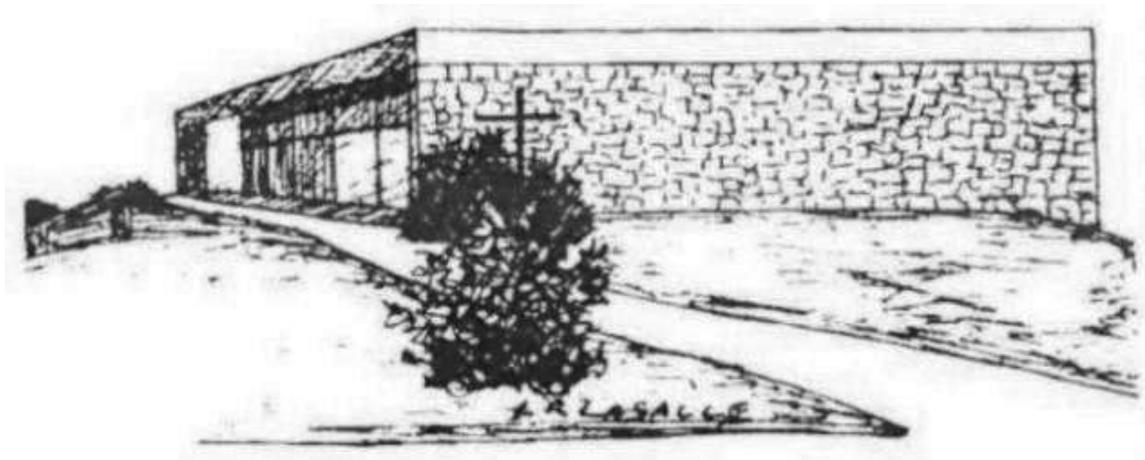


BRITANNIA UNITED CHURCH

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



MINISTER: REV. JIM BALDWIN

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OTTAWA, ONTARIO
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IN MEMORIAM

Evelyn May Collins	January 2, 2015
Emma Rebecca Johnson	August 20, 2015
Earl Charles Tupper	October 13, 2015
Valcina Emency Isaac	December 26, 2015

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE,
HE THAT BELIEVETH IN ME,
THOUGH HE WERE DEAD, YET SHALL HE LIVE:
AND WHOSOEVER LIVETH AND BELIEVETH IN ME SHALL NEVER DIE.

Minister's Letter

The Annual Report is an opportunity for us, as a congregation, to look back over the past year and see what we have done. It is also a time for us to look ahead at the coming year and consider where we would like to go. This is most obvious when we look at the report from our Treasurer, with the realities of and the projections of for our budget. But the same can be said for every other group or committee.

With that in mind, we can celebrate the accomplishments of everyone who has worked so hard and faithfully to provide a place where people may gather to worship, learn and be inspired; a place where everyone, from the youngest child to the most mature member is welcomed and safe and valued; a place where diversity is celebrated, individual gifts are honoured and differing opinions are considered gracefully. But this is also a time to think about the future of our church, our community and our world, and how we want to grow to meet these needs.

Someone recently spoke to me about participating in a workshop about the future of the church and the direction of worship in the United Church of Canada, and she came away thinking that Britannia United Church is already incorporating most of the ideas that were discussed, in our weekly services. This is true, because we have had the courage to try new things. We have looked carefully at traditions and continue to incorporate those that add to the life and growth of our congregation, while not being afraid to embrace new ideas, new music and new ways to worship. It is a balance that can be challenging to achieve, and it must be nurtured to maintain.

One of the things I value about this congregation is that everyone who joins us, changes us. Like the single drop of water that changes an ocean, we evolve and move forward as each new person, with their experience and perspective is integrated into our congregation. This is so different from the majority of congregations who are set in their ways and expect visitors to adapt; wondering why they don't stay.

I love our church. At a time when many are looking at the headlines and questioning the value of church and organized religion, we have so much to offer. But we need to get the word out. We need to maintain our direction and we need to keep listening to the voice of the Spirit that sometimes challenges us to go where we might not want to go.

Those of you who were here when I arrived fifteen years ago might remember a reading I did about a bike ride. For those who have joined us since, here it is (author unknown):

At first I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there, sort of like the president. I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I really didn't know him. But later on when I met Christ, it seemed as though life were rather like a bike ride, but it was a tandem bike, and I noticed that Christ was in the back helping me pedal. I don't know just when it was that He suggested that we change places, but life has not been the same since. When I had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring but predictable ... It was the shortest distance between two points. But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long cuts, up mountains, and through rocky places at breakneck speeds, and it was all I could do to hang on! Even though it looked like madness, He said, "Pedal." I worried and was anxious and asked, "Where are You taking me?" He laughed and didn't answer, and I started to learn to trust. I forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure. And when I say, "I'm scared," He'd lean back and touch my hand. He took

me to people with gifts that I needed, gifts of healing, acceptance, and joy. They gave me gifts to take on my journey, my Lord's and mine. And we're off again. He said, "Give the gifts away, they're extra baggage, too much weight." So I did, to the people we met, and I found that in giving I received, and still our burden was light. I did not trust Him at first, to be in control of my life, I thought He would wreck it; But He knows bike secrets, knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, knows how to jump to clear high rocks, knows how to fly to shorten scary passages. I'm learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places, and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, Jesus Christ. And when I'm sure I just can't do anymore, He smiles and says ... "Pedal."

When I read that story on my second Sunday at Britannia, there were some worried looks on the faces in the congregation! But I reminded them that this was the job I had been hired to do. The committee that hired me had presented me with a Needs Assessment that had been carefully written after much work and consideration by the congregation. It was a report with a vision. When I was interviewed I said to the committee "Everything in here suggests change. Is that what you really want, or did you just write those things because you thought you should?" Cameron Matheson, the eldest and a longtime member of the committee looked at me and said "We worked very hard on that report, and we know that's what we need to do if we want to survive. So you can consider it as your roadmap for ministry."

We have achieved everything that needs assessment considered, and more. But that doesn't mean we may become complacent and look for a quiet meadow for a rest. The ride continues and God is still with us, telling us to pedal. So let us look at these reports with the ride in mind. Where is the Spirit leading us in worship, work and mission? What new ideas should we be incorporating, what new paths are we being called to follow, and how may we reach even more people in our church, our community and our world, in our quest?

I don't have all the answers, but I'm still joyful to be along for the ride, and there is no congregation I'd rather be journeying with. So let's pedal!

Rev. Jim

**Britannia United Church
AGM March 29, 2015**

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Meeting called to order by Brenda Plamondon at 11:45 am.
Opening prayer given by Rev. Jim Baldwin

2. Reading of Memorial List by Rev. Jim Baldwin

3. Voting Rights of Adherents

Motion to extend voting rights to adherents moved by Dori Jensen, seconded by Earl Tupper. Carried.

4. Appointment of Chair and Recording Secretary

Motion for Brenda Plamondon to Chair 2015 AGM and for Dee McEwen to be Recording Secretary moved by Eileen Ball, seconded by Rose Bernauer. Carried.

5. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as written by Mary Lou Farrell, seconded by Emma Johnson. Carried.

6. Approval of Minutes of 2014 AGM

Motion to approve 2014 AGM Minutes moved by Earl Tupper, seconded by Mary Lou Farrell. Carried.

7. Receiving of Annual Reports

a. Minister's Letter (p. 4): information only

b. Chair of Council Report (p.10): information only

c. Presbytery Representative Report (p.12): Eileen Ball

Barb Rafter is stepping down as Pres. Rep. and a replacement is needed.

Motion to approve report moved by Eileen Ball, seconded by Verne Bruce. Carried.

d. Standing Committee Reports:

Christian Development (CD) Report (p.13) – Mary Lou Farrell

Motion to approve report moved by Mary Lou Farrell, seconded by Verne Bruce. Carried.

Worship and Music Report (p. 14) – Dori Jensen

Motion to approve report moved by Dori Jensen, seconded by Judy Howey. Carried.

Music Director's Report (p. 15) – Mary Lou Hulan

Motion to approve report moved by Mary Lou Hulan, seconded by Verne Bruce. Carried.

Mission, Service and Outreach (MS&O) Report (p. 16) – Barb Rafter

Motion to approve report moved by Barb Rafter, seconded by Maggie Taylor. Carried.

Pastoral Care Report (p. 17) – Dori Jensen

Motion to approve report moved by Dori Jensen, seconded by Dick Howey. Carried.

Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Report (p. 18) – Kelvin Stanke

Motion to approve report moved by Kelvin Stanke, seconded by Mary Lou Farrell. Carried.

Question by Janepher McBride. Will the cleanliness of the church be improved?
Response by Kelvin Stanke that he is working with the custodian on this issue.

Trustees Report (p. 18) – Don Judd

Addition to report: A United Church of Canada communication has been sent to all pastoral charges to the effect that all officers and directors of the church will be automatically covered for liability insurance at no extra charge.

List of Elected Trustees

Eileen Chambers	Bud Lusk
Horace Duncan	John Todd
Don Judd	Earl Tupper
Bob Livingstone	Gail Wyse
and the following two Trustees Emeritus	
Art Buss	Norm Davis

I also requested the appointment of Peter Bain as Auditor.

Motion to approve report, moved by Don Judd, seconded by Verne Bruce. Carried

Motion to appoint Peter Bain as Auditor for 2015, moved by Earl Tupper, seconded by Mary Lou Farrell. Carried.

Question by Peter Bain. Will I be covered by insurance? Don Judd – Yes.

Stewards Reports – Earl Tupper

Motion to approve the Steward's Report in total moved by Earl Tupper, seconded by Rose Bernauer. The Sub-Committee Chairs will be allowed to speak. Carried.

Property Sub-Committee Report (p.21)

Food Voucher Report (p. 21) – Dave Mackenzie – profits are down \$1300.00 per year – Dave will continue this project for one year

Question by Maggie Taylor – How much does it cost to buy the vouchers? Dave – he spends \$19,000 at a time to buy \$20,000 worth – this is the only way to get 5% for the church.

Motion to approve this report moved by Dave Mackenzie, seconded by Earl Tupper. Carried

Office Automation Report (p. 22) –Bob Johnston – web site is fully operational and up to date – a thank you to Susan Aiken for her help – input from the congregation would be appreciated – there is the potential to do a Blog –**Question** from Maggie Taylor – Who authorizes what can be put on Facebook? Answer – the church secretary has the right to remove completely any inappropriate information.

Action Item – Emma Johnson questioned why we have friend page and not a fan page for Facebook – Bob Johnston will add a fan page.

Question from Rev. Jim Baldwin – Can new photos be added to the web site that are more representative of our congregation? Members are encouraged to send photos to Bob Johnston but it was noted that written permissions must be obtained before they can be used. Brenda Hamilton – there needs to be an updated Permissions List for those who have consented. Bob Johnston – Word Press can create a user list.

