne Simpson (both are on the Wise Elders group) help us in a strategic planning process in lent 2016. This will help the congregation determine direction and process for the next 5-10 years.

I am profoundly blessed to have been able to have had a three month sabbatical in 2015. It was restful, renewing, enlightening and educational. I spent part of it in Penticton resting and doing my favorite activities. I visited in Calgary and Swift Current, catching up with family and friends. I visited many different churches experiencing the best they had to offer. I reported back to our Worship Committee a summary of my experiences. I spent three weeks in Scotland and we have been using a number of my photos as bulletin covers. I thank you for allowing me this time of nourishment.

It is my deep privilege to serve with you in shared ministry. Over the past five and a half years we have laughed together, cried together, and found ways that we can honour our God. May the years ahead be equally as rich.

Blessings, Laura

## **Minister's Activity Report**

### Visits:

- Home and Office – 85
- Hospital – 81
- Hospice - 4
- Care Facilities - 14
- Community Resource Persons – 21

### Meetings:

- Executive – 8
- Council - 10
- Building and Property – 4
- Communications - 1
- Finance - 1
- Membership – 2
- Memorial and Bursary - 1
- Ministry and Personnel – 3
- Sabbatical - 2
- Trustees - 2

- UCW – 4
- Worship and Music – 9

#### Worship

- Funerals – (preside and attend) - 8
- Weddings - 2
- Lead services at Care Facilities – 14
- Write Prayers for all Worship Services
- Plan and write liturgy for special services (AGM, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Advent, Blue Christmas, Christmas Eve, Anniversary)
- Participate in Shared Services with St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and St. Saviour's Anglican Church during Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Remembrance Sunday
- Help with decorating of sanctuary when needed and requested
- Preside at Remembrance Day Service at Concorde Centre
- Attend meeting to plan Anniversary Service
- Presented workshop on Conducting Funerals and Celebration of Life Services
- Mentored Fern Gibbard, Marje Murton and Patti Skinner in Presiding at Funeral Services

#### Faith Formation

- Support Small Group Ministry's by consulting with resource persons

#### Administration

- Attend AGM and follow-up
- Review and help update website
- Help write for newsletter
- Preparation for Sabbatical
- Follow-up from Sabbatical
- Grocery shop for Food Cupboard – use benevolent funds
- Support Office Staff with administrative tasks
- Participated in a Justice questionnaire for local formation of task groups

#### Spiritual Direction

- Receive monthly Spiritual Direction at Naramata from Lois Huey Heck
- Offer Spiritual Direction to those requesting

#### Attendance at P.U.C. Events

- Attended the yard sale
- Host Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving Dinners at my home
- Attend Musical Extravaganza
- Attended UCW Christmas Tea

#### Attendance at Community Events

- Visit low barrier housing complex for homeless in Kelowna
- Attend Dementia Care workshop at hospital
- Attend Robbie Burns Dinner at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- Attend Doctor's Forum on Dementia
- Attend St. Patrick's Day Dinner at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- Lead Liturgical Dance workshop Board at Anglican Prayer Event in Summerland
- Attended 2 Torch Youth Ministry Board Meetings to give support



**Motion 5** by Marj Notenboom, seconded by Joe Jackson, that a 3 minute time limit per speaker be imposed on all debate. Carried.

**Motion 6** by Bob Garrett, seconded by Mike Carnes, that all speakers may speak once per debate item (except the mover who may open and close the debate). Carried.

**Agenda addition:** Rev Laura Turnbull added that the unveiling of the plaque of the names of our veterans will take place just before lunch.

**Motion 7** by Marty Godsmark, seconded by Margaret Taylor, that the agenda be accepted as corrected. Carried.

### **Thanksgiving and Recognition:**

Marjorie Murton thanked all who volunteer their time and talents in furthering God's work at Penticton United Church.

Marion Kozier thanked the Executive and Council members of 2014, with special thanks to Barb Godsmark, our many committees, retiring Treasurer Bob Garrett ( since 2009) who has contributed greatly in financial and electrical matters saving us great amounts of money, and Liz Barker who is retiring from Archives.

Barb Godsmark thanked Marion Kozier who, as Past Chair, has stayed an integral part of our leadership.

Sheila MacDermott thanked those who provided pulpit supply throughout the year: Jean Sherwood, Angela King (2), Marjorie Murton (2), Tony Moura (2), Fern Gibbard (2), Marty and Barb Godsmark

Doreen Bobbitt, representing Ministry and Personnel, thanked our staff:

Custodians Don and Susan Butchart

Host Shannon Oliver

Choir Director Alice DeRoche, volunteer musicians Orma Baker and Doug Stark

Office Coordinator and Financial Officer Marianne Lummin

Office Assistant Dolores Rose

Minister Reverend Laura Turnbull

4) **Minutes of February 09, 2014 Meeting are reviewed: (pages 6-12 Annual Reports)**

**Motion 8** by Colin MacDermott, seconded by Marty Godsmark, that the minutes of the February 09, 2014 meeting be adopted as circulated with correction of date to February 09. Carried

5) **Reports of the Committees and groups:**

- Memorials for 2014 page 3
- Minister's Report page 4

• Minister's Report Statistics	pages 5-6
• Annual General Meeting Minutes, Feb.09, 2014	pages 6-12
• Council Chair's Report	page 13
• Treasurer's report	page 14
• Board of Trustees	page 15
• Memorial and Bursary	pages 15-18
• Ministry and Personnel	page 19
• Sabbatical Committee	page 20
• Building and Property	pages 20-21
• Property Use and Promotion	pages 21-22
• Concert Club	pages 22-23
• Communications	page 23-24
• Library	page 24
• United Church Observer	page 24
• Peace, Justice, Environment and Outreach	pages 24-25
• Torch Youth Group	page 25
• Finance	page 25
• Mission and Service	page 25
• Membership	page 26
• Pastoral Care	page 26
• Friendship Club	page 26
• Archives	pages 27-28
• Healing Pathways	page 28-29
• Presbytery Report	pages 29-30
• BC Conference Report	pages 30-32
• Stewardship	page 32-33
• Worship & Music	pages 33-36
• United Church Women	pages 36-37
• Ad Hoc Committees and Associated Groups	page 37
• Statistics of our Church	pages 37-38
• Revised PUC Liquor Policy	page 38

Chair Sheila invited all to read through all the reports as an amazingly thorough picture of the life and work of our church.

Pat Fraser noted that the Sunday School report had not been included. It will be added to the final report with the corrected Mission and Service Report, as well as the names of baptisms, weddings, and transfers of membership.

**Motion 9** by Harvie Barker, seconded by Mel Murton, that all reports of the Committees and Groups be received for information. Carried.

## 6) Unveiling of the Memorial Plaque

Lorna Cox explained how this project grew from a suggestion by Rev. Laura that we know who our veterans are. Research was conducted through the Legion, and the BC Archives, with the assistance of Bill Everden, the Murtons, and Fern Gibbard. Names were collected over several years. The very heavy solid mahogany came from an old choir pew, with the woodworking done

by Marty and Ben Godsmark. Brad Houston provided the black walnut wood, and the cross was carved by Ben Godsmark.

Rev. Laura offered a blessing and prayer.

The congregation moved to the narthex to view the Memorial plaque as they made their way to the main hall.

The meeting broke for lunch in the main hall.

## 7) **Financial Reports:**

**Motion 10** by Marj Murton, seconded by Pat Fraser, that the 2014 yearend financial statement be received for information. Carried.

**Motion 11** by Joe Jackson, seconded by Eileen Tymm, that the 2014 Mission and Service Fund financial report be accepted for information. (p.26) Carried.

Chair Sheila commented on the great success of the Mission and Service fund, once again exceeding our covenant.

**Motion 12** by Brad Houston, seconded by Marj Notenboom, that the Building and Property financial report be received for information. (P.1 financial report) Carried.

**Motion 13** by Mel Murton, seconded by Lorna Cox, that the Memorial and Bursary financial report for 2013 be received for information. (p.18) Carried.

## 8) **Budget for 2015:**

It was noted that our Presbytery assessment is lower than our estimate.

Marj Notenboom: Why is our assessment so high?

Bob Garrett: There has been a change in the method of calculation. At the spring meeting of Presbytery, both the assessment and the process will be questioned.

The costs of plumbing, re the toilets, will be finalized later.

**Motion 14** by Colin MacDermott, seconded by Barb Godsmark, that the 2015 budget be accepted. Carried.

**Motion 15** by Marion Koziar, seconded by Lorna Cox, that our covenant for Mission and Service Fund for 2015 be \$20,000. Carried.

## 9) **Table Group Discussion**

Sheila introduced the Table Group Discussion. In the reorganization of BC Conference, there is a hope to replace Presbytery Congregational oversight with a method for congregations to assess their own vitality with the oversight moving to Conference. 6 questions were collated from the recent submissions to Council:

- 1) How does our congregation support spiritual growth and practices within our church community?

- 2) What encourages us to keep our doors open?
- 3) How does our congregation embrace and make a difference in the wider community?
- 4) What programs/activities/new ideas have we taken up? What programs have we let go?
- 5) What do we do that brings excitement to our church?
- 6) What difference does the church make in the lives of the participants?

For further discussion as time allows:

- 1) What type of closing would you like to see used at the end of our service as we exit the Sanctuary?
- 2) In what ways could we improve the effectiveness of our Newsletter? Distribution? Contribution of articles?

Sheila noted that it is intended that we report on the success of our process to Presbytery.

After time for discussion, a show of hands indicated support for the circle closing without frequent changing of the song.

10) **Nominations:**

**Motion 16** by Marty Godsmark, seconded by Jeff Everden: That the following persons be elected as Executive of Council:

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Vice Chair: Jeff Everden

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: Gerry Neilsen

Secretary: Doreen Bobbitt

Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

Presbytery Delegates: Marion Kozier, Sheila MacDonald

Alternate Presbytery Delegates: Barb Godsmark, Lena Freek

Carried.

