



Penticton United Church

ANNUAL REPORT: OF THE LIFE AND WORK OF PENTICTON UNITED CHURCH 2017

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.



Penticton United
CHURCH

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Memorials 2017

Astle, Margaret	January 28, 2017
Miller, Dolly	February 4, 2017
Kohn, Dennis	February 13, 2017
Patenaude, Margaret Elizabeth	February 24, 2017
Cribb, Phyllis	April 5, 2017
Trumpour, Eleanor	May 9, 2017
Braaten, Treva	June, 2017
Glass, William Ernest	June 29, 2017
Molyneux, William Edmund	August 10, 2017
Spek, William Peter	August 16, 2017
Peck, Melva	September 6, 2017
Parrott, Lisa Anne	October 5, 2017
Boersma, August (Gus)	October 14, 2017
Mclvor, Rory	November 15, 2017
Dalrymple, Robert	November 11, 2017
Goddard, Neil	November 22, 2017
Watt, Doranne	November 22, 2017

Minister's Report

Traditionally the Minister's message is a time to thank the staff, council and committee members, and the congregation for a year of faithful service in God's name. I very much want to thank all for faith-filled, loving, and compassionate service. But, I want to do much more than thank. I want to affirm your courage. I desire to acknowledge your creativity. I seek to name you as one of the daring visionaries.

Your staff configuration changed with a farewell to Shannon Oliver and a welcome to Sue Butchard as host. Your council had significant change with Patti Skinner taking on the Chair of council, Sarah Tupholme being the secretary of council and Mike Bonnie the treasurer of council. All three persons are brand new to Penticton United Church council. Their willingness to serve in these positions is truly an expression of faithfulness, courage and vision. I marvel at how well these three people are giving leadership. They are attentive to detail, willing to risk and try new things, and they listen with compassion. They, along with the rest of council serve our church well.

We courageously engaged in "Called to be the Church: We Sing Thanksgiving," a stewardship program involving education, Sunday service emphasis, and an every member financial appeal. Our financial picture, while still bleak, is somewhat better thanks to this program. With a little more information, it is hoped that we will adjust our givings in 2018 to better reflect our commitment to God's gracious love.

I thank you for helping me celebrate the anniversary of my 30 years of Ordained Ministry. It seems hard to believe that it has been that long that I have been in paid accountable ministry. I have seen many changes in how one serves God's people. We are heading into a time when many radical changes are before the United Church. It is both exciting and bewildering. We celebrated Harvie Barker's 50th anniversary of ordination in June and marvelled at the ongoing ministry he has with his "A Good Word" booklets.

I thank the congregation for their expressions of care and concern while I was off on medical leave and taking advantage of the United Church of Canada's Restorative Care program. I found myself having faced too many traumatic events in too short a time. I needed healing and renewal. While it was hard to admit that my body and soul needed an extended time for

restoration, I am thankful to caregivers and supportive people of God who guided me to the help I needed.

We move into 2018, our 90th anniversary of the sanctuary. We will reflect on the past with the eyes of experience. We will critique with hearts filled with gratitude for God's abiding grace. We will look to the future with hopefulness and courage, for that is the message of Jesus Christ. May we all know awe!

Blessings,
Rev. Laura J Turnbull

Minister's Activity Report

Visits:

- Home and Office – 74
- Hospital – 35
- Care Facilities - 16
- Community Resource Persons – 11
- Lots of phone calls

Meetings:

- Executive – 5
- Council - 6
- Building and Property – 4
- Finance - 4
- Membership – 1
- Memorial and Bursary – 3
- M&P - 2
- UCW - 2
- Worship and Music – 4
- Re: Naramata Choir - 1

Worship

- Funerals – 9 plus 1 Committal
- Weddings – 4
- Care Facilities - 4
- Attended Ash Wednesday service at St. Saviour's
- Lead World Day of Prayer service at Concorde
- Attended World Day of Prayer service at Salvation Army
- Liturgist for Shared Service at St. Andrew's
- Assist Amber in decorating Sanctuary – 3
- Prepare a Care Facility Service for volunteer
- Conducted Remembrance Day Service at The Concorde
- Planning for 90th Anniversary underway
- Preached at Remembrance Sunday Shared Service

Faith Formation

- Support Small Group Ministries
- Lead "God Talk" – 5 participants
- Lead "Called to Be the Church: We Sing Thanksgiving" study
- Offered workshop on Conducting funeral services

Administration

- Buy groceries for food cupboard

- Write newsletter -4
- Printed picture for Minister's wall
- Developed holiday and study schedule for 2017-2018
- Prepared "Called to be the Church: We Sing Thanksgiving" and ran campaign
- Meeting to plan 90th Anniversary
- Explore Archives on own
- Attend Archives overview with Liz Barker
- Write Stewardship Letter for congregational distribution
- Attend presentation on Auris hearing loop – follow up to point of installation

Spiritual Direction

- Receive monthly Spiritual Direction from Lois Huey Heck

Attendance at P.U.C. Events

- Attend farewell to Shannon
- Attend yard sale
- Attend Gospel Music Event and assisted where needed
- Attended UCW luncheon
- Attend Makers Market

Attendance at Community Events

- Attended 20th Anniversary of Ministry for Rev. Colin Cross
- Presented Bursaries at Pen High Grad
- Presented Bursaries at Princess Margaret High
- Attended farewell for Mike and Tracey Stuchbery

Kamloops Okanagan Presbytery -

- United Clergy Monthly Gatherings (South Okanagan) - monthly
- Arranged funeral coverage for a duplication with Summerland UC
- Attend 4 day BC Conference Meeting at UBC
- Attend Sounding Board meeting
- Meeting with Conference Presbytery Staff Person, Allison Rennie - 2

PLURA (Monthly) -

- Wise Elders - 3
 - o Set up for "Once and Future Church event"
 - o MC for "Once and Future Church" forum
 - o Tabulated evaluations
 - o Completed Report for grant
- Penticton Churches for Social Justice – 7
- Conclude TORCH

Volunteer Centre Board Member - monthly meetings

- Serve as Treasurer
- Helped at Health Fair
- Conducted a Strategic Planning Workshop

Read to Syrian Children – weekly

Host Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners at my home

Submitted by
Rev. Laura Turnbull

Chair Fern thanked all who attended and all for their work, noting that there are many whose work is behind the scenes and not noticed by all.

4) Minutes of February 14, 2016 Annual General Meeting are reviewed: (pages 6-10 Annual Reports)

Motion 5 by Colin MacDermott, seconded by Patti Skinner, that the minutes of the February 14, 2016 meeting be adopted as circulated. Carried

5) Minutes of June 05, 2016 Congregational Meeting are reviewed: (pages 11-14 Annual Reports)

Motion 6 by Sheila MacDermott, seconded by Marj Notenboom, that the minutes of the June 05, 2016 meeting be adopted as circulated. Carried

6) Reports of the Committees and Groups:

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Annual General Meeting Minutes, Feb.14, 2016	pages 6-10
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Angelus Ringers	handout
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Wise Elders	page 32
Penticton Ecumenical Refugee Committee	page 32-34
Statistics of our Church	page 34
Angelus Ringers, Communion, Offering Counters, Further to Music and Worship	addenda to report

Motion 7 by Brad Houston, seconded by Marty Godsmark, that all reports of the Committees and Groups be received for information. Carried.

7) Financial Reports:

Motion 8 by Colin MacDermott, seconded by Bob Garrett, that the 2016 yearend financial statement be received for information. Carried.

Motion 9 by Dyane MacDonald, seconded by Marty Godsmark, that the 2016 Mission and Service Fund financial report be accepted for information. (p.25) Carried.

Motion 10 by Marie Houston, seconded by Norma Lippa, that the 2016 Building and Property financial report be received for information. (5th page, financial report) Carried.

Motion 11 by Lorna Cox, seconded by Bob Ireland, that the Memorial and Bursary financial report for 2016 be received for information. (6th page, financial report) Carried.

Gerry Neilsen introduced the Finance Committee of Colin MacDermott, Barry Owen, and Margret Vincent and thanked them for their work.

8) Budget for 2017 is presented:

Motion 12 by Patti Skinner, seconded by Marty Godsmark, that the 2017 budget be accepted.

Colin pointed out that the 2016 deficit was decreased by bequests.

We are experiencing a 10% fall in funds per year.

Funds currently in trust can keep PUC in operation for another 3 years with donations continuing to drop, but not precipitously. After 3 years funds in trust would be required to be used for the operation of the church.

Q: How much is held in trust?

A (CMac): \$58,500 currently held in trust could add 2 years to the operation of our church.

Q: If dedicated, how can they be used?

A: If a church runs out of money for operation, dedicated funds are turned to the operation of the church. If not applied to church operation, the use of the dedicated funds would be determined by Conference.