Question from Maggie Taylor – Can ads be added to the site? No – we would have to give permission on the website but Facebook owns their site. Kelvin Stanke – Facebook gives us a way to share information re our events and we should use it.

Action item – Peter Bain will create an address for the Newsletter so that info/articles can be sent and forwarded to his personal email.

Motion to approve the office automation report moved by Bob Johnston, seconded by Eileen Ball. Carried.

Envelope Steward Report (p. 23 and 24) – prepared by Verne Bruce

Kitchen Sub-Committee (p. 24) –prepared by Verne Bruce

Motion to approve both reports moved by Verne Bruce, seconded by Mary Lou Farrell. Carried.

Comments – Maggie Taylor said that not all outlets work in the kitchen – Verne replied they have been fixed – Roelie Jackson said that other people have worked on the downstairs electrical and that Don Jackson is trying to sort it out. – Janepher McBride asked if the outlets near the sinks are GFI? Verne replied yes.

Membership and Attendance Report (p. 25)

Seniors Tea Report (p. 26) – Maggie Taylor

Participation numbers are down. Dick Howey thanked Maggie and all others who help with this program. Dianne Tupper asked if the name could be changed from Senior's Tea to something like 55+Club. Kathy Banville suggested the "Young at Hearters". Maggie thought these were all good ideas and she will discuss it with the group.

Motion to approve report moved by Maggie Taylor, seconded by Dick Howey. Carried.

West End Villa Report (p. 26) – Roelie Jackson for Donna Armstrong

More volunteers are needed.

Motion to accept report by Roelie Jackson, seconded by Mary Lou Farrell. Carried.

Newsletter Report (p. 27) – Peter Bain

Motion to accept report moved by Peter Bain, seconded by Earl Tupper. Carried.

Craft Group Report (p. 27)

Memorial Report (p. 28)

Treasurer's Report (p.29) Dave Mackenzie

Dave stepped down as Treasurer and was thanked by the congregation and given a standing round of applause for all his dedicated work on behalf of our church.

Noted by Rose Bernauer – there are incorrect dates on pages 31 and 32.

Rev. Jim Baldwin – if all of the Minister's education fund is not used, it goes back into the church account / funds are put aside to cover costs of replacement ministers if needed

Barry Meredith asked where the contributions from Suzart are recorded – Dave replied under other revenue

Dick Howey – How can we get rid of our debt? Dave replied that a budget shortfall does not mean we owe money – thanks to the Manse and Art Smith Funds we are able to pay everything we owe.

Audit - Peter Bain – the Audit is finished and approved

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report moved by Dave Mackenzie, seconded by Rose Bernauer. Carried.

8. Elections

Motion to elect Gertrude Rurihafi as Treasurer moved by Earl Tupper, seconded by Helen Hutcheson. Carried.

Volunteers for Presbytery Rep and Member-at-Large were called for. No response.

9. Affirmations of Standing Committees and Chairs

Motion to affirm all Standing Committees and Chairs moved by Ken McBride, seconded by Ole Jensen. Carried.

10. Approval of Budget for 2015 (p.34) – Dave Mackenzie

Motion to approve the budget for 2015 moved by Verne Bruce, seconded by Janepher McBride. Carried.

11. Other Business

Earl Tupper – would like to stand down as Chair of Stewards within 6 months if a replacement can be found

Emma Johnson – are the Chairs of the Standing Committees elected for a fixed term?

Dori Jensen replied that each Committee chooses its own Chair. Emma – if it was a fixed term more people might volunteer as it is very hard to step down as Chair.

Discussion followed. Rev. Jim Baldwin – there are many new people and they should be approached. There used to be a Nominating Committee who would actively seek out individuals for specific positions.

Action Item In September the Committee Chairs will speak during the Sunday Services as to the function of their committees and ask people to join. Eileen Ball asked that this be put on the next Council Meeting Agenda.

Proposed Changes to the United Church Barry Meredith

Four layers of administration with the UC will be changed to three in order to remove from \$11.5 to \$13 million from the budget. Many mid-level positions will be lost (23%).

The purpose will be to live within our means. The changes should result in more local autonomy within pastoral charges. The plan will be presented to General Council in August 2015. There are informational meetings being held presently but Barry believes

they are information only. Input can be done through our Presbytery Reps to delegates to General Council.

Maggie Taylor – proposed in this plan is to redirect 10% of M&S Funds – Does this mean that less M&S work around the world will be done? Barry – some M&S dollars are already directed towards aboriginal issues and he doesn't feel there will be a great change.

Rev. Jim Baldwin – many of our churches are closing and we must look at new forms of ministry – changes to the UC budget should not affect our church

Ole Jensen – overall the UC owes a lot of money and that will affect us

Barry Meredith – our local assessment should only increase 1%

Rev. Jim Baldwin – there will be many positions lost during this change but jobs will still have to be done – they will be looking for volunteers

Eileen Ball – there will be more local control – decisions like hiring/firing/selling Manse, etc.

Heather Duncan – Can this issue be brought to our congregation during a Sunday service?

Barry Meredith – There was an explanatory handout in last weeks bulletin.

Dave Mackenzie - Will the amount redirected from M&S to fund the College of Minister's be a fixed amount?

Barry Meredith – There are many aspects in this proposal that I find vague.

Name Tags – Dori Jensen – asked congregation to use their name tags – magnetic name tags will be available for individual purchase at \$10.00 each plus tax – sign- up sheets will be put up – Emma Johnson noted that anyone with a pacemaker should not use a magnetic name tag

Book Donation – Maggie Taylor would like to donate a collection of books on sexual diversity and coming out issues to the church library. She noted that we as a congregation believe in diversity and would like our library to reflect this.

Rev. Jim Baldwin said that we only have a few books on this topic and they should be brought in to be looked at by himself and the library committee. Maggie also has a bookcase she can donate.

Senior's Tea – Meredith Baxter – could guest speakers occasionally make presentations at the Senior's Tea? Maggie Taylor – This is a good idea and it could increase attendance.

Motion to have Dori Jensen relicensed as a lay minister moved by Rose Bernauer, seconded by Maggie Taylor. Carried.

Dori Jensen – Could a copy of the Auditor's Report be attached to the minutes of this meeting?

Kelvin Stanke – would like to organize an ongoing and casual Visioning Committee to talk about the future of our church. He asks anyone interested to please contact him.

12. Date of next Meeting

March 20, 2016

13. Motion to adjourn by Dori Jensen

14. Closing Prayer

Brenda Plamondon

Brenda Plamondon _____
Chair of 2015 AGM

Deirdre McEwen _____
Recording Secretary

Church Council Report for 2015

Submitted by: Brenda Plamondon

Purpose of this Committee:

The council ensures that the intentions of the Congregation are carried out by making decisions on its behalf. It is responsible for setting priorities, governing ongoing operations, carrying out the work of the Church and ensuring its health and well-being, as stated in the Britannia United church (BUC) Constitution and Mission Statement.

The Church Council receives its authority from the Congregation and is mandated for one year. The Presbytery Lay Representatives, Chair, Vice Chair, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Editor of the Newsletter and Members at Large are elected by the Congregation, while all other members of Council are affirmed at the Annual General Meeting.

Members of this Committee:

Rev. Jim Baldwin (Minister)

Eileen Ball & Myles Frosst (Presbytery Lay Representatives)

Officers: Brenda Plamondon (Chair)

Barry Meredith (Vice-Chair)

Deirdre McEwen (Recording Secretary)

Gertrude Rurihafi & David Mackenzie (Treasurer)

(David retired as of Nov. 30, 2016)

Chairs of Standing Committees:

Mary Lou Farrell (Christian Development)

Dori Jenson (Worship and Music)

Barb Rafter (Mission, Service and Outreach)

Dori Jensen (Pastoral Care)

Mary Lou Farrell, Kelvin Stanke (Ministry and Personnel)

Earl Tupper (Stewards) until his passing. Stewards elect a person to chair at each meeting until they find someone permanently.

Don Judd (Board of Trustees)

Persons representing ongoing church organizations:

Donna Armstrong, Valda Boland (West End Villa Group)

Maggie Taylor (Senior's Tea)

Peter Bain (Editor of Newsletter)

Valda Boland with help from Edith Kenney (Craft Group)

Members at Large:

Verne Bruce

Heather Thuswaldner

Robert Livingstone

It is with great sadness that we have lost two very special people, Emma Johnson and Earl Tupper who work very hard on their respective committees of council. They are missed very much.

Highlights of Our Work:

- Held four regular meetings in March, May, September and November to oversee the activities of the Council's various standing committees and organizations.
- Set Budget for 2016.
- New Electric Piano.
- Magnetic Name Tags.
- Mindware Academy has an action plan regarding the Energy and Crisis Response Plan.
- Verne Bruce has taken over from David Mackenzie the position of being liaison for Mindware Academy only.
- A new fund called Britannia Community Outreach was created from the funds going to Ottawa West-End Community Chaplaincy as this does not exist anymore.
- Butt Stop was installed outside.

Contributions to the Life of Our Church:

The council is the senior administrative body of the church. It exercises leadership in the care and oversight of the spiritual life and interests of the Church. A strong Council, with robust Standing Committees, is essential for the effective governance of the church. It is by coming together and sharing our gifts that we will continue to flourish as a Congregation.

Presbytery Representatives Report for 2015

Submitted by: Eileen Ball and Myles Frosst

Purpose of this Committee:

Lay representatives are tasked to liaise with the Ottawa Presbytery, keep Council informed of any activities at the Presbytery affecting the Congregation, submit any directives issued by the Presbytery and serve as envoy to the Presbytery in terms of communicating crucial congregational activities.

This year, as has been the case in recent years, your Presbytery lay representatives have attended monthly Presbytery meetings and contributed to the discussions and decisions made at the Montreal-Ottawa Conference Annual General Meeting held at the end of May. One Presbytery lay representative (Myles) has also served on and helped get up and running the Ottawa Presbytery Diversity Committee.

Members of this Committee: Eileen Ball, Myles Frosst, and Barbara Rafter

Highlights of our work:

Of particular importance to the long-term interests of this congregation is the contribution of Ottawa Presbytery to the Comprehensive review Task Group (CRTG) appointed by the Moderator in 2012. General Council received this report in August 2015 and are considering restructuring the United Church governing organization. Later this year, our congregation will be asked to vote on several remits regarding different aspects of these proposed changes. The proposed restructuring would include 3 levels (not the 4 that we have now). The local congregation would be given more autonomy, the Presbytery and Conference would become a Regional Council, and there would be a smaller

organization at the National level. More information will come when we receive the remits.