**Motion 17** by Mel Murton, seconded by Marion Kozier, that the following persons be the trustees: Harry Shaw, Marie Houston, Marty Godsmark, Lorna Cox, Fern Gibbard.

Carried.

The UCC manual indicates that the minister takes the chair if a chair is not found.

Laura would assist a person willing to chair the meetings and would also assist with planning.

Q. Cheryl Filipenko: What is the requirement for a Treasurer?

A. Bob Garrett would coach an incoming treasurer who must have the ability to read, understand, and monitor financial statements and attend Finance meetings. The Financial officer does the day-to-day bookkeeping and writes cheques.

Q. Brad Houston: Could we send an email appeal for Chair and Treasurer?

11. **Business of the church:**

Liquor policy.

Q. Lorna Cox: Have we any control over groups who might have licenses?

Concern raised about intermission and the crowding of the stairs.

A. Barb Godsmark: There is control over the groups in the original negotiation of Room Usage contract. Yes, there are concerns re stairs. They are part of the negotiations of the contract.

Q. Dorothy Kohn: have we had requests for drink served at intermission or after the concert?

A. Barb Godsmark: Requests have been only for after the concert.

The Concert Committee had considered the use of the narthex area for intermission use, so that the stairs would be used by fewer people.

Q. Jan Makar: Is our insurance policy affected?

A. Barb Godsmark: No. A license must be in place.

Marty Godsmark: All decision would be made during the contract negotiations

**Motion 18** by Colin MacDermott, seconded by Barb Godsmark, that the liquor policy be accepted as circulated in the Annual Report, page 38. Carried Opposed: 2

**Motion 19** by Marty Godsmark, seconded by Daisy Houndle, that the Council be empowered to carry out the business of Penticton United until the next General Meeting or duly called congregational meeting. Carried.

**Motion 20** by Bob Garrett, seconded by Harvie Barker, that the Council be empowered to appoint a Chair and Treasurer. Carried

Closing remarks were offered by past Chair Barb Godsmark who thanked Colin MacDermott for the preparations of the reports booklet and Dolores Rose for its printing. Barb also thanked Sheila MacDermott for chairing the meeting and Doreen Bobbitt for acting as Secretary, Rev Laura for leading our worship, Sue and Don Butchart for the setup, Dyane MacDonald and Marg Vincent for organizing the lunch, Cheryl Filipenko and all the kitchen workers, Shannon for all the behind the scenes preparations. The providers of food and cleanup were thanked as well as the attendees for their positive participation.

**Motion 21** by Barb Godsmark, seconded by Patti Skinner, that the 2015 Annual General Meeting be adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Rev Laura proclaimed God's blessing.

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Sheila MacDermott, Chair

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Doreen Bobbitt, Secretary

## Reports from Presbytery

### Spring

The Spring Presbytery was very capably hosted by us, Penticton United Church, on February 13 to 15, 2015. Thank you to all our members who opened their homes to billets, all the hard workers who prepared and served such healthy varied meals, and all the organizers of this huge undertaking. Marion Kozier, Sheila MacDermott, your presbyters, along with retired ministers Harvie Barker and Ann Pollock and Rev. Laura were your representatives. The theme was “Vitality in our Congregations”.

The worship at presbytery included meaningful, uplifting singing and music to root and ground us and baptism by aspersion – a gentle sprinkling of water with fragrant cedar boughs. Water, a symbol of new life in Christ, refreshes and re-vitalizes. We were reminded of Jesus’ steadfast sense of purpose, his mission and how this purpose is so important for a church’s vitality. We participated in the ritual of anointing oil on each other’s foreheads or hands and repeating “You are sent by God” and responding “My hands are ready now.”

During last Fall Presbytery the presbyters created questions that could be used in their own congregations to assist them contemplate their vitality. At our AGM on Feb. 1, 2015 we explored the questions at our table discussions and our Chair of Council, Barb Godsmark, sent our feedback along to the Leadership Circle. At this Presbytery, Barb explained how Penticton United handled the mechanics of our process. And then again the presbyters worked towards refining the questions to develop a document that congregations will be able to use to examine themselves as a replacement for the Presbytery’s past Oversight process.

While Sheila provided Healing Touch during the Working Units part of presbytery, Marion attended the Peace and Justice working unit with facilitator Kathy Johnson from Kamloops United. We discussed food justice and food sovereignty. Kathy suggested checking out the Social Justice component of the United Church website for ideas for World Food Day in October.

The Youth Council added their energy and delivered presbyters with old fashioned homemade Valentine cards with wonderful caring messages.

There was an interesting presentation about Kelowna’s St. Paul’s United Church. This church is creating an ambitious plan that will see church property transformed into a cultural hub featuring 22 condos as well as office and retail space. At the core will be a new Arts and Worship Centre. “Arts might save the church”. Go to [SanctuaryKelowna.com](http://SanctuaryKelowna.com) for more information.

We all contributed our remembrances of Naramata Centre – its chapel, beach, quiet areas, labyrinth, its people, music, vision and spirit. A mixture of grief and overwhelming thanks was offered to Janet MacDonald, the Executive Director, who labored so hard these past few years seeking a viable future for the Naramata Centre.

Ken Jones from Revelstoke was elected Chair of Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery. If you are interested in the rest of the Executive go to the Presbytery website at [kopunited.ca](http://kopunited.ca)

The Spring Presbytery was a great success and Penticton United Church’s warm hospitality was very much recognized and appreciated.

Respectfully submitted: Marion Kozier & Sheila MacDermott

## Fall

Fall Presbytery was held on October 23 – 25, 2015 at Mt. Paul United Church in Kamloops, BC with Rev. Laura Turnbull, Marion Kozier and Barbara Godsmark attending. The theme for the weekend was entitled “What are the Essentials We Need on This Journey in Newness?” The congregation of Mt. Paul were gracious hosts, treating us to delicious food served on lovely place-mats surrounded by interesting floral decorations in their sanctuary.

Worship services were led by a team of animators who demonstrated how we can prepare for this journey carrying hope and leaving behind the burdens we don't really require. The fantastic music team, led by Jim Hannah was inspirational. A wide variety of music was used throughout the weekend connecting worship to the theme and the work of Presbytery.

Kamloops Okanagan Presbytery was very well represented at General Council this past August in Newfoundland. We had four Commissioners attending, each of who gave a report of their experiences at the event. Steve Hershey from Osoyoos found the hospitality of the people of Newfoundland to be simply amazing. Jim Hannah discovered a huge connection to the reconciliation with our Aboriginal people and felt a corner has been turned even though we know we still have a long road ahead. He also explained a new process in which one order of ministry would be recognized instead of the current three streams of ordained, diaconal and designated lay staff which may cause difficulties in shared ministries. Kathy Johnson explained a session where it was decided to have a full communion exchange of ministers with the United Church of Christ in USA. Maia Walker, our youth representative, gave an excellent report on her experiences this summer where she was one of thirteen youth who travelled for forty three days across the country visiting various faith communities where she found amazing things happening and never once felt that our church was dying. Maia was an inspirational speaker!

After the Comprehensive Review presentation we all gained a better understanding of what we will be asked to vote on in the form of remits over the next several years. These changes will involve a three Council model of governance; Communities of Faith, Regional Councils and a Denominational Council; Chasing the Spirit as a means of creating new forms of ministries and supporting Aboriginal ministries. There was an excellent follow-up discussion on how these changes are going to be received nationwide.

Doug Goodwin, the Executive Secretary of BC Conference gave a presentation on the work of BC Conference. Since time was available he gave a second impromptu session entertaining questions from the floor regarding finances and resources through Conference which was most informative. Following this presentation everyone seemed to feel a better connection to BC Conference.

We were also provided with further information on the status of Naramata Centre, refugee sponsorship, St. Paul's Art and Worship Centre in Kelowna, the UCW's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in July in Vancouver and a variety of other events that are happening throughout the Presbytery and Conference.

It is often asked “Why does one attend Presbytery?” The sessions are extremely energizing in that they have fantastic, uplifting music, relaxed but meaningful leadership, room for building relationships, inspirational worship services, highly informative discussions and presentations and of course delicious eats! All of these sessions are so positive that the participants gain hope for the future of this United Church of ours!

Respectfully Submitted: Barbara Godsmark

## Report from BC Conference

Marion Kozier and Sheila MacDermott, along with Laura attended B.C. conference, our regional court at Whistler last week from Thursday to Sunday, May 28- 31. The setting was beautiful, but we didn't really have much time to explore the area.

We were welcomed to conference by Josh Henderson from the Squamish nation performing the Bear Song of the strength and sacredness of family.

The theme of conference was "Leading from the Heart". Perhaps in recognition of the tasks of the meeting, discussing and voting on the Comprehensive Review, the worship and study planned by Jim Hannah and friends, was inspiring, full of song led by Will Sparks and his group, body prayer, quiet times, spirit and reassurance, and full of the exuberance of the children and youth as well as the wise sages of our conference. During worship one of the youth painted inspired and inspiring canvases of hearts growing and developing into full bloom.

We were reminded that Love is a gut place, a wisdom place, a heart place that required trust and risk unconditionally. Some of the thoughts shared were:

Is the focus of a decision or idea making more love justice and beauty

Is there a vulnerability that also offers a beacon of hope, love and life

Marian Best asked us to make choices on where to put energy after a deep listening that is not defensive or judgmental

- we all have scars in life and if we allow them to heal with the help of others, we can lead from our scars.
- we are never alone. It's the people in the church that matter.
- Trust in God, assuming that, with shared humanity and knowing, a crisis gives the seeds to birth new intelligences
- trust in the balance of life
- a place of not weaker, but richness
- moving from a culture of scarcity to abundance
- moving from imagination to exact ideas
- looking into another's face and seeing a trace of God
- Leading starts with following, then trusting the prompting of the spirit to open a new relationship
- Ed Searcy asked us to risk being weird
- Bruce Sanguin invited us to move from the small ME to the big WE
- Simon Lesieur suggested that we listen to God who is 'up to something'
- Christine Boyle says risk saying 'this matters and standing up for it'
- Gary Patterson asked us to - as if we were trying to cross the desert, let go of what we don't need and cast a vision of where we are headed as Moses did in our past and saw a burning bush leading.