Great work is being done in fund-raising; we need to keep up the efforts.

Q: What income is projected for Stewardship?

A: Stewardship does not have a separate budget line. It is included in Fund raising and Donations from PUC groups. It is understood that as the congregation shrinks, so does the ability of Stewardship to fund raise.

A: Suggestion for a separate line for Stewardship was noted by Colin.

Q: What are donations from PUC groups?

A: Healing Touch, Healing Pathway, UCW, Stamp Club, etc.

Q: Why did Communications receive a \$1,000 budget for 2017?

A: Costs include the website, brochures, and advertisements.

Q: How many hits does the website get?

A: Substantial.

Q: Where does M&S show?

A: M&S is not in the budget. It is comprised of separate, personal givings.

Q: Would M&S ever be used in daily operation?

A: No. All M&S donations go directly to Missions and Service, United Church of Canada.

Motion 12 carried.

Motion 13 by Margret Vincent, seconded by Harvie Barker, that our covenant for Mission and Service Fund for 2017 be \$20,000.

Q: If we fail to meet our covenant, do we have to make it up the following year?

A (LT): No. Any shortfall in pledges results in less funding to Mission and Service projects.

Q (Patti Craig): Considering that our population is in decline and that the same people donate locally and to M&S, could we lower our covenant in order that these same people prioritize their givings in favor of local giving?

A (Eileen Tymm): Agreed. Can we raise \$20,000 in 2017?

A (Mary Cawthorne): The covenant is a target only.

A (Sheila MacDermott): Changes in the covenant cause impact on national programs.

A (Margret Vincent): We came close to making our 2016 covenant. Donors have likely been donating to M&S for years and will continue to do so.

A (Gerry Neilsen): Favors continued giving to M&S; people will give as they choose; M&S is not part of our budget.

A (Eileen Tymm): The UCC counts on \$20,000 from us. If we fall short, they are short.

Why not lower our covenant?

Q (Mary Cawthorne): How long have we maintained the \$20,000 covenant?

A: We had previously maintained \$30,000 and have dropped back to \$20,000.

Q (Marty Godsmark): Why not set a lower goal which we might surpass and feel really good about it. Perhaps \$15,000. Rather than the negative feeling of having failed to meet the covenant.

Q (Mary Cawthorne): Do we know how much goes to M&S projects and how much to administration?

A (LT): Pamphlets explaining the distribution of M&S funds are available in the office foyer.

Motion 13 defeated, 19 to 15.

Motion 14 by Patti Craig, seconded by Marty Godsmark, that for 2017 we set a covenant of \$15,000.

Q (Gerry Neilsen): Could we scale the \$15,000 according to our population?

A: A vote on the covenant is required each year.

Motion 14 carried with 6 opposed.

Review of financial records: Colin informed the congregation that a financial review, as decided by 2016 AGM, is currently being conducted by Terry MacDermott. Colin assured that no conflict of interest exists, because Colin has no cheque-signing authority. Terry is offering this review as a donation to the church. A review every three years is appropriate for our size.

9) **Nominations:**

Chair Fern read the names of the following persons and called three times for further nominations. No further nominations were received, and Fern declared the slate confirmed as Executive of Council. Fern noted with thanks that Barbara Godsmark has served as past Chair for several years and will continue to offer advice from her years of experience on Council Executive.

Chair: Patti Skinner

Past Chair:

Vice Chair: Gerry Neilsen

Secretary: Sarah Tupholme

Treasurer:

Presbytery Delegates: Barb Godsmark and Sheila MacDermott

Alternate Presbytery Delegates: Marion Kozier and Sarah Tupholme

Rev Laura noted that she is currently drafting terms of reference for each of the Executive positions. If anyone is considering volunteering for these positions, please see the terms of reference.

Margret Vincent announced that Mike Bonnie is considering the treasurer's position. Mike will consider this position in four months after winding up some of his business and reading the terms of reference.

Motion 15 by Colin MacDermott, seconded by Marj Notenboom, that the following persons be the trustees: Harry Shaw, Marty Godsmark, Lorna Cox, Fern Gibbard, Gordon Houston.

Carried.

10. Business of the church:

Motion 16 by Marion Kozier, seconded by Cheryl Filipenko, 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 17 by Marty Godsmark that the 2017 Annual General Meeting be adjourned.

Fern encouraged all to stay for lunch and discussion groups. Fern gave a brief overview of the "Looking to the Future" process which we have undertaken over the past year. The discussion groups today will look at what we have accomplished and what remains to be done from the list of 10 motions which resulted from the process.

Rev Laura Turnbull closed the meeting with a prayer and blessing of the lunch.

Following lunch in the lower hall, a group of about 10 people discussed the progress made over the past year in addressing the motions which resulted from the process of "Looking to the Future"

Rev Laura proclaimed God's blessing.

Fern Gibbard, Chair

Doreen Bobbitt, Secretary

Reports from Presbytery

Spring

Spring Presbytery in Kamloops, was hosted by Kamloops United Church, who proved once again to be a warm and welcoming church. Attending from Penticton United were Rev. Laura Turnbull and Rev. Harvie Barker, with Barb Godsmark, and Sheila MacDermott as Lay delegates. The weekend started as at all functions at Kamloops United with a reminder that we were on traditional land of the Secwepemc band and were welcomed by a representative of their band by who spoke for some time, sharing his beliefs and reminding us that Spirit, Mind and Heart can only be as healthy as Mother Earth and that Body, Mind and Spirit need to all work together so that we can live in strength and peace. He asked us to work together to improve things for people, the earth and the air.

The theme for this year for presbytery is Facing Crucifixion, Finding Resurrection, with the emphasis for this session on Facing Crucifixion. This was difficult and emotional for many, as we dealt with how the Church is changing, and will continue to change. The connection was made with the decline of the church and we were encouraged to face what is, and look towards what will be the new church; that we must face death as Jesus followers did, and then be open to glimpsing what is new; that even in the beginning, was chaos, before there was a new creation. This difficult soul- searching led into the remits that were discussed and voted on. We voted on several remits at Fall presbytery that will lead to the reorganization and more efficient operations of The United Church of Canada.

The remits were:

Remit #1 - That we move to a 3 council model - removing the Presbytery level and continue with a structure of Congregation, Regional Council and Denominational Council. This was first voted on in 2016 and was taken to General council. This is now being taken to the next step of planning and organizing before being voted on at the next general Council in 2018, where if passed will require changing our Basis of Union and our UCC bylaws in the UCC Manual.

Remit #3 - To form an Office of Vocation. This will be a national function where previously it was more of a Presbytery and Regional level function.

Remit #4 - that Mission and Service funds be used to fund ministry and mission activities.

This motion dealt with funding, where at present, our annual assessment is paid to Presbytery, and then moves on to the Region and National levels, it would now be paid to National and be dispersed downwards from there, and also that Mission and Service would be separated from the present way it functions and monies paid to M&S would be used only for Mission.

These 3 Remits passed at Presbytery after much explanation, discussion and soul searching.

We heard presentations from many groups:

-Brianna Huet was a youth representative on the South Korea Protestant delegation and told of her inspiring and insightful visit and is looking forward to the delegation visiting BC in May.

-Youth shared their appreciation of the youth camps - Camp Grafton and MacKenzie Camps.

Notice was given that there will be a Carriboo/ Kamloops Joint Youth Retreat on the May Long Weekend for any interested youth.

-Kamloops United shared the story and Celebration of completing renovations to become "A Centre for Community and Spiritual Discovery", as well as, a low-cost housing unit, and many of the activities that happen at Kamloops United

Many Presbytery positions were filled and Jenny Carter was elected by acclamation as the new Chair of Presbytery.

The music and worship was as usual most wonderful, rejuvenating and inspiring. The weekend finished with an impressive Jazz vespers service on Sunday, celebrating the creation story, with resonant gongs, singing bowls, rain sticks and all matter of sound makers added to saxophones, double bass, piano and vocalists.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you at Spring Presbytery. B.C. Conference will be held at UBC May 24th to 28th.

Respectfully submitted by Barb Godsmark and Sheila MacDermott

Fall

The Kamloops-Okanagan Fall Presbytery on Oct 20-22, 2017 was attended by Rev. Laura Turnbull and Barb Godsmark and Sheila MacDermott as Lay Delegates, at Revelstoke United Church, in Revelstoke B.C.

The meeting was opened, with the announcement that we were meeting on the un-ceded territory of 4 indigenous tribes.

During the usual opening motions, it became apparent that we did not have quorum. Hoping that the situation would change by late comers, we continued on with worship and moved into education and background information regarding the last of the remits, #6 the one order of ministry. There were 8 remits proposed for reorganization of The United Church of Canada:

#1 to change our church structure from 4 courts to 3.

#2 to eliminate transfers and settlements.

#3 to establish an office of vocation.

