

2018 Annual Report



Peninsula United Church

Part 1 - Documents (Position/Team Reports)

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(under re-development)

www.peninsulaunited.com

PENINSULA UNITED CHURCH



Serving since 2017

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PENINSULA UNITED CHURCH 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

PENINSULA UNITED CHURCH LEADERS COUNCIL AND STAFF – 2018-2019

PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF PENINSULA UNITED CHURCH

CHAIR.....	Jean Macdonald (from July 2018) Jean Kromm (to June 2018)
VICE CHAIR	Vacant (from July 2018) Leisa Bannerman (to June 2018)
PAST CHAIR	Jean Kromm (from July 2018)
SECRETARY.....	Sylvia Uhreen
TREASURER.....	Sharon Birney
TEAM LEADERS	
CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT	Vacant (from July 2018) Judy Dekerf (to June 2018)
COMMUNICATIONS.....	Vacant (from July 2018) Jo-anne Tobey-Fisher (to June 2018)
CONGREGATIONAL/PASTORAL CARE	Kathy Matusiak
FINANCE	Jim Shepherd
MINISTRY & PERSONNEL	Val Austring
OUTREACH.....	Kathy Booth
PROPERTY.....	Lee Chamberlain (from July 2018) Warren Tomlinson (to June 2018)
THIRDSPEACE.....	Maria Booth (from July 2018) Gillian McLeod (to June 2018)
WORSHIP.....	Mary Fran Bateman Victoria Jones
PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES.....	Peter Jones (from July 2018) Jean Macdonald, Anna Paton Elizabeth Winkler
UCW REPRESENTATIVE	Joan Strutt

TRUSTEES

Anna Paton, Chair
Esther Johnson

Anita Kerr, Secretary (to June 2018)
Gordon Lapthorne Brian Zwick

CHURCH STAFF

MinisterThe Reverend Louise Cummings
(to June 2018)
Minister.....The Reverend Bruce McAndless-Davis
Minister.....The Reverend Janice Young
Music DirectorDenice Grant
Church Office AdministratorsJoanne Feuer, Beth Henderson
Bookkeeper.....Sheri Kathrein
CustodianCharly Tyndall

**IN MEMORIAM 2018
PENINSULA UNITED CHURCH**



Remember in Love

Our Church Family:

*Lena Anderson	Robert James Ash
Elizabeth Bordeaux	*Sandro Colasacco
*David Curry	Thelma Edworthy
*Everett Elkington	*Betty Farris
Gordon Walter Gibb	*Neville Graham
*Joan Maguire	*Anne McArthur
Linda McArthur	*Freda McLean
*Cornelia (Nellie) Mellquist	*Allan Mowat
Joan Murphy	*Margaret North-Mainwaring
*Jean Roe	*Harry Steele
Mary Sully	*Sylvia Teal
George Douglas Watson	*Mary Watkins
Shirley Wiebe	

*(*confirmed members of Peninsula United)*

*"Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life;
those who believe in me, though they die, yet shall they live."
John 11:25*

Statistical Information 2018

Number of Households under Pastoral Care (as listed in Directory) – December 2018 344

Confirmed Membership – December 31, 2017.....504

Received into Confirmed Membership by:

 Profession of Faith, Adult Baptism, Reaffirmation and Confirmation.....0

 Certificate of Transfer5

 Other (reinstated) 0

 Total5

Removed from Confirmed Membership by:

 Certificate of Transfer0

 Death..... 18

 Other (for non-participation or by request)41

Total Confirmed Membership as of December 31, 2018 450

Total average weekly attendance at Worship Services
October and November - 127 adults

Baptisms

1

Funerals/Memorials

19

Weddings

1



from the **Ministers**

"Walk with me; I will walk with you. We'll build the land that God has planned where love shines through."

Voices United #649

The image of God's love and light shining through Jesus dominates the season of Epiphany. One of the important themes of this season is the call to follow the light of Christ; to learn and grow as we walk through the challenges and changes of life and together reflect God's light to a world that yearns for love, hope, compassion, justice and mercy.

Over the past year, Peninsula United Church has been both receiving and reflecting God's loving light in worship and through acts of compassionate service to the local community and beyond. This Annual Report summarizes the accomplishments of the past year of this evolving and exciting Community of Faith. The contributions of Council and other leaders and participants 'shine' through these pages. We have been richly blessed and inspired by their creativity, courage, compassion and commitment.

Like all of life's journeys, we have experienced changes over the past year. The Reverend Louise Cummings 'graduated into retirement' at the end of June. The Reverend Bruce McAndless-Davis and The Reverend Janice Young were honoured to be "called" as your new (and yet familiar) ministry team. A number of our beloved members died in 2018. Others moved to new communities. New folks have arrived who are enthusiastically offering their time, talents and gifts to our newly amalgamated congregation. We are grateful for all of your support and 'offerings' over the past year and all that we are learning together.

Like all of life's journeys, we have encountered some unexpected bumps and potholes along the way. We continue to discuss and discern together some big questions about property, programs, governance and our Mission and Vision for the future.

As we move into a new year, we will continue to get to know one another better as we worship, work, and play together. We ask for your prayers for your Ministry Team and your Council and committee members. Be assured that you are in our prayers and that we are committed to walk with Jesus and with you as we listen for how and where the Spirit is calling us to travel as a Community of Faith.

May God's light shine in and through us all.

The Reverend Bruce McAndless-Davis, The Reverend Janice Young

Council Chair

December 2018 marked the completion of 18 months as the newly amalgamated Peninsula United Church. Your Church Council, chaired by Jean Kromm from January to June 2018, and by Jean Macdonald from August to December, meets monthly to conduct the business and leadership work of the church.

Although we officially amalgamated on July 1, 2017, we have learned that amalgamation is a process. Your Council, Ministers, staff and many volunteers have been working hard to build this new community. Still, there is much work to do to help us truly become one healthy, functioning, united expression of the Body of Christ on the Semiahmoo Peninsula.

The work includes developing efficient and effective ways to deal with the day-to-day operation of the church, building new, trusting relationships among our members and adherents regardless of the congregation from which they came, and looking at “big picture” issues, important to the future of our church.

Some highlights include:

Ministry Personnel

We started 2018 with the ministry leadership of The Reverends Louise Cummings, Bruce McAndless-Davis, and Janice Young. Upon the retirement of Louise at the end of June, The Reverend Janice Young and The Reverend Bruce McAndless-Davis (as recommended by the Ministry Personnel & Search Committee) were called by the Congregation to serve as full-time ordered ministerial staff.