Contributions to the life of our church:

The representatives are kept up to date with what is happening in other churches in the Ottawa area, and indeed in the broader church as well. New ideas are shared with the various committees at Britannia.

Christian Development Report for 2015

Submitted by: Mary Lou Farrell, Chair

Overall our Sunday School attendance from nursery school to youth group has been very unstable due to the busy times in today's family's extra-curricular activities outside of church. In our nursery school we have had from 1-4 in attendance, in Sunday School we range from 1-10 in attendance, and in our youth program, 3-5 in attendance.

The next big event for the Sunday school will be our Spring Tea organized by the Sunday School Team and volunteers. With the support of the church body and the families we are able to raise funds to put back into the Sunday school to assist in community activities with the growing numbers of attendees.

Thanks for all the continuous support you all give to our young members

Looking forward to the warm season of 2016 with our Sunday School Graduation Ceremony on June 12th followed by our traditional Church Picnic in the Park at the Britannia Beach Trolley Station.

I am so very touched and grateful for all the Coordinators & Volunteers who have assisted with making this Committee a success and all the energy they have put into serving all our members of Britannia United Church inside and outside our walls. It is truly a gift to be able to be a part of your vision of what you give back to your Church family.

Christian Development Committee Reports

Church School Coordinator: Deanna Giles

Volunteer(s): Jennifer Trewartha

Current Sub Committees Being Supervised:

Nursery School:	Scott & Joanna Hughes
Sunday School Teachers:	Deanna Gilles, Mary Lou Farrell, Carrie Conroy
Youth Group:	Helen Hutcheson
Sunday School Music Coordinator:	Valerie Baldwin
Library Committee:	Barbara Blair and Mary Townson

We Still have one Committee Role open:

Coordinator of Congregational Learning: (Speak to Mary Lou Farrell if interested)

- Develops leadership and reviews resources for a program of learning for the Congregation, including Bible study classes
- Ensures that programs are offered for baptism, and for membership and confirmation of adults and youth
- Tracks spending and regularly submits receipts for reimbursement so that the Congregational learning budget is kept current

Church School Coordinator Report: Deanna Giles

I am happy to step back into the role of Superintendent of the Sunday School this past year, which I had held in 2008-2010 while Kim and Hannah were younger. We have a special Church; we love our children and want to support the United Church of Canada's vision for the Children's Ministry which includes "Providing a Christian environment where children and youth are welcomed, heard, valued, nurtured and supported both personally and spiritually as equals....". We will do so through different activities that will teach the children the different ways to connect with God.

To honour Emma Johnson's wonderful contributions to our Sunday School and for the positive impact she had on Britannia United Church, our Sunday School and Youth Group have worked together to try and come up with some way for our Church to keep the momentum going on the initiative taken by some of Emma's friends to sell hockey jerseys with the "Emma's Entourage" logo. All funds collected would go into the Trust Fund for Joe.



This year's curriculum is based on the Spark Activate Faith program. It consists of readings and activities. Once a month, members of our youth group will also take a more active leadership role in the Sunday School class. As always, our class will begin with Val Baldwin leading our music program.

Our youth Coordinator: Helen Hutcheson

Helen has stepped in to assist and shape the vision of our Youth Group. We have had a small and very active Group. They have provided great outreach to the community at large and are still striving to reach out further.

As you will remember, the Youth served ice cream to the congregation for a free-will offering in Spring 2015. They raised \$556.42. The cheque for the WE goats has been received by Free the Children. The youth designated the donation to Rural China for the pillar Alternative Income and Livelihood.

To kick-start the Fall program, Youth Group members brainstormed and developed a framework and action plan for their upcoming activities. Our objectives include reinforcing the Christian values which are important to our families; learning about God and Jesus, the stories of the Bible and how they apply to our lives, and social issues; reaching out to local and global communities, to contribute to pastoral care and make a difference in the world; participating in the social life of our Church; and having fun.

We launched our program in November, when five members of the Group, with their friends, attended WE Day with Helen and Mary-Lou Hulan. We listened to inspiring stories of leadership and change, with world-renowned speakers and performers, all with the view to increasing engagement and active citizenship by youth. The highlight of the day was an appearance by the newly elected Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau.

Throughout the month of December, White Gifts were collected and donated to Carty House, a local organization that helps women fleeing their unsafe homes in different countries to seek a new start here in Canada. Jackie, a representative from the organization, came to speak to the Youth and others, about the work that is done by the organization.

Because of the size of the group, we partnered with Woodroffe United Church, which also has a small Youth Group. Just before Christmas, on December 22, 2015, the two Youth Groups, with Rev Kathryn Peate from Woodroffe United Church, made casseroles for our Pastoral Care teams and Ministers to share with the people they visit who might like to receive them. Britannia was represented by Kim (and her friend, Giana), and Helen and Deanna Giles. There were three participants from Woodroffe United Church (Erin, Ewan and Lexie) and their leader, Kim.

Since Christmas, Megan and Greg, with the coordination of Jennifer Trewartha, have produced Random Acts of Kindness cards. (Random Acts of Kindness Day was on February 17.) They have written ideas on the backs of them that give members of the congregation suggestions as to a random act of kindness that they could carry out (e.g. give someone a hug, buy someone a coffee, watch a sports game with someone, go stargazing at the park with a friend).

Upcoming events include an Emma's entourage initiative, under the direction of Kelvin Stanke, and more activities with the Woodroffe United Church youth group.

We would love to hear from you if you have any questions, concerns or would like more information. Deanna and the Sunday School Youth Contacts can be reached at:

sundayschool@magma.ca or Deanna's mobile number 613-883-0969.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to working with your child(ren).

Deanna Giles-Vail
Superintendent Sunday School

Sunday School Music Coordinator: Valerie Baldwin

Our Sunday School Music Coordinator, Val Baldwin, has increased the variety of newer songs that are adaptable to the Sound System for present and future debuts from the Sunday School Singers. The Singers and the congregation enjoy all the work that is put into this and seeing the joy of singing in the children. Thank you Val, on behalf of the Church families for your devoted talents and passion.

The Librarians: Barbara Blair and Mary Townson

Both the subject and alphabetical listings of the BUC Library are up-to-date. The listings are in the blue binder located in the Library.

Work has started on documenting the sheet music available at the church but it is a work in progress.

A number of books were donated which were much appreciated. A gentle reminder when donating books: they should be from the year 2000 and earlier. Please give us your name when making a donation so we can put a label in the book in recognition of your gift.

We welcome suggestions that would assist you in using your Library.

Barbara and Mary

Worship Committee Report for 2015

Submitted by: Dori Jensen

Purpose of this Committee:

We assist Rev. Jim in planning Sunday worship services, choosing hymns, readings and dramatic presentations. This committee prepares communion and finds communion servers, and also prepares the Advent wreath and finds Advent readers. The committee also enhances the atmosphere of the sanctuary of the church with seasonal decorations. We also organize the SonRise Easter service and also books the church annual picnic.

Members of this Committee:

Dori Jensen, Chair
Rev. Jim
Mary Lou Hulan, Choir Director
Roelie Jackson
Candice Armstrong
Heather Wallace

Highlights and Contributions:

- Mary Lou Hulan, Organist/Choir Director, continues to organize anthems for each Sunday as well as an “everybody come sing” one Sunday each month.
- It is a highlight to see children, as well as adults, participating in the serving of communion (thank you to Sandra Winacott and Heather Wallace for helping to prepare communion) and in the readings for the lighting of the Advent wreath.
- It is another highlight to see the continued response to Ada's Mitten Tree.
- The Blue Christmas Service, planned by Rev Jim, is much needed in our busy lives

and offers an opportunity for a quieter, more reflective service for all, but especially for those for whom Christmas is not always a happy occasion.

- Both of our Christmas Eve Services are another highlight and are always well attended. This year both of the services were enhanced by individual candlelight and, as always, communion was served at the 9:00pm service.
- Another highlight was the church picnic, held at Britannia Park Trolley Station. Many thanks to Mary Lou and Quinn Farrell for organizing the BBQ and to all who helped organize picnic games for all ages and a good time was had by all.

Music Director's Report for 2015

Submitted by: Mary Lou Hulan

Lots of excitement for our choir and music ministry this year!

In May, we welcomed Minni Ang and her family to our church and our music ministry. Minni plays percussion and piano, and has greatly added to our services, accompanying hymns and anthems, and improvising on the piano when I play the organ!

Our choir gained a new member, and mandolin player, Danielle Masse, and welcomed back Jennifer Trewartha.

In June, we purchased a new Digital Piano, thanks to the help of the Trustees, with a majority of the cost being covered by the Smith Fund. This piano has allowed us to have more even sound distribution throughout the church, as well as providing many other sound options, transposing, etc.

On a sad note, in August, we were greatly saddened by the passing of Emma Johnson, whose presence will be missed both in our choir and our church.

A huge thanks to our regular choir members who come out to practice every week on Thursday nights, and to those who practice at home, and join us on Sundays to sing the anthems.

Thanks also to Jean-Pierre Lafleur, who has played trumpet at our Remembrance Day services for several years now, and to the many guests who have come to sing/play in the summer for us: Cassidy Van Bevel and her mom, Kelly-Marie Murphy, Barry Meredith, Nadine Levin, Steve Vesely, and Kathy Banville.

Many thanks to the congregation, who continues to be supportive and open to the various styles and types of music that we choose each week! I am looking forward to another year of music ministry at Britannia United!

Mission, Service and Outreach Report for 2015

Submitted by: Barbara Rafter

Purpose of this Committee: to raise awareness in the congregation about how the Mission and Service Fund supports local, national and international ministries, and to provide information about local Outreach projects. Current information is provided

through Sunday bulletin inserts, bulletin board displays, Minute for Mission readings and articles in the church newsletter. We encourage monetary support through offering envelopes and the PAR program. Note – the Benevolent Offering taken up at every communion service is administered by our Minister and used for special outreach needs within our congregation and our local community.

Members of the Mission, Service and Outreach Committee:

Barbara Rafter (Chair), Rev. Jim Baldwin, Marilyn and Verne Bruce, Georgina Garland, Wendy Gallant and Doug Thicke.