#4 funding the new model so that instead of assessments going to Presbytery, they will go to the National Church for distribution to the Regions and local churches, which will be referred to as Communities of Faith, funds going to the M&S fund will go entirely to mission.

#5 the establishment of official Ministry partners of churches in other countries

#6 -See below

#7 is to set a Ministry pathway

#8 is the step toward a new model of membership

#1-5 have all been passed as announced during the summer, and the implementation date for these changes is set for December 30, 2018.

We were meant to vote on #6

Remit #6 is regarding the proposal that all ministers will be considered equal as a leader of a Community of Faith no matter their background education, so that all ministers will be considered ordained with the same starting wage. Rev. Steven Chambers led us through the history of the different backgrounds of the different education streams which was very informative.

Unfortunately by Saturday morning, we still did not have quorum and it was decided that no business requiring a vote could be done. We will still have time to study and vote on Remit #6 at Spring Presbytery before submitting to National.

We started to refer to the meeting as an un-presbytery meeting.

The theme for this un-presbytery meeting was 'It's Holy Saturday. What do we do?' recognizing that our last meeting's theme was The Crucifixion, and the grief and loss we feel around a phase of our church ending, and now we are in that pause of Saturday waiting for the next phase to see what we will become. It is recognized that this is an anxious, fearful time that is stressful for members, especially for our leaders. We are asked to be especially caring and nurturing towards each other and our leaders as we work our way through this time.

We discussed some aspects and concerns for different areas of the change. This included boundaries for the new regions, funding, clusters and staffing. Both Barb and I met with groups, which discussed how the Clusters might work. Clusters will be groups of churches that potentially will be formed for support and networking to share in mission and ministry.

We learned about the United Fresh Start program. This is a new initiative, originating in Alberta, which has been endorsed by BC Conference, and involves many different modules which address a particular topic that Communities of Faith may see a need for in their church life. For the sake of demonstration this team chose the strategic planning module and gave us a condensed version of how the workshop would be presented.

Today, five year, long range strategic plans are not recommended as they are too binding in today's rapidly changing world. Setting clear, concise mission statements which never lose sight of God in what we are doing is essential. They used a circular model depicting the path that should be followed when developing your plan: discern, plan, do and reflect. We need to know three very important things before beginning to form a plan:

1. Who are we?
2. Who are our neighbours?
3. What is God calling us to do?

In this style of planning everyone needs to have input, feel honoured and be part of the process. They stressed many times the importance of keeping things simple and straight forward. This presentation gave us much food for thought as we look toward what the future holds for us and our church community.

As always, we sang, prayed, ate very well and celebrated, as is usual for presbytery gatherings, and experienced exceptional hospitality from the Revelstoke United Church. We felt honoured to once again be able to represent Penticton United Church.

Respectfully submitted by Barb Godsmark and Sheila MacDermott

Report from B.C. Conference - May 25-28, 2017

B.C. Conference, held at UBC in Vancouver, was attended by Laura Turnbull, Harvey Barker, Barb Godsmark and Sheila MacDermott.

During the business meetings:

Keith Simmons presided over the meetings until Sat. evening when he officially completed his term with the new President of BC Conference now Cari Copeman Haynes. Pres. elect is Rev. Jay Olsen.

We heard Pecha Kuchas from:

- YAYA and Youth Group making us aware of their activities,
- the Victoria Street Program that runs a pod that offers many services including medical care with a paramedic on site, social work support, washrooms.
- heard from the youth delegate from KOP who visited South Korea in the Fall with the UCC delegation

Presentations:

- we were welcomed by the chief's sister of the local band, who asked us to work in a positive way to find balance in all that we do. As a traditional weaver she spoke of us weaving threads of responsibility and connections through time to produce works of beauty
- we heard of the work of the Christian Contemplative Justice Network
- Treena Duncan and Rhian Walker spoke of Leader shift -a program to aimed to form our future church leaders

- Doug Goodwin reported of the activities of the BC conference
- We received the Republic of South Korean Presbyterian Delegation as special guests.
- Minister Henri Lock spoke of the special U Vic campus Ministry and asked us to let him know of any of our students who are at U Vic
- We received a report by Graham Brownmiller regarding the work at General Council especially around the remits. If passed we will start seeing changes to our structure by Jan 2018. The next General Council will be in 2018. He has been meeting weekly regarding the work of change, if the remits to change our structure pass, which we should be hearing of in June.
- Ecumenical Partnerships have been developed or are developing with the United Church of Christ in the United States, The Presbyterian Church of the Republic of South Korea, and other churches to develop Partnership programs with international churches and form global partnerships.
- Jane Harding reported that legacy giving is decreasing.
- Jean MacDonald spoke of her work with the Truth and Reconciliation team and the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Indigenous advocating for the government to adopt it
- Myriah Anderson spoke about Camp Spirit which is a lower Mainland summer youth program.

We voted to endorse:

- a proposal to the BC Government to develop a poverty reduction program for BC
- received information to support for the Ktunaxa Nation to protect their area involving Grizzly Bear habitat
- received information regarding the Sinixt Statin band that, once thought extinct, is recognized in territory from Revelstoke and the Kootenays to the border.

At our Kamloops Okanagan Presbytery meeting Allison Rennie was formally commissioned as our Conference Minister.

The Theme of Conference was *how big is our tent* and the worship, music and especially the training were excellent. Janet Gear led the training to help us understand distinctions between different streams in Theology. The basic categories were Evangelical, Ecclesiastical, Missional, Ecumenical, and Spiritual. We learned and experienced the differences that each group felt as priorities, and exhibited as they lived their faith and celebrated in their comfortable style of worship. It is important to know that we all have some of each strand as part of our understanding. Each carries strengths and weaknesses, and we are usually able to adapt depending what the needs of our congregation are. It was a sort of Myers Briggs of Theology that led to many Ah-ha moments. It was a well presented, informative, enlightening and enriching program.

Sunday Service included Ordination of 6 new ministers, one Commissioning, 3 transfers into B.C. Conference, and recognition of one Indigenous leader.

Barb and I learned much, enjoyed meeting new and old friends, from Kamloops-Okanagan and B.C. Conference, and were happy to represent Penticton United.

Respectfully submitted by Barb Godsmark and Sheila MacDermott

Council Chair's Report

As this was my first year as Council Chair, I would like to thank the previous councils for leaving everything in excellent order, making for a very smooth transition, for our new Executive. Our first year was a busy one, passing by, very quickly. We ARE a very busy and diverse congregation. We experienced many Highs, and just a few Lows, but overall, we have all been truly blessed.

In March, PUC hosted a Wise Elders Workshop "Once and Future Church", with a shared Sunday service at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. A follow-up service will be held in April, 2018.

We hosted a very wonderful Marcus Mosely gospel event, in early June. Sixty-five (plus) participants took part in the gospel choir training on a Sat., and then, took part in the gospel church service, led by Marcus, on that Sunday. This was a great weekend, enjoyed by many. Also, in June, a shared picnic was held, attended by members of St. Saviour's, St. Andrews, PUC, and Oasis United.

"The Sermons that Speak" services, took place, in July. This was the 10th and final year of this very successful event. Our thanks to Lorna Cox for her dedication and for arranging this interesting variety of speakers, over the years, many of which have expressed interest to returning, as the guest pulpit supply, in the future.

In Sept., we commenced a quite successful Stewardship campaign, which concluded on Oct. 1st. Givings during Oct. saw an increase. Church members are encouraged to go on PAR. During 2017, council voted on all of the Remits, and submitted our results to the General Council Executive. Results, and changes, will be announced, in the future.

The "Auris" hearing loop system, was installed in the sanctuary, for the benefit of people using hearing aids.

The purchase of new lighting fixtures, using LED lights, for the sanctuary, was approved. Our blessed sound system continues to require occasional "tweaking ". Our thanks go to Mike Carnes and our operators, for their assistance and patience, and the help from Skaha Sound technicians.

We were sorry, to hear, that as of Nov. 6th/17, Rev. Laura commenced her (indefinite) Restorative Leave, to regain her health, strength, rest and healing. She has been greatly missed, and we look forward to her healthy return, in 2018.

Our thanks to Rev. Mark Bedford, for his spiritual guidance, as Rep. from Presbytery, and his Sunday and Christmas Eve services. Our thanks also to all others, who covered several Sunday Services, as pulpit supply.

As we mourned the loss of many members of our congregation, this year, we give thanks for their dedication, support and faithful service to PUC, in so many positive ways. May we continue on, carrying out the Mission of our Church.

I would like to express my appreciation to all of our devoted staff, for all of their hard work and dedication. Marianne and Dolores continue to run our Church office, very professionally, in their welcoming and caring manner. It was sad to say our farewell to Shannon Oliver, in Feb. 2017, after her 17 years as hostess, but happy to welcome Sue Butchart, in March, into this position. How blessed we continue to be to have our wonderful choir, under the direction of Alice DeRoche, and others, who stepped in, as needed, to help out, accompanied by Orma Baker or Doug Stark, and occasionally guests.