Building Healthy Relationships

Relationships often develop when people work together on projects, eat and celebrate together! In this regard, all of our teams and groups have been active!

Working Together - Decommissioning the Semiahmoo White Rock site

Council members worked for several months alongside the many volunteers who packed, sorted and moved various and sundry items in preparation for demolition and redevelopment of the Semiahmoo White Rock site. Huge thanks are due to Ken Hembroff for his cheerful, efficient oversight of all of this including a giant liquidation sale that raised over \$8000.

Working Together - Affirming Ministry

Before amalgamation, the Crescent congregation had begun working on becoming an Affirming Ministry. A decision was made to start once again as Peninsula United Church, under the leadership of The Reverend Janice Young, as we wish to intentionally acknowledge inclusion of everyone. Please see the report from the Affirming Ministry group to learn more.

Celebrating Together

In June, a wonderful celebration was held at the Star of the Sea Hall in White Rock. Dinner, entertainment, laughter and love abounded as her many friends sent The Reverend Louise Cummings off into her retirement years.

Eating Together

We have held fellowship events – such as the Birthday Bash, the Salmon Barbecue, and our monthly Soup Sundays – to help people get to know each other. We offer special thanks to those who organized these events – Worship Committee members, Warren Thomlinson et al., Marlene Litke, and all the sou(p) chefs!

Bigger Picture Issues

Council started the fall season with a retreat on Sept 14-15. We spent time identifying some of the “Big Issues” and “Big Questions” that we need to address as a newly-amalgamated congregation. These included Leadership Roles, Governance, Mission, Assets, and Planning.

Leadership Roles

We identified and reflected on the many roles played by church leaders – both lay and ordained – and found that there was considerable overlap among us. The Ministry and Personnel Committee is working in this area to simplify and clarify roles and expectations.

Governance

The Provisional Council was set up in a format already being used by the three founding bodies, and all agreed that there could be more efficient and effective ways to govern. Council, therefore, appointed a Governance Committee under the leadership of Joan Strutt to investigate models of governance that may better suit our needs. The Committee will make a recommendation to the Council and congregation in early 2019.

Mission

While we have sound, triune purpose statement, we have not yet done the work to define specifically what the Mission of Peninsula United Church is. This is work we hope to address in 2019.

Assets

Peninsula United is blessed with significant assets – funds, investments, and real property – so it is only responsible that we have a plan for the faithful use of these assets. As a congregation, we worked with facilitator Caitlyn Frost in a congregational workshop entitled the “The Million Dollar Question, to begin a conversation regarding investment funds. This was followed-up by a workshop in November 2018 that will lead to some principles to be presented for congregational approval at the Annual Meeting.”

Strategic Planning

A small working group, led by Peter Jones, with involvement from the whole Council, started work in October to develop a strategic plan that will help articulate priorities and set time-frames for accomplishing the work before us.

Redevelopment of the Semiahmoo White Rock Site

A series of delays of the re-development project has been most disappointing. Oversight is being provided by Trustees, while members of the Redevelopment Team continue to meet with Interior Design personnel to work out the details of the interior. Please see the report of the Redevelopment Team for more details!

Operational Matters

Policies

At amalgamation, a set of policies for our new church was approved. Since then, the Council has had a practice, at each meeting, of reviewing and revising several of our church policies to ensure they are current and appropriate, and understood by Council members. An important policy initiative, spear-headed by Teri Lydiard of the Property Committee, was a completely new rental policy for our main three buildings, which included new rental agreements, procedures, and rate schedules.

Stewardship

A successful stewardship campaign, led by Jim Sheppard and Carol Monaghan, was held over four weeks in the fall. Council expects to receive a more detailed report on the results of the campaign at our February 2019 meeting.

Membership

One of the things we must do as a Council is keep track of our membership! This is the responsibility of the Clerk of the Roll. As Wendy Caywood, who served in this capacity for some time has relocated to Vancouver Island, we are very grateful that Liz Harvey has agreed to undertake these duties.

There are many, many other operational matters with which the Council has been involved. You will find details described in the separate reports from Council members and their teams.

The two Jeans wish to acknowledge and express our gratitude and appreciation for the faithful, committed and capable work of our colleagues on the Peninsula United Church Council, the wise counsel of our Ministers, and the myriad faithful servants who serve in the name of the Christ on the Peninsula.

Jean Kromm, Jean Macdonald



Presbytery

This was the final year of Presbytery within the United Church structure as we have known it. In the last few years, we've been preparing for the changes approved through Remits, and then the implementation of the approved changes. The one that impacts us most is the removal of Presbytery.

Fraser Presbytery was made up of ordered and lay ministers, and one or more lay presbyters from each congregation. The work of the Presbytery was to provide support and oversight of congregations and pastoral relationships, to promote relationships, cooperation and collaboration among congregations, to share ideas and concerns, and to learn about and share the ministry and mission of the Church in Fraser Presbytery. Anna Paton of Peninsula United served as Chair of Fraser Presbytery.

Highlights of 2018

The change continues in the United Church of Canada, and this past year our Full Court Meetings were spent in discernment to assist Presbyters through a process of transformation as we implement the changes to the structure of the United Church which took effect on January 1, 2019. The focus was to encourage new beginnings and a new way of being together without the structure of Presbytery. We are looking forward to strengthening existing relationships with our local United Churches – such as Cloverdale United, Northwood, and Crossroads – and to working together on common projects where we share common goals and visions within our communities and beyond. Presbytery Executive met monthly, and the full court (all Presbyters) met seven times to conduct the work of the Presbytery.

The BC Conference Annual Meeting was held in Penticton BC in May 2018. The Reverend Cari Copeman-Haynes, finished her term as President, and was succeeded by The Reverend Jay Olsen. Blair Odney was elected Chair Elect. Fraser Presbytery had a strong showing of attendees, including (from Peninsula United Church) The Reverend Janice Young, Anna Paton, Jean Macdonald, Gillian McLeod, The Reverend Mollie Williams (Retired), The Reverend Gordon Verplank (Retired), and Peter Jones. Deborah Richardson of Northwood United Church was nominated and confirmed to the Executive of the 43rd General Council for the United Church of Canada.