I felt we were being reassured and empowered to make decisions toward growth- in a spirit sort of way as a child might be reassured as they enter school the first time, or anyone encouraged as they try a new weighty job or task.

We had a very full schedule of explanation and opinions, time for thought, meditation and discussion led by the President of Conference, Karen Medland, ordered Minister of First United in Kelowna. We wondered how we would deal with the Recommendations, but there was a reasonable and responsive method, where we heard and saw recorded thoughts from different

people, meditated on these thoughts, shared God moments that recognised the Spirit in our midst and worked from a heart place to find solutions.

We heard quick information bites about the work throughout the Region called Petra Kuchas regarding:

- Sing Hallelujah- a DVD of favourites songs designed to assist with worship for small groups
- The Campus ministry work at U Vic and U B.C.
- Camp Spirit- a day program for children in Vancouver and Victoria
- the UC Health Services Society which still operates church run hospitals in Hazelton and Lamont Alberta
- youth reporting on The Winter Youth forum
- YaYa Youth told of the 4 day youth camp - Evolve

#### Business

- New Conference President is Keith Simmonds from Duncan
- Pres-Elect is Cari Copeman-Haynes
- General Council Lay Rep is Jean MacDonald and a full Commissioner Slate for The General Council meeting were chosen.

4 candidates for ordination were welcomed; Sophia Ducey, Wade Lifton, Bruce McAndless-Davis, and Nathan Wright

Debra Bowman was nominated for Moderator from our Conference

#### Proposals forwarded to General Council

- we voted to forward proposals on several changes to the Comprehensive review
- in general approving the 3 council model, but directing assessments to the Regional Council instead of The Denominational Council
- that a reconsideration of terminology such as Denominational for the National church level, Catching the Spirit, and Complaints committee
- much discussion swirled around the college idea for ministers with admission overseen by the upper level, but the responsibility for oversight be with the region.
- a motion to reduce the number attending the national conference was defeated

I am certain that many changes will be brought forward regarding the comprehensive review by all regions as before a final working plan arrives for us to vote on as a remit in the Fall.

#### Other proposals forwarded were:

- to revise our policy on the Palestine/ Israel situation allowing that they must be free to make their own decision, and we would support their self determination
- To ask the Government for a price on Greenhouse Gas emissions.
- to ask the General Council to create a Climate Justice Discussion Circle with appropriate online resources.
- that the UCC divest its investments in fossil fuels and instead invest in renewable energy Companies
- to request the government to support a Proportional Representative Parliament.

- that the UCC enact a carbon tax for those traveling on UCC business with the tax payable to the M&S Fund
- that the church Pension Board divest itself of Goldcorp stock

Proposals not forwarded

- that the UCW have a special appointed seat on the National board. The feeling of UCW members attending was that the UCW was able to have adequate input anyway.

Proposals not discussed due to time

- a request for a moratorium on fracking in B.C.
- a request to abandon the LNG-based economic strategy in B.C.
- a request that the UC of Canada foundation and treasury take steps to sell off holdings in the 200 largest fossil fuel companies
- that a narrative budget based on BC conference Mission and Vision statements be prepared for BC conference

All of these proposals will be decided by BC Conference exec.

It was a busy time for discussion, worship, renewing friendships and gaining knowledge of the Regional and National church and I appreciated being there to represent our congregation.

Submitted: Sheila MacDermott & Marion Kozier

## **Council Chair's Report 2015**

*Placeholder*

## **Treasurer's Report**

*Placeholder*

## **Board of Trustee's Report**

We had few meetings this year but I believe we were able to keep on top of the business as required.

We were again able to receive a tax exemption from the City, but were charged for sewer costs.

The Veterans Plaque was completed thanks to the hard work of Marty Godsmark, however we can still add more names if required.

The Sermons that Speak project committee (Lorna Cox) did a great job of organizing and coordinating the summer speakers. Thanks also to Laura for the use of her home when she was away on her sabbatical trips.

The angelus ringers have acquired a set of Chimes and these have been added to our insurance policy.

Our insurance policy came due Dec 1 at an increase of approximately 4%. We will have to have an assessment done this year as requested by our agent.

We also received a letter from the City warning us of false alarms on our security system and the possible charges if we had more than one false alarm. We made a suggestion to Council that letters be sent out to all users of the building about the correct use of the security system and warning that the charges will be passed on.

I am also pleased to report that all members of the Trustees have agreed to stay on for another term.

Respectively submitted

H Shaw  
Chair

F Gibbard  
Secretary

## **MEMORIAL AND BURSARY COMMITTEE** **(Sub-committee of the Board of Trustees)**

In 2015, the Memorial and Bursary Committee held 4 meetings. Sincere thanks are extended to the committee members who continue to give generously of their time and their concern for the appropriate disbursement of the funds entrusted to this committee:

Sigrid Boersma	Ann Forsyth	Fern Gibbard	Harry Shaw
Edith Szabo	Rev. Laura Turnbull	Lorna Cox (Chair)	

We thank Rev. Laura for her regular attendance at our meetings, and we extend our sincere thanks to Marianne Lummin and Dolores Rose for their assistance, especially our financial reports and the Sermons that Speak program. Because Rev. Laura Turnbull was on a three month sabbatical program, considerably more office work was required from our secretaries for the Speakers Program as they made the arrangements for eight visiting preachers. Thank you!

In June 2015, Penticton United Church Memorial Awards were presented to eight Grade 12 graduating students from Penticton Secondary and Princess Margaret Secondary Schools at their commencement exercises. These students will receive their award monies when they submit proof of registration at a University, College or Technical School.

The Reverend Ernest Rands Memorial Award to **Brett Dionne** (PM) and **Allison Smith** (PM)

The Flora and Harold Hoey Memorial Award to **Elizabeth Bradley** (PM), and **Camille Wilson** (PSS)

The Reginald and Mary Harvey Memorial Award to **Emile Fitzpatrick** (PM)

The David and Olive McFarlane Memorial Award to **Sarah Kirschmann** (PSS)

The Donna Myers Oliva Memorial Bursary Scholarship to Montana MacLean (PM) and Emma Reiter (PSS)

This year these awards were presented, at both schools, by **Ms. Shirley Myers**, on behalf of Penticton United Church. Her involvement was sincerely appreciated. We are indeed saddened by her recent death (December, 2015).

The monies for these awards are held by the Penticton Secondary Schools Bursary and Scholarship Foundation. These awards recognize deserving students in our community and are seen as an important outreach ministry of Penticton United Church. Friends of our congregation continue to contribute to these Memorial Funds which enable the Penticton Secondary Schools Bursary and Scholarship Foundation to increase the value (or number) of these awards. We thank all donors for their generosity. Donations to these funds are always welcome.

The Memorial and Bursary Committee, with the support of the Worship and Music Committee, continues to be involved with the “**Sermons that Speak**” **Summer Series**. This program was started in July 2008 and has continued to have the support of the PUC congregation. The program is funded solely by donations specifically dedicated to this project. It will be continued in July, 2016. Please continue your support. Your generosity and enthusiasm is sincerely appreciated.

This year the Worship and Music Committee, who provide pulpit supply, and the Summer Speakers Committee accepted the challenge to fill the three month pulpit vacancy due to Rev. Laura’s sabbatical. This was possible only because of the amazing support of all the Penticton United Church Congregation. Thank you, everyone – especially **Rev. Laura Turnbull** and **Bob Garrett** who supplied accommodation, **Colin MacDermott** who supplied all the posters and pamphlets and **Shannon Oliver** for superb house warming.

Our speakers for June, July, and August 2015 were:

**Rev. David Sparks**, retired United Church minister, Summerland

**Mrs. Marjorie Murton**, member of Penticton United Church

**Reverend Dr. Richard Topping**, Vancouver School of Theology

**Dr. Stephen Farris**, Retired Dean, Vancouver School of Theology. A special thank you to St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Congregation for joining us.

**Rev Dr. Gordon Howe**, retired United Church minister

**Fern Gibbard**, member of Penticton United Church

**Reverend Dr. Ross Lockhart**, Vancouver School of Theology

**Rev. Martin Baxter**, minister, North Vancouver

**Rev. Ralph Spencer**, retired United Church minister, from Palm Springs, California

**Rev. Colin Cross**, minister, St. Andrew’s Presbyterian, Penticton

A special PUC thank you to all our guest speakers. Thank you to our congregation – your warm welcome to our guests was appreciated.

Over the past several years, The Memorial and Bursary Committee tabulated a list of all Military Veterans who had an association with Penticton United Church (or its pre-union congregations) as members or adherents. The Military Veterans’ Memorial Plaque was completed in 2015 and was hung in the narthex. It was dedicated at the Annual General Meeting in February, 2015. Many individuals and groups, beyond the Memorial and Bursary Committee, were involved in assembling this plaque:

-The United Church Archives sent us many pages of information; PUC members searched this data and our PUC archives for appropriate names, and **Fern Gibbard** entered all the names into the computer.

-The wood for the plaque (an original PUC pew) was prepared by **Marty Godsmark** and his son **Ben** – a very difficult task. They also planned the design. **Brad Houston** supplied the wooden cross which was placed at the top of the plaque.

-Finally, Sherwood Trophies assembled the names.

Many thanks to all who were involved in this large project and to **Rev. Laura** for the idea that started it. The final result was beyond our expectations - a beautiful tribute to our veterans. Thank you so much.