My thanks to all the members of the congregation for your support to myself and your entire council. As we carried on with our work, on your behalf, and also, to all Committees and their members, who work tirelessly, in a variety of ways.

Serving as Chair, has certainly proven to be a very positive experience, for which I am truly thankful and honoured. The Executive, Gerry Neilsen, Vice Chair, Sarah Tupholme, Secretary, Mike Bonnie, Treasurer, have been so very helpful and dedicated, as we, at Penticton United Church, move toward our future, under the guidance of Rev. Laura Turnbull. We are preparing to celebrate our 90th anniversary, in Nov., 2018, "90 years of Faithful Service", by reflecting a decade, each month, commencing in Jan. 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Blessings, Patti Skinner, Council Chair

Treasurer's Report

The last four months of the 2017 Fiscal Year showed performance closer to plan than the first eight months of the year.

Some of the expenses in the last quarter of the fiscal year, they included;

- the up-grading of our sound system
- installation of the Auris Loop
- contracting of the up-grading of the lamping over the pews.

These were all conducted at reasonable costs/cost saving/grants for reduced cost from Fortis and potential increased in the next two to three year costs that would have resulted from forced installation, by legislation (Auris Loop).

The fiscal years of 2018 and 2019 will still require annual budgeting that will see us dipping into our reserves. There are mandated increases in salaries that have to met and anticipated annual increases in utility and insurance costs anticipated to be 1.7-1.9% per annum.

The 2020 Fiscal Year will give us the opportunity to work on restructuring personnel scheduling etc, and reduce our dependence on drawing on our reserves to meet normal day-to-day operation of Penticton United Church.

Mike Bonnie
Treasurer

Board of Trustee's Report

Members of the Board of Trustees for 2017: Harry Shaw, Chair; Fern Gibbard, Secretary; Lorna Cox, Memorial and Bursary Committee; Marty Godsmark, Property Use and Program Committee; Gordon Houston, Liaison with Building and Property Committee; Rev. Laura Turnbull.

Two meetings were held in 2017 and business dealt with during the year included:

- Ongoing oversight of insurance matters, which this year included third party liability for audiences attending events sponsored or organized by non-Penticton United Church (PUC) groups. A motion was sent to the PUC Council that non-PUC groups must prove that they carry insurance to cover their audiences, as the PUC liability policy covers only PUC events.
- Filing of tax exemption papers with City of Penticton.
- Responding to a National Land Inventory Survey from General Office of United Church of Canada which has been set up to assist congregations with the sale of church properties when and if it becomes necessary.
- Ongoing oversight of and liaison with groups using our facilities such as the Naramata Choir, Kiwanis Music and Arts Festival, Penticton Orchestra and others.
- Reinforcing plates installed as a safety measure on the risers belonging to the Naramata Choir, but stored at and used by PUC.

- Reports received re ongoing upgrading of the sound system, including cost sharing of expenses between the Building & Property and Memorial & Bursary Committees.
- Examination of our minutes and record keeping by Dee Hershey, Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery Records Review Task Group on August 11, 2017. Although of high caliber, our minutes and record keeping require some changes. This will be put in place effective January 1, 2018 to better comply with *The Guidelines for Minutes and Notes of Meetings* prepared by the United Church of Canada Records Coordinators.

Respectively submitted by:

Harry Shaw, Chair of Penticton United Church Board of Trustees
Fern Gibbard, Secretary of Penticton United Church Board of Trustees

MEMORIAL AND BURSARY COMMITTEE

(Sub-committee of the Board of Trustees)

In 2017, 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 (Secretary) 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 with our financial reports and the Sermons that Speak program.

In June 2017, Penticton United Church Memorial Awards were presented to ten 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 **Maria Wall** (PSS)

The Flora and Harold Hoey Memorial Award to **Dante Marbach** (PSS)

The Reginald and Mary Harvey Memorial Award to **Johal Farnaaz** (PM)

The David and Olive McFarlane Memorial Scholarship to **Emily Bowen** (PM)

The Myers Family Award to **James Naude** (PSS)

The Shirley Myers Memorial Citizenship Award to **Alex Dekock, Jocelyn Legary, Michelle Miles, Jatwinder Gill** (PM)

The Shelley Jackson Memorial Award to **Dylan Lockinger** (PSS)

This year these awards were presented, at both schools, by **Rev Turnbull**, on behalf of Penticton United Church. Laura has been attending these school graduations since coming to Penticton United and we sincerely appreciate her enthusiastic involvement.

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, as the funds are not in perpetuity.

The Memorial and Bursary Committee, with the support of the Worship and Music Committee, continued to be involved with the "**Sermons that Speak**" **Summer Series** in July 2017. This program was started in July 2008 and has continued to have the support of the PUC

congregation. The program has been funded solely by donations specifically dedicated to this project. Our speakers for 2017 were:

July 2 Rev. Rhian Walker, BC Conference Minister for Leader Shift

July 9 Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, Professor (Homiletics) Vancouver School of Theology (UBC)

July 16 Rev. Dr. Jason Byasse, Professor (Butler Chair) Vancouver School of Theology (UBC)

July 23 Rev Debra Bowman, coordinating minister, Dunbar Ryerson United Church, Vancouver

July 30 Rev Dr. Richard Topping, Professor of Reformed Theology, Principal, Vancouver School of Theology (UBC)

The "Sermons that Speak" program celebrated its 10th year in July, 2017 with the speakers listed above. The Memorial and Bursary Committee decided that the program would end with Dr. Topping's sermon. Monies remaining in the fund will be used for special invited speakers when Rev. Laura is away. A sincere thank you to our July speakers for these past 10 years. A thank you also to those involved in the organizing, publicizing and financially supporting this program, especially Marion Kozier for her generous hospitality – and to you – the congregation of Penticton United for your attendance at these summer services.

Monies received in 2017:

Sermons that Speak	\$700.00
Marcus Mosely Workshop Fees	\$2,605.00

Memorial gifts received by Penticton United Church (Memorial and Bursary Committee) in 2017:

In memory of **Marianne Reese**

In memory of **Denny Kohn**

In memory of **Phyllis Cribb**

In memory of **Bill Glass**

In memory of **Doranne Watt**

In memory of **Roy and Norma Hickner**

Total \$850 less \$100 transferred to General Fund, as requested

TOTAL \$4155.00

Disbursements in 2017:

1. Sermons that Speak	\$1642.38
2. United Church Camp (Alex Knauff)	\$450.00
3. Plaque for Blanche Mullis	\$67.84
4. Marcus Mosely Workshop	\$2088.16
5. Jim McNaughton photo and frame	\$23.70
6. Sound system	\$3351.71
7. Torch Youth Ministry Presentation	\$400.00
8. Cake for Shannon Oliver's farewell	\$39.99
9. Photocopying	\$27.44

TOTAL \$8091.22

This year, M & B, with the help of many, completed the "Gallery" – all the photos of the ministers who have called PUC "their" church during the last 90 years. A special thank you to Rod Penfold, Laura Turnbull, Fern Gibbard and the Building and Property Committee (especially Marie Houston) who cleaned and re-hung the photos. This is, indeed, a wonderful tribute to these ministers for our 90th anniversary celebrations.

An exciting adventure initiated by the M&B this year was the Marcus Mosely Gospel Choral Singing Workshop on June 3rd and 4th, 2017. Marcus Mosely, Darlene Ketchum and Bill Sample took 76 participants (from many local churches) through an incredible musical journey. They had fun and learned the history, heart and sound of African American Gospel singing, and sang at the Sunday Service. This successful program was a memorial to our friend and longtime active member of PUC – Shirley Myers who passed away in 2016.

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 2017

Current Assets

Prospera Credit Union

\$10,041.45

Investments

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

Mullis #1

10,000.00

Mullis #2

10,000.00

Myers#1

5,000.00

Myers#2

5,000.00

Subtotal investments

58,500.00

Total Assets

\$68,541.45

Dedicated Funds

Mullis Bequest

149.73

Myers Bequest

4,000.00

Helen Stover Scott Bursary

134.74

Reginald and Mary Harvey Memorial

874.99

Mary Whitmore Estate

503.30

MacFarlane Estate (Youth)

146.20

Harrison Memorial

2,752.87

MacKenzie Memorial

206.43

Myers Memorial

2,081.84

Total Dedicated Funds

\$10,850.10

Sermons that Speak Fund

\$3482.02

Ministry and Personnel

Our committee held 8 scheduled meetings during 2017 as well as unscheduled E-mail consultations and brief meetings at coffee hour 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, monitoring safety procedures, ensuring coverage during staff holidays and absences.