Our target for 2015: \$16,500.00 - Actual for 2015: \$14,007 84.6% of goal

Highlights of Our Work:

- encouraged donations to the United Church Emergency Relief Fund for the Nepal Earthquake and also the Syrian Relief Fund;
- hosted an area-wide Mission and Service Workshop on Saturday, March 28;
- we are pleased to acknowledge the fundraising efforts of the Youth Group for the Feed the Children Goat Project. Sales of ice cream after two Sunday services raised a freewill offering which enabled the purchase of six goats for third world families (\$50/goat);
- hosted the October 17th Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy Celebration and Farewell to mark the closing of OW ECC after 31 years of service. Note – funds formerly allocated to OW ECC will be directed to Britannia Community Outreach;
- members participated in meetings of the West End Interfaith committee, in the World Day of Prayer service at Bells Corners U.C. in March, and weekly Minute for Mission readings;
- maintained a roster of readers for Minute for Mission;
- local Outreach activities included – volunteers assisting with visits and services at West End Villa, with Seniors Tea on Thursday afternoons and serving dinners on special occasions at the Ottawa Mission; providing space for AI-Anon meetings; donating stamps to the Oxfam Stamp project which focuses on women's rights; collecting and distributing food and money donations for the Britannia Woods Food Pantry; note – Edith Kenny raised \$196 for the Food Pantry through the sale of homemade baked beans!!
- Ada's Mitten Tree and White Gift donations of warm clothing, mitts, pjs, sweaters, etc. went to Carty House, a communal residence for refugee women that offers transitional housing, safety, food and support as they move through the refugee system;
- the Craft group donated knit products to the White Gift project, to native peoples and to the Ottawa Mission;
- on November 29, Jackie Romaro spoke briefly to the congregation and in depth to the Youth Group about the mission of Carty House.

Contributions to the Life of Our Church:

There are many opportunities for the congregation to donate time and talents to Mission, Service and Outreach projects. Studies have shown that the most vibrant, active churches are those involved in mission projects. Thank you for your participation, prayers, faithful encouragement and sustaining financial support.

Pastoral Care Report for 2015

Submitted by: Dori Jensen

The Purpose of this Committee: is to assist Rev. Jim in addressing and nurturing the spiritual/pastoral needs of the congregation.

Members of this Committee:

Verne and Marilyn Bruce, Dick Howey, Diane Houston, Donna Armstrong, Emma Johnson (until May 2015), Kathy Denny (who is on a leave of absence), Dori Jensen, chair, with much guidance by Rev. Jim Baldwin. We also welcomed Eileen Ball and Mini Ang as new members of this committee.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Evelyn Collins (Jan 2, 2015), Emma Johnson (August 20, 2015), Earl Tupper (Oct13, 2015), Valcina Isaac (Dec 26, 2015) and Myrtle Daubney (Dec 29, 2015).

It is, however, a great pleasure to welcome so many new people to our church during this past year.

Highlights

- One of the highlights of working on this committee is helping others, as well as ourselves, know that we are all children of God and are worthy of God's love and that we can all help spread the light of God's love throughout the world.
- Another highlight is the opportunity to meet new people as well as getting to know our "regulars" more fully.

Contributions to the Church:

- Visitation in local hospitals, extended care facilities, retirement homes, private homes, and over a coffee at local coffee shops.
- Sometimes we just listen to people that need to talk to someone.
- Organization of communion so that it is ready for Rev. Jim to provide to those who are shut in.
- We send birthday, greeting cards at the appropriate times.
- We welcome new people into our congregation and introduce them to our regulars.
- We help make Britannia Church feel like home to all.

Ministry & Personnel Report for 2015

Submitted by: Kelvin Stanke and Mary Lou Farrell

Members of the Committee:

Co-Chairs are Kelvin Stanke and Mary Lou Farrell; Judy Howey is the liaison for the Music Director, Roelie Jackson is the liaison for the custodian, Mary Lou Farrell is the liaison for the secretary, Kelvin Stanke is the liaison for the minister and Scott Hughes, member at large and secretary.

The M & P committee met throughout the year, in person, via email, and by phone. The various members of the committee worked closely with each of the staff and our church musician to manage minor issues and to assist them in any of their needs throughout the year.

Annual reviews were completed and everyone is very comfortable and happy with their position and ongoing duties.

The committee has worked with Rev Jim, various outside resources, and the lay preachers committee in planning Jim's upcoming sabbatical scheduled to begin on Monday June 13 and ends September 5, with 2 weeks of holidays to follow. Dori Jensen will be leading worship for two Sunday's on and one Sunday off, to meet the required guidelines by the Lay Preachers committee. The off Sunday's will be covered by guest speakers, the choir, and Rev. Debbie Roy for one Sunday in August for communion.

The M & P committee has requested salaries and the musician's contract be increased by 2% for the upcoming 2016 year in accordance to the United Church of Canada's guidelines.

Trustees Report for 2015

Submitted by: Donald Judd

The Purpose of this Committee: .hold all of the property of the Congregation for the use and benefit of the Congregation as part of the United Church. The activities of the Trustees are restricted and governed variously by public statutes, the United Church's Trusts of Model Deed, and the lawful directions of the Church Council.'

To comply with legal requirements, the names and addresses of the Trustees for the 2015 Year are listed below:

Donald Judd, Chair	2559 Chambers Ave., Ottawa, ON, K2B 7S1
Gail Wyse, Secretary	50 Magnolia Way, Kemptville, ON, K0G 1J0
Horace Duncan	2433 Sudbury Ave, Ottawa, ON, K2C 1L6
Arthur Buss ¹	2018 Robertson Road, Nepean, ON, K2H 1C6
Eileen Chambers	2366 Drury Lane, Ottawa, ON, K2C 1G5
Norman Davis ²	1340 Stittsville Main St, Stittsville, ON, K2S 1V8
Robert Livingstone	37 Rueter St., Ottawa, ON, K2J 3Z9
Bud Lusk	736 Windemere Ave., Ottawa, ON, K2A 2X4
John Todd ⁴	702-2841 Richmond Rd., Ottawa, ON, K2B 6C5
Earl Tupper ⁵	24 Herrington Ct., Ottawa, ON, K2H 5N7
Robert McKenzie ³	3015 Richmond Rd., Ottawa, ON, K2B 6S6

Notes: 1. Mr. Buss was elected to be a Trustee Emeritus at the Britannia AGM.
2. Mr. Davis was elected to be a Trustee Emeritus at the Britannia AGM.
3. Mr. McKenzie was elected at a Congregational Meeting on Nov. 22, 2015.
4. Mr. Todd is Chair of the Trustees Finance Committee.
5. Mr Tupper was deceased on October 13, 2015.

During 2015, the Trustees held one regularly scheduled meeting on May 15 to discuss our insurance coverages and approve the payment of the premium. In response to requests from the Church Treasurer, the Trustees also approved at the May meeting the sale of portions of our investments (\$13,400 and \$ 6,600 from the Smith Fund and the Manse Fund respectively for a total of \$20,000) which were added to the General Operating Fund of the Church. In addition to this regular meeting, the Chair held ad-hoc meetings with each Trustee individually to discuss the consolidation of the IPC Investments and IPC Securities under one agent, namely Craig and Taylor. This consolidation was effectively completed by December 31. The purpose of this action is to simplify the management of our major investments.

The end of year amount in the Manse Fund was \$181,188.63, in the Smith Fund there was \$398,729.00 (down from the November 30 amount of \$418,855.00, and the Stock Fund contained \$4,276.50. (This is a special fund that is used to handle any stocks that are donated to the Church). The stocks are cashed as soon as possible after receipt and the money is dispersed in accordance with instructions from the donor and are reported by the Treasurer in the Church financial statements. The total amount of the investments that are currently managed by the Trustees at the end of December 2014 was thus \$579,917.63. (The Stock Fund amount is not included because it will be cashed out as soon as possible and the proceeds added to the General Operating account)

The Trustees have found that it is an operational policy of the companies with whom we deal and provide investment and insurance services to group-run organizations, that only one Church contact is permitted. While in some cases, a secondary contact is allowed, companies have advised us that they will refuse to enter into discussions with anyone other than the designated Church representatives. For the record, the designated 2015 contacts are listed below:

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>
Manse Fund		
- IPC Mutual Funds	Donald Judd	(Only one contact allowed)
- IPC Securities (stocks)	Donald Judd	Horace Duncan
Smith Fund	John Todd	Horace Duncan
Stock Fund	Horace Duncan	Donald Judd
Insurance	Donald Judd	(Only one contact allowed)

If any member of the Congregation has any concerns that are associated with insurance or investments, they should contact the appropriate Trustee to discuss the issue.

The insurance coverages and cost were reviewed at the April 15 meeting prior to the policy renewal on June 1. The Chair pointed out that The Directors and Officers Liability insurance coverage has been extended at no cost again for another year. (The premiums are actually paid for by the United Church of Canada from the Group Funded Account.) The premium for the insurance package was \$4,440.92 which was approved by the Trustees.

What follows is a condensed version of our coverages and is provided as part of this report in response to comments by a member of the Congregation who felt that everyone should be aware of the protections that we have. The entire 140 page policy is available for download in case anyone is interested.

1. Property

- i) The Church buildings and contents are covered with replacement cost insurance up to \$2,919,645.00.
- ii) Earthquake insurance is included under the policy. The deductible is 5% of the insured value subject to a minimum deductible of \$100,000.00.

2. Boiler and Machinery

This coverage protects against problems due to "sudden and accidental breakdown of boilers..." to a limit of \$30,000,000.00. The premium for this coverage is \$138.00 with a \$500.00 deductible so it is obvious that the insurer considers that this risk is very low.

3. Crime Insurance

This covers the Congregation against a wide range of losses including employee dishonesty, loss of money, forgery, etc. and the coverages range from \$25,000.00 to \$100,000.00 depending on the type of occurrence. There is a \$500.00 deductible for each and every loss'.

4. Commercial General Liability

- Bodily injury & property damage \$2,000,000.00
 - Abuse and harassment 2,000,000.00
 - Professional Services errors and omissions 2,000,000.00
 - Medical payments (each person) 10,000.00
- (The deductibles vary between \$250.00 and \$1000.00 per occurrence)

5. Umbrella Liability Insurance

This coverage was not part of the policy this year.

6. Directors & Officers Liability Insurance

- Limit of liability: \$10,000,000.00
- The deductible amount is \$1,000.00. The protection is provided under the National Program for United Church of Canada.

7. Premium

The premium for the coverages is as follows:

Policy renewal	\$3,809.00
Tax	253.92
Service fee	350.00

Tax on service fee	<u>28.00</u>
Totals	\$4,440.92

The Trustees continue to manage the portfolios of major investments for the Church with considerable thought given to maximizing returns while accepting reasonable levels of risk. Additionally, insurance coverage under the United Church of Canada policy is managed through a local insurance broker to ensure that we have adequate protection for the building and contents as well as appropriate liability coverage for Officers of the Council and employees. As part of this insurance coverage, an inventory of the contents of the Church is maintained by the Trustees and members of the Congregation are asked to please inform the Chair of the Board of Trustees if items are added to or removed from the Church.

Stewards Report for 2015

Submitted by: Helen Hutcheson, Secretary

Purpose of the Committee: To monitor the financial and temporal affairs of the Congregation, ensure that sufficient funds are available to provide for staff salaries and operating expenses of the Church and Presbytery, account for all moneys received and disbursed, and ensure that all property is maintained.