**Memorial gifts received by Penticton United Church (Memorial and Bursary Committee) in 2015:**

In memory of **Shirley Myers** \$450.00  
\$150 designated for General Fund, \$300 designated for Memorial and Bursary Fund

**Gifts of artwork received by Penticton United Church (Memorial and Bursary Committee) and displayed in the parlor:**

1. Framed painting by Shirley Chyzowski, donated by Shirley Chubb
2. Two framed Chinese art pieces, donated by Jean Sherwood

We sincerely thank the donors of these gifts for their uncommon generosity.

**Disbursements in 2015:**

- |                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Sherwood Trophies                | \$300.00   |
| 2. Sabbatical Committee             | \$500.00   |
|                                     | \$246.00   |
| 3. Sabbatical Pulpit Supply         | \$122.00   |
| 4. United Church Camp (Alex Knauff) | \$500.00   |
| 5. Photocopier                      | \$28.10    |
| 6. Forsyth Memorial                 | \$1,130.00 |

The money in the Forsyth Memorial account was generously donated to the Office Computer upgrade by Ann Forsyth.

Our financial report is found at the conclusion of this report.

The Committee continues to financially support PUC members and adherents (including students) who attend workshops, conferences and continuing educational programs. The spiritual renewal, enthusiasm and personal commitment gained from these activities enrich us all. Application forms are available in the office. We welcome all requests.

We also welcome donations and bequests for this ministry – they should be clearly earmarked for the Memorial and Bursary Committee. Monies can also be dedicated for a specific use or project at Penticton United or in the community. The donors' wishes will be carefully followed by the Memorial and Bursary Committee. We are most grateful for all the gifts we receive.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Penticton United Church, the Memorial and Bursary Committee extends a sincere thank you for your continuing interest and support.

Respectfully submitted: Lorna Cox, Chair  
Memorial and Bursary

## MEMORIAL & BURSARY FUND FINANCIAL REPORT

December 2015

Current Assets	
Prospera Credit Union	\$6,044.24
<b>Investments</b>	
H.G. McKenzie Music	3,000.00
Harrison #1	15,000.00
Harrison #2	5,000.00
MacFarlane	2,500.00
Stover Scott Bursary	3,000.00
Subtotal investments	<u>28,500.00</u>
Total Assets	\$34,244.24
<b>Dedicated Funds</b>	
Forsyth Bequest	600.00
Helen Stover Scott Bursary	90.99
Reginald and Mary Harvey Memorial	874.99
Mary Whitmore Estate	503.30
MacFarlane Estate (Youth)	1,038.70
Harrison Memorial	1,902.19
Mackenzie Memorial	78.83
Myers Memorial	<u>300.00</u>
Total Dedicated Funds	\$4,789.00
Sermons that Speak Fund	\$5,175.69

## Ministry and Personnel

Our committee held 3 scheduled meetings during this past year, as well as unscheduled e-mail consultations and brief meetings to deal with specific issues as they arose. Our committee handles regular ongoing tasks such as support for staff as needed, annual staff reviews, revision of job descriptions; keeping police record checks up to date, offering input to the budget re: salary changes, ensuring coverage during staff holidays. Our committee was actively involved with the Sabbatical Committee in all matters relating to staff, both ministerial and support, during the minister's sabbatical leave.

January 2015 brought some changes to our office operation. Council had approved the reduction of time for Office Coordinator/Financial Officer Marianne Lummin to two 8-hour days per week. Council further approved closing the office on Mondays when Playshare Preschool is not in session. In January we welcomed Dolores Rose to our staff as Office Assistant, working 4.5 hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday when the office is open. Sharing of the office workload is

ongoing, and we appreciate the willingness and flexibility of our office staff to cover each other for time off and for sharing tasks. Following a three month probationary period, Dolores and the committee agreed to her ongoing employment. We sincerely thank Dolores for joining our staff.

In March committee members Cheryl Filipenko and Doreen Bobbitt attended "M&P 2.5", a workshop for Ministry and Personnel committees led by Conference Minister Ivy Thomas at Winfield United Church. The fellowship and sharing of concerns with other congregations was most helpful. Insights gained were shared with the other committee members.

Ministers' base salaries are set by the United Church of Canada. In the spring of each year, we are advised of any cost of living increase to be implemented to the base salary in the next calendar year. We communicate this increase to the Treasurer (currently this position is vacant) and to the Finance Committee for their use in budgeting for the following year. For 2016 the cost of living increase determined by the United Church of Canada is 2%. It has been the practice of Penticton United to extend this cost of living increase to all staff. M&P will recommend this increase for budgeting purposes, to be determined by the congregation at the Annual General Meeting.

In December we held a meeting for all staff whose work involves issues of safety and security re opening and lockup and dealing with unusual situations. We were grateful for the sharing of concerns from our staff, their observations of potentially difficult situations, and their suggestions for improvement. Improved communication is sought, as well as the congregation's understanding of booking procedures. Follow-up will occur in 2016 with Building and Property to address these concerns.

In December we held a dessert party, providing us an informal seasonal opportunity for appreciation of our minister, Reverend Laura Turnbull, and our lay staff Don and Sue Butchart, Alice DeRoche, Marianne Lummin, Shannon Oliver, and Dolores Rose, as well as our volunteer musicians Orma Baker and Doug Stark and office volunteer Karen. We truly appreciate the dedication of our staff and recognize that 2015 provided many challenges with the increased use of our facility, as well as the restructuring of our office coordination.

The M&P would like to thank all our PUC Volunteers. We recognize that many of you serve on several committees and work very hard behind the scenes at PUC. We are so fortunate to have a wonderful staff!

Doreen Bobbitt (Chair), Cheryl Filipenko, Barb Godsmark, Doug Youngstrom

## **Sabbatical Report**

The Sabbatical Committee had completed most of its plans in 2014, so moved forward in 2015 to implement the plans for Rev. Laura's three month sabbatical in June, July, and August of 2015.

The worship leadership for the 13 weeks of Laura's absence was capably handled by speakers invited by Lorna Cox for our Summer Speaker Series, as well as pulpit supply leaders arranged by Music and Worship Chair Sheila MacDermott. On August 30<sup>th</sup> we were pleased to attend St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. The St. Andrew's congregation had been invited to join us on July 5 when Rev Dr. Stephen Farris was our guest speaker.

The success of the Summer Speakers Series was in large part due to the generosity of Rev Laura in offering her house to be used by the guest speakers. The use of the house allowed a visiting speaker to stay for a full week holiday in Penticton, and to preach two Sundays at PUC.

Some speakers stayed a shorter time, but all were so appreciative of the use of a home centrally located in Penticton in the summer time! Our accommodation costs were thereby reduced. The entire Speakers Series was funded, as it is each year, by the generous donations from the congregation. All donations to the Speakers Series were used only for costs related to the speakers. We were all pleased to welcome back some speakers who had been here before as well as one new speaker. We thank Fern Gibbard, Marjorie Murton, Rev David Sparks, and former PUC temporary minister Rev Ralph Spencer for completing our Sunday Speakers' lists.

Council committees all took turns arranging the coffee hours, serving refreshments and a sweet treat each week, as well as handling setup and cleanup. We are grateful to the UCW for contributing the tea, coffee, juices, cream and sugar. The UCW also gave up the donation basket each week of the three months to allow the Sabbatical Committee to receive donations to help fund our three month costs. The committee emphasized to the congregation that we wanted our coffee hours to be "family times" when we would gather and visit, supporting each other as a church family during the minister's absence. These were highly successful coffee hours with good attendance, a chance to speak with the guest minister, and a good time for a visit with church friends and visitors. The sweet treats were well received!

In the spring Rev Laura called for volunteers to be trained to provide spiritual care, and also volunteers to be trained to lead and assist in funeral/memorial services. These willing volunteers drew up schedules of their available time to visit homes and hospital, plan services, and assist grieving families. They were supported, if needed, by several ordained and diaconal ministers. Local and nearby clergy offered their support at any time, and also offered to lead funeral/memorial services if needed. Our PUC volunteers handled all the situations which arose. What a wonderful group they are!

The Okanagan Kamloops Presbytery appointed Rev Armand Houle of Summerland United as our Pastoral Charge Supervisor. He attended our June Council meetings, offered advice when asked, and was there for backup if we needed him.

Budgeting was an unknown when we started the planning in 2014. With careful consideration given to all costs, a most generous contribution from the Memorial and Bursary General Fund to provide accommodation assistance, individual contributions to the Sabbatical Fund, and the congregation's offerings in the donation basket each week at coffee hour, we were able to pay all our bills and report a surplus of \$511.79. Council will be asked for recommendation regarding this residue at the January/16 meeting.

On September 6<sup>th</sup> we welcomed Rev Laura back to the pulpit. We enjoyed a friendly welcoming coffee hour with cake and greetings for Laura. Each table was given a paper and pencil and asked to write their comments on the sabbatical time. Comments were all positive, with special praise for the speakers.

A booklet of anecdotal comments written by congregation members and staff was given to Rev Laura on her return, as well as careful listing by our office staff of all events, requests, and responses.

So many thanks are due to so many people:

- Rev Laura for offering her house, and for her detailed preparation of volunteers, office tasks, and general guidance to the committee
- Lorna Cox for her hard work at finding, scheduling, and welcoming our guest speakers
- All our speakers who led such interesting worship services over the 3 months

- Music and Worship Chair Sheila MacDermott for arranging pulpit supply
- Bob Garrett for offering his house for the use of Rev Ralph Spencer and family
- UCW for assistance with coffee hour and foregoing their own donation basket
- Rev Armand Houle for acting as our Pastoral Charge Supervisor
- Our wonderful volunteers who looked after our spiritual needs and memorial services: Sue Butchart, Patti Craig, Fern Gibbard, Marjorie Murton, Jean Sherwood, Patti Skinner, Eileen Tymm, Sheila MacDermott, Rev Harvie Barker, Rev Ann Pollack
- PUC office staff, custodians, host, choir director and all musicians and choir members who carried on and provided all the extras to make a truly successful three months
- Council Committees who pitched in to handle the coffee hours
- The congregation who supported the services and contributed to the donation basket.