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 and to the Finance Committee for their use in budgeting for the following year. For 2018 the cost of living increase determined by the United Church of Canada is 1.4%. It has been the practice of Penticton United to extend this cost of living increase to all staff. M&P has recommended this increase for budgeting purposes, to be determined by the congregation at the Annual General Meeting. Our committee further communicates with Finance regarding the change in 2018 to a new compensation model for ministry salaries which will incorporate the base salary and housing allowance.

In January, 2017 we held a dessert party for all our staff. We held our Christmas dessert party in December, 2017. These are occasions which our committee enjoys very much, as it is a time of conversation with all the staff together in a social setting.

In February we said farewell to our Host Shannon Oliver with a congregation coffee hour and a gift purse. Sue Butchart added Host duties to her Custodial duties, effective March 1.

We were pleased to organize recognition for Harvie Barker's 50th anniversary of ordination and Laura Turnbull's 30th anniversary of ordination this year.

Safety and security for our staff continue to be addressed by this committee. We appreciate the sharing of concerns from our staff, their observations of potentially difficult situations, and their suggestions for improvement. Issues raised by staff are shared with Building and Property committee. The increased presence of discarded needles on our property has been a source of concern for staff safety. RCMP and the Fire Department have been most helpful when called on this matter. Rev Laura was commended for the rapid evacuation of our building when a fire broke out in a home behind the church in September. This evacuation led to a review of evacuation procedures and determination that all have been cleared from the building following any event. M&P Chair now joins B&P to bring a staff perspective to Property Use.

On November 1 we were informed that Rev Laura would be taking Restorative Care Leave for an indeterminate time. Presbytery appointed Rev Mark Bedford to attend our Council meetings and to officiate at services where an ordained minister is required. We appreciate Mark's participation and advice. Conference Minister Allison Rennie continues to advise M&P through this leave time, and we thank Allison for her help. M&P works with Finance and Worship and Music to handle the arrangements regarding this leave. We pray that Rev Laura will return in good health, refreshed and renewed.

The committee especially appreciates the flexibility and cooperation from our staff in covering for each other's time off for vacation or illness, as well as meeting unexpected needs for time due to the busy life at our church. We further thank those who stepped in as accompanists and substitute choir leaders in the latter part of 2017.

We are so fortunate to have a wonderful staff: Reverend Laura Turnbull, and our lay staff of Don and Sue Butchart, Alice DeRoche, Marianne Lummin, 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 their willingness to cooperate to find solutions to the situations presented.

The M&P would also 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.

This committee makes no decisions, only making recommendation to Council for their consideration before any action is taken. Any member or committee of the congregation is welcome to contact the M&P committee regarding any matter pertaining to the staff, ministerial or lay. All such contact is dealt with in confidence.

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

Building and Property

1. General condition of building satisfactory, with no “major problems”; but continuing maintenance repairs done: especially windows and doors hardware. A roof leak turned out to be merely a crack in a dormer window gutter, and was repaired by Interior Roofing for \$268.00 Hydraulic Lift maintained by Kirkwood Elevators, and working well. Fire Alarm system checked monthly by Jimmy Freestone.
2. Sound System has had extensive repairs and upgrading by Mike Carnes using Skaha Sound to supply new microphones, amplifier, (cost \$645.00), etc. The Auris Loop transmitting system (our cost \$1105.00), has been installed in the Sanctuary and the Main Hall, transmitting directly to Hearing Aids tuned to it. (A new speaker for the Sanctuary has been ordered and will be installed on a rafter in the Sanctuary early in 2018.
3. Lighting in the Sanctuary is being upgraded as many of our old fluorescent lights and ballasts had burned out. Keldon Electric is replacing our old lights with LED fixtures, new controls and dimmers; giving brighter lighting with a significant decrease in the amount of electricity consumed. (Our cost \$ 3900.00). We also will receive a substantial eco saving grant as we placed the order before year end. Fixtures will be installed early in 2018.
4. A total Church Inventory including a UCW Kitchen inventory and a Photo Inventory was carried out in March.
5. Telus carried out a fibre optic changeover for our computer and phone system.
6. Shannon Oliver our long time HOST moved away. Sue Butchart has been our Custodian for 15 years, along with her husband Don. We were very pleased when Sue accepted the position as our new HOST; a position she has now filled very well; as well as continuing her Custodian job.
7. Sue Butchart and I updated the Church Key system.
8. A Fire in a Large Shed across the lane started to spread to two houses before being doused. Laura Turnbull carried out a rapid evacuation of the church building, in case the fire spread to the church. She is drawing up an emergency evacuation sheet to follow.
9. Homeless persons on the church property have presented many problems:
 - a. Discarded syringes and needles present a major health risk to anyone handling them, especially to children. Sue Butchart found that it was necessary to call the Fire Department to come and safely remove the needles. It was determined that containers for used needles outside the church would not work. The problem was worst during summer and fall. Wintry weather has driven the homeless to warm shelters.
 - b. In warm weather homeless would set up shelters, mostly on our Fire Escapes, (a safety risk as fire exits must be clear). These ranged from cardboard floors with blankets on top, up to one shelter walled by mattresses, box springs, etc., and floored by an upholstered sofa chair. As there are no toilet facilities; and piles of discarded materials were left littering the surrounding areas; these presented a

major health risk. Police would move these people on, and we would have to clean up the messes.

- c. A large Brown Storage Box had been provided to store sleeping bags, etc. during the day; but it was found that this was solely being used by thieves to store stolen items, prior to selling them on the street. It was felt to be facilitating drug dealers, and not helping the homeless, so was removed.
 - d. Laminated Signs were placed on the outside doors. "Kids Here! No Needles" because of our Play Share children; and "Warning-Security Alarm" to warn outsiders not to try sneaking into the church by one means or other, as alarms would go off.
10. We continue to look for "service" groups that would like to share our space. Anyone in the congregation who has ideas who we could approach, please get in touch.

Brad Houston,
Chair Building & Property Committee

Sound System

After a series of trials and tribulations this year, the main sound system in the church is working well. New rechargeable mobile microphones and amplifiers have replaced the old, failing ones. A persistent bug was eventually tracked down to a broken connection. We now have a great hand-held and headset mobile microphone, as well as our previous pulpit and choir microphones working properly. As well, a Hearing Loop System has just been installed, to help those with difficulty hearing. The system wirelessly transmits audio from the church's sound system to the recipient's own hearing aid. This only works in the main body of the church (not the balcony or choir loft), and hearing aids must have their "T-Coil" function turned on. Most hearing aids now have T-Coils; ask your hearing aid tech if you are not sure. A final(?) project is the installation of a new speaker for better sound transmission; coming soon! A BIG thank-you to Mike Carnes for his hard work and persistence to get it right with our sound!

Our present sound system operators are Mike Carnes, Jan Neale, and Gordon Houston. This is the bare minimum, so we would be happy to show anyone with functioning ears how to run the system. Now that the system is running smoothly, it is not a difficult job to run. Ask us!

Submitted by Gordon Houston

Concert Club

This year our Concert Club members have taken on the tasks of staging seven community events that have occurred in our sanctuary or the main hall from mid March until December. Our volunteers from the PUC congregation include the following willing and dedicated workers... Orma Baker, Alice DeRoche, Lena and Ted Freek, Brad and Marie Houston, Gordon Houston, Jim Freestone, Colin MacDermott, Barbara and Marty Godsmark, Linda and John Sloane, Dawn (the Elf) Walker, Mike Carnes, Willem Wensvoort, Deborah Ede, Jan and Joe Jackson, Harry and Mary Shaw, Eileen Tymms, Linda Parnell Bonnie, Mike Bonnie, and Jan Neale.

Of course this committee, like most other committees of PUC, would simply cease to function without the consistent and reliable assistance of our helpful and ever caring staff members. So, once again, a huge thank-you from all of our committee to Marianne Lummin, Dolores Rose, and Sue and Don Butchart for all your tireless efforts.

This year our committee organized and ran the front end for seven events. Some occurred on one evening while others occurred over several days, weeks or even months (For example the Kiwanis Music and Drama Festival in March and April.) This year's events ranged from relatively small concerts, such as the Penticton Concert Band performance on December 19th, (the small

audience was due to poor weather conditions), to the Choir Extravaganza – (again staged by the Club on behalf of the Church where some two hundred choristers from our Okanagan Valley sang to an audience of over four hundred.) It was truly a magical afternoon of music directed by our own Alice De Roche who, with huge assistance from organizer Dyane MacDonald and the rest of her PUC Choir members produced and directed the performance end of the show.) Unfortunately one third of the choirs have already assured the Church that they will not be participating in the Extravaganza this coming year due, according to the music directors in both cases, to the fact that they have too many other commitments at that time of the year.