Members of the Committee:

Verne Bruce	Helen Hutcheson, Secretary
Don Jackson	Bob Johnston
Bob Livingstone	David Mackenzie (until November 2015)
Ken McBride	Gertrude Rurihafi, Treasurer
Earl Tupper, Chair (until October 2015)	Heather Wallace
Gail Wyse	

The Committee was saddened by the passing of its chair, Earl Tupper, in October 2015. Until a new chair comes forward, members are chairing the meetings and presenting reports to Council on a rotational basis.

In November, David Mackenzie resigned from the Committee for health reasons. His work as Treasurer and his contributions to the property, security, lease management and food voucher programs are extensive and much appreciated by the Committee and all members of the Congregation.

Should anyone be interested in joining the Committee of Stewards, please see one of the above listed members.

Highlights of our Work:

- Throughout the year, the Committee held 5 meetings to follow up on the work of the Committee and its Sub-Committees.

- In addition to the accomplishments outlined in the reports by the Chairs of the Sub-Committees, the following was achieved:
 - The bench and railing in the choir loft were removed to make room for the drum set.
 - Blinds were acquired for the windows in the Little Chapel.
 - In June 2015, Heather Wallace painted the three church signs included on the church property. All paint and materials were donated by Trish Stanke of Hampton Paints Ltd.
 - The following fundraisers were organized: Ham Dinner, Murder Mystery, Garage Sale, Strawberry Social, Bazaar, Craft Sale, Frozen Berry Sale, MacMillan's, Busters Gift Certificates.

Contributions to the Life of our Church:

The Committee of Stewards manages the Church's finances and property which are essential to the provision of services to our congregation and community.

Property Sub-Committee Report

Submitted by: Don Jackson

Work Completed in 2015:

- Replaced the over head garage door with a single entrance door
- Installed new electrical outlet for the new digital piano in sanctuary
- Installed ceiling fan and light in kitchen
- Made sure that the furnace/boiler was working properly for the building
- Replaced existing thermostats with modern thermostats in the foyer and kitchen

Work to be Completed in 2016:

- Install metal roof on the garage
- Install a fence along property line on southern side of the church, out to the property line by the sidewalk at Pinecrest Road
- Install motion switches in all four washrooms for both lights and fans
- Upgrade parking lot flood lights and relocate switch to the inside of the church
- Upgrade LED lamps throughout the church
- Installing lights (possible low voltage solar system) over the church sign
- Upgrade outside night lights because they are not bright enough

Food Voucher Sub-Committee Report

Submitted by: David Mackenzie

Purpose of the Sub-Committee:

To raise funds for church operations by selling food vouchers.

Members of the Sub-Committee: David Mackenzie (Convener), Candice Armstrong

Highlights of our Work:

Profits are down again this year. The following numbers show the trend for the last five years:

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
\$4,104	\$3,906	\$3,215	\$3,093	\$2,320

Due to lack of sales in 2015, the Food Voucher Program has been cancelled. All vouchers had been sold as of the end of November 2015.

Financials:

Opening Balance at selling 1 January 2015 - \$7,485.00

Balance at selling 31 December 2015 - \$00.00

Bulk buy of gift cards, 4 January and 10 May 2015 - \$38,000.00 expense, provides \$40,000.00 of Loblaw gift cards

Yearly Gross sales by the Church was - \$36,070.00

Yearly Gross sales by the Office was - \$10,340.00

Net profit for the year 2015 is \$2,320.50.

Office Automation Sub-Committee Report

Submitted by: Bob Johnston

Purpose of the Sub- Committee:

To ensure that the computers and peripherals used by the Minister and the Secretary during the performance of their duties are capable of the requirements that are placed on them. To maintain the Britannia United Church web site; www.BritanniaUnitedChurch.ca.

Members and Responsibilities of the Sub-Committee:

- Bob Johnston, Chairperson: responsible for office automation system and web-site design and maintenance.
- Candice Armstrong, Member: user representative, responsible for system monitoring, minor maintenance and consumables replenishment.

Highlights of Our Work:

- Inconsistent performance of the WiFi connection to the office router was resolved by installing a direct connection from the back of the sanctuary to the office. This has enabled a better connection from the sanctuary computer through to Dropbox, our on-line resource for sharing files.
- The church was contacted for a variety of purposes nine times using the Contact Us page on the web site.

Contributions to the Life of Our Church:

Britannia United Church communicates with the larger United Church community through its web-site. Service audios are edited to remove spikes and miscellaneous noise, audio levels are balanced and the audio is then uploaded to the web-site. If there is a sermon, it is extracted and uploaded separately from the service audio. Events and meetings are uploaded to the Home page. Bulletins, announcements, annual reports and newsletters are uploaded to the Publications pages. Other miscellaneous information, such as our organizational structure can be found on other pages of the site. Our Facebook and Twitter presence on the web continues to be a busy place. Thanks to Candice Armstrong for administering the Facebook page and Brenda Hamilton for the Twitter account. Just click on their icons on the church's home page if you want to participate. (You will need an account with these social media systems to participate.)

Memorial Garden Sub-Committee Report

Purpose of the Sub-Committee: To create floral beauty through the seasons.

Members of the Sub-Committee: Dianne Tupper, Roelie Jackson, Hubert Frenken, Heather Wallace

Highlights of our Work:

- Two donations were received. Roelie Jackson and Dianne Tupper spread black mulch and added fertilizer sticks to the larger trees. Roelie Jackson purchased extra burlap for winter wrapping and submitted a bill. Dianne Tupper acquired a hose winder for the hose.
- Don Jackson and Barry Meredith helped Roelie Jackson and Dianne Tupper clear the overgrown front bed and two small emerald cedars were added along with some selected transplants.
- Hubert Frenken continued to donate and plant spring flowers in the two beds by the church steps. Hubert Frenken and Heather Wallace worked together and planted Hubert Frenken's donated tulip bulbs in the fall. Weeding and watering through the summer occurred with the help of Larry Woods and all Sub-Committee members.

Kitchen Sub-Committee Report

Submitted by: Verne Bruce

Purpose of the Sub-Committee: To oversee the kitchen facilities and equipment and their use on Sundays and during special events.

Members of the Sub-Committee: Verne Bruce, Chair, Valda Boland, Roelie Jackson, Heather Wallace and Sandra Winacott

Highlights of our Work:

- The Kitchen Sub-Committee would like to thank Don Jackson for installing the additional ceiling fan and light in the kitchen.
- The purchase of a new dispenser for 12-18" cutter for the plastic film wrap.
- The purchase of a new fridge/freezer for the kitchen downstairs to be used by Mindware. The cost of the fridge/freezer was covered by a donation from one of our church families. This was much appreciated.

Memorial Sub-Committee Report

Submitted by: Bob Livingstone

Purpose of the Sub-Committee: To keep a record of all memorial donations received.

Members of the Sub-Committee: Bob Livingstone, Norm Davis, Horace Duncan, Earl Tupper (passed away October).

Highlights of our Work:

- Use Memorial Funds for the purchase of or contributions to specific items for the church in loving memory of those who have passed.
- Receive items donated in loving memory of family members presented to the church.
- Donations this year have been received in memory of Evelyn Collins, Emma Johnson, Ann Tomlinson and Earl Tupper.

Contributions to the Life of our Church: We keep the memorial book up to date so that there is an accurate record of the members of our church who have passed on and what has been left in their memory.

Treasurer's Report

Prepared by: Gertrude Rurihafi / Vern Bruce

Below are the financial statements of Britannia United Church for the year ending December 31, 2015.

In 2015, we started the year with a budget declaring a deficit of (\$21,649). The deficit was due to a shortfall in our offerings of (\$47,968) but the deficit was decreased with expenses being under budget.

The Church's many fund raising projects were budgeted to raise \$23,197. The actual amount raised was slightly short of the budget, bringing in \$16,603. We were able to generate additional revenues of \$51,563 from renting out Church facilities to other groups, (this was slightly above target.) Our Manse/Smith Funds were healthy enough in 2015 to allow us to draw \$20,000 proceeds towards the operations of the Church. Still with the short falls discussed above we finished the year with a deficit of (\$26,319).

In addition, in 2015 the congregation contributed \$14,007 to the Mission and Service Fund although we didn't quite meet our goal of \$16,500. The congregation supported a number of outreach programs, including:

- a) Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy \$2,625.00.
- b) Britannia Woods Community House (Food Cupboard) \$1475.00
- c) Syria Relief Fund \$855.00
- d) Joe Johnson Trust Fund \$1,900.00
- e) Nepal Earthquake Fund \$780.00
- f) We Day - Feed the Children (Goats) \$556.00
- g) Syrian Refugee Family \$500.00

A \$4276 donation of stocks was given to the church in 2015 and was deposited into our Stock Fund account. These investments are monitored by the Board of Trustees on behalf of Britannia's congregation.

It is noted that the committee chairs managed their budgets carefully and ended the year, in the most part, within budget. We will have to continue to be as frugal in 2016. All committees will have to ensure that expenditures in 2016 are necessary and warranted. With the combined efforts of everyone, hopefully we will be able to improve our financial situation.

Many thanks to everyone for your contributions of time and financial support during 2015.

**BALANCE SHEET
December 31, 2015**

ASSETS	2015	2014
Current Assets (grocery coupons, cash, bank, GICs)	50,599	69,603
Manse Investment Fund	177,325	181,272
Stock Fund	4,276	5,473
Isobel Elizabeth Smith Fund	398,729	426,200
Other Assets	2,548	
Fixed Assets	323,638	320,405
Total:	957,115	1,002,953
LIABILITIES		
Accrued Funds for Minister Sabbatical	10,400	8,000
Other Liabilities	18,652	18,299
Total:	29,052	26,299
EQUITY		
Accumulated Current Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(46,362)	(21,648)
Investment in Fixed Assets	323,562	320,405
Manse Investment Fund	177,325	181,272
Building Improvement Fund	38,442	37,447
The Isobel Elizabeth Smith Fund	398,729	426,200
Stock Fund	4,276	5,473
Other Restricted Funds	32,091	27,505
Total:	957,115	1,002,953

Purchased fixed assets are recorded at cost. Contributed assets are not recorded in the accounts of the congregation. Land and Buildings are not depreciated over their estimated useful lives. Furniture and Equipment are depreciated on the declining balance basis at a rate of 20 percent per year.

Revenue Recognition

Contributions, including offerings, are recorded as revenue in the appropriate fund, when received. The value of contributed services provided by volunteers is not recognized in the financial statements.

Manse Investment Fund

The balance in the Manse Fund, as of December 31 2015, consists of the original proceeds from the sale of the manse in 1997 of \$133,440, plus net accumulated investment income, gains and losses, less transfers to the General Operating Fund since

that date. The Manse Fund investments are monitored by the Board of Trustees on behalf of Britannia's congregation.