Rev Laura has written and spoken to us of her spiritual rest and refreshing time, her interesting travels, and her personal renewal during this time away from her daily tasks.

When the sabbatical was first discussed, we read reports from other congregations who told of congregation growth and development, a sense of pride in pulling together and taking on new responsibilities. If you speak to anyone involved in the operation of the activities of the three months, you will be assured that this was a tremendously rewarding growth and development experience for all.

Doreen Bobbitt (M&P), Barb Godsmark (Council and M&P), Norma Lippa (Stewardship), Lorna Cox (M&B, Sermons that Speak), Bob Garrett (Past Treasurer), Sheila MacDermott (W&M)

## **Building and Property 2015 report**

It has been an active and satisfying year for our committee; with enough work popping up to keep us out of mischief.

**Brad Houston** has been Chair and also Secretary, (as our long time Secretary, Ray Sommers had to retire to be able to devote his time to his wife Phyllis's care).

**Ron Harrison** has been our Michelangelo, devoting endless hours over the last three years to painting the lower half of the exterior of the church; until he reached a height that even with our scaffolding, and extended brush holding poles; he could not top. He also relentlessly painted over graffiti on our building and on the Medical Arts Building next door until finally the "artists" became discouraged, so we have been free of graffiti since June 2015!

**Mike Carnes** has been our "inside" painter doing all the pews, trim, doors, etc. so that the church has lost its former battered look, and now looks quite smart. Mike, with the help of "Sign Language Inc." restored our badly vandalized large front lawn "Announcements" sign, so that it is again functional, and looks "new". He also is learning to run the Sound System, sharing the load with Gordon Houston and Jan Neale, after Doranne Watts' illness left the "Sound Crew" short-handed.

**Jimmy Freestone** has been active in repair jobs big and small such as: replacing an area of soiled carpet inside the main Sanctuary Entrance doors, removing unwanted pews from the back of the Sanctuary, installing a firm additional hand rail along the eastern stairway to the balcony, installing a fan ventilation system for our crawl space to reduce Radon gas concentrations. Radon levels in Playshare had been detected at 288, somewhat above the 200 level that is accepted. By ventilation, levels were reduced to 78, and are regularly monitored. His "nastiest job of the year"

was removing bird debris and one dead bird from the upper floor bathrooms' ventilation system. We had heavy wire mesh installed over the outside, to prevent birds working their way inside again.

**John Sloan** has come out regularly to our "Work Bees" repairing items, moving items, etc; and is always ready to help out whenever and wherever he can.

**Bob Ireland** has been our craftsman: making or repairing cabinets, containers, tabletops, organ backing, etc.

**Jacque Bird** has worked hard at our landscaping. A major job this summer was organizing trimming of our monster Ponderosa Pine by Bartlett Tree Experts to get rid of large dead branches that were threatening passers-by, and also top and side growth that was unbalancing the whole tree. Costs were covered by 4 donors.

**Neil Goddard** has many skills; ranging from repairs and building, to painting and organizing items. Neil has done the huge job of doing the church annual inventory each year. As well he is adding to his skills by learning how to run the Sound System in the Sanctuary.

**Marie Houston** keeps a sharp eye out for things the committee has missed, provides new ideas, makes great "Thank You" cards for people who have helped out; and is B&P Liaison to the Trustees.

**Sue Butchart** gives a great report each month updating what she and Don, as our Custodians, have done; problems they have run into; and suggestions for improvements. She and Don do an amazing job keeping the building and grounds clean, tidy and in good shape. At busy times of year, they are hard pressed to get all the setting up and the clearing up done. Sue and Don are first responders when the building security alarm goes on. They have to meet with the police or firemen, if there are intruders or a fire. If it is a false alarm, they have to notify the security monitoring company. Brad Houston is second responder, being called if Sue or Don are not available.

Sue and Don frequently go above and beyond what they are contracted for. We are so grateful to them for their excellent work.

A sub-Committee headed by Gerry Neilsen found that the church computer system had reached the end of its days. They had several computer experts offer remedies and give estimates. Colin Traynor of Tech-Ease was finally chosen. New computers and software were installed, router and wiring redone, data transferred. End result a new system working well, without the problems that we had been having for a couple of years.

Last winter and early spring we had repeated blockages occurring in the "Chapel" and the "Office" toilets, resulting in two nasty back up floods. With switching to roll paper towels, and with having two partially collapsed sections of sewer line replaced by Quality Plumbing; we have been problem free since spring. I thought it best to leave this item to the end.

Submitted Brad Houston

## Sound System

The Sound System at Penticton United Church has worked fine for the year's worship and special services, and is adequate for the concerts as they have been performed in 2015. There are presently no clients receiving the tapes for shut-ins service, but this can be provided at any time. There are presently two new trainees for the sound system, so this will make a total of four available to run the system. This is probably a good minimum number; anyone else interested in learning how to run the system will not be turned away!

-submitted by Gordon Houston.

## **Concert Club**

This year our Concert Club once again worked diligently through a number of community events held in our sanctuary on our new chancel. The tasks, completed last year, that outlined the “how to do business as a group” seemed to work quite well. We do have some lockup procedure to review and a 10% raise in fees, to attempt to cover our church's updated costs to address, but all in all the logistics, philosophies and protocols presently in place seem to be working well.

This year our PUC Concert Club volunteers were as follows:

Orma Baker, Alice De Roche, Lena and Ted Freak, Brad and Marie Houston, Gord Houston, Jim Freestone, Cindy Garnham, Colin MacDermott, Barb and Marty Godsmark, Linda and John Sloane, Joanne Steen, Dawn Walker, Mike Carnes, Willem Wensvoort, Deborah Ede, Jan and Joe Jackson, Harry Shaw and Eileen Tymms. Needless to say this church committee, like most, would cease to happen without the tireless and constant giving of time and effort by these few highly motivated and dedicated workers.

Our PUC Staff was exceptional at providing assistance to the Club again this year and we would like to take this opportunity to pass a special thank you to Marianne Lummin, Dolores Rose, Shannon Oliver and Sue and Don Butchart for all of their great work behind the scenes.

This year the club worked nine functions. Some, such as the Kiwanis Arts Festival and the Penticton Youth Hip-hop Group were staged over numbers of days and months. Others were one night stands in the sanctuary where groups of as many as 200+ performers practiced during lead up sessions in the sanctuary and then presented their performances to as many as 400+ audience members. (For example this year's choir extravaganza was quite the show.) The Club took in over \$7000.00 again this year and has, therefore, almost broken even on the initial cost of the newly renovated chancel.

So far this year we have the Kiwanis Arts Festival and the Hip Hop Group returning and are, of course, hopeful that other performance groups will join them.

Respectfully submitted by, Eileen Tymms and Marty Godsmark

Co-Chairs PUC Concert Club for 2015

## **Communications Committee**

With sadness in our hearts we start 2016 and this report remembering our faithful and strong supporter Shirley Myers – she recently (Dec. 23, 2015) passed away and leaves a big gap in our committee and big shoes to fill.

2015 was a busy year for the committee as we took some time to find out where the congregation wanted us (the church community) to go with the congregational newsletter. We produced a questionnaire which was provided to members of the congregation. We received only 26 responses (20% of the congregation) with varying answers to our questions. Most of those who answered the questionnaire answered that they enjoyed the newsletter and that they appreciated the Weaver bringing the newsletter to the door. A small number felt that the newsletter should be delivered by email and that this would save trees/paper. No final decision was made and was being mulled over by both the committee and the Council.

Our committee did help out with Sunday coffee and was very involved with the production of the newsletters. Members of the committee met at the call of the chair and volunteer writers were being encouraged for each and every issue of the newsletter. The members of the Library and the

Peace, Justice, Environment and Outreach committees were encouraged to attend our committee meetings and report any issues they might have to our committee.

As our committee has shrunk considerably with the death of Shirley we find ourselves at a loss in how to proceed in the future. New members are urgently needed. We only have meetings when there is a need (4 or 5 times a year).

We are also responsible for the production and maintenance of our Church's Website but we have had some trouble maintaining that. Rev. Laura has volunteered her assistance in the project but, I am sure, would love to have help with it.

We thank all those who have helped us to keep our congregation informed and we trust we can count on your support in the future. Present sitting members of the Communication Committee are: Rev. Laura Turnbull, Ann Forsyth and chair Gus Boersma.

This report is produced on behalf of the Communication Committee by,

Gus Boersma  
Chair Communications Committee

## Library

2015 has been a challenging year for our 3-person committee. Due to health and scheduling issues we have not had as many "work bee" meetings as is necessary to maintain a library of this size in proper order. Rev. Laura has been apprised of the situation and advised us to do the best we can, which we are endeavoring to do.

Also noted is the apparent lack of use by the congregation. I would respectfully suggest that you, the congregation, peruse the selection – there are many excellent "reads" and books suitable for use in your committee or as devotional needs.

Best wishes to you all from the Library girls: Arlene Brown (Chair), Daisy Houndle, Joyce Moore

## Peace Justice Environment & Outreach

Over 2015 our Church has taken a number of outreach initiatives:

**Downtown Churches for Social Justice:** Rev Laura continues to attend regular meetings with clergy representatives from local churches. Issues continue around homeless and low income people with inadequate housing. A larger meeting included agencies and volunteers providing outreach help plus Government reps. The need for a low barrier shelter with support services was reported in the Herald.

