

LOVE

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Learning TO LOVE

St. Aidan's United Church 2017 Annual Report



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MINISTER'S REPORT

Dear Friends,

In my opinion, 2017 has been a wonderful year in the life of St. Aidan's United Church. So I commend this annual report for your reading and review. We have made significant in-roads on some of the directions that have been talked about and recommended previously.



- We hired a communications person who is extending our reach
- We completed the renovation of the chancel by relocating the organ
- We continued to diversify the worship and music life of the congregation
- We increased the visible diversity of the congregation and are building a vital intercultural outreach
- Our bus trip ministry has found its wheels in its second year
- And we completed the relocation of the Memorial Garden to Royal Oak Burial Park where we are assured the remains of our friends in the eternal community of saints will receive perpetual care.

In addition we embarked on brave new initiatives!

In September we launched reVision with Cadboro Bay United Church.

We have already learned three very important lessons from this on-going experience.

1. We like the people at Cadboro Bay and our eyes are open to what more we can accomplish and be if we act as friends together instead of as competitors.
2. We were pleasantly surprised by the impact of doing daily reflections, reading and small group activities on our own spiritual renewal.
3. We are open to try new things and we care deeply and passionately about our church.

This has resulted in a renewed focus on reading and exploring our Christian story in January 2018 when we launched a congregational reading of the Gospel of Mark that was created by our own Monday a.m. Bible Discussion group.

In 2015, 2016 we did an intentional Stewardship Connection which highlighted the amazing mission St. Aidan's undertakes as well as the number of people who are helped through the ministry of St. Aidan's. In 2017 we did not do a Stewardship Connection and through its absence we have seen its importance.

In closing my annual report I would like to thank the incredible lay leaders who give so much time and talent to St. Aidan's. The dedication of the Council, the leadership of Doug, of the Treasurers Colin and Paul, the Team Leaders and members, the Bazaar and Thrift Shop leaders and participants under the wise guidance of Marilyn Smith and Sylvia Campbell and so many more are inspiring to observe.

There is seldom a day goes by that I do not give thanks for the skills and capacity of the staff with whom I am so fortunate to work and I want to take this opportunity to thank Betty Anne, Kathryn, Anne, Gordon, Nell, Andre, Sang, Edgardo, Mari, Megan, Jenna, Mimi, Nathan, Olivia, Abby, Leif and Janet who backs the office up when needed. You make work fun. Thank you.

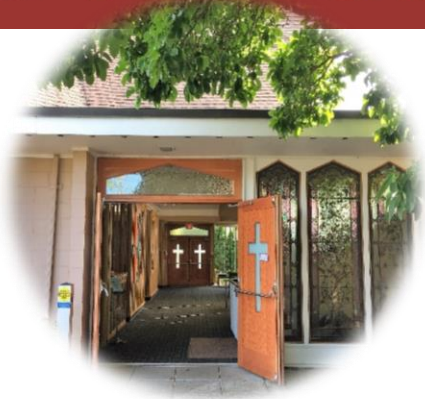
Finally I give thanks for the spiritual convergence that allowed St. Aidan's and I to find each other and form such a creative and constructive relationship. Thanks for a great year.

Blessings, Cheryl

NEW INITIATIVE

reVision

*Together creating a new vision
for Cadboro Bay & St. Aidan's*



You may have noticed a buzz at St. Aidan's last Fall as we embarked on an exciting discernment process in partnership **Cadboro Bay United Church (CBUC)**. It was a time for our churches to dream big about our ministries in this corner of the world. A goal of this program to integrate spiritual practice, spirituality and the *heart into the head* process of discernment and listening to the way God's Spirit is calling to us at this juncture of our lives together.

About 150 people participated in small groups of about 10 people (with members from both churches) that met about 7 times in the Fall. They read the book, *Christianity for the Rest of Us* by Diana Butler Bass, received daily devotional emails and journaled on suggested topics. Worship focussed on this spiritual journey of discerning together.

After 90 days of journeying together, our congregations held a **Convergence Summit on Nov. 25th, 2017**. Over 150 people gathered to share their dreams and what they learned through this discernment process. An outcome of the Summit was the formation of Proposal Teams that will further explore Summit ideas. Some of teams to evolve out of this day were: Small Group Ministry, Spiritual Practices, Social Justice and Collaboration Opportunities for CBUC and St. Aidan's. Watch for more news on reVision is 2018!



Centre for Spiritual Learning

Vision: A "home for the heart" where all people are "loved into life"

Mission: life-changing ministry with all through Jesus Christ.

Core Values: hospitality, inclusiveness, spiritual growth & reaching out



CHURCH COUNCIL



St. Aidan's Council Members

Top Row left to right: Cheryl Black (Minister), Helen Pinel, Maureen Koch, Mary Kennedy, Arlene Galloway Ford
Bottom row: Gordon Robinson, Doug Koch, Alan Curtis.

Not Present: Elizabeth Thornburn-Korolus, Carol Munro, Jean Margison, Mandy Wilson, Paul Malnarich, Pauline Curtis

Role of Council: The congregation delegates authority for Council to provide governance e.g. develop policy, strategic planning and maintain accountability, based on the St. Aidan's mission and values: "*life-changing ministry with all through Jesus Christ... hospitality, inclusiveness, spiritual growth & reaching out*". Council ensures overall effective communications and financial accountability. Operational decision-making is delegated to teams.

At the 2017 AGM, the following were elected: Alan Curtis, property, Arlene Galloway Ford (Secretary), Carol Munro, Rev Cheryl Black (ex-officio), Doug Koch, chair, Elizabeth Thornburn, (CYF), Gordon Robinson (Ministry & Personnel), Helen Pinel, pastoral care, Jean Margison, Mandy Wilson, presbytery, Mary Kennedy, worship, Maureen Koch (Social justice & Spiritual Growth), Paul Malnarich (Co-Treasurer) and Pauline James Curtis.. (Colin Booth, Puddie Curtis, Roger Hannaford and Tony Smith retired from council.) Elizabeth subsequently retired from council and her CYF (Children, Youth & Family) role was assumed by Mandy. Jean Margison agreed to assume the role of council vice-chair.

Council meetings were held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month and were supplemented when needed by Council's executive committee (Doug Koch chair, Rev. Cheryl Black (ex-officio), Gordon Robinson, Mary Kennedy and Paul Malnarich).

Council's 2017 work included:

- governance and decision making
- factors contributing to effective, healthy, growing and transforming churches
- reVision process in partnership with Cadboro Bay United
- Garden of Remembrance planning in partnership with other local United Churches
- communications improvements and creation of staff position
- United Church of Canada remit decisions
- support/outreach for homeless and for Shelbourne as a Memorial Avenue funding assistance to upgrade - main kitchen & building heating system, Shelbourne Community Kitchen, garden improvements and organ relocation

Council would like to thank all the team members including everyone involved in the Friendly Octopus, bazaar and also our staffing team - Rev. Cheryl, Pastoral Care Rev Betty Anne, office administrator Kathryn, rentals coordinator, Anne, along with Janet, band leader Andre, communications person Gordon, custodians Sang and Edgardo, music director Nell - with Leif, Abby and Olivia, Sunday school's Megan, Jenna, Mimi and Nathan, children choir's Olivia and intercultural program's Mari and bookkeeper Tammy - for all their hard work and dedication on behalf of St Aidan's and our community. And special thanks to all the Council members for their hard work and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Koch, Council Chair

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Finance

Finance Members and Roles as of December 31, 2017:

Blair Barman- Trustees, Rev. Cheryl Black., Colin Booth- Co-Treasurer and Investment Management Committee, Sylvia Campbell -Thrift Shop, Roger Davidson -Investment Management Committee, Brian Habbick- Recording Secretary and Envelope Steward, Roger Hannaford- Chair, Paul Malnarich- Co-Treasurer and Investment Management Committee and Tony Smith

The Finance Team was established by Council in 2011 to carry out the responsibilities of the 2010 report "Towards a New Financial Structure for St. Aidan's". The Finance Team minutes and a Summary of the Finance Team's required Duties/Actions are available in the church library.

During 2017 there were 5 regular meetings.

Meeting topics included:

- Church budget preparation review process.
- Review of the latest Financial Statements.
- Received and discussed updates from the Investment Management Committee.
- Received updates from the Trustees.
- Updated the list of Signing Officers
- Discussed the need to look at the long term future for St. Aidan's and provide financial information to assist Council in establishing strategic priorities.
- Introduction of new bookkeeping software.
- Discussed possible need for a capital campaign to prepare for future major capital expenses. For example a new sanctuary roof may be needed in 5 - 10 years.
- Discussed and reviewed CRA guidelines when selling artwork etc.

- Stewardship Campaign - Reviewed the results of the 2016 Campaign: "More Than Enough".
- Discussion on findings of external Financial Review.

2017 like the previous year continued to be another exciting year of growth at St. Aidan's. During the year many new programs and initiatives have started including the reVision program which we have been pleased to share with our United Church friends from Cadboro Bay.

The exciting but challenging task for the Finance team is to make sure we can financially support all of the busy St. Aidan's activity. We do truly appreciate the individual Congregational giving and the amounts raised from our Thrift Shop, Bazaar and other supporters as well as the revenue provided by renters.