Celebrating our Past and Future

In November a final Fraser Presbytery celebration was held at Holy Trinity Church in Abbotsford. Past Chairs, past and present members, and our BC Conference Executive Secretary, The Reverend Doug Goodwin, joined in a final worship service and shared special memories of the last many years. We shared a delicious catered dinner and had an opportunity to ask Doug what he envisioned for us in the future, without the structure of Presbytery. He offered his hope that we would use networking and clusters to retain and grow the work we have undertaken as Presbytery. As well, within the new Pacific

Mountain Region (formerly BC Conference), Doug is suggesting strongly that those of us who were involved in Presbytery may be called upon to continue the work that now falls under the responsibility of the Region. There was strong agreement that we will continue to support the Region as best we can to continue the work of the United Church. Updates will continue to be shared through online Newsletters and communications from the Pacific Mountain Region.

Students

This past year, Fraser Presbytery/Candidate Support Committee supported one Candidate through the established Pathways Program. This is a self-managed process where a Circle of Accompaniment – which brings together a clergy member, a member of the Candidate Support Committee, and one or two supportive individuals chosen by the Student – is established by the student. Vicki Warren of our congregation, is currently part of the Circle of Accompaniment for this student, who is a member of Cloverdale United Church.

Crescent's Presbyters

Crescent's lay presbyters, Anna Paton, Jean Macdonald, Peter Jones, and Liz Winkler, were busy throughout the year with Presbytery responsibilities. Anna served as Chair of Fraser Presbytery. Jean, as General Council representative for BC, served, ex officio, on Presbytery Executive, and Elizabeth, as backup, attended Presbytery when needed. Janice Young, Bruce McAndless-Davis and all the retired ministers among us are also members of Presbytery.

*Jean Macdonald, Anna Paton, Elizabeth Winkler, Peter Jones – Lay Presbyters
Winnie Kowalewich – UCW*

Trustees



The Trustees have been working closely with Council to further the work that we began in May 2018 as a Congregation. The Council and Trustees have participated in the development of guiding principles and structure for stewarding finances into our future – work we began in Spring 2018 under the leadership of Caitlin Frost. Council will bring the principles to the congregation early this year for discussion and approval.

Our Trustees meet on a regular basis reviewing our Church insurance coverage, taxation information, communicating with Lawyers and families of members who have left a legacy to Peninsula United, and participating in the life and work of Council and the Congregation. You'll find us serving at Community Dinners, ushering, serving Communion, singing in the choir, cleaning the garden at Sunnyside, and participating in Strategic Planning with Council.

The Redevelopment Team has been working with the Pacific Mountain Region (formerly BC Conference) to confirm a date for the completion of the sale of the First United White Rock site.

A special THANK YOU to Anita Kerr, for the years of service as a Trustee. Anita is taking a break due to health concerns and we look forward to her joining us again in the future.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Anna Paton (Chair)
Esther Johnson , Gordon Lapthorne, Brian Zwick
Jim Sheppard (Finance)
Fae Chato Manchuk (Redevelopment Chair and her Team)

Redevelopment of the Semiahmoo White Rock Site

Plans for the redevelopment of the Semiahmoo White Rock site have been led by the Redevelopment Committee composed of Fae Chato-Manchak, Merv Lutes, Jean Kromm, Ellen Kennett, Kees Koster, Pat Heslop, and Gord Lapthorne, working with the BC Conference Property Resource Team.

A series of delays of the re-development project has been most disappointing and has resulted in the continued need to insure and secure the site while vacant for a much longer period of time than originally anticipated. Oversight has been provided by the Trustees. A meeting with the Conference Property Resource Team was held in early December 2018 and the date for First Closing of the Exchange Agreement with the Developer is set for February 1, 2019. As soon as this is achieved, the Building Permit will be issued by City Hall, the developer will take over the property, and a cheque will be issued to Peninsula United Church. Demolition and construction is expected to take one and one-half to two years. The Architectural Team is looking at incorporating a portion of a beam(s) from the original site into the interior design of the new facility which will be "turn-key" ready to move in when complete. Members of the Redevelopment Team will continue to meet with Interior Design personnel to work out the details of the interior.

Jean Kromm for the Development Committee



Affirming Ministry

In late Spring of 2018, with the support of the Peninsula Council, an Affirming Ministry team at Peninsula United was called into existence through the movement of the Spirit in the hearts and minds of people in the congregation having a passion for full inclusion of all people in our worship community. Affirming Ministry had already begun at Crescent United prior to amalgamation but a decision was made to pause the ministry until the three congregations were one.

With the faithful work of amalgamation completed and with the formation of a new Affirming Ministry team, the team members met several times. In July 2018 they took the opportunity in a couple of Sunday Worship services to explain what it means to be affirming, and to begin exploring what it means to fully honour and celebrate the gifts and diversity of all people in our community and the wider world. In other words, what does it mean to be Affirming? Question boxes were made available during these services to encourage comments or questions from the congregants.

Team members met a number of times in the Fall and a movie night followed by a discussion was planned for November. Unfortunately, the movie night had to be postponed with the intention of hosting the event in the new year. The Affirming Ministry team will continue working to provide opportunities for further education and discernment as our congregation seeks to live into a vision of justice and inclusion for all God's people.

*Judy Dekerf, Janice Young, Marg Holmgren,
Susan Lindenberger, Deb Pearson, and Mollie Williams*

Congregational/Pastoral Care

The following synopsis covers the various ministries: Prayer Tree, Greeting Card, Reiki/Healing Touch, Memorial Tea, Pastoral Care.

Louise Bureau and Olive Lee continue to facilitate the Prayer Tree Ministry each week updating the prayer list and sending out the information to those individuals on our prayer team who continue to pray for those in need.

Rebecca Irwin has been faithfully mailing out cards to the sick and bereaved.

Louise Bureau and Kathy Matusiak provide shared leadership in the bimonthly meditation and healing sessions the second and fourth Thursdays each month. Peninsula United Church hosted the first Level One Healing Pathway course in late November.

Vicki Warren and the catering team have hosted many memorial teas for members of our congregation – Joan Maguire, Margaret North-Mainwaring, Neville Graham to name just a few.

There were many meetings with The Reverend Janice Young and one meeting with interested members to get a pastoral care visiting regime organized. The Reverend Joan McMurtry led an informative training session and many new visitors volunteered to deliver 57 poinsettias to our members in facilities or at home over the Christmas season. Raquel Merriman has agreed to head up our Pastoral Care Visitors Team.

A morning session on Dementia information was offered with many of the congregation in attendance for this talk provided by the Alzheimer's Society.

Kathryn Matusiak

Finance



The Finance Team would like to extend its appreciation to the office staff, including our bookkeeper, Sheri Kathrein, and the Ministry Staff for their help and support during 2018. We also want to thank the many volunteers who are part of the Finance team including Val Astring, our Envelope Secretary, Kathy Cross and the Sunday counting teams, Sharon Birney, our Treasurer and the members of the Stewardship committee.