**The Climate Change Study group:** began in Oct. with 8 persons attending the first meeting. Awareness and education possibilities included providing short "Environmental Shockers" for each weekly bulletin. As well, "Everyday Tips" to help reduce the use of fossil fuels and save energy was posted. Making the transition to low emission technology will take everyone making changes. The blue church has been greening for many years. The **Kitchen Composting program** involved 6 families in 2015. Another person is needed. The Green Cans under the sink seems to be working well for PUC Kitchen wastes. **Recycling** paper, cardboard, plastic are taken home to Murton's residence and placed in the house hold recycling collection program. We appreciate the support of staff and volunteers to reduce the waste stream at our church.

**The Gleaners Collection Bin:** was placed in the office foyer for November collection of children underwear, mittens, scarves and head wear. These needed items were included in the shipments of dehydrated fruit and vegetables to Eastern European orphanages. The Gleaners dehydrate

surplus produce in their Oliver facility and ship to hungry people around the world. Volunteers are needed in the summer and fall to prepare the produce.

**Amnesty International Write 4 Rights event:** was held Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> on International Human Rights Day. We were pleased to add 32 letters hand written by 7 guests to support the fair treatment of prisoners of conscience, cases provided by Amnesty. Writing materials plus refreshments – homemade soup and bread were provided for the writers. Our event was one of 380 in Canada which sent 23,815 single letters that week.

**Christmas White Gift Sunday Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>:** This annual event decorated the Sanctuary Tree with hats, mittens, scarves and socks. Non perishable food was brought in white grocery bags. Our thanks to the congregation for supporting so well this Advent Event. The food was sorted for the Salvation Army Food Bank and our church's Food cupboard. The clothing went to the Salvation Army.

**Soupateria:** This daily noon meal of nourishing soup and sandwiches is provided by community volunteers year round. Local people donate money and produce. The United Churches in Penticton work 4 days per month, making and serving the meal. Mary Cawthorne continued to organize our volunteers. Bill Taylor represented us on the Board of Directors of the Soupateria Society.

**Penticton Church Food Cupboard Report:** Food was dispensed by the office staff to drop in visitors 286 times over 2015.

**The Torch Youth Ministry:** Jeff Everden attended the Board meetings and held fundraising cookie dough sales. 2015 Cookie dough sales raised over a 1000 dollars between all the churches. They have had numerous other fund raisers as well including car wash, popcorn sales. This ministry is supported by the Presbyterian, Anglican, Penticton United, Our Redeemer Lutheran and Kaleden Community Churches. Torch hosts roughly 33 youth for regular evenings 2 groups, one for preteen and one for teens weekly sessions are at St Saviours. Leadership is provided by Tony Moura and others. Volunteers with current criminal records check are always needed, funding continues to be a challenge. Please direct inquiries to the church office or Jeff.

Respectfully Submitted: Marj & Mel Murton

## **Penticton Right Relations Group**

Our group is made up of 9 non-Aboriginal 'Elders' (3 men and 6 women) from Penticton and Naramata who desire to help build respectful relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in our area. We are seeking opportunities to meet and build relations particularly with local Aboriginal Elders.

We have been meeting for four years and some of the activities we have engaged in are:

- events at the En'Owkin Centre
- volunteered at the Elders Gathering in Penticton
- volunteer at the Outma School on Penticton Band Reserve
- sponsored several showings of "The Fallen Feather" (the story of the Kamloops Residential School) to educate non-Aboriginal folks about Residential Schools
- sponsored a forum with Chief Kruger and others from Penticton Band where they could share their Community Plan with folks in Penticton
- supported the "Series of Four" that the women related to the Idle No More movement presented at the Museum.

- participated in several Truth and Reconciliation Commission gatherings in Victoria, Vancouver and Kamloops
- participate annually in the Salmon Fry Release at Shingle Creek and the Salmon Bar-B-Que at OK Falls
- four of us visited Caroline and Joey Pierre at their home to hear their stories
- we participated in a hike in the hills above Naramata led by Richard Armstrong to hear stories and learn more of the traditions and paths taken by Aboriginal Peoples in the area hundreds of years ago
- Pauline Terbasket of the ONA attended our meeting and helped us understand the work of the ONA and especially the fisheries work. She shared the DVD "Our Salmon, Our People" with us. We sponsored a public showing of the DVD and a speaker from the ONA in April at the Penticton Museum.
- several of us have memberships in the OoKnakane Friendship Centre and 8 of us had lunch with Elders there in May 2015.
- Fred Ritchie, one of our members has been a long time friend of the Okanagan people of the Penticton Band and several years ago wrote a book called "Meeting on Common Ground" with the aim of bridging the gap.
- March 2015 sponsored a book discussion on The Inconvenient Indian by Thomas King
- Tracey Kim Bonneau told us more about the En'Owkin Centre and the projects she is involved in.

Most of us attend Anglican or United Churches in the area and want to live out the apologies our churches have made to Aboriginal Peoples in Canada beginning in 1986. We believe the way to build understanding and trust is to create or find spaces where we can come to know one another.

Submitted: Marion Best, *January 2016*

## **Finance Committee**

The Finance committee and I wish to thank everyone for their generosity in funds and time over the past year. Our final income from givings was over a thousand dollars higher than we had projected. Income from building use, fundraising and donations from groups was also a thousand dollars over our projections, so kudos to everyone. Our church expenses were lower than we had projected due to several cost saving measures instituted over the course of the past year, including the new split duties in the office. This means that the final numbers for 2015 give us a church income of \$191,370.39, and total expenses of \$206,074.33 giving a total annual deficit of \$14,703.94.

We are in the process of finalizing our budget for 2016. Our projected income for next year will be negatively impacted by several of our fundraiser events being cancelled or curtailed. We are expecting a drop of around \$8,000 in income from our Groups and Fundraisers. This means that we have a significant hole in our planning for the next year going forward. As a church we need to decide how we are going to move forward, and what changes we can/will make in regards to our staffing, our community support, and our building.

Respectfully Submitted: Colin MacDermott

## **Mission and Service**

In this year of turmoil and tragedy throughout the world, and troubling situations here at home, it is with thankful hearts that Penticton United worshippers have reached and surpassed our Mission & Service goal for 2015. Our giving's were: \$.24174.00 for Mission and Service: \$1995.00 for Emergency Response Fund, \$1070 for World Development and Relief, \$284.00 for the Soupateria: \$24620.00 for the Refugee Fund. Your Committee members, the needy organizations, and individual recipients of these gifts are grateful, and say THANK YOU.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Sherwood

## **Membership Committee reports**

The membership committee has hosted Sundae Sunday, greet members and visitors each Sunday. We review the Church Directory and remove and add names as required. Elevator operators are scheduled by a member of our committee. Name tags, either lanyard or pin are provided to members and adherents when requested. We have a book for anyone requiring a name tag to sign and indicate type desired.

Submitted by Dolores Rose

## **Anniversary Celebration**

The United Church of Canada marked its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary June 14<sup>th</sup> with the peals of bells throughout the land. As well many special dinners and celebratory services were reported.

With our Minister away on Sabbatical leave, we chose to mark this historic 90<sup>th</sup> as a church anniversary event Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> on Advent Sunday. The church hall was decorated with lovely vintage clothing and photo, displays from years past at P.U.C. Rev Laura explained the church history in her Advent service. A number of people dressed up in clothing "saved" for such occasions.

A short program in the hall followed the church service with Marty Godsmark as the genial master of ceremonies. Refreshments were provided- decorated cupcakes shaped into number 90 were kindly made by Margret Vincent. Those attending were recognized in membership in the United Church with Carolyn Sugden heralded as the longest standing member. The 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the C.G.I.T. was celebrated with former leaders and members standing. Men's Club was noted for its long service at PUC. Current and former clergy were recognised with applause.

Our sincere thanks to all those who helped us prepare and carry out the Triple Anniversary Event – 90 years for U.C. of C., 88 years for Penticton United and 100 years for C.G.I.T. All occasions were worth celebrating together in such a fun way

Blessings to all, Marjorie Murton

## **Friendship Group**

A just for fun a "Picnic in Blue" at Skaha Lake Park was planned for August 21<sup>st</sup> 2015. Folks were invited to wear blue colored clothing – blue tables and a small blue tent canopy would mark the gathering place by the Gazebo. It was inspired by the elegant Dinner in White photos.

Well, gusts of rain and a drop in temperature proved the wisdom of Plan B. The quick phone around in the afternoon brought 26 people to the home of Marjorie and Mel Murton on the West Bench.

There was a delicious buffet feast of salads, chicken and desserts arranged on blue linens with blue iced cookies, blue wrapped cheese was enjoyed by all.

A happy buzz of 28 voices showed the success of the event.

“Picnic in Blue” was deemed a great idea and could be followed by more “in Blue activities just for fun to celebrate this 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the United Church of Canada.

Friendship Club members are Marjorie & Pleun Notenboom and Marjorie & Mel Murton.

Respectfully submitted: Mel Murton

## Healing Group

This group was started 20 years ago and sees itself as continuing the early Christian tradition of healing. The group is smaller than it has been in the past, but continues to have an important part in outreach in our community and at the hospital.

The Healing Group is so thankful for the Healing Rooms at Penticton United. The church is the center from which our work happens in Penticton and the surrounding areas. We continue to have two groups of healers, one offering healing and self care on Tuesday mornings, and one on Thursday evenings. We held several technique review nights for both groups on Wednesday evenings in the Spring and Tuesday evenings in the Fall.

Our healers feel this a very interesting and rewarding way to continue Jesus' healing ministry in our community. Healing is regularly offered at communion and other special services at the church including the It's Hard to be Merry Service in December. We appreciate your visits to us and your referrals of those in the community in need of complimentary care, whether they seek spiritual, emotional, mental and physical healing or simply wish relaxation.

An education session was given for Sprott-Shaw Social Work aide students in the spring.