Team members have all been diligent in their respective roles and the regular meetings are just a small part of the work that is done. Managing our investments, record keeping and budgeting are time consuming and St. Aidan's is fortunate to have such conscientious volunteers. Our Co-Treasurers have spent many hours discussing and preparing our financial documents and with the addition of Roger Davidson they have formed our Investment Management Committee. As usual our Secretary managed to get the minutes out promptly and accurately.

Respectfully Submitted, Roger Hannaford – Chair

Treasurer

Our report to the AGM last year concluded with a challenge to the congregation of St. Aidan's: To sustain the positive trends from fiscal 2016.

The obvious question is; were we able to achieve that goal?

In the corporate world, "revenue growth" is often used as a measure of sales and product strength. At St. Aidan's we can apply a similar philosophy, and measure "monetary activity", or sales. Using 2015 as our base year, receipts in 2016 grew some 28 percent, and in 2017 an additional 5 percent. This year's budget anticipates this activity growth to continue. The bottom line is growth of some 48 percent since 2015, and close to 15% over last year.

On the "Disbursement Ledger" the question is twofold. One, are we spending money to upgrade and improve St. Aidan's, so people feel comfortable coming here; and secondly, are we recognizing and funding the demands of the Team Ministries and the transcendent growth of the congregation.

In 2015 and 2016 property improvements were undertaken. The costs were large, but you felt that they were necessary and vital so that we could continue, into the future, to use and rent the building. Last year you suggested that building cleanliness, communication and a stable friendly staff were most important. The disbursements for 2017 reflect that.

This budget year, post reVision, has demanded that we, "the holders of the purse strings" effect a change in our spending and encompass vision and mission. You will see that in this year's budget, we have tried to accomplish your wishes.

Now back to last year's challenge. The report card is pretty good, we grade us a B+ or higher; but most importantly positive trends seem to be sustainable, as long as we continue to be good and faithful stewards.

Thanks....

Paul Malnarich and Colin Booth, Co-Treasurers

Trustees Report



The members of St. Aidan's Trustees are Blair Barman (Chair), Ray Evans, Cherie Davidson and Blake Ford. Meetings of the Board are conducted through emails, private conversations and phone calls. A full Board meeting was held on October 18, 2017. Trustees concurred with St. Aidan's Council that the Ashes in the Garden of Remembrance be relocated to the Royal Oak Burial Park pursuant to the approval of the Consumer Protection Agency.

One of the primary responsibilities of Trustees is church insurance. Earthquake insurance is a major part of the policy. The deductible for this part of the insurance was very high. Thus, a recommendation was sent to Council to reduce the deductible, for an additional fee, to a more manageable amount - from 15% to 5% of the value of the building. This was approved by Council.

The insurance policy is held with Westland Insurance. Other policies that are held on a continuing basis are: Directors and Officers Liability insurance and ICBC Special Excess Third Party Liability insurance. There are many users of the St. Aidan's church facility. We are examining the risk management involved in order to reduce the probability of litigation in case of accident. Evaluation of changes to the church facility are ongoing.

Property Team Report

2017 was a very eventful year for the Property Team. We were involved in a several major projects.

Among the more visible were the Organ Transplant and the decommissioning of the Garden of Remembrance. The moving of the organ to its new location off the Chancel was organized by Cheryl. Special mention must be made of Don Craigmyle's mock up of the organ so we could have a visual idea of what it might look like in various locations.

After much discussion, in order to comply with a new interpretation of government regulations, St Aidan's Garden of Remembrance was moved to Royal Oak Burial Park. Thank you to the Memorial Garden Team for a job well done. After the move, landscaping of the area along St Aidans Street was begun with the removal of the hedge, fence and large fir tree. Work will continue into the spring to create a more open and welcoming aspect to the Church.



This year the Property Team received assent from Council to begin a program of replacing our nine aging furnaces. We planned on doing two per year. The first two were replaced in early November. Unfortunately, a third furnace failed in early December and was not repairable. It was replaced as an emergency necessity. This was followed later in December with the failure of one of the Sanctuary units. It was able to be repaired but no guarantee was given as to how long it might last. To avoid continuing emergency repairs and loss of heat, Council has warmly approved the proposed replacement of five of the remaining furnaces in the very near future. Savings will be accomplished as a result of the economy of scale.

A very successful Lower Kitchen renovation was undertaken by Shirley and Marilyn of the Décor Team. Thank you, ladies, the kitchen looks terrific. We look forward to the plans you have for future improvements.

Several electrical improvements were undertaken by our volunteer electrician, Dennis Johnson. He installed a new outlet in the Thrift Shop to provide power for their refrigerator, a new dedicated circuit for our phone system and a recessed outlet for the new TV monitor in the entrance area. He also continued our fluorescent lamp replacement program as failures occurred. Thank you, Dennis.

Thank as well to Colin Booth for his continuing contributions as a member of our team. Welcome to John Davoren who has been recently conscripted, I am certain he will be a valuable addition to our ranks. Many thanks to the Décor Committee, Shirley Hannaford and Marilyn Smith, for their enthusiasm and relentless insistence on the visual improvement of our building environment. As usual, Tony Smith and his band of men were most helpful, thanks to you all.

Looking forward to a quieter 2018.
Respectfully submitted,

Alan Curtis

Rentals

The Rentals Committee is part of the Property Team. Shirley Hannaford is Chair, working with committee member, Marilyn Smith, and our staff Rentals Coordinator, Anne McDermott

2017 saw additional refurbishments and building updates! New counters, sinks/taps and flooring in the Lower Kitchen provided a feast to the eye while the installation of a new furnace (more to come) provided the “hygge” (=Danish for) cozy factor.

During the year the Rentals Committee met to discuss procedures, and increased rental rates across the board effective Sept 1 2017. The outcome of these meetings was positive for the continued development and growth at St Aidan’s.

Through 2017 we hosted approximately 21 regular rental groups from the wider community. This number remains very stable from year to year as our renters feel very at home here. (See the list of regular user groups on page 30)

As a result of user satisfaction, there are not a lot of available slots open for new renters.

Ocean Rain choir left us to take up residence in their own purpose built premises. Tumbleweeds Theatre group and Crystal Singers’ weekly practice sessions moved to free rehearsal spaces.

However, we welcomed several new groups, which have become recurring occasional users: they include the Saltwater Voice Studio and BCalm, the BC Association for Living Mindfully.

Our Sanctuary remains very popular for both ticketed concerts and music school recitals. Starlight Pops, the Avalon Singers and the Crystal Singers book with us for their events every year. The Galiano Ensemble requests the Sanctuary for their twice annual performance rehearsals.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Hannaford

Historical Team

Team members – Sheila Taylor, Mandy Wilson, Janet Palin, Marion Craigmyle

In 1862 a few pioneers in the area known as Cedar Plains met in the home of John and Jessie Irvine on Cedar Hill Road, but St. Aidan's congregation was really formed in 1873 when the Presbyterians moved to the original Cedar Hill School House and held services with the Methodists and Congregationalists. Wanting to have a church of their own, the Presbyterians saved for years to buy land, and then with a lot of hard work by volunteers, the original St. Aidan's Church was built. It was opened and dedicated in 1894. A hall was built on Cedar Hill Cross Road in 1922 mainly to serve as a gathering place for the youth in the area. In 1957 the congregation had outgrown the little church and services were held in the hall for three years until our present church building was opened in 1960.

Our team keeps busy as we continue to sort, catalogue and file incoming data relating to St. Aidan's. In 2017 we celebrated 144 years as a congregation and are grateful to those who have supplied us with articles and memorabilia pertaining to the past and present. We often receive requests from families who no longer live in the area but hope to find some information and pictures from the days when their relatives attended St. Aidan's. We always welcome additions to our files and ask that names and dates be supplied if at all possible.

We have a rich history and strive to "HONOR THE PAST, SERVE THE PRESENT, and BUILD FOR THE FUTURE"

Respectfully submitted, Marion Craigmyle



Ministry & Personnel

From the Ministry and Personnel Guidelines:

"The M&P Committee oversees relationships within the pastoral charge ministry, particularly the roles and functions of paid leaders and employees (such as the office secretary and any custodial staff)."

Among other things, the team will:

"review working conditions and remuneration for the staff of the Pastoral Charge and make appropriate recommendations to the Official Board or Church Board or Church Council;...oversee the relationship of the staff of the Pastoral Charge to members of the Congregation(s) and others;...(and) oversee the relationship between and among different members of the staff of the Pastoral Charge with respect to their responsibilities and authority"

This year has been less busy than the recent past as most staffing has been fairly stable.

The ministry staff is unchanged with Rev. Cheryl Black as the full time minister and Rev. Betty Anne Dempsey as part time covering pastoral care and the "bus ministry". Mari Nattress works ten hours a week with the Intercultural Ministry project.

Olivia Duffin has returned to her studies at UVic and we are pleased to have her back at St. Aidan's directing the children's choir.

Throughout the year, we were also served by Nell Howard, Music Minister, Andre Clouthier, Sunday Band Leader and Sang Nguyen, Custodian.