The Isobel Elizabeth Smith Memorial Fund

The Isobel Elizabeth Smith Memorial Fund was established in 2010 by Mr. Art Smith in memory of his wife Isobel. The balance in the fund as of December 31, 2015 consists of the original gift of \$297,638.00 plus net accumulated investment income, gains and losses less transfers to the General Operating Fund since the date established. This investment is monitored by the Board of Trustees on behalf of Britannia's congregation.

Grocery Coupons Fundraiser

Grocery coupons were periodically purchased in sufficient quantities to take advantage of higher discount rates (Britannia had been receiving a 5% discount upon purchase). Profit is recorded when the coupons are sold and the cost of purchases of the coupons is recorded as an asset. This fundraiser was discontinued in November 2015.

Accrual Minister's Sabbatical

The Minister is entitled to an annual Education Leave and a Sabbatical every five years. In 2007, the Official Board adopted a new policy regarding the Minister's Sabbatical. Funds are now accrued every year (\$200/month) to pay the cost of a replacement minister during the Sabbatical period. An Education Allowance is accrued from year-to-year, in order to offset the Minister's educational expenses. In the event of the Minister's departure from Britannia, these funds shall revert back to the General Operating Fund.

Mission and Service Fund

Mission and Service Fund contributions are collected by Britannia on behalf of the United Church of Canada and are maintained in a separate fund. These funds are not used for Britannia's expenses. All Mission and Service Fund contributions are forwarded to the United Church of Canada on a quarterly basis.

Building Improvement Fund

The Building Improvement Fund is used to receive contributions for periodic building upgrades.

Income from Projects

Income from projects (net of expenses) during the year was as follows;

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Bazaar	\$2,845	\$3,078	\$4,000
Garage Sales	\$1,056	\$1,151	\$1,000
Crafters Table Rentals	\$1,091	\$ 843	\$1,000
Strawberry Social	\$1,578	\$1,570	\$2,000
Grocery Coupons	\$3,088	\$2,362	\$ -0-
Dinners	\$4,635	\$4,638	\$5,000
Frozen Berry Sales	\$ 263	\$ 363	\$ 400
Craft Group Sales	\$1,712	\$1,840	\$1,500
Miscellaneous	<u>\$2,161</u>	<u>\$ 758</u>	<u>\$ 950</u>

Income from Projects	\$18,429	\$16,603	\$15,850
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Budget 2015

	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Budget 2016
REVENUE				
Offering	\$ 105,273	\$ 125,151	\$ 96,268	\$ 105,000
Use of Facilities-Primary Tenant	\$ 38,500	\$ 38,500	\$ 39,250	\$ 39,400
Use of Facilities - Other Sources	\$ 11,488	\$ 11,365	\$ 12,313	\$ 8,220
Projects	\$ 18,429	\$ 18,950	\$ 16,603	\$ 15,850
Restricted Funds	\$ 26,000	\$ 27,000	\$ 13,565	\$ 68,500
Other (Donations/Bequest/etc)	\$ 3,410	\$ 4,425	\$ 20,008	\$ 3,500
	<u>\$ 203,100</u>	<u>\$ 225,391</u>	<u>\$ 198,007</u>	<u>\$ 240,470</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Salaries, Allowances, Benefits	\$ 158,711	\$ 163,591	\$ 160,452	\$ 167,875
Property Expenses	\$ 38,656	\$ 36,850	\$ 39,312	\$ 41,815
Programs	\$ 11,536	\$ 12,156	\$ 10,981	\$ 13,061
Session	\$ 3,164	\$ 4,720	\$ 3,734	\$ 6,905
Administration	\$ 9,304	\$ 11,075	\$ 8,241	\$ 10,900
	<u>\$ 221,371</u>	<u>\$ 228,392</u>	<u>\$ 222,720</u>	<u>\$ 240,556</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>-\$ 18,271</u>	<u>-\$ 3,001</u>	<u>-\$ 24,713</u>	<u>-\$ 86</u>

Reconciliation of Stewards Envelope Report for 2015

Stewards Envelope Report	2015
General Fund	\$111,730
Mission & Services	14,005
Other & Special Requests	<u>9,002</u>
Total Envelope Giving's for the year	\$134,737

Treasurer's Reconciliation to Envelope Giving's

Offering	\$94,960
Minus Loose Offering	(2,057)

Mission & Services	\$14,005
Minus non receipted	(20)

Restricted Funds

Memorial Fund General	\$ 2,320
Other & Projects	16,603
Sunday School Funds	827
Building Fund	995
Benevolent	2,587
UCC Observer	240
BUC Stock	<u>4,277</u>
Treasurer's Total	\$134,737

Envelope Report

BRITANNIA UNITED CHURCH

ENVELOPE REPORT FOR 2015

GENERAL FUND			MISSION & SERVICE			OTHER & SPECIAL REQUI			TOTAL OF ALL GIVINGS		
REGULAR ENVELOPE GIVERS											
GIVERS	\$	VALUE	GIVERS	\$	VALUE	GIVERS	\$	VALUE	GIVERS	\$	VALUE
50	\$8,647	0-499	17	\$805	0-499	10	\$544	0-499	50	\$9,996	0-499
16	\$8,566	500-999	7	\$953	500-999	8	\$715	500-999	16	\$10,234	500-999
8	\$7,550	1000-1099	3	\$485	1000-1099	3	\$230	1000-1099	8	\$8,265	1000-1099
3	\$3,030	1100-1199	3	\$330	1100-1199	2	\$220	1100-1199	3	\$3,580	1100-1199
1	\$1,110	1200-1299	1	\$60	1200-1299	1	\$80	1200-1299	1	\$1,250	1200-1299
2	\$2,348	1300-1399	2	\$291	1300-1399	1	\$20	1300-1399	2	\$2,659	1300-1399
1	\$1,446	1400-1499	0	\$0	1400-1499	1	\$25	1400-1499	1	\$1,471	1400-1499
0	\$0	1500-1599	0	\$0	1500-1599	0	\$0	1500-1599	0	\$0	1500-1599
2	\$2,905	1600-1699	2	\$275	1600-1699	2	\$80	1600-1699	2	\$3,260	1600-1699
2	\$2,312	1700-1799	1	\$379	1700-1799	2	\$775	1700-1799	2	\$3,466	1700-1799
6	\$11,889	1800-2999	5	\$1,077	1800-2999	5	\$762	1800-2999	6	\$13,728	1800-2999
3	\$11,929	3000+	3	\$4,200	3000+	3	\$1,650	3000+	3	\$17,779	3000+
94	\$61,732	TOTAL	44	\$8,855	TOTAL	38	\$5,101	TOTAL	94	\$75,688	TOTAL

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVERS											
GIVERS	\$	VALUE	GIVERS	\$	VALUE	GIVERS	\$	VALUE	GIVERS	\$	VALUE
8	\$1,480	0-499	3	\$240	0-499	1	\$205	0-499	8	\$1,925	0-499
7	\$4,241	500-999	6	\$619	500-999	5	\$368	500-999	7	\$5,228	500-999
2	\$1,235	1000-1099	1	\$420	1000-1099	1	\$418	1000-1099	2	\$2,073	1000-1099
1	\$900	1100-1199	1	\$110	1100-1199	1	\$145	1100-1199	1	\$1,155	1100-1199
3	\$2,910	1200-1299	3	\$375	1200-1299	2	\$315	1200-1299	3	\$3,600	1200-1299
0	\$0	1300-1399	0	\$0	1300-1399	0	\$0	1300-1399	0	\$0	1300-1399
1	\$1,406	1400-1499	0	\$0	1400-1499	0	\$0	1400-1499	1	\$1,406	1400-1499
1	\$1,140	1500-1599	1	\$300	1500-1599	1	\$60	1500-1599	1	\$1,500	1500-1599
1	\$600	1600-1699	1	\$959	1600-1699	1	\$94	1600-1699	1	\$1,653	1600-1699
0	\$0	1700-1799	0	\$0	1700-1799	0	\$0	1700-1799	0	\$0	1700-1799
4	\$12,507	1800-2999	4	\$726	1800-2999	3	\$640	1800-2999	4	\$13,873	1800-2999
3	\$12,553	3000+	3	\$1,101	3000+	3	\$1,590	3000+	3	\$15,244	3000+
31	\$38,972	TOTAL	23	\$4,850	TOTAL	18	\$3,835	TOTAL	31	\$47,657	TOTAL

NON- ENVELOPE GIVERS											
GIVERS	\$	VALUE	GIVERS	\$	VALUE	GIVERS	\$	VALUE	GIVERS	\$	VALUE
54	\$4,401	0-499	1	\$300	0-499	4	\$66	0-499	54	\$4,767	0-499
1	\$625	500-999	0	\$0	500-999	0	\$0	500-999	1	\$625	500-999
1	\$1,000	1000-1199	0	\$0	1000-1199	0	\$0	1000-1299	1	\$1,000	1000-1299
0	\$0	1550-1599	0	\$0	1550-1599	0	\$0	1550-1599	0	\$0	1550-1599
0	\$0	1600-1699	0	\$0	1600-1699	0	\$0	1600-1699	0	\$0	1600-1699
1	\$5,000	1800-2999	0	\$0	1800-2999	0	\$0	1800-2999	1	\$5,000	1800-2999
57	\$11,026	TOTAL	1	\$300	TOTAL	4	\$66	TOTAL	57	\$11,392	TOTAL

182	\$111,730	TOTAL	68	\$14,005	TOTAL	60	\$9,002	TOTAL	182	\$134,737	TOTAL
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Membership and Attendance for 2015

CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total January 1	349	347	312	211	208
New Members	9	3	3	7	2
Transfer by Certificate	9	1	2	7	2
Profession of Faith	0	2	1	0	0
Transferred to non-resident roll	0	1	2	0	0
Removal	11	15	104	10	5
Transfer by Certificate	2	2	1	0	1
By Death	8	10	4	10	4
By Session	1	3	99	0	0
Total as of December 31	347	334	211	208	
Active Members	304	231	154	167	154
Non-Resident Members	57	53	45	37	31
Member Families	214	187	90	102	121
Number of Identifiable Supporters	239	223	137	144	138
Number of Identifiable Supporters M&S	71	64	46	48	47
Funerals	9	7	9	10	4
Marriages	5	0	3	5	3
Baptisms	1	5	1	0	3
Holy Communion	14	14	12	12	13

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Abigail Grace Doucette, daughter of Christa and Blake Doucette.

Samuel Ross Doucette, son of Christa and Blake Doucette.

Carlie Pamela Wyse, daughter of Erica and David Wyse.

Senior's Tea Report for 2015

Submitted by: Maggie Taylor

We are a group of seniors, and those who are seniors at heart, who meet Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:30pm. We play games such as bridge, cribbage and scrabble, followed by tea and treats at 3:00 pm. We welcome church members and friends as well as folk from the community.