The year 2018 saw us complete the consolidation of our finances from the three founding churches into the new entity of Peninsula United Church. Our main source of revenue in 2018 was local givings by the congregation. Although the year 2018 saw a decline in our local givings compared to 2017, we continue to be blessed by an increase in other revenue sources, including Planned Gifts and rental income.

Our 2018 unaudited Financial statements were prepared by the Treasurer and will be presented at the Annual Meeting with the proposed budget for 2019. We have arranged for an independent review to be completed in accordance with the procedures as outlined in the United Church of Canada Financial Handbook. The reviewer's report will be presented at the June congregational meeting.

Thank you for your ongoing financial support of our ministry both in 2018 and in the coming years.

Jim Sheppard, Finance Team Leader

2016 Church Envelope and PAR Statistics



2018 was our first full year with a consolidated Peninsula United Church list of Envelope and PAR givers. 144 Envelope numbers were assigned, and 103 of these were used – some regularly and some more occasionally.

We started 2018 with 131 active PAR accounts, and ended the year with 121 active PAR accounts. The November Stewardship program resulted in 4 new signups to the PAR system. Additionally, 45 PAR members made changes to their givings (mostly increasing monthly amounts to our Local Operating Fund and, in some cases, to the Mission and Service Fund).

The PAR system of giving provides a convenient and consistent way of delivering your financial support to the ministries and work of your church. Thanks to those who choose PAR for their regular monthly offerings. Also thanks to Envelope users for accurately noting the designation of your giving on the front of each Envelope. This helps the offering counters greatly with their task each Sunday, and assists with accurate record keeping for tax purposes.

Envelopes may be requested, or you may join PAR, at any time. Please be in touch with the church office or the Envelope Secretary.

Val Austring, Envelope Secretary

Stewardship

The Stewardship Team began meeting in the summer of 2018 to plan Peninsula United Church's first Stewardship Campaign. We were aided by the excellent resource material from the United Church entitled "Called to Be the Church". Five worship services from October through November focused on the various forms of stewardship and promoted the concepts of generosity, gratitude, and hospitality. On November 25 (our final Stewardship Sunday) Jane Harding, the Regional Financial Development Officer for the United Church of Canada, spoke about legacy giving.

A package of financial information was provided to the congregation with respect to local givings and other sources of revenue, including Planned Gifts and Mission and Service. Over 300 Stewardship packages (which included a request to make an annual financial pledge) were provided to members and adherents of the congregations.

We were very encouraged by the response to the stewardship campaign. Of the 102 Financial Pledge cards returned, 65 were from those who give through PAR (Pre-authorized Remittance), 34 from Envelope givers, plus 3 others. Our main source of financial support for our ministry comes through local givings from the congregation.

The stewardship team would like to thank all those who helped us on our stewardship journey including our team members Wendy Caywood, Carol Monaghan, Val Austring, Sharon Birney, Jim Sheppard, as well as The Reverend Janice Young and The Reverend Bruce McAndless-Davis.

Ministry and Personnel (M&P)

The role of the Ministry and Personnel Committee is both consultative and supervisory, providing support to our church staff. We monitor vacation allocations, encourage opportunities for continuing education through study leave, review working conditions, responsibilities, and compensation of all our staff, and maintain contact with the Conference (now Regional) Minister on ministry personnel matters.

M&P Committee members in 2018 were Wendy Caywood, Colleen Dean, Winnie Kowalewich, Elizabeth Winkler, and convenor Val Austring. In December we bid farewell, with thanks for her work, to Wendy as she relocated to Vancouver Island.

Val Austring

Outreach

We are called by Christ to share food with the hungry, give shelter to the homeless, and clothing to those in need. We are also called to stand with those who are disenfranchised and exploited. Peninsula United Church supports many Outreach ministries to live out this message of love for all. In this report our dedicated and enthusiastic coordinators of these various ministries will share the good news of their activities this past year. We are blessed to have such leadership in our congregation and the over 100 volunteers from the church and the community are an inspiration for us all.

Kathy Booth, Outreach Convenor

Community Dinners



It has been one year since our community dinners relocated to Star of the Sea hall as guests of the Catholic Diocese. Our hosts, led by John van Koll, made us welcome with the installation of our dishwasher, accepting our gas range (which has yet to be installed), making space for our new fridge and offering a closet for our equipment and supplies storage. For all this we pay \$1.00 annual rent. We are grateful to our cooks and volunteers who have made the adjustments to our surroundings and to our friends at the Star of the Sea.

Our dinners, started in October 2012, moved from Thursday to Monday to accommodate the schedule at Star of the Sea. We serve 17 meals a year at an average cost of \$2.80 thanks to our wise, capable cooks and support from the Food Bank. The Community Dinner Committee donated \$500 to the Food Bank to acknowledge the 7 years of generous gifts to us. We assist the Food Bank by helping it to fulfill its mission of providing food for the vulnerable of the south peninsula.

We have a new partner, Wooden Spoon, a restaurant on Russell Avenue. Their staff cooked a meal at the restaurant, delivered it and helped serve at no cost. They will do 2 more dinners this year. Their capable enthusiasm and the expanded community involvement are welcome.

Our opening balance this year was \$6000 and closing balance \$3500. We incurred substantial costs moving to the Star and did not do active fund raising.

The number of guests range from 50-110, usually around 75. The meals are served buffet style. Dessert is served along with tea and coffee. This has reduced food waste and been positively received by both guests and volunteers.

The dinners are led by three team leaders, Donna Roy, Susan and Ray Mallory and Lorraine Hand. In October, Susan stepped aside related to health issues leaving us actively searching for a team leader. Perhaps you will consider this volunteer opportunity or suggest someone who might be interested. We have a volunteer roster of around 60 people and require 20-24 for each meal.

Janice Young has been our ministerial support and Kathy Booth continues to provide liaison and support as our Council representative. We are grateful.

Our blessing is in the opportunity to create community with our neighbours.

Lorraine Hand, Community Dinner Chair

White Rock /South Surrey Peninsula United Extreme Weather Shelter

The goal of the Extreme weather response *"is to prevent homeless people from freezing or becoming ill by providing a safe and warm place to sleep for the night."*

The Shelter has been active for the last 12 years at the First United Church White Rock site and now at the Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Community Hall. It is a partnership of the church which provides the site and volunteers and of Options Community Resources who provide staff throughout the night. The Shelter is part of the BC Housing Shelter initiative.