During the year we also engaged a Edgardo Espinoza on a contract basis to provide additional custodial services for the days when Sang is not on duty. Our building is busier than ever and keeping up with the cleaning and security requires a 7 day a week presence.

The M&P Team also hosted a training workshop put on by conference staff for Ministry and Personnel volunteers in southern Vancouver Island. One of the important things we learned about this year was the extension of the Restorative Care Plan to non clergy employees. This program was very important to us this year as one of the staff was on an extended medical leave for a number of weeks. The program allowed us to retain the staff person on salary while they recuperated.

A very important part of M&P's work is to support communication between the congregation, and ministry personnel & staff. It is critical to this role that members of congregation approach the team with any personnel related issues.

We also wish to thank all of the employees past and present who served the Congregation with diligence, energy and professional skill over the past year.

The M&P team at present is made up of 2 persons: Gordon Robinson (Chair), and Susan Kurushima. This is less than is really required for the team to function properly and we do need to get two or three new members.

WORSHIP & PASTORAL CARE

Worship Team

Team Members:

Rev. Cheryl Black
Judy Boulden (head of décor, head of greeters)
Greg Golden (June-December)
Shirley Hannaford
Mary Kennedy, Chair
Maureen Koch (also on communion sub-committee) (January-June)
Will Moyer (assists with décor)
Joelle Tarrida (June-December)

Music Ministers:

Nell Howard
Kelly Orr

Flowers:

Ann Harris

Rev. Cheryl has taught us that worship encompasses the time from when a person leaves the parking lot and enters the church all the way until the time that same person gets into her car to go home! Therefore, we are about many things: greeting, coffee before and after church, scripture readers, communion servers, church décor, growing spiritually, and being a sounding board for our minister—a place to discuss ideas old and new and provide feedback on services. Sometimes we even plan a service ourselves!



We are indebted to Rev. Cheryl who has introduced us to so many new ideas and ways of looking at church. Over 2017, our team mandate began to morph as we no longer needed to play a central role in planning worship services. Instead we have spent quality meeting time discussing just what is meant by Rev. Cheryl's vision of worship 'from and to' the parking lot. Then reVision began and so we didn't meet as frequently in the fall.

Below are some of the highlights of 2017—things that we don't want to forget.

Fish Stories: During Rev. Cheryl's holiday absence in January, Worship Team planned and conducted the service on January 22.

Lenten Interfaith Series: Planned by Rev. Cheryl, this was a very successful set of worship services.

Introduction of St. Aidan's Cards: these 'calling cards' were introduced to us by a visitor from a United Church in Kingston, ON. Rev. Cheryl and Kathryn designed these and they are available for congregants to take with them when they visit other churches on holiday.

Friendship Roster: Considerable effort was expended by team members, especially Shirley Hannaford, Kathryn, and Rev. Cheryl to generate a current congregational list. While this work is ongoing, progress has been made to create a workable list that identifies people as one of three groups: *regular worshippers*, *infrequent worshippers*, and *program folks* (i.e., people who help with Thrift Shop, Bazaar, etc.).

De-Cluttering the Narthex: members worked together with Rev. Cheryl to remove unnecessary items from the narthex, opening up more room to gather before the service.

Organ Project: During the summer, the organ was moved to the other side of the chancel area. Worship Team members were involved with preliminary discussions.

reVision: Worship was one of the sounding boards for this exciting initiative.

3rd Annual International Creche Exhibition: December 1-3. This year we were fortunate to have good media coverage which included a segment with Gregor Craigie on CBC's *On the Island*. Attendance over the 3 days was over 200, many more than last year. We added a Saturday afternoon 'family day' where children were encouraged to attend with their parents and a craft area was set up for them. We raised \$400 for the *Out of the Rain* youth shelter program in comparison to \$112.50 in 2016. We would like to acknowledge the support and expertise of Dr. Michael Emme, who, once again, designed a wonderful poster and Gordon Miller, who assisted with advertising on social media.

We would also like to acknowledge the long and faithful contribution on Worship Team by Maureen Koch who asked to step down from the team effective June 30th.

We welcomed new members Greg Golden and Joelle Tarrida in June.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kennedy, Chair



Mary Kennedy presents a donation to Jennifer Mortimer from Out of the Rain youth shelter

Music Ministry



Carols by Candlelight Mass Choir

Music supports our community life at St. Aidan's. Music is with us in our celebrations and music is with us in our concerns and our sadness.

This year music:

- supported weekly Sunday worship services
- supported special services at Christmas, Lent and Easter
- led our annual Carols By Candlelight service in December

We appreciate our section leaders Olivia Selig (Soprano), Abby Stein (Alto) and Leif Bradshaw (tenor).

St. Aidan's is fortunate to have 4 groups leading worship:

- Jubilate Choir singing on the first 2 Sundays of the month - led by Nell Howard
- Mirabile Choir singing on the first Sunday of the month - led by Nell Howard
- The Band singing on the third Sunday of the month - led by Andre Clouthier
- Ted Boulden Singers singing on the fourth Sunday of the month - led by Kelly Orr Loney

Respectfully Submitted

Nell Howard, Music Director



Happy Hour (Seniors Gathering)

This small group ministry led by Cheryl Black or Betty Anne Dempsey, meets every Wednesday from 2-3 pm. About 12 people gather each Wednesday to worship, sing traditional hymns and engage in spiritual conversation over tea time. Newcomers are welcome!

Healing Pathway

There has been a Healing Ministry at St. Aidan's since the mid 90s and it gained in strength and numbers due to the introduction of the Healing Pathway programme out of Naramata. We are most grateful to those from our own congregation who have been part of this ministry.

But here at St. Aidan's our numbers have been decreasing so the decision has now been made to approach the team at Cadboro Bay and we will work on coordinating this ministry with them in 2018. In the meantime we still offer treatments twice a week on Mondays and Fridays and appointments can be made by contacting Val Bauld at 250-721-5962. We are maintaining our healing room as a sacred space for meetings and treatments but from September 2017 our practice sessions are with Cadboro Bay.

Victoria Pathways, run by volunteers, looks after the healing groups within the United Church locally and we treasure the workshops it puts on for us and express our sincere gratitude to this team.

Respectfully submitted,
Val Bauld for the HP team.

Pastoral Care / Membership

Pastoral Care Contact and Visitation remains our primary focus, though is increasingly challenging as the needs for support continue to grow, and our "volunteer base" is decreasing. As a result, we are exploring new ways to provide meaningful personal contacts in response to these changing demographics.

One of the most exciting aspects, is our awareness that so many of you are also personally providing your own individual "pastoral care" to each other on a regular basis. And that's VERY much what "being church" is all about!

It's difficult to always recognize a person's periodic absence from church or group attendance, but you can be sure that someone will have picked up on that, and will call that person themselves - just to "check in", and see how things are. Also, through our almost weekly shared prayers of concern (and celebration), we are again reminded of the amazingly caring network which surrounds each of us.

Part of our pastoral care includes our **Greeting Card program** - with notes sent out to people for both those happy times of celebration, as well as in times of illness and grief. Each of us can also assist this ministry by calling the Church office to let us know of folks who may need our personal contact and caring. We always respect and support confidentiality. And this also means that you can call the Office if it's you who needs special prayers or a visit.

Mt Tolmie Services continue to be our responsibility (on the first Sunday of each month, at 3 pm). Other area churches help with the other Sundays. For the present time, this active long-term

care centre is part of our neighbourhood, and it's a delight to be able to share these short, focused times with the residents. Almost without exception, their love of music is SO strong and important, even though some of them can only listen and smile. But you'd be amazed at the enthusiastic level of singing that many of them display! And their families are indeed supportive of this ministry. So if you have an hour to share on one of "our Sundays", please join us (about 2:45) to help at this special time of sharing and singing!

The **Casserole Caravan program** continues to be coordinated on an "as needed" basis, with periodic reminders for home-cooked contributions when our freezer supplies get low. Thanks for your support and assistance in helping to fill up our stocks when "the cupboard is bare"!



Diane Kendall, Val Bauld and Puddie Curtis at the Christmas Communion Tea

We continue to coordinate the ordering of Name Badges, and know that it has helped many of us learn people's names a lot more quickly and easily.

There's an Order Form on the Library counter, and orders are usually made at least monthly.

Each December, early in Advent, we have our annual **Christmas Communion and Tea** - a hands-on "feel good" event that warms our hearts. This event is primarily for folks who are generally not able to get out to church on a regular basis, if at all. Many volunteers help to make this event possible - members of the Worship and Pastoral Care teams, volunteer drivers, and others who assist in a variety of tasks. Although the Communion service itself is wonderful and filled with memories for

everyone, the Tea and social time that follows (in seasonally-decorated Room A/B), becomes an over-the-top time of sharing, laughter and conversation! Such joy for everyone!

Respectfully submitted:

Helen Pinel (Chair), Val Bauld, Rev. Cheryl Black, Puddie Curtis, Rev. Betty Anne Dempsey, Diane Kendall, Jean Margison, Carol Sidhu, Moira Wightman

Memorial Tea Convenors

Many thanks to the volunteers who so willingly help with the Memorial Teas, supporting families of St Aidan's. In 2017 there were 9 teas celebrating the lives of Alex Reid, Pearl Gunn, Gloria Orr, Ruth Beckner, Pat Lovewell, Carol Evans, Catherine O'Brien, Maisie Brenner and Heather Nicol. Often family members have not seen each other for some time and the tea offers valuable visiting moments.