We miss the extra activities that we were involved with at Naramata in the past, but were pleased to offer healing sessions at Spring Presbytery, held in Penticton, for the Naramata Society annual meeting held in June at PUC and during their worship on the beach on Friday before the meeting Saturday. Sheila MacDermott is an Instructor for Phase One of the Healing Pathway Program.

As well as seeing clients at the church by appointment, healers from the group continue to visit hospital patients upon request and regularly see Oncology patients on Monday and Wednesday mornings at PRH. We are always 'on call', upon request, for hospital and hospice patients. Donations from clients are appreciated and are then used to purchase supplies, fund courses and contribute to church expenses, as we are able. Besides a donation to the church of \$800 from the group, regular contributions are made to the general fund, for room use, by the healers in recognition of the space so generously allowed for our use.

We continue to sponsor courses to train healers. A Phase One course was cancelled in September, but we are planning to hold a Phase One in the spring of 2016, and later a Phase Two.

All are welcome to come and learn about healing, whether for their own knowledge and healing, or to become part of the healing group.

Thank you for the space for these Healing rooms and your ongoing support and encouragement for this aspect of church work in Penticton.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila MacDermott

## Pastoral Care Sub-Committee

The Pastoral Care Committee continues to provide ongoing visits to the Hospital, Hospice, ECU and Care Facilities. We are blessed by the very busy Prayer Shawl Ministry, who provide beautiful shawls, which are then distributed, to provide a caring, blessed comfort to people in hospital, the bereaved, and those needing a special, warm blessing. Our committee relies on our members, and families to provide us with names of potential recipients.

If anyone knows of someone in our Hospital, Care facilities, community, or at home, who would benefit by a visit from our Minister or Pastoral Care Visitor, please let us know.

Our thanks to Marie Houston who continues to provide beautiful "very special" birthday cards for people celebrating their very special days.

The Pastoral Care committee works under the support and guidance of our dedicated Minister, Rev. Laura.

During 2015, the committee provided 200 Visits. This does not reflect Rev. Laura's visits.

During Rev. Laura's sabbatical leave, we continued to provide Pastoral care, when and where needed. Marjorie Murton, Fern Gibbard and I presided over a Graveside service, and several Celebrations of Life Services. We were very truly blessed by this honour.

Anyone interested in joining this very worthwhile Ministry, please let Patti (250 493-7376) or church office know.

We look forward to continuing our commitment to PUC and our Community.

Respectfully submitted, Blessings, Patti Skinner, Chair.

## Stewardship Committee

Stewardship had a very busy year in 2015 and wants to thank the congregation for their loyal support throughout. We held many fundraisers and according to all reports, they were successful, social and worthy of the work involved by the committee and other congregation volunteers.

Our sale of gently used novels continues to be popular, especially with people heading south for a month or two, looking for some reading to take along. Our novels were sold from the TOONEY bookshelf in the outer office area.

A Bridge fundraiser was held in March. Extra soup and baking was sold at this event, resulting in a very profitable as well as social day.

Our huge **yard sale** took place in March with all kinds of useful items available for purchase - all very reasonably priced. The attendance was high and business was brisk.

The Anglican and Presbyterian churches joined our congregation for a picnic at Manitou Park beach in Naramata in June. A barbecue and games provided an entertaining social event for both congregations.

A Soup and Buns luncheon was offered in September, gathering many of our congregation to share a meal and fellowship.

In October we hosted our **Fall Turkey Dinner** and again it was a huge success with about 125 people taking part in the fun and the fellowship.

Stewardship offered an array of delicious **baking for sale** in December, a well-supported event. **Holly/cedar swags** at this event were popular, making excellent Christmas decorations and hostess gifts.

Grocery cards are an ongoing fundraiser, quite well supported by our congregation. We offer thanks to all of you who continue to buy the cards every week together we managed to raise over \$8000 this year.

The final tally of funds raised in 2015 is approximately \$7864.85. Grocery card profit is calculated separately, and therefore not included in this final figure.

Submitted by: Norma Lipka

## **Worship and Music**

Committee members

Sheila MacDermott: Chair, Pulpit Supply, Concorde Book Study, film afternoons

Jacque Bird: Visuals

Orma Baker: Musicians

Mary Cawthorne: Secretary and Communion

Carolyn Dircks: Greeters and Ushers

Alice DeRoche: Choir Director

Donna Halverson: Care Facility Service Coordinator

Jean Sherwood: Minute for Mission, Faith Formation

Edith Szabo: Readers

Laura Turnbull: Minister

Associated Groups -

Fern Gibbard: Prayer Shawl Group

Peggy Bensler: The Angelus Ringers

Our goal for this year was to encourage a welcoming, pleasing area and support Rev. Laura as she leads and supports each of us in our faith exploration.

We enjoyed the shared services with St. Andrew's and St. Savior's, as well as, our special religious days. Thank you Orma for helping with the minutes in Mary's absence. We note the increased summer attendance for the Sermons that Speak Series and appreciate Lorna Cox's work to find these gifted sermon specialists during Laura's Sabbatical.

Many thanks go to all those who have assisted us with ideas and help throughout the year, whether through your contribution to welcome others, setting the scene, welcoming and making connections with the children, participating in book studies and discussion groups, leading, coordinating, or participating in services or special events, contributing to the music or small group activities. All your contributions of time, creativity, and talent combine to make us a meaningful congregation of faith.

### **Bible Study - Sheila MacDermott**

Our first Bible study in many years was led this Fall by Ann Pollock. We are so grateful to Ann for leading this small group in study, following the lectionary and stimulating interesting discussion.

### **Book Study - Sheila MacDermott**

We have worked with 2 books this year at the Concorde.

The first, in the Spring, was 'Kitchen Table Wisdom - Stories that Heal' by Rachel Naomi Remen, MD. It was a good sized group averaging 6 participants, with much for good discussion.

The Fall selection was/is 'The Accidental Pilgrim' by Maggi Dawn. This study has had difficulty due to low interest, illness or reduced ability of the present residents to participate. We have continued to study the book in Inez Burnett's room with 2 residents and a visitor as illness and my conflicting schedule permits.

Our plan is to continue to finish this book, and then we will review the future of this study that was an outreach project for church member residents of the Concorde as well as church members in the community.

### **Choir - submitted by Sheila MacDermott**

We have continued to find the contribution of our choir a welcome gift to our worship. They are the longest continuing 4 part harmony choir in Penticton and the dedication of the members is much appreciated. The new music offered as a result of memoriam donations and selection is inspiring. The Christmas season has continued to be a very busy time for them with special advent songs, the Choir Extravaganza, extra services including the Longest Night (Dec 17 - not on the Longest Night this year) and the fact that many of the choir are also members of other choirs that are also very busy.

Thank you Alice DeRoche for your leadership.

### **Communion - submitted by Sheila MacDermott**

Rev. Laura led us in a variety of communion services. Communion has been offered several ways this year: served, by intinction and a special 'serve yourself' communion for World Wide Communion Sunday, with many different breads representative of many countries being offered.

Many thanks to all who assisted by preparing, serving, assisting at stations, offering healing to the congregation as a whole or at stations, and especially thank you to Len DeRoche and Jan Makar for contributing the tasty gluten-free bread.

### **Care Facility Worship - Donna Halverson**

PUC provided worship services at care facilities in 2015 including Concorde, Trinity, Haven Hill, Cherry Park and Hamlets. Rev. Laura provided many wonderful devotionals. When Laura was not available Lorna Cox, Fern Gibbard and Jean Sherwood provided thoughtfully prepared services. We also have talented pianists who provided music to lead the singing of Hymns. Thank you to musicians Orma Baker, Edith Szabo, Norma Lippa and Doug Stark.

Rev Laura and Rev. Colin decided to join their talents and lead all December care facility worship services for PUC and Presbyterian. This is a large commitment, but they enjoy doing it when possible.

### **Faith Formation - Jean Sherwood**

See individual group reports.

### **Greeters and Ushers - Carolyn Dircks**

All the greeters and ushers again welcomed the incoming parishioners to our Church.

We enjoyed our Guest ministers during the extended Summer Speakers Series this past summer. The majority have offered to return again, if invited.

Thank you all, for welcoming and ushering our visitors and regular members each Sunday.

### **Lay Readers/Minute for Mission - Edith Szabo**

Once again we extend a huge THANK YOU to all our readers. This year the task of Announcers, Readers, and Minute for Mission have been combined and we thank everyone for

expanding their part of the service. Your participation is truly appreciated by all. At this time, we have need of a few readers. If you are interested, please leave your name at the office. Thank you.

### **Musicians' Report - Sheila MacDermott**

Doug Stark and Orma Baker continue to work the organ and piano, each on their own preferred instrument. We are so lucky that they have done all this work for us at no cost to PUC. We are aware that we are receiving a very great gift from them. Katie Schumacher helped one Sunday in the Spring.

We have also had the wonderful addition of Paula Baker and her amazing trumpet to add to some of our services. A beautiful gift that adds to a meaningful service.

It is great to have the organ working again even if it does complain once in awhile. Many thanks go to Bob Garrett for his ongoing work to keep the organ working, with a little help from the organ repair man.

It would help to have one or two others who could step in if needed. Let us know if there is someone whose arm we might twist. There must also be people who could play a few hymns for services at the care facilities. Don't be shy, let us know.

### **Popcorn and Movie Afternoon - Sheila MacDermott**

There was one film afternoon in Feb., where popcorn was consumed and the movie Heaven is for Real was enjoyed followed by good discussion (15 attendees). The next movie was scheduled for March and there was 1 attendee.

It was decided that other Spring church activities had overwhelmed the potential group and no further movies were planned.

### **Pulpit supply -Sheila MacDermott**

We are very thankful to all who have assisted with Pulpit supply during Laura's absences due to study leaves, Presbytery and Conference meetings, sabbatical and vacation. We have tried to keep the pulpit supply to local people to reduce travel costs. We are so fortunate to have such capable speakers to call upon within our congregation and community. Thank you.