Over the winter (November 2017 to March 2018) the Shelter was open 72 nights with an average of 13 guests per night – as high as 22 and as low as 2). There were 54 volunteers, both from the churches and from the community.

In September, the church arranged with the Roman Catholic Church to rent space at the Star of the Sea Community Hall for \$1.00! This was an exciting and creative undertaking and the Star of the Sea exceeded all expectations of help and accommodation. They even built a shower to assist our guests. Discussions with Options produced some strong directives for the safety of our guests and collaborative relations with the volunteers.

In November and December of 2018, the Shelter was open 33 nights with an average of 18 guests and up to 26 guests which was an increase. There were once again over 50 volunteers active in the support of the work. Orientation and training sessions were provided.

The Shelter program is funded by BC Housing with some financial support from the UCW and individual donors. Many individuals, church members and organizations donate clothing, food and other items for the comfort of our guests. We have been very heartened by the support of local businesses.

At Christmas, we were grateful "to have room in the inn" in the cold and wind and rain of winter. We are grateful for the support of the congregation and community.

Joan McMurtry, Shelter Coordinator





Tierra Nueva

Since 1996 there has been a sister community relationship with a community of 15-20 campesino farm families in El Salvador.

We communicate throughout the year and provide support for small projects as the community determines a need. Various members of the congregation have been able to visit at least every other year. This year the most significant news of Tierra Nueva was gathered by the 10 members of the congregation who travelled to El Salvador in late October. The visit coincided with the 21st anniversary on the land. Close to 100 people gathered, including folks from neighbouring communities, to celebrate with worship, song, activities and delicious food. On the second visit to the community there were more activities and the traditional walk along the dirt road to visit the homes, animals and crops of our sisters and brothers. Pancakes served with maple syrup, sausages, and fruit were once again very popular. With donated items and funds used to make bulk purchases, supplies such as vitamins, toothbrushes and toothpaste, school and musical supplies were carried down to be taken to the community by FUNDAHMER, the organization that works with the community.

Cheryl Lightowlers

Sources Food Bank

In 2018 the congregation continued to offer support to Sources Food Bank through food donations delivered by Elizabeth Winkler earlier in the year and later by Lorna Klohn. We are in the process of reviewing how we support the Food Bank as research literature strongly recommends cash over goods. One idea under consideration is the "Toonies for Lunch" initiative to supplement children's lunches.

First United Downtown East Side (DTES)

Donations of clothing and other items for First United downtown continued sporadically in 2018. Difficulties with driving into the city and the need to support the Extreme Weather Shelter clothing initiative locally have prompted a shift to focus on the shelter. Many thanks to Lorna Klohn who has faithfully taken items to First United (DTES) for over 5 years.

Coldest Night of The Year Event

"The Coldest Night of the Year" event was held on February 24. Called the "United Feet for the Street", our team consisted of 12 walkers, who together raised just over \$2,200 for the Sources Rent Bank. The White Rock event raised over \$69,000.

Glenn Roy, Coordinator

Oak Avenue (Hub) Dinners

Donna Roy organized a dinner at Oak Avenue in March 2018, and about 6 folks from the congregation helped. Donna was able to get a gift certificate for \$30.00 from Ocean Park Safeway (to help with the cost of incidentals) as well as buns from the Food Bank. They served about 70 guests.

Amnesty International

Every year on December 10, Amnesty International celebrates the signing of the Declaration of Human Rights with a "Write-a-Thon". Fred Wickens chose 4 letters for congregation members to sign, and 60 letters and a petition were sent in support of the four individuals whose human rights have been violated in Brazil, Ukraine, Iran and Uganda.

Refugee Education Fund Disbursements

Funds contributed by the congregation and the community for refugee educational needs were distributed to Mariam Herro and Hanadi Barazanji for courses at BCIT and Douglas College.



Property

This committee is responsible for contracts, building security, safely maintaining the churches and their contents, upgrades, mechanical systems testing, and grounds. The property manager/convenor position was in the good hands of Warren Thomlinson until July when Lee Chamberlain accepted the position. Warren continued to assist throughout the year.

We are extremely fortunate and grateful to have so many gifted volunteers whose efforts made this past year so successful. I am very thankful for the many people who made the transition into my position so easy. We would appreciate more volunteers/committee members to help lighten the many duties: groundskeeping, paperwork, decisions, and the regular maintenance of the churches.

This year at the Crescent site, the Freedom Mobile tower was installed, the organ and speakers were replaced with those from the White Rock site, a TV and components replaced the screen, the tower was repaired and painted, and the floors in the basement stripped and waxed – to name a few of the extraordinary tasks required this year.

At the Sunnyside site further work on the grounds was needed. Also, the fire department required more detectors and fire panel components as well as fire doors. The podium was removed at the request of the Unitarian church and the projector from the Crescent site was installed. Some motion detector flood lights have been purchased to increase safety and deter the break and entry into the back sheds which has occurred. These lights will be installed in the new year. Quotes have been tendered for the replacement or repair of the roof.

The contractor seems to be prepared to take possession of the White Rock site very soon which will end our security and safety costs and motivate us to remove the final few things we could use.

Lee Chamberlain, Property Manager



ThirdSpace began in 2016 as a joint ministry of the amalgamating congregations to focus on our wider community, to offer gatherings to address social isolation and to invite people to experience deep, inclusive community. Since the beginning, we have tried to imagine different ways of “doing church” that would remove some of the barriers that often discourage people from participating in our faith community. What started with a few programs has grown into a vibrant community of activities and gatherings which engage a variety of people who have not previously connected with the church.

Programs in 2018

ThirdSpace grew considerably in the past year, both in the number of its programs, and in the number of participants in our ministry. We have also had a few organizations inquiring about collaboration and use of our space and have established some new partnerships with community organizations. These programs and partnerships are helping us to meet community needs and introduce people from various backgrounds and generations to an experience of inclusive spiritual community. Participation rates for each program are recorded in the chart below.

In 2018 we began several new partnerships with community groups which share our goal of building inclusive communities of caring. ***Addictive Comedy*** is a group of folks who perform stand-up comedy as a way to promote recovery and personal growth.

Conscious Connections is a supportive discussion group that covers many topics related to wellness, spirituality, relationships and social justice. A small but dedicated group meets each Wednesday evening for ***Silent Meditation*** which is open to experienced meditators from any or no religious tradition.

Most participants in our programs come from the wider community and do not have any previous connection with the Church.