St Aidan's provides tea, coffee, milk, sugar, napkins and flowers. We are often blessed with donations of these items. Families provide whatever food they wish. Marion Craigmyle and Carol Sidhu convene this valuable service to our congregation.

Submitted by Carol Sidhu

Garden of Remembrance

Garden of Remembrance Team:

- Judith Boulden, Chair
- Jean Margison
- Peg Harris, Recording Secretary

Special Task Team:

- Tony Smith, Chair
- Rev. Cheryl Black
- Rev. Betty Anne Dempsey
- Paul Malnarich
- Blake Ford
- Blair Barman (Trustee Representative)



During this past year, your Garden of Remembrance special task team has been working diligently on the complexity of the problem set before us due to the notification of Victoria Presbytery, Property Official, that all churches with Memorial Gardens cease and desist further interments, thus alleviating any restrictions on our congregational lands and burden for future generations for perpetual care.

Wheels were set in motion – consultations with a representative from Royal Oak Burial Park, who advised us of our options and who became a liaison with Consumer Protection. Once all the options were evaluated, the emotional and difficult decision was made to relocate our Garden to a designated St. Aidan's plot at Royal Oak. Betty Anne set down to task, spending months going through our records in an attempt to contact a relative of every person interred in the Garden. She was creative in her investigative abilities, leaving no stone unturned and followed every avenue to find a living relative.

Eventually, Consumer Protection was notified of our 'due diligence' and signed off on our commitment and decision to relocate our Garden to Royal Oak. 208 interments were dedicated in our Garden. 26 families chose to disinter their ashes and relocate them elsewhere but when it came time for relocation, 182 plots were relocated to the designated St. Aidan's plot at Royal Oak, on October 3rd, 2017.

Our Council also made the decision to purchase an additional adjacent plot for our congregation's future interments.

Policy Criteria for Interments in the St. Aidan's Memorial Garden, Royal Oak Burial Park

1. Active at St. Aidan's United Church within ten years – givings continuing, pastoral care list, members and adherents.
2. Spouse of a loved one in the Garden of Remembrance.
3. Those with special circumstances who request permission – will be reviewed by Chair of Council and Minister(s) – to be decided on case-by-case basis.

Submitted by:

Judith Boulden
Chair – Garden of Remembrance

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES(CYF)

2017 was an amazing year for children, youth and families at St. Aidan's. The program is overseen by Megan Steffens who has been blessed to work with Jenna Bajus, Carl Steffens and Chandler McCorkindale until June, and Jenna, Mimi Sutherland and Nathan Treble from June to December. It has been wonderful to have youth who grew up in St. Aidan's taking on leadership roles this year.

The Children begin their Sunday morning worship in the Sanctuary where they are invited to join in a children's time with Cheryl, as well as, hand out monthly birthday treats to the congregation and participate in the "Kid's band". Following this the children participate in stories, prayers, games and crafts with their leaders. New to 2017 are Sundae Sundays at which the children serve the congregation ice cream sundaes. This has been a huge success and enjoyed by all!

St. Aidan's also hosted a Halloween party this year for children, youth and families where everyone had a ton of fun dressing up and spending time with one another. We look forward to more family events in 2018.

St. Aidan's youth group also had a very busy year. The youth met on a bi-weekly basis until June and monthly from June-December, in addition to other events. The youth participated in movie nights, spiritual practices, fund raising, ceramic painting, a Christmas party and more. Our youth group also had the chance to meet up with youth from several other youth groups at our yearly outing to Galey Farms. One of the highlights for our older youth was their cross country road trip to Montreal to participate in the Canada-wide youth event Rendezvous. This was an amazing experience for them to participate in larger church events and make friendships that will last a lifetime.



We would like to thank the congregation for their ongoing support of children, youth and families at St. Aidan's.

Megan Steffens, Children and Youth Leader

Caregiver and Tot Drop in

As was reported last year, this programme was brought to St Aidan's from Gordon Head by Maisie Brenner and her volunteers .

We meet each Monday morning from September to June, from 10 till noon, except for stat holidays. Two volunteers are needed each week to welcome people oversee the play and prepare refreshments: coffee and tea for the adults and fruit and crackers for the children.

Numbers vary, but there is an average of 10 to 20 with 28 children attending for a few weeks in the Fall.

We volunteers enjoy getting to know the children and the children learn to socialize at an early age. It is good to see the young parents enjoying one another's company.

We hope to continue this important outreach programme in memory of Maisie who died this Fall.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Margison, Coordinator Caregiver/Tot programme.

SOCIAL GROUPS

CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)

Cameo is a social club open to all adults who are affiliated with St. Aidan's. At present there are about 90 members with an average attendance of 30 to 40. Travel, family and health concerns seem to control our attendance! We usually meet on the second Saturday of the month between



September and June. Most months we gather at the church. Members are encouraged to participate in providing a program, acting as host or helping with food, etc. All members receive two emails with regard to upcoming meetings.

As usual, our gatherings were fun and informative. There were talks on the Museum of Human Rights, the History of Golf and Traditional Chinese Medicine. The Youth Group provided an evening of well organized board games.

A movie with an accompanying quiz and travel photos added to our enjoyment. Highlights were the pot luck at Hannafords and always the trip to Mayne Island as well as our fabulous Christmas party.



Fourth Friday Supper

This social group for adults meets occasionally at various restaurants throughout the year. While there is no membership, and all are invited to take part, numbers for each event are necessarily limited. Newcomers are most welcome to sign up. Our suppers this past year were less frequent because of other activities. Anyone who would like to arrange an outing or host a pot-luck on any 4th Friday of the month is encouraged to do so. Contact person: Janis Evans



Bus Trip Ministry

Our Bus Trip Ministry continues to be a popular program that creates connection as we “explore beyond the walls of the church”. In 2017 we experienced new learning and fun as we visited the following venues:

January 10: Songhees Wellness Centre
April 22: Kathok Buddhist Centre/Coombs Market
July 29: Government House
December 2: Chemainus Lunch and Theatre

Watch for this year’s trips-come along to make new friends and explore new places!

Submitted by Betty Anne Dempsey, Bus Ministry Co-ordinator



Songhees Wellness Centre Trip – January 10, 2017

Friday Folders



Our Friday Folder Group continues to grow! This devoted group of volunteers meet every Friday to fold the Sunday bulletins and other materials. There’s always time to visit over tea, coffee and lots on good snacks. All are welcome to join this lively gathering.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Spiritual Growth Team

The Spiritual Growth team comprised of Maureen Koch, Janis Evans and Andrea Hubbard, strives to live out the team's goal: to encourage and develop opportunities for the congregation to deepen its spirituality and understanding of our faith and to provide activities that reflect St. Aidan's interest in being a place of spiritual learning in the community.

Our On-Going Programs

Monday Morning Discussion Group - This group is led by Cheryl Black. It continues to help with the Sunday reflection and to discuss the ancient stories of scripture.

Learn to Meditate Drop In - This gathering is led by Betty Anne Dempsey on Sunday mornings before the regular service.

Christian Meditation - facilitated by Moira Wightman on Tuesday mornings.

Bookworms Book Club - In the Spring, the group finished *Way of the Wind* (Sanguin), and in the Fall read *Through the Narrow Gate* (Armstrong). Janis Evans keeps our noses in books. We may not be fast but we are friendly.

St. Aidan's Documentary Night - Judith and Philip Bogod organized and facilitated this new twist on the old Movie Night. Films included *Ted Talks*, *Harry and the Snowman*, *Car Free*, and *Terese Learns to Drive*. Thank you to Judith and Philip for their good work with this monthly event.

Highways in the Desert: A Multi-Faith Lenten Journey - The Lenten challenge for 2017 looked at other faith traditions. We learned the Green Rule, the Golden Rule, one factoid and took on a faith practice of each of 6 different religions. We were deepened by the ideas and traditions of others.

The Spiritual Growth Speakers' team - Cheryl Black, Barb Martin, Janis Evans, Andrea Hubbard, Maureen Koch. This group, in collaboration with Programs in Earth Literacies, launched 2 programs in 2017.

Thomas Berry: Prophet, Mystic & Visionary - In February, a group of 16 gathered on 4 consecutive Tuesdays for a simple dinner and to learn about earth scholar, Thomas Berry. His life and ideas were presented by Gertie Jocksh and Margaret Walters.

A New Template for Christianity, with Michael Morwood, speaker and writer from Australia. His visit included an evening lecture, a Saturday workshop and as guest speaker at our Sunday service. With Michael's help, we re-imagined foundational faith topics, in order to make Jesus' message more relevant to the present world. Our own community plus people from other churches and SBNRs attended.

And more....

Abundant Life In March and April. Phase I - explored the 'abundant life' God desires for us. Then, Phase II- a support group for those who set goals to work on. Facilitated by Cheryl Black & Betty Anne Dempsey.

Exploring St. Aidan's Way -led by Cheryl Black in May. Celtic insights for living were explored, giving us tools for a post-Christian world.