Jan 4 - David Sparks

Jan 25 - David Sparks

March 22 - Natalie Maxson

April 12 - Fern Gibbard

April 19 - David Sparks

May 31 - Natalie Maxson

June 7 - David Sparks - Sabbatical

June 14 - Marjorie Murton - Sabbatical

July 19 - Fern Gibbard - Sabbatical

Oct 25 - Fern Gibbard

Nov 1 - Marjorie Murton

Dec 27 – Marjorie Murton

### **Sunday School Report- Pat Fraser**

2015 was another successful Sunday School year - more children in attendance would, of course, be wonderful - but the ones who attend are learning lots and having fun. We have also recently welcomed two new children, Malachi and Elijah, to join Alex and Damien. We also had a number of summer visitors, which was fantastic.

Each Sunday, for the most part, we follow the lectionary readings - so the week the adults heard the stories of David and Samuel or learned about the miracles of Jesus, so did the Sunday School. Acacia, Kezia, Alex and Damien performed a song ("Arky Arky") for the congregation and created a beautiful banner during our focus on Noah and his Ark. A special thank you to Orma Baker for letting us rehearse at her home and for her lovely piano accompaniment.

Many, many thanks also to Cindy Garnham, who has volunteered to teach one Sunday a month. I really appreciate it.

Anyone wanting to stop in and look around the Sunday School classroom would be warmly welcomed. Also, thank you so much to all of the people who go out of their way each Sunday to greet the children and make them feel so much a part of our Church family.

### **Visuals Report - Jacquie Bird**

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped with decorating the Church over this last year. Sheila, Cheryl and Barb, couldn't have done it without you. Well maybe I could have but would certainly have taken a lot more time and not have been anywhere near as much fun. Thank you.

We kept within the budget, though no one was too sure what the budget was. Fortunately we were never told that we were spending too much. So that was very positive.

Three individuals responded so nicely when calls put out for donations of Christmas trees. In fact I reluctantly had to turn some down. For those of you who donated and/or offered to donate, a very big thank you. Very much appreciated.

Also a thank you to Mike for the loan of the Nativity scene which was used in the Chancel this year.

We are looking for keen individuals who would like to take over the Visuals and attend the monthly Worship and Music Committee

Please see Sheila MacDermott if interested or feel you would like to help in any way.

### **The Angelus Handbell Ringers**

Peggy Bensler (Director), Judith Bridgehall, Linda Corscadden, Wendy Ganderton, Fern Gibbard, Mary Hall, Dwight Holmberg, Diane Martin, Natalie Minunzie, Katherine Quesnel, Linda Sears, Linda Tollefson

This has been a very busy and yet exciting year for us.

In April we held our first Handbell Boot Camp on a Saturday morning. This was for all new ringers, retired ringers, and those who like to ring but can't commit to a regular schedule of practice. We had 4 people join us for a fun day of learning and with a few of our regular ringers, we were able to play a song the next day in Sunday worship.

In May, there were 4 ringers and myself who attended our Provincial Spring Ring Festival in Burnaby. For some, this was a first, and it was a very exciting time. There were workshops, but the focus was on massed ringing to prepare us for our International Symposium (IHS2016) which will be in Vancouver in July 2016. It is quite extraordinary to hear bells being rung in unison by 100 ringers rather than the 8-11 that you normally hear in a choir. Can't even imagine what 800 ringers at International will sound like.

The spring also had us focus on fundraising with a garage sale, walnut sales and concert. Firstly to help with the purchase of our own 3 octave set of hand chimes, this came to reality in

July. Secondly to help with the registration fee for ringers interested in attending IHS2016. We thank everyone who supported our fundraising efforts.

Our concert, MUSIC AROUND THE WORLD, was held May 31 and was a great success. We had several instrumentalists join us, Nicole Jonsson-Good (drums), Julia Lipov (cello), Sharon Morrow (flute), Olivia Antuna (violin), Gord Ganderton (vocals), Doug Stark (piano), to help play a variety of music from all parts of the world. Special thanks to Bob Nicholson for being our MC and all who helped with tickets, etc. Thanks to Diane Martin for videotaping all our performances – these make special memories and great learning tools.

In September there were many changes to our choir. Some sad news – Dwight retired from ringing but continues to conduct in Kelowna, Katherine moved to the mainland and Fern decided to ring only part-time. Some happy news – one of the new ringers from our boot camp (Mary Hall) decided to join us. This brought our choir to 8 – which is smaller than the normal, so it challenges us in our music selections and also challenges the more experienced ringers to ring more bells. We are having fun with this new arrangement.

We love to share the beautiful sound of handbells and continue to reach out into the community. We played at 2 senior retirement centres in April and 2 in December. We also rang in the Cherry Lane Mall in December.

We ring during worship services once a month (excluding the summer) and currently practice Wednesday mornings 9:30 - 11:30 am. If you, or anyone you may know, is interested in learning more about handbells, please have them contact me. We always welcome new ringers; however, if our practice time is what is holding you back, please talk to me anyway.

Submitted: Peggy Bensler

### **Prayer Shawl Group**

The prayer shawl group meets monthly in members' homes, knitting or crocheting prayer shawls, which are blessed in Sunday worship and then distributed to those who are bereaved, ill, or lonely. This meeting is also an important time to share good fellowship.

The cupboards are full of shawls so if you know of someone who would benefit from a shawl, please contact the office or the pastoral care team.

Submitted: Sheila MacDermott

### **United Church Women (UCW)**

Our U.C.W. meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. We welcome new members.

My thanks to the P.U.C. congregation for helping with Sunday coffee hours, our luncheons and tea & bazaars.

Our members, although down in numbers, have been so committed, they have helped raise enough money in 2015 to give the church's general fund \$10,200.00, \$1,500.00 for M & S and \$100.00 to help the youth group ministry.

We have served 6 funeral teas in 2015. Anna Moerkoert has sent 31 cards to our congregation (to the sick, thinking of you and for the loss of a loved one). What a wonderful contact with our congregation!

Many thanks to all our members for making this another successful year. Hope you'll join us for our next meeting, Feb 3rd at 1:30 p.m.

## Wise Elders

The Wise Elders consist of:

- Penticton United Church: Brad and Marie Houston, Marion Kozier and Rev. Laura Turnbull
- St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church: Fraser MacDonald and Rev. Colin Cross
- St. Saviour's Anglican Church: Joanne and Rev. Richard Simpson and Rev. Mike Stuchbery

The intent of the group is to host two shared worship services; one during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and on Remembrance Sunday. We also have a shared picnic in June, held at Manitou Park in Naramata. It is hoped that these shared experiences allow the three congregations to know one another better and foster a deeper understanding of our similarities and common visions.

Over the past five years, this group has regularly met. Time for sharing joys, successes and struggles is built into each meeting. One result of these gatherings is the upcoming "Looking to the Future" event being held at Penticton United Church and facilitated by Rev. Richard and Joanne Simpson.

Submitted by; Rev. Laura Turnbull

## Penticton Ecumenical Refugee Committee

In September, 2015, Mike Stuchbery of Saint Saviors Anglican (SSA) invited people to come to a meeting to discuss the plight of the Syrian Refugees. At the meeting it was decided that St. Savior's should look into sponsoring a family to resettle in Penticton and that they should seek partner churches to work with.

Accordingly, we met again a couple of weeks later with folks from the Penticton United Church (PUC) and St Andrew's Presbyterian Church and together decided to sponsor a family. A steering committee was formed: co-chairs Gerry Neilsen (PUC) and Jim Wild (SSA), secretary Marcia Dean (SSA) and treasurer Jan Neale (PUC). We contacted the Diocese of Kootenay refugee sponsorship co-ordinator, Elizabeth Huether, and received approval to proceed under the diocese's sponsorship agreement with the federal government. Shortly after this, St Andrew's decided to proceed with their own, separate sponsorship and they have now been assigned a family.

Many volunteers came forward from PUC and SSA and the Penticton Community so there are now fifty on our list. Working groups have been organized to gather furniture, household goods, provide transportation, tutor in English, organize medical care, etc. A townhouse on South Main St has been rented for Feb 1. Both PUC and St Saviours have helped us by receiving donations on the committee's behalf and receipting them and we have collected almost \$35,000.

On Jan 23 we were assigned a family of five, mom and dad, seven and six year old boys and a three year old girl. They are still overseas and going through the final steps of preparation to come to Canada. We don't know for sure, but we expect them to come around the end of February or in March or earlier!

*God has so ordered our lives that we live in abundance and this is a way He has given us to share with a family who has lost everything. It is gratifying and humbling to see how together, contributing what we each are able to, it is possible to bring a family out of desperation into a new life.*

Submitted: Gerry Neilsen

## 2015 Church Statistics

	Weddings	Baptisms	Funerals
Laura Turnbull	2	2	5
Colin Cross			1
Fern Gibbard, Marjorie Murton, Patti Skinner			4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>

Marriages: 2

- Ron Harrison and Joyce Lackie
- Garret Thorne and Ashley Enns

Baptisms: 2

- Hunter Jeffrey Hiller
- Lilly Josephine Willis

### Membership

Transfers in: 0

Transfers out: 1

Deceased: 6

Members: 186\*

Adherents: 123

The average recorded Sunday attendance in 2015 during October and November was 71. Note that this total reflects the Remembrance Sunday that was a joint service with St. Andrew's Presbyterian and St. Saviour's Anglican Churches.

\*This member total now reflects the method used by the national office which is: number from last year plus any new members minus those deceased.

Please note that all membership records are in the computer as well as in the Historic Roll. We thank all the volunteers, particularly the Weavers through the leadership of Harvie Barker, who assist in the updating of all our records.

This annual report was compiled by Colin MacDermott from the reports submitted by the individual committees, sub-committees, groups, delegates, etc. Thank you all for your contributions.