ThirdSpace is starting to bring the church to life for families from our United Church community and beyond.

Volunteer

We continued our partnership with ***Moving Forward Family Services***, a non-profit that provides free and low-cost clinical counselling services. We simply provide the space for counsellors to meet with their clients. So far they have provided over 400 hours of free counselling to individuals and families in our community.

Café Church is a worship service on Sunday mornings that began in September 2017 after intentional consultation with the families of Peninsula United Church. It provides a casual environment where all ages can gather and enjoy a different kind of service. As originally hoped, Café Church has resulted in more consistent involvement from

some of the Peninsula United families and has also attracted other families and individuals who enjoy a casual “café-style” worship experience.

Over the past year, our ***Mindfulness programs*** expanded rapidly to meet the strong interests expressed in our community, and has served children, youth, seniors and other adults through various weekly, monthly and other special programs. The programs were provided by Kate Morgan, Mindfulness Practitioner and Trainer. Regretfully, Kate decided to withdraw from participation at ThirdSpace.

Our longest running program is *Sit & Stitch*, which fosters deep friendship and community among women from different walks of life, and some great knitting too!

Monthly *PFLAG* meetings are hosted and facilitated, with consistent attendance and many new families offering each other help and encouragement as they support their LGBTQ loved ones. Our *Drop-in Café* continues to provide a warm welcome to various folks, especially seniors and other neighbours coping with personal and mental health challenges.

Death Café meets monthly on the first Thursday of the month. Susan Zwick gently facilitates “cake and conversation” about death and dying that allows participants to discuss difficult topics openly in a safe and supportive environment.

Participation Rates

	Program/Event	Average Per Event	Details
Weekly	Café Church	25	Sundays Sept. to June
	Mindful Relationships	12	Monday morning
		15	Monday evening
	Mindful Movement	6	Tuesday
		9	Thursday
	Sit & Stitch	9	Tuesday evenings
	Drop-in Café	6	Wednesdays
		8	Fridays
	Mindful Kids	5	Thursdays
	Total per week (on average)	95	
Monthly	Death Café	12	
	Music & Meditation	4	
	PFLAG	13	
	Total per month (on average)	29	
Occasional	Community Craft Day	40	Saturday in Dec. 2017
	Family Mindfulness Day	20	Saturday in Feb. 2018
	Mindfulness Spring Break Camp	20 children	Three days
	Music Making	17	Three evening events
	Centering Prayer	7	June
	Mindfulness Summer Break Camp	15 children + 4 youth	Five days
	Mindful Youth	12	May - Aug. weekly pilot prog
	Sweet Soul Café (Mindfulness)	5	July & August
Partners' Programs at ThirdSpace	Moving Forward Family Services	50 hours/month	24 clients in past year
	Lectio Divina (SouthPoint Church)	4	weekly for 12 weeks
	Therapeutic Stand-up Comedy	14	one-time, in July

Volunteers & Staff



ThirdSpace could not exist without a dedicated and caring team of volunteers who provide hospitality and support for our programs and facility. In 2018, over thirty volunteers gave 3 or more hours of their time every month. The current **ThirdSpace Team** of Leisa Bannerman, Maria Booth (Chair), Jean Kromm and Susan Zwick give countless hours to work with our “Community Curator,” Bruce, to lead, support and plan for the future of ThirdSpace. During the summer, Gillian McLeod and Becky Milne, two of the original members of the Leadership Team, stepped down from the Team. We are deeply grateful for their extraordinary efforts over the past 2 ½ years to grow this vibrant and innovative ministry. We were thankful to have Leisa and Jean join the Team in the fall.

As recommended by the Ministry Profile and Search Committee, and approved by the congregation, the Leadership Team worked with the Ministry and Personnel Committee to hire a half-time Program Assistant in July. The position was designed to be 30% administrative support for congregational ministries and 70% to support the work of ThirdSpace, primarily in the areas of program administration, promotion (graphic design, digital marketing, etc.), and volunteer coordination. Unfortunately, our new assistant was not a good fit. We are working on changes to the position before undertaking a new search.

Facility & Funding

The ThirdSpace storefront facility (#1 - 1381 George St.) is leased annually at a cost of \$2400 per month. This cost is covered by a grant from the Fraser ProVision Fund of the United Church, which provides funding for innovative ministries. After receiving an initial grant in 2016, ThirdSpace received a second grant from ProVision to support our operations in 2018 (see past and current funding below). In November, the ProVision Committee granted us funding for a further six months in 2019, while requesting that we undertake a professional evaluation of our programs before further funding is considered. Financial statements are included at the end of this report.

Past & Requested Funding 2016/17-2021

Year	ProVision	Peninsula UC	Fundraising	Total
2016-17	41,000	42,750	10,100	85,902
2018	30,000	44,325	4,000	78,325
2019	28,800 ¹	75,500 ²	10,000	114,300
2020	28,800	77,000	10,000	115,800
2021	28,800	79,000	10,000	117,800

1. 50% Granted. The remaining grant is pending evaluation and further consideration by ProVision.

2. Includes 50% of Community Minister's salary and 70% of Program Assistant's half-time salary.

Reflecting on the Past Year and Looking Ahead

ThirdSpace has experienced significant growth over the past year and greatly expanded its impact. We have also experienced significant transitions with the departure of key leaders. The evaluation we are undertaking is a valuable opportunity for us to survey participants and community members to advance our learning about how we can minister effectively in our community. We are hopeful that we will receive further funding to continue this important ministry, both for its impact on the community and for all that we are learning about how to minister effectively in the rapidly changing context of our time.