The Concert Club has assisted in the generation of \$ 6607.00 for the PUC general fund this year. Over two thirds of the groups that have used our sanctuary this year have expressed an interest in returning their patronage to PUC in the coming year. Over the last three years several extremely negative verbal out bursts from members of the Naramata Choir toward a number of our hard working Concert Club volunteers have led to a meeting between our Church officials and the choir's executive. As a result of this meeting the choir has decided to continue using our sanctuary for some of their practices and performances however they prefer to do so without the use of our concert club and its offerings. Instead they have decided to hire the Church staff for their sanctuary and other room uses.

At this time we wish to recognize and give a hearty thank you to Brad Houston and his wonderful Building and Property Committee for all their continuous efforts at keeping the Naramata Choir's chairs and risers in good working order for all the groups using them during chancel performances. Great job guys – thanks so much!

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Tymm and Marty Godsmark
(Co-Chairs PUC Concert Club for 2017)

Communications Committee

Committee dissolved

Peace Justice Environment & Outreach

Penticton United Church remains a benevolent presence offering assistance as needed, space for self help group meetings, and responds to urgent needs locally, nationally and globally. While this committee has not had formal meetings in 2017, the congregation remained very involved in matters pertaining to social Justice, the Environment and Outreach.

The **Joan Appleton Norris annual bursary** was presented to **Alexandria Johnstone**, a student of Okanagan College, Penticton Campus. It was presented by Lorna Cox. The criterion for receiving this award is based on need plus studies in a human helping vocation, i.e. health, teaching, social work, etc. P.J.E. has been responsible for monitoring and presenting this Okanagan College Campus bursary.

We participated in the **Community Soupeteria** program of dispensing a nourishing noon meal to needy persons all year long. Penticton United's Volunteer Staffing in 2017 contribution was for 2 days per month. **Mary Cawthorne** coordinated volunteers, currently about 5 from P.U.C. and about 40 others from the wider community. She retired in August after 22 years service. **Bill Taylor** served for 10 years on the Board of the Soupeteria Society and retired in September. **Lena Freek** has faithfully picked up food 4 days each week of our commitment, year round. The Soupeteria manages on donated food, money and volunteers from the Penticton community in the facility located on the Anglican Church grounds. Much kudos to Mary, Bill, Lena and all the dedicated volunteers through the years for this ministry.

2. Church office staff dispensed **396** small bags of packaged and tinned food on request to **80** drop-ins. **30** people used our **Food Cupboard 1** time only. One frequent user came **40** times. Staff also purchased and gave **bus tickets** on request until transit fares increased, because of this we no longer purchase bus tickets. Food items are donated at the church office for this purpose. Cash donations to the **Benevolent Fund** come mostly through the envelopes. Specific foods and donations are invited regularly and on Communion Sundays.

The **Gleaners** Bin in the office foyer in November collected children's underwear, socks, mittens and hats for Eastern European orphanages. The Gleaners will include these items in their winter shipments of nourishing dried soup mix produced at the Oliver, BC facility.

The December 10th Advent Service included **White Gift** donations of packaged and tinned food and featured the gaily decorated **Mitten Tree** – a large evergreen in the Sanctuary festooned with new scarves, socks, mittens and head wear for all ages.

We delivered 2 large bags to the **Salvation Army** and 1 large bag to **South Okanagan Women In Need Society**. Staff at these agencies were pleased with this quality, brand new, warm wear. Some of the items were hand knit.

3. Our efforts to green our Big Blue Church are ongoing. Over 2017 the **Kitchen Composting** Roster included **6** households. Two more are needed for 2018. Once again Mel emptied the **Recycling Bin** twice weekly, to be included in our household recycling program. Efforts to reduce energy consumption in the church facility continued through the staff and Building and Property Committee. Your suggestions for greener efforts are appreciated.

Outreach nationally and globally is easily shared through our donations to the **United Church of Canada Mission and Service Fund**.

As well the work locally of the **Penticton Ecumenical Refugee Committee** included individual funding and volunteer effort by our congregation. Please see the Final Report by PERC executive members **Jan Neale, Treasurer and Gerry Neilsen, Co Chair**.

We hope the 2018 is successful in reviving the Peace Justice and Environment /Outreach Committee with new energy. New members and helpers are invited and welcomed. Please watch for our meetings.

Peace and Blessings to all.

Committee Members are:

Chair: Jeff Everden, Marjorie and Mel Murton

Finance Committee

Well one more year past and we're still here. Our final deficit for 2017 was \$22,040.84, which was \$11,500 less than we had projected in our budget last year. That is the good news. The unfortunate news is that with our declining membership, and with our reduced capacity to run fundraising events we are projecting a deficit of over \$45,000 for next year.

Without a new revenue stream, or increases in our current revenues we will need to dip into the Memorial and Bursary funds for our day to day operation within the next 3 years.

Sorry I do not have better news. We need to begin seriously exploring and planning for possible amalgamation with other local congregations.

Respectfully Submitted: Colin MacDermott
Chair of Finance

Counters Report

We need to recognize and to express our appreciation to some quiet, behind the scene volunteers in our church. That is - the OFFERING COUNTERS. Thank you for serving our church with your precious time and commitment. The members of the Offering Counters Teams are Jan Makar, Lorna Cox, Jan Jackson, Marj Murton, Mel Murton, Ted Freek, Dyane MacDonald, Marjorie Notenboom, Pluen Notenboom, Cheryl Filipenko, Marv Wilson, Alma Wilson, Marion Kozier, Edith Szabo, Ron Harrison and Barry Owen.

Respectfully submitted,
Marion Kozier
Offering Counters Coordinator

Mission and Service

It is a tribute to the many M&S readers weekly, and our members, that our congregation remains concerned and involved with the many requests for aid throughout the community and the world.

Our total givings to Mission and Service General funds in 2017 amounted to \$13,424.00

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| a. World Relief Fund | \$1500.00 |
| b. Local Syrian Refugee Fund | \$2100.00 |
| c. Penticton Soupateria Society | \$300.00 |
| d. The Harari School Scholarship Fund | \$0 |

As these aid funds are distributed through our church partner groups, we are confident the lives of the needy are being assisted.

Thank you to the readers, and to Edith Szabo for her work in scheduling and the office staff for weekly contacting the readers.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Sherwood

Membership Committee reports

The Membership Committee is busy greeting Visitors and members as they enter the Church on Sundays.

We held a short meeting following Church on Sunday; to makeup the new schedule.

Our members are busy with Greeting, the Elevator and ushering as required.

At our meeting we agreed to make the coffee for after church, every sixth Sunday.

Alma Wilson, Chairman

Friendship Group

No report

Healing Group

We have had a busy and quiet year with the Healing Group this year.

From Feb. 3-5, we held a Phase One Healing Pathway Course, led by Jan Morrissey and Sheila MacDermott, with 10 students. A Phase Two - Healing From The Heart, was held April 21-23, led by Jan Morrissey and Helen Bonnett with 14 students. When courses are held, it means a busy time for most of the group as they are helpers for the instructors, snack times and as hostess. In the Spring a morning class for care-aide students from Sprott-Shaw was offered by Sheila as an introduction to body energy work.

2 members assisted with a Phase One offered at Naramata the week of July 17-21. Sheila assisted with an afternoon at Healing House in Naramata May 25 as part of their Hearts and Hands week.

We continue to offer healing to oncology patients at the hospital on Monday and Wednesday mornings (100 mornings). This was primarily done by 4 practitioners, but we now have

2 other members registering as hospital volunteers, which should lighten the load. We continue to assist, by offering Healing, during the relaxation classes offered at the Health Unit every second week. There were 12 visits to patients in the hospital and Westview, 20 visits to clients in their home, and more than 15 distance healing sessions for those who live too far away or were unable to come into the church. We welcomed 35 client visits at the church. The Tues morning group has 9 practitioners and the Thursday evening group has 10 members.

From January to April our groups joined Tues evenings for technique review sessions and to get to know the other group better. In the fall, we met 4 times to hear educational speakers from the community, telling of their energy practice and for further fellowship opportunities.

Some of the funds raised by donations were used to partially finance the Healing Pathway courses, and further funds were donated to the church general fund. Besides individual member contributions, **\$2269.11** was contributed to the general fund.

Yes, busy, yet wishing that we had more guests on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings to work with. If you are aware of friends, family or a healing need for yourself, please feel free to contact us through the church office to book an appointment. All sessions are offered under a strict Code of Ethics which includes confidentiality.

We continue to be so thankful to Penticton United for offering the space for our Healing Rooms, and so proud of our rooms.

We are honoured to be able to continue to follow the Christian work of Healing, which Jesus charged his disciples and the early church to follow.

Blessings
Submitted by Sheila MacDermott

Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care Committee continues to provide ongoing visits to the Hospital, Hospice, ECU, and all Care Facilities. We are blessed by the very busy Prayer Shawl ministry, who continue to provide beautiful knitted and crocheted 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 congregation, families or friends to provide us with the names of potential recipients.