Holy Shift - in September, a small group from St. Aidan's attended this workshop at Knox United Church in Parksville. New expressions of ministry and church were explored, as well as the latest leadership strategies. This was part of the Leadershift series.

Submitted by Maureen Koch

Spiritual Growth Team: Janis Evans, Andrea Hubbard and Maureen Koch (Chair).

Church Library

Library Collection

We added items to our collection to support the various programs and activities of the congregation throughout the year, including items to expand the Addiction Recovery Resource Library. These were promoted in booklists and displays, and by talking to individuals. Circulation was up until about mid-year, then dropped for some reason. When we took inventory of our collection in the summer, we found to our dismay that a large number of books (38) had disappeared from our shelves, far more than any other year. Some of them have turned up, but many haven't. We're not sure why this has happened, and we continue to search for them. We're also still searching for a good plan for secure shelving to house our DVD and CD collection.



Volunteers

We have two teams of volunteers. The midweek ones, Janis Evans, Lynda McLean-Woodward and Rhonda Hilton work at getting the new items ready to be borrowed, checking for overdues, processing items to be withdrawn from the collection for a variety of reasons, etc. The second group, Paul, Linda and Kaycee Cobb, and Janet Palin staff the library on Sundays. All of them also assisted in taking the inventory of the collection and continue to help search for those missing items. We were sorry to say goodbye to Beth Eagles when she and her husband moved north during the year. We continue to seek more volunteers who love books and are comfortable with computers, to add to our Sunday Staff, and those who aren't comfortable with computers but would like to help out two Friday mornings a month.

Promotion

I revised and/or created 8 booklists to highlight current topics, submitted 11 items for Life & Works, articles for the Reaching Out Newsletter and for the Program Guide

Beyond our walls

In April we hosted the last annual Conference of the Church Library Association of BC, held at St. Aidan's. The Association was dissolved at the AGM, and I spent many hours working with others on its Council winding up its affairs. We ended with a Celebration of all it had accomplished in its 47 years. Two of its long-time members came from our congregation – Jean Chabassol and Jean MacKenzie, and their many contributions over the years had been recognized by lifetime memberships.



Respectfully submitted,
Louise Booth, Library Chair

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Social Justice Team

The Social Justice Team – Maureen Koch, Vivian Skinner, Cherie and Roger Davidson, and Doreen Lovely – are interested in social justice issues, the concerns of the needy, and the environment. We are a small group, and we bring topics, both local and global, to the notice of the congregation for discussion and action.

Locally

Shelbourne Community Kitchen – One of our Team serves on the Board of this program, keeping us in close touch. We promote and support their work with donations of food and money. In spring we raised money through a garden sale, and in the fall we assisted with a fundraising dinner, held at the Lutheran Church of the Cross.

Out-of-the-Rain – During the winter, we provide 6 monthly suppers to this program for street youth, run by Beacon Community Services.

UVic Meditation Group – We provided 2 suppers for this group.

Angel Gifts – We assisted this program by collecting wrapped Christmas gifts for Our Place. St. Aidan's congregation provided 50 gifts, and the final organization of the whole project took place in the Sanctuary.

Project Connect – In October, Team members helped collect items (10 backpacks and 8 pairs of gloves and mittens) for Project Connect, a one-day 'information and service fair' for people experiencing homelessness or in extreme poverty. It is an initiative of the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness.

Our Place – In May, we collected 12 new or gently used umbrellas and 10 bus tickets for use by the folks at Our Place.

Pride Parade – Over 20 people represented St. Aidan's in the 2017 Victoria Pride Parade, and we helped at the United Church of Canada table at the end of the parade.

New Church Signs – We arranged to get new lightweight signs bearing St. Aidan's new logo, to be carried at parades and displayed at events.

Earth Hour Vigil – Team members attended this event at Holy Cross Church in March.

New Homelessness Action Group – We support Cheryl's homelessness action group, which is looking into homelessness in the local Saanich area, and St. Aidan's possible response. Saanich policeman, Andy Stuart, spoke to the congregation on the subject after the service one Sunday. As a result of this Action Group, tarps were donated and a space was made under the covered parking lot for a homeless couple, Devon and Brie, to set up camp. Brie and Devon became known

St. Aidan's marches in the Pride Parade on July 9, 2017



to many in the congregation and they would often come out of their shelter to enjoy a coffee in the lounge. Their friend, Dave, who also camped nearby in the garden, regularly joined them. Tragically, Dave died in April and Cheryl tracked down his family and conducted a memorable Celebration of Life, at which Devon revealed his musical ability by playing the piano as part of the service. This brief, up-close encounter has changed many hearts on the subject of homelessness.

St. Aidan's Response to Disasters, and Acts of Hate in Our World –

We have been discussing ways of responding to acts of hate. We have begun by having candles to light and cards of support/condolence for the congregation and visitors to sign.

Donations – We distributed \$2400 in donations on behalf of St. Aidan's congregation as follows:

- \$2000 to Shelbourne Community Kitchen
- \$100 to The Dandelion Society
- \$100 to Our Place
- \$100 to Together Against Poverty Society
- \$100 to Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness

Globally

Fair Trade Coffee – We organized the sale of Fair Trade coffee and tea in the church.

Mission and Service Fund – The annual fund-raising target of the Mission and Service Fund is set by the Social Justice Team. This money goes to the United Church of Canada's Mission and Service work both within Canada, and globally through ecumenical, interfaith partners. In 2017 the fund-raising target was set at \$35,000.00. St. Aidan's raised \$30,515.00.

We reach the congregation through church service announcements, as well as through *Reaching Out* and *Life and Work*, and on the church website.

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm. All are welcome.

Submitted by Doreen Lovely



Cherie Davidson, Maureen Koch, Roger Davidson and Vivian Skinner make soup for the Out of the Rain youth shelter.

Intercultural Ministry

The Intercultural Ministry at St. Aidan's has had a vibrant year. Julie and Mari hosted Mini-Workshops based on Canadian Churches' Forum – 'Engage Difference: Deepening Our Understanding of Intercultural Ministry'. These Workshops have been, and continue to be, well-attended by congregation members and newcomers. We are discovering, through insightful discussions, the ways in which we can learn from each other and our diverse backgrounds.

The English Language classes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings are really interesting. We had over twenty students on the roster this year. Normally, the class size is anywhere from three to eight students. We cover topics of: conversation, vocabulary, pronunciation, current events and local interest. We have had 'intercultural meals' together, trips to the park, tennis, coffee and other social occasions. The students come from various locations including: China, Thailand, Syria, Russia, Mexico, Bulgaria and Brazil. They are sometimes only in Canada for short periods of time but they enrich our lives with their experiences.

We have continued with conversation get-togethers after service on Sunday. We have also added a lunch outing on the first Sunday of each month. On the third Sunday, we get together for the DUIM mini-workshop. Congregation members are always welcome to join any of the Intercultural activities. The cultural exchanges are usually lively, interesting and enlightening resulting in new and valuable friendships!

Respectfully submitted

Mari Nattress, Intercultural Ministry Coordinator



Julie Ng and Mari Nattress host an Intercultural Workshop on the third Sunday of each month after worship.

Refugee Sponsorship Report

The Sultan Family is now independent. Our year of joint sponsorship with Oak Bay United Church, St. Aidan's United Church, the Masjid Al Iman (mosque), and members of the community at large was officially over early in January 2017 but we continued our assistance until after their new son arrived in February and the soccer season was over for Majeed. We also made sure Majeed was enrolled for a summer program with the soccer league.

Thank you to those who helped with math tutoring, English tutoring, driving Majeed to soccer, taking Khitmia to appointments and your interest and donations to this family.

Finally, our fundraising to help Syrian Refugees was so successful, that there is enough money remaining to sponsor a second family. Our application for sponsorship under a family reunification plan of the federal government has been accepted. We have committed to sponsoring a family with relatives in Victoria. The new Haboush family (mother, father, 2 young sons, and 2 daughters) is currently in Turkey. They have had their interview with the Canadian Embassy but are now awaiting their security check. Apparently that can take longer than 6 months because the Embassy in Turkey is short staffed. Needless to say, the family living here and the Committee are eagerly waiting for their arrival. We will keep you posted!

Frances Stocks, St Aidan's Representative on the Victoria Refugee Initiative

**AT THE 'HEART' OF
ST. AIDAN'S UNITED CHURCH**



Reaching Out Newsletter

This St. Aidan's periodical was distributed five times in 2017. The purpose is to provide helpful, interesting and relevant information/ideas to our readers. Contributions, whether in words or pictures, are from our church people. We try to stress spirituality, unity, and celebration as our stories are told. Editors are Sylvia Campbell (text editing) and Janis Evans (layout/design).

Submitted by Janis Evans



Bazaar 2017 (Before Opening)



St. Aidan's United Church hosts its Market Bazaar every year on the first Saturday of November, welcoming hundreds of people from all over Greater Victoria. With 22 sections visitors have told us we have the "best Bazaar in the City"

Our Bazaar 2017 raised \$37,360.80. Thanks to everyone this November 4 event enabled us to raise a grand amount, create wonderful fellowship and have lots of fun. The Bazaar team has agreed to dedicate our 16% discretionary donation to the payment of new countertops and flooring in the lower kitchen. Over the years this percentage has been very useful in purchasing pew cushions, china for the lower kitchen, blinds for the windows, new counter top for the upstairs kitchen and washrooms, storage cabinets and carpeting, etc.