Income Statement (2018)

ThirdSpace Income Statement January to December 2018		2018 Budget
Revenue		
Bank Account Balance - January 1 2018	\$11,909.60	
Community - Donations (3290)	\$ 2,852.80	
Community Fundraising		
Mindful Classes	\$ 3,476.71	\$ 2,000.00
Mindful Camp	\$ 660.00	
Grant Funding Received (3291)	\$34,000.00	\$33,000.00
Rentals	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Total Revenue	\$53,899.11	\$37,000.00
Expenses		
Facility Costs - Rent, Renos, F&F (3292)	\$27,914.20	\$31,800.00
Office Costs - Phones & Internet (3293)	\$ 3,812.31	\$ 2,000.00
Event Supplies (3294)		\$ 6,000.00
Kitchen Supplies	\$ 637.52	
ThirdSpace Supplies	\$ 474.69	
Mindful Supplies	\$ 402.71	
Mindful Camp Supplies	\$ 216.68	
SubTotal for Event Supplies	\$ 1,731.60	
Advertising/Communication (3295)- Virb	\$ 246.31	\$ 2,000.00
Honoraria/Contracts (3296)	\$13,315.00	\$ 1,500.00
Leadership Development (3297)		\$ 1,000.00
Support Staff (3298)		\$ 1,500.00
Total Expenses	\$47,019.42	\$45,800.00
Bank Account Balance on November 31 2018	\$ 6,879.69	-\$ 8,800.00



United Church Women (UCW)

For the year 2018 there were three active UCW Units – Hillcrest with 8 members, Marine-Bay with 19 members and The Nitelights (a group affiliated with UCW) with 25 members. All groups met each month for fellowship, worship, and project work. At the end of the year Hillcrest Unit made the difficult decision to meet as a social entity only. Over many years they performed a vital role in the life and mission of the church. The

Elizabeth Fry Society in particular has benefited from the beautiful quilts donated by the group. We wish them well in this new step along their journey and look forward to working with them as they are able.

The UCW Annual General Meeting for Peninsula United was held January 18 in the Narthex. Guest speaker, Kaitlin Scarpelli, educated us regarding Atira House, a shelter for women in need. This was most enlightening and gave us a better understanding of the needs of women in our community.

Several successful fundraising events took place in 2018. The annual Pancake Supper on February 13 saw 61 people in attendance with profits slightly lower than the previous year. The frozen food sale was also lucrative although with slightly lower profits than hoped for. A very successful and enjoyable 'pyjama party' was held on June 2 to support Atira House. When a woman comes to Atira, one of the first things given to her is a new pair of pyjamas and pair of socks. We decided to support this welcoming gesture by purchasing these items. The women of the church were very generous in their support of this project and over 50 pairs of pyjamas and 50-60 pairs of socks/slippers were collected for Atira. To add to the festivities we arrived in our pyjamas (not the usual attire for church but very comfortable). The UCW hosted "The Hazeltones" on November 3, and one thousand dollars was raised and donated to the Cancer Drivers Society. Under the capable leadership of the Hillcrest Unit two successful bake sales were held this year – one on April 29 and another on December 9. Purchases were made by donation at the latest sale and it was the most successful sale ever. Our thanks to everyone in the congregation who generously supported all these initiatives.

The women of the UCW continue to participate in many programs within and outside of the church - bible study, Lenten lunches, World day of Prayer, congregational care, women's advent service, soup Sundays, memorial teas and a myriad of other important activities.

The AGM for BC Conference UCW took place in West Kelowna May 1-3 at Westbank United Church. One member from our church attended.

The Spring Presbyterial rally was held on April 10 at Chilliwack United Church. Guest speakers were representatives from The Cyrus Centre and The Ann Davis Society.

The Fall Presbyterial rally was held at Peninsula United Church on October 16. Guest speaker was The Reverend Sally McShane speaking on the theme of "Into The Unknown". Karen Hoshal and Clare Walker, President and President-Elect of BC Conference reported from the National UCW AGM held in Toronto. Perhaps the most important message to come from Clare and Karen was a reinforcement that UCW will continue to exist even as the new church structure evolves.

The UCW of Peninsula United will continue to be a vital entity working diligently in support of our own church, the Fraser Presbyterial, BC Conference UCW and the wider church as well as Mission and Service.

Valerie Weinert, President

Worship



In 2018 the Worship Committee has continued to work toward developing inspiring Worship services, minimizing the impact of change and fostering a sense of community in our Congregation. Since coming together as the Interim Worship Committee in May, 2017, the lay members (Mary Fran Bateman, Denice Grant, Heather Hardman, Sandra Horbachewsky, Victoria Jones, Joan Strutt and Val Thorner) have continued to work in faith with our wonderful ministers, The Reverend Bruce McAndless-Davis and The Reverend Janice Young to support the Worship Ministry at Peninsula United Church.

We are grateful to Sandra Horbachewsky, our Communion Coordinator, and those who have assisted her – Linda Lee Henrickson, Val McMillan and Judith Charlebois – as well as the many people who have served Communion this year.

We greatly appreciate Heather Hardman's commitment this year in taking on the leadership of our Worship Arts sub-committee which evolved as a way of envisioning themes and symbolism around our Worship seasons. This committee helps our Ministers to coordinate the visual components of our Worship in conjunction with the Flower Committee (Val Thorner), and our Music Director (Denice Grant) and accompanist (Angela Chu) who arrange for the musical components of Worship Arts.

We are thankful for the able leadership of speakers invited by our clergy who provided inspiration in the pulpit this year: The Reverend Mary Nichol (Coordinator of Education for Children's and Family Ministries for BC Conference), the Reverend Bethel Lee (United Church Campus Minister at UBC), The Reverend Gabrielle Suedfeld, The Reverend Joan McMurtry, The Reverend Debra Bowman (for our Women's Advent Service), Jane Harding (Regional Financial Development Officer of BC Conference), and David and Shauna

Anderson from Surrey's Brooksdale Environmental Retreat Centre of A Rocha, Canada. We are also indebted to our lay people who provided wonderful leadership as they created and led services: Women's Advent Service (Val Thorner), Men's Service (Bob Arwick, Fred Dobson, Ken Hembroff), Stewardship Service (Carol Monaghan, Jim Sheppard) and Choir Service led by Denice Grant.

In June we bade farewell to The Reverend Louise Cummings as she began a new phase of life as a retired minister. We celebrated with her at her retirement dinner, which was organized by members of all three founding congregations of Peninsula United, with members of the choir and others bringing to life Carol Monaghan's Birdie Play – an amusing history of Louise's career.

Before leaving, Louise was able to plan and be part of the Decommissioning Service for First United White Rock, where we remembered our church life there, gave thanks for the many blessings received as congregants and visitors, and closed the doors for the last time.

With the reduction in ministerial staff, the Worship Committee supported The Reverend Janice Young and The Reverend Bruce McAndless-Davis as they assessed programs and planned how they would meet commitments and responsibilities in the future.

As part of the Amalgamation, a number of beautiful and significant pieces were added to Peninsula United's Worship space at the Crescent site. The beautifully toned Samick piano, rose-coloured fabric chairs, A/V items, and a stained glass window with a touching story (originally donated to First United by Fae and Harvey Manchuk) were graciously offered. Banners, flags, costumes, creches, hymnaries, candles and other items were added to our Worship inventory and the Youth Room in the lower hall became a storage area. Some worship items were stored at the Crescent and Sunnyside sites for future use in the new church building at the White Rock site.