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

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

The Pastoral Care Committee works under the support and guidance of our dedicated, Rev. Laura. We continued to give Pastoral Care, when requested, during her recent Restorative Care leave. We pray for her complete healing.

During 2017, the committee provided 125 visits. This does not reflect Rev. Laura's visits. During one of her vacations, I led services at Trinity Care Facility and the Concorde. This was a great honour.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Blessings, Patti Skinner, Chair

Stewardship Committee

Stewardship has continued to host events throughout the year which provide social activities for church members as well as raises money for our church. We have appreciated the participation of the congregation, where possible, in the baking, crafting, being door persons, etc at our events as this lightens the load and also raises the amount of profit earned at each function. We also thank all of our loyal participants who turn out for all events, helping to make them successful.

The following amounts were earned at our events in 2017:

Soup and bun – Jan17	\$225.00
Jamarama -Feb 16	\$354.00
Yard Sale –March 25	\$1048.00
Dessert-Silent Auction – May 5	\$1210.75
Novel Exchange – ongoing	\$207.67
Soup and Bun – Sept 24	\$284.00
Makers Market – Nov 4	\$2327.10
Cookie and Holly sale - Dec 10	\$492.30
Pudding sale (TOAST group not officially Stewardship, but appreciated)	\$663.35
Grocery card – Year Long (profit amount) (\$11,925 remain on hand)	\$6665.00
Total Funds Raised 2017	\$13477.17

* TOAST is Those **O**ld **A**nd **S**illy *Sunday School* Teachers

Submitted by: Norma Lippa

Worship and Music

Committee Members:

Carolyn Dircks-ushers
 Orma Baker- musicians
 Alice DeRoche-choir director
 Jean Sherwood- faith formation/minute for mission
 Edith Szabo- readers/minute for mission
 Laura Turnbull- minister
 Donna Halverson-care facility worship
 Cheryl Filipenko- visuals
 Mary Cawthorne- communion/secretary/pulpit supply

Thanks to the capable and talented members of the W&M committee, worship experiences have been both meaningful and spirit filled. In 2017 we were delighted to have many worship highlights in our sanctuary including the Marcus Mosley and Sojourners leading us in a weekend workshop and Sunday service, shared services with the congregations of our fellow downtown churches and the Angelus Ringers offering their gift of music. We extend our gratitude to all those who have assisted us with ideas and help this past year. What a blessed congregation of faith we have! 2018 will be even more memorable with our yearlong celebration of our 90th anniversary.

Choir - submitted by Alice DeRoche

As usual 2017 has been a very busy year for our choir. Along with our regular choir practice and Sunday obligations we fill many other spots that require music. At least twice a year the choir sings at care homes. This usually means two homes on a Sunday afternoon and on one Wednesday afternoon. The choir is also available to sing for funerals and weddings.

This year our choir took on the organization of the Extravaganza once again. As I was ill and not available, my job was taken over by Dyane MacDonald. The rest of the Extravaganza team worked with Dyane to turn out another successful Extravaganza. Along with Dyane the following people make up the team; Lois Bzdel, Norma Lippa, and Sarah Tupholme. Also absent due to illness was Patti Craig.

We owe a huge thank-you to the concert club who made sure everything ran smoothly. For me, I was blessed with being well enough to conduct the mass choir.

I also owe many thanks to Orma Baker and Doug Stark, our pianist and organist. Without them there would be no music.

Unfortunately Orma Baker has had to ask me to find someone to take her place as our pianist. I shall miss her jazzy style dreadfully but I will abide by her wishes and start looking for a new pianist. I would appreciate any suggestions about an available musician.

I would like to remind people that our choir has a wonderful memorial system where a choir anthem can be purchased through the choir. Every piece of music will carry a gold sticker with the name of the person you wish to remember and the name of the donor. Each time we sing that anthem the name on the sticker will be printed in the bulletin and never forgotten.

Lastly (you always save the best for last), Thank you to the members of the choir. They are a wonderful group who support each other be it good or bad. We welcomed a new member this fall Meryl Kendell and I truly hope to see others join the choir and laugh and sing with us in a joyful outpouring of faith.

Communion

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

Penticton United provided worship services at several care facilities including Trinity (5), Concorde (5), Haven Hill (5), Cherry Park (1) and Hamlets (1). Rev. Laura on her many visits (12) inspired the seniors with her wonderful stories. Fern Gibbard offered (4) thoughtfully prepared services. Patti Skinner led (2) services.

Several singers: Orma Baker, Patti Craig, Marjorie and Pleun Notenboom, Ray Sommer and the choir led the singing. Pianists Doug Stark and Orma Baker, Edith Szabo and Norma Lippa shared their talents which added so much to the quality of the services.

Thank you to all the volunteers who prepared devotionals and the musicians and singers. You were very much appreciated by the residents of the care facilities.

Faith Formation - Jean Sherwood

As our Congregation grows we will review the need for Church School activities. In the nursery corner at the back, we have provided activity bags for younger children coming to our service.

Ushers - Carolyn Dircks

I cannot thank you all enough for your never ending assistance with welcoming and ushering all parishioners; members and visitors, and thank you to new ushers who volunteer to help with ushering.

I would like to thank Rev. Laura, and also Mary Cawthorne for her assistance, chairing meetings, checking and/or taking minutes, etc.

Many thanks to our Summer Speakers, and our guest ministers from St. Saviours and St. Andrews in Penticton.

As usher co-ordinator, it is a pleasure to be part of the welcoming group; especially with the Christmas Eve 2016 turnout!! Thank you all.

Lay Readers/Minute for Mission – Edith Szabo

We at Penticton United are fortunate to have a generous supply of dedicated readers. Some are long-time participants of 18 years and more. Recently we have added a few new names.

Many thanks to all the people on our roster, long-time and new. Each person reads approximately twice a year.

The Scripture reader also reads the Minute for Mission for that day - if applicable. Jean Sherwood usually indicates where the Minute for Mission is not included, if she has that information in advance. She also types up the schedule.

We truly appreciate all of our readers. Thank you so very much.

Study Groups – Jean Sherwood

The Marcus Mosley Gospel Workshop was enthusiastically received by both participants, and the congregation.

Rev. Laura Turnbull led a five week study group in the spring entitled “God Talk” and another 4 week session in the fall

A workshop was also held on conducting funeral services.

Observer – Jean Sherwood

The Observer continues to be full of articles pertaining to our Christian church, faith, life and witness to the world. Subscriptions to the Observer were renewed by 24 readers and new subscriptions taken out by 23 persons.

The Angelus Handbell Ringers

We have enjoyed another year of ringing and learning, with a 2-month break in the summer. In the spring and fall, we rang monthly at the PUC worship, with a fuller program on Mother’s Day, coordinated with Fern Gibbard who led the service. At one service, two ringers rang on a bell tree, the first time our choir has used such an arrangement. It enables the rapid ringing of many bells sequentially, and is often used by soloists.

In September, we hosted the Regional BC Guild of Handbell Ringers workshop in Penticton, attended by members of many local area handbell choirs. This was an occasion to learn new music, meet old friends, and advance our understanding of making music with handbells.

As a lead-up to the Christmas season, we performed at several local seniors’ residences, ringing some traditional pieces and a few new ones. To enhance the sound of our bells, we borrowed an octave of higher bells from the BC Guild and several ringers doubled up to ring the high notes. We played to very appreciative audiences, who sang along when they knew the songs.

Our director, Peggy Bensler, rang with a specially assembled handbell choir at performances of the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra for their Christmas program.

One ringer left us to spend more time with her family, and we welcomed one new ringer. Current members are: Diane Martin, Diane Parsons, Linda Corscadden, Linda Sears, Linda Tollefson, Marian Hutcheon, Nancy Benner, Nancy Smith, Natalie Minunzie, and Wendy Ganderton.

We appreciate the support of the PUC, and the positive feedback received inspires us to advance our ringing and performance skills.

On Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30 am we practice at PUC, and we always welcome new members. If you are interested or have questions, you can talk to any one of us.

Submitted by Linda Sears
250-496-5027; sears55@shaw.ca

Prayer Shawl Group

The knitters and crocheters of our group meet on the last (or sometimes the fourth) Thursday of the month in the homes of our members. It is amazing how many different sizes, shapes and colours of prayer shawls are produced. Most of our shawls have been given out one or two at a time this year by the Pastoral Care visitors, rather than as a response to a special group request as in some previous years.

We are grateful for two large donations of yarn to our group this year. We welcome all donations and pass along yarn not suitable for our purposes to the Care Closet. This year we donated a large bag containing numerous balls of craft yarn in red, green and white with a silver thread.