The Bazaar convenors very much appreciate our ongoing relationship with the Thrift Shop. Each year a great number of volunteers from the community enjoy their association with St. Aidan's and are happy to be a part of the Bazaar. We greatly appreciate their help.

Please consider helping as we need volunteers year-round for cleaning, sorting and pricing toys, books, vintage items, handbags and jewellery. We have great group of people who sew and knit and are busy producing fabulous items year round but they need more helpers. We gather items all year long, so please spread the word as we need your donations.

Please contact Marilyn [250-479-5676](tel:250-479-5676) if you have any questions or would like to be part of this team
Thanks to Cheryl Upright for doing continuing to do most of the advertising.

Mark your calendars Bazaar 2018 is scheduled for November 3.

Respectfully Submitted Marilyn Smith

The Friendly Octopus (Thrift Shop)

2017 marked a big anniversary for us as we opened in 1997. We also paid a formal tribute to Joan Martin, who started the thrift shop with me twenty years ago. Joan is technically retired, but has continued to help us from home when her health permits.

This past summer we fixed up the area where we meet and eat by putting in 20 new stacking chairs. We are able to seat 30 because of extra folding chairs.

Every year we are able to donate a percentage of our net revenue to a local charity. This year the amount was 16% and the volunteers chose The Victoria Threshold Society. A cheque for \$9,300 was presented in early February 2018.

We continue to have our morning greeters, Elsie and Brian Habbick and our afternoon young man, Lorenzo.

We also continue to have our young lady from S.I.D.E.S. (South Island Distance Education School) accompanied by her worker. They load plastic bags onto wooden dispensers, label recycle bags to go to Our Place, Salvation Army, Big Brothers & Sisters, Transition House, and the Canadian Diabetic Association.

Styrofoam, metal and electronics are taken by our volunteers to the various recycling locations.

We begin every Wednesday, with a 30 minute meeting to discuss sales, what is happening in the church, our prayer concerns and the thrift shop prayer written by Rev. Piercey MacLean. Lately we have had three new volunteers who came to us through the ESL programme. This is something new which works well to our mutual satisfaction. We are very pleased that we have such a large volunteer team, but we can always use more, especially in the noon to 2 p.m. slot.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the wonderful, clean donations you and your friends and relatives send to us. Our customers tell us that the quality of the clothing at The Friendly Octopus is the best in town!

Respectfully submitted, Sylvia Campbell



Volunteers meet on Wed. morning before the Thrift Shop opens.

CHURCH STATISTICS FOR 2017

Baptisms

Oliver David Chapman
Edward Ding Yi Chen

Date of Service

May 21
October 29

Marriages

None in 2017

Lovingly Remembered

Pearl Gunn
Ruth Margaret Beckner
Alex Reid
David Maurice Robinson
Patricia Lovewell
Carol Joan Evans
Joyce Paterson
Maisie Brenner
Heather Nicol
Eric Pearson

Date of Death

February 7
January 13
January 22
March 25
September 27
October 9
November 10
November 23
December 3
December 24

Members Received

Rhonda Hilton
Holly Luck
Shirley Rainey
Carol Beardsell
Edward Ding Yi Chen

Date of Service

April 16
April 16
April 16
June 4
October 29

Regular Rental Groups in 2017

Island Bridge Club (Mon, Wed Thurs)
Victoria Children's Choir
Kathleen Laurie School of Highland Dance (Mon-Thurs afternoons)
Living Today
Theosophical Society
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)
Vancouver Island Philatelic Society (stamp collectors)
Victoria Knitters Guild
Embroiderers Guild of Victoria
Knit Knuts
Small Endeavours Miniatures
Handweavers & Spinners Guild
Island Thyme Morris Dancers
Self Advocates for a Brighter Future
Victoria Genealogical Society
First Open Heart Society
BC Association for Living Mindfully (BCALM)
Saltwater Arts Studio
Furusato Dancers/ Ikebana
CISV (Children's International ... Village) Youth Group
Doukhobor Choir

Regular community group users include:

Victoria Hospice Bereavement Support group
Mt Tolmie New Horizons women's exercise group
5th Cedar Hill Scouting groups
Camas District Guiding groups
Victoria Presbytery

Big event renters:

Avalon Singers
Crystal Singers
Starlight Pops
Galiano Ensemble (practice only)

Occasional community use by:

Shelbourne Community Kitchen
District of Saanich
Mt. Tolmie Community Association
Various architects and development groups
Variety of music schools



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2017

Balance Sheet for Year Ended December 31, 2017

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash

Coast Capital Chequing	\$	47,249	
Coast Capital Savings	\$	301	
Petty Cash - Office	\$	585	
TOTAL CASH			\$ 48,135

Accounts Receivable

GST Rebate			\$ 1,913
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Investments

Oikocredit Investment	\$	50,000	
Investments-Leede Jones Gable	\$	122,382	
PH&N	\$	125,460	
TOTAL INVESTMENTS			\$ 297,842

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS

\$ 347,890

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 347,890

LIABILITIES

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts payable			\$ 22,839
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TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES

\$ 22,839

EQUITY

DESIGNATED FUNDS HELD IN RESERVE

Unrestricted funds

St. Aidan's Reserve Fund			\$ 26,425
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Restricted funds

A.O.T.S Reserve	\$	21	
Education & Spiritual Learning Fund	\$	25,900	
Emergency Assistance Fund	\$	1,974	
Healing Ministry Reserve	\$	2,420	
Homelessness Fund	\$	3,298	
Intercultural Ministry Provision Grant	\$	8,906	
Legacy Gift Fund	\$	224,704	
Memorial Fund	\$	9,222	
Naomi Endowment Fund	\$	30,500	
St. Aidan's Reaching Out Fund	\$	15,867	
Social Justice Reserve	\$	397	
Youth Fundraising Reserve	\$	3,502	
Total Restricted funds			\$ 326,711

TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS

RETAINED EARNINGS

Retained Earnings			\$ (5,246)
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TOTAL EQUITY

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

\$ 347,890

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the Year Ended Dec. 31, 2017

	2017	Budget 2017	Variance to Budget	2016
RECEIPTS				
Offerings	228,331	235,000	(6,669)	222,990
Thrift Shop (gross income)	64,056	63,800	256	59,706
Bazaar (gross income)	37,154	37,000	154	34,384
Donations for Capital Projects	5,928	7,568	(1,640)	10,061
Library	104	300	(196)	452
Music	2,642	1,300	1,342	3,240
Investment Income (note 1)	6,011	6,000	11	
Other Income/Gifts	6,102	900	5,202	10,220
Building User Fees	83,823	77,000	6,823	76,895
Provision Intercultural Ministry grant	8,572	13,400	(4,828)	4,747
Transfer from Education Fund for CYF & Bus Trip Ministry	8,909	18,630	(9,721)	9,606
TOTAL RECEIPTS	451,632	460,898	(9,266)	432,301
DISBURSEMENTS				
Personnel				
Clergy Ministry	128,568	131,020	(2,452)	123,797
Music Ministry	29,614	31,835	(2,221)	34,739
Children & Youth Ministry	6,557	12,530	(5,973)	5,177
Office	78,565	78,180	385	76,095
Communications co-ordinator	7,044	7,500	(456)	
Custodial	52,542	53,400	(858)	41,684
Intercultural Ministry	8,572	11,400	(2,828)	2,884
Other Expenses	6,310	5,920	390	5,257
Total Personnel	317,772	331,785	(14,013)	289,633
Team Ministries				
Worship	3,010	2,800	210	4,100
Music	3,926	3,600	326	3,394
Membership & Pastoral Care	254	600	(346)	229
Children Youth & Families	1,744	2,400	(656)	933
Library	1,777	1,800	(23)	2,978
Social Justice	3,333	2,500	833	2,500
Spiritual Growth	1,810	500	1,310	406
Bus Trip Ministry	(15)		(15)	
Intercultural Ministry	1,248	2,000	(752)	1,863
Total Team Ministries	17,087	16,200	887	16,403
Administration and Property				
Property	58,082	47,500	10,582	54,913
Capital projects	27,574	10,000	17,574	67,167
Office & Administration	18,583	15,500	3,083	16,941
Other Expenses	1,724	700	1,024	9,173
Thrift Shop Expenses and Outreach	11,977	12,487	(510)	10,209
Bazaar Expenses and Outreach	7,803	7,768	35	6,831
Total Property, Administration & Other	125,743	93,955	31,788	165,234
Transfers and Assessment				
Victoria Presbytery Assessment	16,172	17,250	(1,078)	16,044
Total Operating Expenditure	476,774	459,190	17,584	487,314
Surplus (Deficit) before special adjustments	(25,142)	1,708	(26,850)	(55,013)
Transfer from St. Aidan's Reserve Fund (note 2)	5,074	-	5,074	52,588
Surplus(Deficit after special adjustments)	(20,068)	1,708	(21,776)	(2,425)

Notes:

- \$6,000 from share of investment income paid into Reserve Fund
- \$5,074 cost of replacing 3rd furnace; cost of replacing 2 furnaces included in Capital Projects

Statement of Trusts and Reserves for the year ended December 31, 2017

Fund	31 Dec. 2016	Receipts	Income	Expenditures	31 Dec. 2017
Unrestricted funds					
St. Aidan's Reserve Fund	\$ 23,686	\$ 6,371	\$ 7,441	\$ 11,073	\$ 26,425
Restricted funds					
AOTS	\$ 21				\$ 21
Education & Spiritual Learning Fund	\$ 35,387	\$ 520	\$ 906	\$ 10,913	\$ 25,900
Emergency Assistance Fund	\$ 1,500	\$ 707	\$ 51	\$ 284	\$ 1,974
Garden of Remembrance (see note 3)	\$ 10,630			\$ 10,630	\$ -
Healing Ministry Reserve	\$ 2,033	\$ 540	\$ 57	\$ 210	\$ 2,420
Homelessness Fund		\$ 3,935	\$ 68	\$ 705	\$ 3,298
Intercultural Ministry Grant	\$ 6,228	\$ 11,250		\$ 8,572	\$ 8,906
Legacy Fund (see note 2)	\$ 218,333	\$ 6,371			\$ 224,702
Memorial Fund	\$ 5,907	\$ 3,658	\$ 164	\$ 505	\$ 9,224
Naomi Fund (see note 1)	\$ 30,500				\$ 30,500
St. Aidan's Reaching Out Fund	\$ 16,712	\$ 708	\$ 447	\$ 2,000	\$ 15,867
Social Justice Reserve	\$ 218	\$ 173	\$ 6		\$ 397
Youth Fundraising Reserve	\$ 3,876	\$ 399	\$ 117	\$ 890	\$ 3,502
Totals	\$ 355,031	\$ 34,632	\$ 9,257	\$ 45,782	\$ 353,138

Notes:

1. Naomi Fund income paid to Music Team income
2. Income paid to St. Aidan's Reserve Fund
3. Fund closed; income paid to Reserve Fund

Donations to Charities

St. Aidan's reaches out far and wide.

During 2017 St. Aidan's generously reached out to our local community and global initiatives with the following donations:

Beacon Community Services	\$ 400
Coalition to end homelessness	100
Dandelion Society	100
Our Place	2,872
Shelbourne Community Kitchen	3,225
TAPS	100
Threshold Housing Society	9,231
United Church of Canada Mission & Service Fund	31,186
UVic Chaplaincy	<u>1,000</u>
TOTAL	\$48,214

Investment Management Committee

This committee, whose current members are Colin Booth, Roger Davidson & Paul Malnarich, is a subsidiary of the Finance Team that is responsible for monitoring our investment portfolio and maintaining contact with our professional investment advisors.

The Investment Policy of St. Aidan's has 3 objectives:

- Preservation of capital.
- Generation of income.
- Investment in Socially Responsible Investments

Our investment portfolio is largely achieving the intended objectives:

- Current capital value is 76.3% of \$450,000, the initial amount invested in March 2013.

The investment portfolio contains several Socially Responsible Investments.

Investment Placement	Book Value Dec 31 2017	Mrkt Value Dec 31 2016	Withdrawals 2017	Mrkt Value Dec 31 2017
Oikocredit*	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$2,233	\$50,000
Phillips, Hager & North				
Income** - Money Market	**\$0	**\$2,970	\$6,694	**\$0
Total Return Bond Fund	\$58,653	\$56,753	\$0	\$56,568
RBC Vision Canadian Equity Fund (switch) *	\$14,902	\$19,823	\$0	\$20,324
Canadian Equity Fund	\$27,552	\$34,224	\$0	\$35,303
Global Equity Fund	\$24,353	\$42,482	\$0	\$53,146
Subtotals - PH & N	\$125,460	\$156,252	\$6,694	\$165,341
Leede Jones Gable				
Manulife Savings Income**	**\$865	**\$5,724	\$9,893	**\$865
Manulife Savings Capital	\$3,076	\$0	\$0	\$3,076
NEI Money Market - DSC*	\$27,669	\$30,747	\$0	\$27,669
IAC Inhance - DSC*	\$44,347	\$51,625	\$0	\$47,635
IAC Inhance - FE*	\$4,348	\$406	\$0	\$4,671
Ethical Global Divd - DSC*	\$22,597	\$24,988	\$0	\$22,769
Ethical Global Divd - FE*	\$2,924	\$412	\$0	\$2,947
Meritas Monthly Dividend and Income - DSC*	\$15,041	\$19,486	\$0	\$17,652
Meritas Monthly Dividend and Income - FE*	\$1,515	\$99	\$0	\$1,778
Subtotals - LJG	\$122,382	\$133,487	\$9,893	\$129,062
Subtotals - Income	**\$865	\$8,694	\$18,820	**\$865
Subtotals - Capital	\$296,977	\$331,045	\$0	\$343,538
Totals	\$297,842	\$339,739	\$18,820	\$344,403

* Socially responsible investments – 56.9%

** Income held on account

Operating Budget for 2018

	Budget 2018	Actual 2017 (unaudited)	Budget 2017	
RECEIPTS				
Offerings	238,500	228,331	235,000	Note 1
Thrift Shop (gross income)	64,500	64,056	63,800	includes AM and PM
Building User Fees	92,000	83,823	77,000	
Investment Income	6,000	6,011	6,000	Note 2
Bazaar (gross Income)	36,500	37,154	37,000	
Donations for Capital Projects	2,500	5,928	7,568	Note 3
Grants	4,500	-	-	Note 4
Loan - Reserve fund	25,000	-	-	Note A
Library	200	104	300	
Music	2,000	2,642	1,300	
Other Income/Gifts	5,400	6,102	900	
Provision Intercultural Ministry	11,500	8,572	13,400	
Education Fund CYF/ Bus Ministry	9,000	8,909	18,630	
	<u>497,600</u>	<u>451,632</u>	<u>460,898</u>	
DISBURSEMENTS				
Personnel				
Clergy Ministry	133,580	128,568	131,020	Note 5 / Note 6
Office	78,500	78,565	78,180	Note 5 / Note 7
Custodial	54,750	52,542	53,400	Note 5
Music Ministry	30,780	29,614	31,835	Note 5
Intercultural Ministry	9,400	8,572	11,400	
Communications Co-coordinator	14,400	7,044	7,500	
Youth & Families Co-coordinator	11,300	6,557	12,530	Note 4 - expenditure
Other	5,500	6,310	5,920	
	<u>338,210</u>	<u>317,772</u>	<u>331,785</u>	Note 8
Team Ministries				
Worship	3,000	3,010	2,800	
Spiritual Growth	2,500	1,810	500	Note 10
Music Ministry	3,900	3,926	3,600	Note 9
Social Justice Team	2,800	3,333	2,500	Note 10
Intercultural Ministry (St Aidan's)	1,500	1,248	2,000	Note 10
Library	1,700	1,777	1,800	
Youth & Families	2,000	1,744	2,400	
Bus Trip Ministry	-	(15)	-	
Membership & Pastoral Care	600	254	600	
Emerging Innovation	5,500	-	-	Revision funding
	<u>23,500</u>	<u>17,087</u>	<u>16,200</u>	

Administration and Property

Property Maintenance	43,000	41,852	47,500	
Capital Projects	-	27,574	10,000	see Capital Projects
Office & Administration	18,700	18,583	15,500	Note 11
Insurance	18,770	16,230	-	
Thrift Shop Expenses & Outreach	12,200	11,977	12,487	
Bazaar Expenses	2,200	7,803	7,768	Note 12
Communications	1,100	-	-	
Furnaces	8,000	-	-	Note A
A/V Upkeep & Repairs	8,000	-	-	Note 5
Miscellaneous	1,000	1,724	700	
	<u>112,970</u>	<u>125,743</u>	<u>93,955</u>	

Transfers

Victoria Presbytery Assessment	16,000	16,172	17,250	
Transfer from St. Aidan's Reserve		5,074		
Furnaces - Draw from Reserves	17,000			Note A

Total Operating Expenditure

<u>507,680</u>	<u>476,774</u>	<u>459,190</u>
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Surplus (Deficit)

<u>(10,080)</u>	<u>(20,068)</u>	<u>1,708</u>
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Capital Project Funding and Requests