Some of our Memorial funds were used to purchase a large TV screen, which for the most part has improved the clarity and capabilities of our projections during Sunday worship. Warren Thomlinson and Kees Koster worked on creating a new railing and safety wall on the Chancel to bring the piano placement up to code.

Other improvements have been made

- An attractive Wicker Mail Basket has replaced the Blue Mail Tub to carry bulletins, A/V materials and all other mail that goes between our office and our Crescent site. Everyone is welcome to use this on Sundays to send mail to the Sunnyside office.
- A few large print bulletins are now printed for each service.
- A weekly sheet of building usage is now taped each Sunday on the hall door and by the kitchen as a reference for those using our spaces.

- In the Summer the Worship committee, in conjunction with Council and Choir members took on a new role as coordinators of after service Coffee Time, to give our regular volunteers a break.
- We experimented in the Summer with using only the hymn books and microphones so the A/V team could also take a break.
- We reinstated our former practice of offering special music on the last Sunday of each month, giving variety to our program and an opportunity for soloists and small musical groups to offer their gifts. This also allows the choir to volunteer in other helping roles and gives Café Church special music with Angela Chu once a month.
- We circulated a sign-up sheet to help Cafe Church co-ordinate a roster of volunteers for Sunday mornings at the George Street site. Your generous offers of baking, greeting, hosting and clean up were very much appreciated.

Looking back over the year, there have been many meaningful services, events and worship highlights. Here are just a few:

In February our Lenten services – our first Intergenerational service of 2018, which kept the Worship Committee busy coordinating, setting up and cleaning up in the style of Café Church.

In March our Palm Sunday service – complete with large palm fronds and Maundy Thursday foot washing. The dramatic Good Friday service (readings and anthems, blacked out windows and Marilyn Dyer's painting of Jesus on the Cross) was followed by a full church at our joyous Easter Sunday service. We also offered an early morning service hosted by Café Church at Blackie Spit where 50 people gathered.

April's Birthday Bash – complete with a cake for each month. This was greatly enjoyed and will be repeated in 2019 due to popular demand!

Besides the Decommissioning of the First United building at the beginning of May, we had an Intergenerational Café Church style service for Pentecost. With fans blowing flame-coloured streamers, ribbons waving and paper planes surprising us as they flew from the balcony, we celebrated God's gifts and faithfulness. We treasure the photograph Bill Anderson was able to take from the balcony to capture this moment.

In May, Leona Towers gave us a report on our refugee family, the Herros, sponsored by the three founding Congregations along with the White Rock Muslim community. We were happy to learn of their continued success in adjusting to their new life in Surrey.

June brought the first Baptism of our newly formed Peninsula United with the introduction of Jane Elizabeth McRae McConnell to our Congregation.

On June 24 we had our final service with our three ministers, followed by refreshments and cake to mark Louise's last service before retirement. The image of a canoe being supported by the paddles of many was part of the message, and she was presented with paper paddles decorated with meaningful notes from the congregation.

The services in July and August were well attended. People particularly appreciated the attention paid to creating meaningful services and enjoyed the special music arranged for and provided by Denice.

During the first three Sundays of September the Worship Committee promoted Sign Up Sunday for volunteers from all areas of the church. This included Communion Servers, Ushers, Greeters, Scripture Readers, Collection Counters, and Coffee Hosts. We were gratified by the positive response.

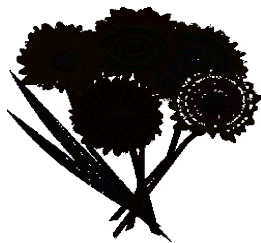
In November, with Remembrance Day falling on a Sunday, The Reverend Bruce McAndless-Davis made this the focus of his planning. He included the Scouts, wreath laying, Anna Paton's trumpet playing, a quartet, special music from the choir and two speakers illuminating what the day means for them.

In December our two Blue Christmas services were very much appreciated by those suffering from pain and grief. On Christmas Eve, the afternoon Family Nativity Pageant, the choir-led Candlelight Service with anthems and readings, and the Candlelight Communion Services were all beautifully conceived and provided a wonderful community outreach as well as a time for our congregation to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

We are very thankful for our Ministers who have continued to offer their best as they develop creative, insightful, inspiring services. Thanks be to God.

Victoria Jones and Mary Fran Bateman, Co-chairs

Flower Committee



Thanks go to the many members of the Flower Committee who work hard to create a visual image for our worship services. This committee consists of: Louise Bartel, Mary Fran Bateman, Gillian Cole, Evelyn Dobson, Jo Ellen Eastman, Heather Hardman, Pat Logie, Barbara Lutes, Val MacMillan, Linda Martin, Claudia Semaniuk, Val Thorner, Helen Virgo, and Vicki Warren.

Displays in the two black urns at the church entrance were changed out several times during the year as we continue to look for ways to further enhance the church space.

Several times in 2018 we had annual donations from members of the congregation which were used to enhance our Thanksgiving and Christmas displays. Anyone who is interested in doing something similar, please contact any of the committee members. We really appreciate this support!

Weekly floral bouquets, seasonal displays, memorial and celebration bouquets continue to enhance our worship space.

If people would like to request a special bouquet, they can either supply the bouquets themselves or let the committee know how much they would give us for the flowers and the arrangement would be completed by the committee.

Val Thorner, Team Leader



Music Ministry

We are happy to report that our musical program is thriving and still growing. Our choir currently has approximately 43 members. Sometimes it gets pretty tight up there in the choir chancel, but we love it, and the more the better.

This year the choir has seen tremendous growth not only in quantity, but in quality. Our singers are eager to tackle new challenges and they rise to the occasion every time. One of the greatest challenges a choir faces is diction—making sure the audience understands our words. We have been working really hard at it, and hope that you are seeing some results.

We thank everyone that contributes to the smooth running of the choir, such as Victoria Jones for helping with organizing music and music folders, Val Weinert for her endless and methodic efforts in organizing the music library, Fred Dobson and Ken Hembroff for keeping our online inventory updated, and everyone else that contributes in other ways.

Our choir is also a place where we bring our requests and prayers to God. We have seen God respond in amazing ways to the petitions of our choir members, and we grow together in faith and praise for God.

This coming year will see a few more changes such as risers for the two back rows of the choir chancel, and new choir folders. There is also talk of putting on a fund-raiser concert in the near future.

Thank you for supporting this ministry, and we ask that you keep us in your prayers, so that we may have the vision to do all things for the glory of God.

Denice Grant, Music Director