We have had another new member join us this year. Many of our members say that the companionship of the other knitters is the most important aspect of this group. We are always ready to welcome new members, of whatever skill level. We meet monthly January to May. Patterns, needles and some yarn, as well as help and how-to instructions are all available.

Submitted by Fern Gibbard, Coordinator

United Church Women (UCW)

2017 was the U.C.W.'s 55th Anniversary. This coming year, 2018, is the Penticton United Church's 90th Anniversary, so let's celebrate. Help us if you have stories or pictures of church history (our archives are great, and can be found in the Anne Walker Archives Room).

Our U.C.W. meets at 1:30 PM the first Wednesday of each month, from January to May and September to December, in the church parlour.

- We hosted 7 funeral teas in 2017
- Helped with coffee after Sunday services and supplied coffee, etc. for all activities that the church hosts
- Keep the church kitchen well stocked and tidy
- 35 cards and 17 phone calls have been made by Anna Moerkoert. Many thanks Anna
- Collected stamps for the Stamp Club
- Collected small items for Canadian Food for Children

PLEASE NOTE: NO MORE CAMPBELL SOUP labels

Our Treasurer, Dyane MacDonald, has sent a cheque of \$3500 as our gift to the church this year.

Marjorie Notenboom has chaired our General Meetings

Marjorie Murton does the programs and devotionals

Jan Makar is our Secretary

Many thanks to these women for making this small group of women an important part of the Penticton United Church.

Thanks also to the women who help prepare for the funeral teas. Dyane MacDonald and Marg Vincent convene these events and have always had great helpers. These teas are a real ministry we offer to grieving families.

Our first meeting for 2018 will be held on Wednesday, February 7 at 1:30pm (January's meeting was cancelled due to snow and icy weather).

Submitted Marg Vincent

Wise Elders

The Wise Elders are a group of church leaders consisting of:

Penticton United Church: Brad and Marie Houston, Marion Kozier, Rev. Laura Turnbull

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church: Carol Hayhurst, Rev. Colin Cross

St. Saviour's Anglican Church: Joanne and Rev. Richard Simpson, Rev. Mike Stuchbery

No report received for 2017

Penticton Ecumenical Refugee Committee

Final Report Refugee Committee (PERC) Report January 2018

The Penticton Ecumenical Refugee Committee finalized its activities with respect to our two Syrian refugee families in late fall of 2017, formally ending an undertaking that had commenced two year's previously with a committee of interested community members comprised of about 50 individuals in October 2015! The committee was comprised mostly of Anglican and United Church members, and a member of the Baptist Church. The working of the committee has been an inspiring model of cooperation across denominational boundaries. The remaining funds, comprising a few hundred dollars per family, were dispersed equally to the two families in October 2017, officially dissolving the committee. This represents the concluding report.

History of the sponsorship

Our initial goal was to sponsor a single refugee family from Syria. Almost instantly, \$20,000 was donated by Patti Craig and another \$4620 was contributed by the United Church congregation. More money was donated by the Anglican Congregation and by January 19, 2016 we had \$31,425.71 which turned out to be sufficient to sponsor two families. We had expected the Al Mohammad family to arrive in March when the government was talking about bringing 25,000 Syrian refugees into Canada. Walida al Mohammad, however, was sick at that time and could not travel. In the meantime, PERC had rented a three bedroom town home on South Main Street which was filled by Feb 28 with donated furnishings. A shower was organized by Marg Murton with a tea provided by the United Church. Food, toys and other household necessities were collected and delivered to the new home which was however sitting empty. As a result we applied to sponsor one of the families that came to Canada as part of the new government commitment. (Our financial commitment to this family was less due to the government fully financing these families) This family will henceforth be referred to as our **first family**. The Awads arrived in Penticton in April 2016 via Vancouver where they had been housed in a downtown hotel since mid-February 2016. In the meantime we continued to communicate with the Al Mohammad family in Beirut, Lebanon and eventually they arrived in Penticton via air from Frankfort and Vancouver in early September, 2016. They will henceforth be referred to as **the second family**.

The first family (the Awads)

This family included parents Sanaa and Majed Awad and initially three children. Rahaf, the oldest currently attends Wiltse Elementary School in grade 2. Jasmine, her younger sister commenced Kindergarten at the same school in September, 2017 after attending Play Share Preschool at the United Church. Their younger brother Yamin has spent time at Playshare (PUC) and day care at South Okanagan Immigrant Services (SOICS). Two members of our committee provide further support in the family home for learning English three times per week. Both parents

have taken English classes. The family was able to move from our rented townhouse into subsidized housing on south Main in spring 2017 after the cessation of our formal financial support. The family was blessed by the birth of a new daughter, Raghad soon after their move into the new house in May 2017. Majed Awad, the father of the family, worked as a plasterer over summer 2017 on housing projects in Naramata, Oliver and the Penticton Indian Reservation. They have talked about moving from Penticton to join relatives in the lower Mainland but so far remain in Penticton. Currently they are independent financially and mostly managing their own affairs. All family members are healthy and their dental needs have been generously looked after by Gordon Houston and other members of the Penticton dental community.

The second family (the al Mohammad's)

The second family eventually arrived Sept 2017 via a long series of flights from Beirut to Frankfurt to Vancouver to Penticton this family was our original family who arrived after considerable delay. We were responsible for 50% of financial costs for this family, the remainder coming from the government as part of the blended refugee program. The family was initially accommodated in motels during September and October. We eventually found a three bedroom basement suite on Quebec St. which was quickly filled with donated furnishings. The family includes father Ahmad and mother Walida al Mohammad. This couple also have three children, two boys named Haddi and Yazan and a daughter, Shhad. The boys are now in grades 3 and 2 at Parkway Elementary School two blocks from their new home on Quebec Street. Both boys are outgoing and well liked at school. Yazan is learning English faster than anyone in the family and sometimes translates for his parents. The boys have already begun to play road hockey with their schoolmates and have readily participated in all school events. Daughter Shhad commenced kindergarten at Parkway in September 2017 after attending Playshare at PUC. This family adjusted rapidly to their new life in Penticton with all the children (including their daughter) participating in youth soccer, swimming and arts and crafts programs at the Penticton library during 2016-17. Our minister, Laura, has been a weekly reader to this family. Father Ahmad has recently secured permanent employment at Rona hardware in Penticton after commencing part time work with the same organization last winter (2016-17) and was one of 12 recipients of a work award at the staff Christmas party (2017). Mother Walida is taking English lessons at South Okanagan Immigrant Services and has recently started to take driving lessons. She recently prepared a Syrian soup for the Soup Bowls fundraising program. Father Ahmad is a highly energetic and social individual who requires lots of activity to be happiest and is well liked by his Canadian neighbours because of his willingness to help with their household tasks, including snow removal. Mel and Marge Murton were important early employers hiring Ahmad to do garden and yard work. The family has been extremely grateful for the assistance received from the community and PUC and attended the Sunday service of Sept 24th, 2017 to express their gratitude.

PERC has been inspired by the warm welcome provided to both families by the community and churches of Penticton. Many are due thanks. A partial list includes Harvey Barker who wrote an article that appeared in the Penticton Herald further describing our debt of gratitude. A pre-Christmas Syrian supper was held in early December 2016 in St. Savior's Anglican Church hall. It was attended by our two families and about 35 of their Syrian friends as well as many members of our wider Refugee Committee. Similarly a well-attended fund raising dinner was held in May 2017. Marion Kozier organized Easter baskets for all 6 children of both families on behalf of the United Church in March 2017.

Respectfully submitted by: Jan Neale, Treasurer and Gerry Neilsen, Co-chairman Penticton United Church on the executive of the Penticton Ecumenical Committee (PERC).

Echoing the al Mohammad family, Jan and I would like to thank the support received from the United Church. The experience has been enriching as we have seen our families adapt and grow as new Canadians. We have been also been able to forge strong and rewarding relationships with our brothers and sisters in the Anglican and Presbyterian churches and the larger Penticton Community. We encourage anyone to interact with the two families whenever they encounter them in Penticton or the wider community. Happy New Year 2018!

2017 Church Statistics

	Weddings	Baptisms	Funerals
Laura Turnbull	4	4	9
Mark Bedford			1
David Sparks		1	
Totals:	0	4	10

Baptisms: Michael Bonnie, Jennifer Harder, Adele Dupuis-Miller, Isaiah Hiller

Membership

Transfers in: 3

Transfers out: 1 Deceased: 8

Members: 157* Adherents: 116

The average recorded Sunday attendance in 2017 during October and November was 81. 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 who assist in the updating of all our records. We particularly note the work done by Harvie Barker, who, over the past many years, has organized the distribution of the newsletter and recorded changes in the congregation's records. We thank him for all his work and dedication. He has now passed the torch to Dolores in the office so we thank her for taking on this "Olympic" sized torch.

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.