*** Bazaar Outreach available	(6,000)	Note 12
A/V Enhancements	8,000	Note B
Seminar/Chapel Redecorating	7,500	Note C

Notes

- 1 3.5% lift from 2017 actual (based on Sunday congregational attendance)
- 2 \$11,000 gross (\$5,000 distributed to other funds - not part of operating budget)
- 3 Thrifty's Smile Card donation plus congregational gifting
- 4 Grant writing - Summer Student Federal Grant (expenditure of \$4,500 depend upon receipt of grant)
Initial expenditure \$300 (grant application), for total expenditure of \$4,800.
- 5 COLA clause 1.4% + 2.5% additional costs
- 6 Clergy includes Pastoral Care \$12,700; Bus Ministry \$4,760; Pulpit Supply \$1,600.
- 7 Short-term Disability Insurance required fiscal 2017. Cost of temporary replacement \$8,200.
- 8 Percent spent on Personnel from Receipts:
Actual 2017: 70.36%
Budget 2018: 70.28% (did not include Reserve loan of \$25,000)
- 9 Includes Band Leader and special musicians \$3900.00
Children's Choir Leadership \$2080.00
- 10 Budget increases include emerging revision opportunities
- 11 Includes proposal to lease phone service equipment (\$2500.00)
- 12 Bazaar Outreach has been removed from operating budget. Historically funds are "earmarked" for specific capital projects
 - A. Replacement of Furnaces. Council motion to loan \$40,000 from Reserve Funds for the project.
Final estimate for replacement of furnaces approximates \$25,000.
First year repayment is \$8,000; remaining outstanding is \$17,000 repayable over next 2 budget years
 - B. \$3000 basic A/V upkeep/repairs for 2018
\$5000 planned enhancements including lighting
\$8000 contingency fund for projector replacement. (did not include in budget)
 - C. Proposal from re-decorating Committee (Bazaar funding)

Annual General Meeting Agenda - Feb. 25, 2018

St. Aidan's United Church, St. Aidan's Street, Saanich, BC

1. Welcome - Doug Koch
2. Opening prayer - Cheryl Black
3. Motion to appoint a secretary
4. Declare a quorum
5. Motion: Adopt the agenda
6. Motion: Voting rights to adherents on temporal matters
7. Motion: Approve minutes - Feb 26/17
8. Financial statements for 2017
9. Investment statements - Roger Davidson
10. Non-financial reports - Team chairs
11. Giving thanks time
12. Building on a Strong Foundation - Rev. Cheryl Black
13. 2018 Budget
14. Nominations for Council - All current members are prepared to serve another term
15. Other items
16. Closing remarks - Doug Koch
17. Blessing - Betty Anne Dempsey

Minutes of 2017 AGM

St. Aidan's United Church 2017 Annual General Meeting Minutes Sunday, February 26, 2017

1. **Welcome – Meeting Chair: Tony Smith**

The meeting was opened by the Chair of St. Aidan's Council at 11:45 am with thanks to the Cubs and Scouts for providing hot dog lunch and bake sale. It was noted that St. Aidan's had now supported the Cubs and Scouts for 57 years.

2. **Opening Prayer (Rev. Cheryl Black)**

3. **Secretary for meeting** secretary of Council, Arlene Galloway Ford, with help of Mandy Wilson

4. **Quorum declared by Tony Smith** – noted that more than 30 people required for quorum were attending the meeting

5. **Motion: to Adopt proposed Agenda Judy Boulden/Joan Martin Carried**

6. **Motion: to grant Voting Rights to Adherents on Temporal Matters Helen Pinel/Jean Margison Carried**

7. **Motion: to approve minutes of 2016 Annual General Meeting (February 28, 2016) Eric Pearson/Mary Kennedy Carried**

8. **2016 Financial Statements**

Colin Booth reviewed 2016 financial statements noting offerings up 10% over 2015 thanks to commitment of participants, stewardship campaign and new members- several from Gordon Head United Church- and Thrift Shop revenue up 15% over 2015. Capital project expenditures of over \$67,000 mostly for painting and flooring. Personnel 70% of expenditures but within budget. Colin noted \$60,000 was given by members of congregation to other organizations and he wanted to recognize this aspect of the church helping out in many ways. Formal letter on statement not yet received from financial reviewer but this will be presented to Council when it arrives. Colin and Paul have met with reviewer in January and no problems anticipated.

Motion: to accept the 2016 financial statements. Colin Booth/Don Craigmyle Carried

9. **Investment Report**

Roger Davidson reviewed the highlights of the Investment Management Committee Report in the 2016 Annual Report. He noted that the overall objectives identified in 2013 - preservation of capital, generation of income, and socially responsible investments being 50 to 60 % of investments - have been achieved in 2016.

Motion: to Accept the Investment Update Report Roger Davidson/ Puddie Curtis Carried

10. **Non-Financial Reports**

Thanks were given to Kathryn Clinton for her work on putting the Annual Report together and to the team for their reports.

Motion: to accept the Non-Financial Reports as printed in 2016 Annual Report. Val Bauld/Pauline James Carried

11. **Giving Thanks Time**



- Judy Boulden thanked the “dream team” Tony Smith, Colin Booth, Alan Curtis, Doug Koch and Paul Malnarich for their assistance with liturgical décor – always there to carry things and put things up and down.
- Jean Margison thanked Maisie Brenner for bringing the Parents and Tots program from Gordon Head United Church.
- Mary Kennedy thanked all those involved in providing coffee before and after church and also for scripture reading.
- Maureen Koch thanked Andrea Hubbard for organizing communion for 17 years (Martha’s and Mary’s).
- Val Bauld thanked Marilyn Smith for initiating the Pantry.
- Frances Stocks thanked those who had contributed to support the refugees and noted that one had found a math tutor and passed his course.
- Gordon Robinson thanked the paid staff for their work and noted that Mari Nattress’s name had unfortunately been omitted in the Ministry and Personnel Report’s list of paid staff hired in the past year.
- Eric Pearson thanked the 40 volunteers of the Thrift Shop and those on the new evening shift for their work which has helped the church considerably.
- Gwen Armstrong thanked Judy Boulden for her background work around the church in many ways years after year including decorating the sanctuary and working in the Thrift Store.
- Ray Evans thanked the choirs and their leaders for providing music.

12. **Building on a Strong Foundation**

Cheryl Black talked about the need to provide a report card on the various new initiatives and she gave out a form for each person attending the meeting to provide feedback on them. Once the forms were completed they were returned to Cheryl for compilation.

13. **2017 Budget**

Paul Malnarich indicated that over the next year it was hoped to show progress using the budget number in Life and Works each month. He noted the need to give value or price on priorities. Budgeted receipts for 2017 include offerings (53%), user fees(17%), Thrift shop (15%), Bazaar (8%) and the rest under education fund and intercultural grant which are both just moving money into revenue and out through disbursements. Budgeted disbursements include people/personnel (53%), property (21%), CYF and Intercultural (7%), custodial (12%), capital projects (2%), and outreach (5%). Paul noted that the focus this year would be more on spiritual learning and growth (e.g., children and youth ministry and intercultural) and less on capital expenditures. Custodial/maintenance will also be a focus. Although capital expenditures are less this year, recognition was given for the need to update furnace(s) because of their age and number (9).

**Motion: to accept the 2017 budget as printed in the 2017 Annual Report.
Paul Malnarich/Ken Patterson**

14. **Appointment of reviewer or auditor**

Motion: Council is authorized to appoint the auditor of financial reviewer for the 2017 fiscal year. Paul Malnarich/Cherie Davidson Carried

15. **2017 M & S Goal**

Roger Davidson noted that the target of \$40,000 had not been met in the past 3 years so the Social Justice team was setting a goal of \$35,000 for 2017 in promoting this aspect of giving.

16. **Trustees**

Motion: Accept resignation of Donald McCay. Ray Evans/Don Craigmyle Carried
Motion: Appoint Blake Ford as a trustee. Ray Evans/Helen Pinel Carried

17. **Logo**

Mike Emme provided information on how a logo becomes a symbol and explained the multiple meanings of the various parts of the new church logo – circle, cross, hands/doves and colours, including links to liturgical colours. The logo has layers and each layer has multiple meanings.

18. **Remits**

Meeting attendees were reminded that the Council would be voting on the first 4 remits at the Council meeting on March 15, 2017 and to speak to Council Members before the vote if they had questions or concerns. The final remit - #6 One Order of Ministry- will be voted on by Council at a later date.

19. **Nominations for Council**

Roger Hannaford presented the results of the nomination team (Roger, Tony Smith and Colin Booth) on the screen at the meeting.

- Doug Koch, Chair
- Paul Malnarich, Treasurer
- Arlene Galloway Ford, Secretary
- Gordon Robinson, M & P
- Mary Kennedy, Worship
- Alan Curtis, Property
- Maureen Koch, Social Justice & Spiritual Growth
- Helen Pinel, Pastoral Care
- Mandy Wilson, Presbytery representative
- Elizabeth Thornburn, CYF
- Jean Margison, member at large
- Carol Munro, member at large
- Pauline James, member at large
- Rev. Cheryl Black, ex-officio (non-voting)

Puddie Curtis asked three times for further nominations. Hearing none the following motion was made.

Motion: That the list of nominations be approved. Roger Hannaford/Gwen Armstrong Carried

20. **Closing remarks**

Tony Smith presented the new chair, Doug Koch, with a wooden gavel. Doug recognized Tony's decade of chairing the Council and also the accomplishments of the church during his time as Chair. Paul recognized the work and many talents of Colin Booth and Roger Davidson recognized the work and quiet leadership of Roger Hannaford. Tony, Colin and Roger were presented with recognition plaques for the work. Tony, Colin, Roger and Puddie Curtis were given thanks for their work on Council as they leave the Council.

Tony thanked the two ministers, Cheryl Black and Betty Anne Dempsey for their work.

21. **Blessing**

Betty Anne offered a prayer and then the meeting was adjourned.

A New Creed

(United Church of Canada, 1968)



We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.



St. Aidan's United Church 2017 Annual Report

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