Recently we have been receiving calls and visits from organizations such as Landmark Court and Hunt Club Manor. Geraldine and Emma brought treats for our tea time and gave a short presentation on the facilities that are available to seniors in their residences.

I am currently arranging for Zarina of "Be Well Mobile Fitness" to make a presentation about the services she provides for seniors. She works with those recovering from stroke and those just home from hospital and needing physio. She also works with individuals living with Parkinsons.

On May 14th we enjoyed our end-of-year luncheon at The Panda Garden. This left us with \$130.45 in the bank for start-up in September.

In October the group voted to have decaffeinated coffee served on Thursdays.

We enjoyed our Christmas dinner at Kristy's on December 10th. We had door prizes for everyone with some left over which we voted to donate to the staff of Kristy's. We have reserved Kristy's for Christmas dinner on December 8, 2016.

After expenses for coffee, filters, tea, milk and door prizes we are left with \$269.86 at the end of 2015.

West End Villa Report for 2015

Submitted by: Donna Armstrong and Valda Boland; Co-Conveners

Purpose of this Committee: To provide residents at West End Villa, who wish to attend a United Church Service, the opportunity to do so every fourth Tuesday with communion every 2nd month.

Members of this Committee:

Donna Armstrong and Valda Boland, Conveners, Rev. Jim Baldwin, Minister, Dori Jensen, Lay Preacher, Verne Bruce, Roelie Jackson, Joan Wilson, Barbara Rafter, Heather Wallace, Sharon Collins, Sandra Winnacott

Highlights of our work:

- To bring patients down from their rooms.
- To hear residents sing familiar hymns
- We missed a few months due to the flu at West End Villa
- We had no service in December due to Christmas holiday

Newsletter Report for 2015

Submitted by: Peter Bain, Editor

Purpose of this Committee: The purpose of the newsletter is to inform members of the congregation and of the outside community of the activities and concerns of the Britannia congregation, the United Church as a whole, and of the local community. It features a mixture of reports and news from members and groups within Britannia United Church, as well as articles from the community.

The Easter newsletter featured a report from the Britannia Woods Food Pantry, while in June we published an extensive report from Mary Lou Hulan on musical activities in the church, plus reflections on Suzart's "Jesus Christ Superstar".

During 2015 we contacted neighbouring churches to solicit information about their activities and will continue to solicit articles from key church and community members and organizations.

Britannia published four newsletters in 2014: Easter, June, Fall, and Christmas. It is distributed electronically via the church website, by e-mail to 101 members, and by hard copy to 120 members (with 10 for visitors).

The Christmas and Easter print issues are sent to members by Canada Post. Members who subscribe by e-mail not only save the church paper and postage costs, but also receive the newsletter earlier.

I wish to thank all the contributors inside and outside the church for their stories, essays, jokes and puzzles, and announcements. My gratitude goes to Reverend Jim for his inspiring sermons and thoughtful Minister's Messages. I am indebted to the Assistant Editor, Leigh Bain, for her help preparing and proofreading the newsletter. Many thanks go to Candice Armstrong for her invaluable assistance producing and distributing each issue, especially her extra efforts when I miss a deadline. I could not do it without her.

Craft Group Report for 2015

Submitted by: The Craft Group

Purpose of this Committee: To design, make and provide articles for sale at various functions including the Strawberry Social, Fall Bazaar, and Christmas Pot Luck with proceeds to the church.

Members of this Committee:

Lillian Anderson, Margaret Jackson, Marjory Arthur, Else Jensen, Valda Boland, Edith Kenney, Beth Craig, Ellen Lalonde, Myrtle Daubney, Joan Saunders, Clara de Gruchy, Lois Winacott, Elizabeth Eyamie, and Phyllis Steele

Highlights of our work:

The following funds were raised by the Craft Group: \$1840.50

Contributions to the Life of our Church:

- We have regular meetings on Monday afternoons from 1:15 – 3:00pm, from September to May, except holidays. We work on our various crafts, enjoy tea and snacks together, discuss upcoming events, check the cupboard regularly to see if anyone may need anything and have a pleasant social time together.
- We always welcome new members and do our best to make special items when requested by members of the church.
- The booties for baptism, hats for preemies and many pairs of mittens for the Ada King Mitten Tree are made by members of the craft group.
- We have three cupboards where we store donated supplies. Anyone at the church is welcome to approach our members if you need any yarn, etc. You are welcome to any supplies we have as they are all donated to us and we really appreciate that.

Addendum 1:

Ottawa Presbytery 2015 Year in Review

Orleans United Church hosted the January 2015 meeting of Ottawa Presbytery. Chair, David Lee thanked Bruce Peterkin for his hard work as provisional Presbytery Secretary during November and December 2014 and welcomed David Sherwin as interim Presbytery Minister during 2015. He reviewed the work of presbytery during the fall of 2014 and looked ahead to its work in the spring of 2015. Presbytery acknowledged the retirement of Rev. Dr. John Montgomery from MacKay United Church. Al Bowker spoke appreciatively of Rev. Montgomery's ministry at MacKay. Rick Balson, President of Montreal and Ottawa Conference, brought greetings from the Conference and spoke about the forthcoming final report of the Comprehensive Review Task Group. Myles Frosst gave a presentation by the Diversity Ministry Team in the absence of the Chair, Jenni Leslie, who was at home with the flu. Myles informed the court that Ottawa Presbytery has been invited to host the annual conference of Affirm United. Nicole Beaudry gave an update on Ministries in French at the General Council level. She noted that Rev. Caroline Penhale of Eglise Grace United and Mr. Felix Bigirimana of Eglise Unie St. Marc have been elected to represent the francophone community on the Executive of General Council. Bob Richards, a consultant with the EDGE Network for New Ministry Development and Ministry Renewal, gave a presentation on "Loving Your Neighbourhood." Jamie Scott, the United Church General Council Officer for Residential Schools for the past 12 years gave a comprehensive update on the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Woodroffe United Church hosted the February meeting. Whit Strong led the court in a remembrance of the life and ministry of Rev. Geerlof Lokhorst, who died in December 2014 at 91 years of age. Chair David Lee noted that the final report of the Comprehensive Review Task Group was expected to be published in March that the Presbytery would be scheduling informal sessions to discuss it before the April Presbytery meeting. David Stafford, Co-Chair of the Pastoral Relations Ministry Team, led presbytery through a review of the new national compensation model for ministers. The new model eliminates Housing Allowances in favour of a new Cost of Living allowance that is included with the minister's salary in the overall compensation package. Anne Montgomery and Rick Balson gave an update on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Closing Events planned for May 31 to June 3. David Illman-White gave an

update on the finances of Centre 507. As reported in the local press, the Centre's government funding has been cut suddenly; the potential loss could be as much as \$350,000 from its annual budget of \$650,000. Five of eight full time staff will have to be laid off, and many programs will have to be cut. Centretown United Church is responding to these cuts by organizing an emergency Town Hall meeting on Wed., Feb. 18th. Teresa Burnett-Cole, a member of the national Theology and InterChurch InterFaith Committee gave a presentation on the United Church's work on the issue of doctor assisted death. Norma McCord gave a presentation on refugee sponsorship. Jenni Leslie spoke about the annual conference and AGM of Affirm United, which is to be held in Ottawa in the summer of 2016. Carolyn Insley informed the presbytery that she is planning to start a presbytery prayer group that would meet monthly to focus on presbytery prayer requests and share stories about the working of the Holy Spirit. Steve Clifton gave an update on the work of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team and thanked all the congregations and volunteers who assisted with Worshiplude 2015. Nicole Beaudry spoke to the court about the General Council's initiative to implement a week of prayer for the Democratic Republic of Congo, in solidarity with our ecumenical partners, with a focus on the women and children of the DRC who are subject to violence and abuse, including rape as a tactic of war. Nicole also gave a brief presentation in French on "la priere – pourquoi prier?"

Kitchissippi United Church hosted the March meeting, a program meeting that focussed on Climate Change. Chair, David Lee introduced the topic and the guest speaker: Dr. John Stone of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Dr. Stone spoke of the science on climate change, emphasising that it is not a hoax, it is a threat that must be addressed seriously and quickly. A panel comprised of Charles Hodgson, a full-time volunteer with Ecology Ottawa, Carla Van Delen, minister at Richmond United Church, and Kari Munn Venn, a policy analyst at Citizens for Public Justice discussed various responses to the threat of climate change, then the presbytery broke into three discussion groups to talk about: Local Action and Advocacy, Theology and Spirituality, and Presbytery, Conference, General Council and Beyond. After their discussions, the groups each reported back to the whole presbytery.

Bell's Corners United Church hosted the April meeting, which was taken up with 12 Proposals in response to the final report of the Comprehensive Review Task Group. These 12 proposals dealt with all the issues addressed in the Task Group's report and more, including the structure of the denomination, financing the work of the denomination, relations with Aboriginal ministries, ecumenical relations, Ministries in French, and a College of Ministers. The presbytery also debated and passed a motion on its own response to the threat of climate change, committing to a two pronged approach: advocacy in the public sphere, and developing a five year plan to reduce carbon emissions from our own buildings by 25%. Presbytery also agreed to send forward Proposals to both Montreal and Ottawa Conference and the General Council urging them to take action against climate change as well. Finally, the presbytery formally accepted the invitation of Affirm United/S'Affirmer Ensemble to host its 2016 summer conference and AGM.

Shawville United Church hosted the May meeting. Presbytery celebrated a number of Milestones in Ministry, recognizing anniversaries of ordination and commissioning from 25 years (1990) all the way up to 60 years (1955). We acknowledged the retirements of Georgia Fitzgerald, John Montgomery, and Jamie Scott, and Sharon Moon gave a lovely tribute to Jamie's ministry as he leaves his work on Residential Schools for the General Council. Presbytery approved its Official Roll and set its criteria for quorum for the

coming year. Anne Montgomery was elected Presbytery Chairperson for the coming year, and Phyllis MacRae was elected Chair-Elect. The full Nominations report for Presbytery was approved. Brian Cornelius was nominated – unanimously – for Moderator of the United Church. Jamie Scott gave an update on the TRC’s Closing Events. David Lee gave a summary of the work of presbytery on the theme “Creation and Re-Creation in Community” and identified a number of ways in which the presbytery has created and recreated itself over the past year. The Presbytery recessed in order to reconvene as the Corporation of the Scrivens’ Fund for its Annual Meeting.

Metcalfe United Church, the home congregation of the new Chair for 2015 – 2016, Anne Montgomery, hosted the September meeting. During the opening worship, Ottawa Presbytery covenanted with its new Chair, its Executive and its Staff. At the end of the covenanting outgoing Chair David Lee vacated the Chair and incoming Chair Anne Montgomery assumed the Chair. Rev. Joe Burke led the presbytery in a remembrance of Rev. Mel Newman. The Presbytery Minister, David Sherwin, offered words of thanks to David Lee for his leadership over the past year and presented him with a small gift of appreciation. Anne Montgomery introduced herself and the new theme for 2015 – 2016: “An(other) New Song.” Then Norma McCord gave a presentation about the new “Blended Visa-Referred Syrian Refugee List” that has been created by the Canadian Government in response to the Syrian refugee crisis. David Lee, interim chair of Presbytery’s Climate Change Initiative task group, gave a report on the work being done to put together a Federal Election Kit to assist church members to take an active role in the current election campaign. Kim Vidal and Nicole Beaudry gave a report on their experiences as Commissions at General Council 42 in August. Brian Cornelius then reported on the decisions made by General Council on the proposals brought forward by, and in response to, the Comprehensive Review Task Group. Chair Anne Montgomery invited the presbytery to discuss informally the possibility of offering to make the presbytery a test site for experimenting with the new Three Council model approved for remit by the General Council. After a very short discussion the presbytery moved unanimously to offer to be an experimental test site. Presbytery was invited to a special celebration in honour of the creation of the new Bethel – St. Andrew’s Pastoral Charge, an amalgamation of the St. Andrew’s, Fitzroy Harbour, and Bethel, Kinburn, congregations. Presbytery was also invited to a celebration of the ministry of Camp Bitobi, an ecumenical children’s camp near Gracefield, Quebec, established by the United Church, the Presbyterian Church and the Baptist Church, as the camp is closed and the property sold. The portion of the camp containing all the buildings is being sold to Dr. Fawzi Mankal, who will continue to operate it as a camp through the Misquah Recreational Group, a non-profit organization that provides residential summer programs for children and adults with special needs. Paul Sales, United Church Financial Development Officer for Quebec and Eastern Ontario, gave a brief presentation.

Rideau Park United Church hosted the October meeting. Rideau Park’s presbyters gave up their opportunity to introduce their own church to the presbytery in order to allow Pat Ashton and Lola Brown, presbyters from Trinity United Church in Kazabazua to introduce their congregation. Trinity, Kazabazua is too small to host a presbytery meeting, so this was an unique opportunity for the presbytery to learn about one of its smaller, Quebec congregations. Mead Baldwin, President of Montreal and Ottawa Conference, brought greetings on behalf of Conference and spoke warmly about the leadership Ottawa Presbytery has shown through initiatives such as Faith & Arts Ottawa, the Cracks Festival, and Worshiplude. He commended presbytery for offering to be a test site for regional experimentation. Hanna Strong, Caroline Penhale, Ruth Bryce, and

Elizabeth Bryce spoke about their experiences as Commissioners to General Council 42. Maureen Stark provided information about Sue Martin, an indigenous woman who was holding a vigil on Victoria Island in support of a national inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Ms. Martin needs financial and material support and a number of United Church individuals as well as Glebe-St. James and Southminster United Churches have been involved. There was a brief update on the worship service held at Dominion-Chalmers United Church on May 31 to mark the closing of the TRC. Presbytery covenanted with Natalie Istead, a new Candidate for Ministry. Barbara Reynolds reported that a letter had been sent to the General Secretary of the General Council expressing the presbytery's willingness to be a test site for the proposed new regional structure. Miriam Rawson, Executive Director of Matthew House, Ottawa, gave a presentation about Matthew House's work with refugees and marginalized people. Carolyn Insley reminded the presbytery of the work of the prayer circle. Glen Stoudt gave an update on the Mission Support process. David Lee provided information about a large rally against climate change being organized in downtown Ottawa on November 29, the day before the UN Conference on Climate Change opens in Paris.

St. Paul's Eastern United Church hosted the November meeting. Presbtery observed a Moment of Remembrance prior to the start of the meeting. Paul Dillman offered a tribute to the life and ministry of Rev. Angus MacDonald, a long-time member of Ottawa Presbytery who served as Chair of the Archives Committee for many years. Suzanne Le, Executive Director, and Sahada Alolo, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, of the Multifaith Housing Initiative, gave a presentation about the work of MHI in providing affordable housing for some of Ottawa's most vulnerable people. Ed Barbezat, minister at Eglise Uni St. Marc, spoke about the rising violence in Burundi, where many of his francophone congregation were born. His congregation is organizing a March for Peace from the church on November 21 and he invited the presbytery participate and show support. Hilary Merritt, the Presbytery Youth and Young Adult Minister, gave an update on Youth and Young Adult ministry in the presbytery. David Lee introduced Marie-Eve Leclerc, an organizer of the rally against Climate Change on November 29. Marie-Eve provided an overview of plans for the rally and urged everyone to attend. The rally is called "100% Possible," and its theme is "A 100% Clean Economy is 100% Possible." Carolyn Ruda, Stewardship Animator for Montreal and Ottawa Conference, presented the most recent Stewardship resources from the General Council offices. Charles Barrett, Chair of the Church and Society Ministry Team, reminded presbyters of the upcoming workshop titled, "Practical Advice on Sponsoring Syrian Refugees." Paul Dillman, Chair of the presbytery Finance Ministry Team, presented the draft 2016 presbytery budget and the proposed congregational assessments. Presbytery approved the slate of Officers and Directors for 2016 and the audited financial statements for 2014 of the Church Extension Committee. Tom Insley, husband of Carolyn, told a Holy Spirit story in place of Carolyn, who was ill.

Aylmer United Church hosted the December meeting. David Sherwin reported that an estimated 25,000 people had participated in the "100% Possible March." Presbytery was delighted to hear that Gail Christy had received the "Career Award" at Ottawa Citizen's Advocacy's annual Celebration of People Gala for her decades of service and advocacy for people with disabilities. Presbytery passed a motion authorising an annual contribution to the Social Justice Network of Ontario Conferences as moved by Charles Barrett. Presbytery approved it audited 2014 Financial Statements and 2016 Budget and Congregational Assessments. Presbytery also authorized the appointment of an internal three person audit committee to review the 2015 Financial Statements.

Barbara Reynolds updated the presbytery on the disposition of the assets of Camp Bitobi. Presbytery decided to allocate its share of the proceeds to camping and children's ministry, and adhere to its policy of placing 15% of all proceeds into the Presbytery's New Ministries Fund. Presbytery also decided to donate \$20,000 to Rideau Hill Camp for the construction of a new waterfront building. Glen Stoudt led the presbytery through an updated motion on Mission Strategy grants. We were able to meet the requests of all applicants, primarily because we had fewer applicants than in the past. Norma McCord reported that nearly 30 congregations are engaged in refugee sponsorship work, a 100% increase since the spring. Barbara Reynolds gave a report on the work being done on the regional Council model and distributed a questionnaire for each presbyter to complete. Rick Balson introduced a similar questionnaire from the Conference Office and asked that it be completed by January 15, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
David
Rev. David Sherwin
Presbytery Minister

Youth and Young Adult Ministry: 2015 Year In Review

Ottawa Presbytery is blessed with active and committed youth and young adults who are active participants in the life and work of the United Church of Canada. Some highlights of **2015** were:



Worshiplude: On Saturday, Jan.31st approximately 600 youth from local congregations and from as far away as Sudbury, North Bay, Niagara Falls, Paris, Toronto, Montreal, and Sherbrooke, to name just a few, converged on downtown Ottawa to participate in Winterlude activities and then gathered at Dominion-Chalmers for pizza and our Worship Celebration. We explored our theme, "All My Relations: Who's Missing from my Facebook Friends?" through Music by Stream, Jam and Grace Notes, as well as skits and videos. Pre-supper workshops on Mental Health Awareness, Liturgical Dance, Music and Ministry Vocations helped to make our weekend lively and meaningful!!!



What makes **Camp...AWESOME?** *4 co-ordinators, 8 senior staff, 26 counsellors, 14 Leaders In Training and over 700 campers!!!* Everyone learned about the Fruit of the Spirit through 7 amazing Bible Stories. Our new, fourth co-ordinator position of Leadership Development Specialist meant we also had a more intentional focus for staff on development of their leadership skills. THANK YOU to all who supported once again this "awesome" day camp and leadership development experience that touched so many young lives!



The Point: On November 14th approximately 70 youth, young adults and friends gathered at Woodroffe UC for contemporary worship on the theme of "When things get 'unfriendly': Should Christians disagree?" Music by STREAM and JAM, as always, added wonderful richness to our worship, as well as drama presented by the Parkdale UC Confirmation class, and worship leadership of several other youth.



Open Table: The new Carleton U Open Table sites provide Young Adults with free meals 2 Sundays a month during the school year. Young adults “Eat. Meet. Reflect and Connect with each other, God and the community.”

“Congregational Partners” provide \$250 plus one meal and one dessert over the year. “Community Supporters” provide \$150 plus an option to provide a meal or dessert. OPEN TABLE is a partnership between Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian and United Church communities.



Experiences Canada (formerly Sevec) Exchange: This winter 20 Ottawa Presbytery Youth and 4 leaders/chaperones representing 11 of our congregations will be participating in an exchange with First Nations youth from Zeballos

Elementary-Secondary School. Zeballos is a small community on the northwest coast of Vancouver Island. SEVEC has undergone a rebranding and renaming, and are now known as “Experiences Canada”. They feel their new name will better encompass the variety of experiences this organization offers. Stay tuned for updates on this exciting, intercultural adventure.



Rendez-vous 2017: Your YAYA minister has been named chairperson of the national design team for RDV 2017, which will see youth and young adults from across the UCC gathering in Montreal in August, 2017 to explore the theme, “Let’s Be The Church!”



“CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS” event: In May, a group of young adults gathered to discuss how best we can be in ministry with young adults, while honouring the spectrum of life circumstances within the “young adult” age range. One suggestion was to host a pub gathering for discussion and fellowship. The first, “Talk on Tap” was held on Nov. 27th but wasn’t successful due to various conflicts. We’ll try again!!



Mental Health Awareness for youth and young adults: An evening of open discussion on Mental Health Awareness for Youth & Young Adults was held Oct. 21st as Janet Osborne, with Partners for Mental Health, facilitated a discussion on how to encourage Mental Health for youth and young adults, recognizing symptoms of depression and suicide prevention.



I respond regularly to requests for YAYA ministry support, consultation and counselling. As well, Rev. Tom Sherwin and I have been trained this year as YAYA ministry consultants with the Oaten Institute, a UCC national church ministry co-ordinated through Five Oaks.

YAYA Committee: **THANK YOU** to the YAYA committee and to the Scrivens and Baillie Funds for their ongoing support of YAYA ministry!

Hilary
Rev. Hilary Merritt,
Ottawa Presbytery