
ST. THOMAS UNITED CHURCH 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

MINISTERS: Rev. Dr. Bob Fillier, Rev. Victoria Fillier

YOUTH LEADERS: Andrew Taylor-Kerr and Kevin Leitch (Jan-June 30, 2013) Brittney Whittaker, Marika Wagner, Matthew Taylor-Kerr (as of Aug. 15, 2013)

MUSIC TEAM: Pam Bazinet, Barb Robertson, Erin MacLean-Berko, Dick Worton, Kari Orosz, and Kloria Wen.

ORGANIST: Kari Orosz

OFFICE MANAGER: Sandra Dusoswa

CARETAKER: Ferdinand (Ferdie) Justo

TREASURER: Betty Smith

OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Thursday 8:30am – 3:30 pm Fridays 8:30am – 12:30

OFFICE PHONE: (403)241-0366

Email address: office@stthomasunited.ca

MAILING ADDRESS: 100 Hawkwood Blvd. NW
Calgary, Alberta T3G 2S9

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES –
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2013

The Annual Congregational Meeting was chaired by Hope Cochran. It was an integral part of the worship service Sunday 10:00 am.

Opening Prayer – Hope Cochran

Acknowledging the Community: Motion to Extend Voting Privileges to Adherents

Moved that voting privileges be extended to those persons who are not members of this congregation in regard to the building, property, finances, and other secular matters that concern the life and work of the congregation.

(Motion by Greg Hyatt; Seconded by Hugh Johnson)

Carried.

Memorium: A moment of silence and prayer in remembrance of Guido Haas, Marvin Blakely, Carl Jacob Tetzlaff, Stella Wagstaff, Peggy Isfan, and Gerry Moffatt.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2012 Congregational Meetings

Moved that the minutes of the Congregational Meeting of January 29, 2012 (calls to Rev. Bob Fillier and Rev. Victoria Fillier); the Annual Congregational Meeting of February 12, 2012; and the Congregational Meeting of November 25, 2012 (General Council 41 Response) be approved as presented.

Motion by Hugh Johnson; Seconded by David Gray.

Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes - None

Receiving the Annual Reports: Review of the Work of the Church in 2012

Moved that the Annual Reports of St. Thomas United Church for 2012 be accepted as they have been prepared and circulated.

Motion by Cathy Rivard; Seconded by Dennis Watson.

Carried.

Approval of the Financial Statements 2012

Copies of the 2012 financial statements with accompanying notes were available and distributed.

Greg Hyatt presented an overview of the financial statements, providing explanations and an opportunity for questions.

Some key points:

Temporarily restricted funds: \$30,000 transferred last year from the Operating Fund surplus to the Building & Mortgage Fund (motion at ACM Feb 22, 2012).

Building & Mortgage Fund of \$76,359 at end of year (2012 a relatively light year for capital expenses).

The building is now 25 years old and we need to anticipate and prepare for some major repair/replacement expenses. Currently under consideration and study - roof repair/replacement (investigating insurance claim); parking lot upgrading; and accessibility improvements of entrances.

Revenue: Total \$403,083

Local offerings were very similar to the previous year. Facility cost recovery is down about \$10,000 as some programs not using space in 2012.

Expenses: Total \$403,601

Salaries & benefits are up over 2011 because we were at full staffing for the last half of the year.

Minister Relocation Costs of \$15, 648

Most other expenses were relatively static this year.

Basically this is a break-even year, a deficit of \$518

Greg thanked the congregation for maintaining contributions during the past year of transition in ministerial staffing.

Moved that the St. Thomas United Church Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2012 be approved.

Motion by George Zirotti; Seconded by Sherrill Knight.

Carried.

Moved that the Executive Council appoint a member or adherent of St. Thomas to conduct a financial review of the St. Thomas 2012 financial statements, pursuant to the United Church of Canada handbook requirements.

Motion by Karen Kavanagh; Seconded by Dennis Watson.

Carried.

Presentation of the 2013 Budget

Greg Hyatt outlined the proposed budget.

Local Offerings – the proposed total assumes a 4% increase although this has not been supported by pledges perhaps other contributions will be forthcoming.

Expenses - Salaries and Benefits will be up this year. The figure assumes that there will be a 6 month vacancy in the Staff Associate position.

Mission & Outreach - includes funds for a new local outreach program – Avenue 15 dinners.

In summary – a deficit is anticipated for 2013.

A graph showing St. Thomas Revenue to Expenses totals for the years 2008 to 2012 illustrated that while expenses increased an expected average of about 2% per year over these 5 years (total 10.6%), the revenues have stayed flat. A 10% increase in revenue would be needed this year to balance the anticipated expenses. It was later pointed out that the 2008 and 2009 figures would not have included the cell tower income (\$18,000 a year, beginning June 1, 2010).

Greg's message is that expenses must be carefully managed in the coming year.

Questions and comments –

Implications of the General Council 41 resolutions and our aging population on financial matters.

Attention to note there has been significant cell tower income since June of 2010.

Moved that the St. Thomas United Church Operating Fund Budget 2013 be approved.

Motion by Dennis Watson; Seconded by Lynn McCrea.

Carried.

Greg acknowledged the work and time commitment of the members of the Finance Committee helping to manage the financial matters of St. Thomas. In particular, Betty Smith, Treasurer; Envelope Steward, Joanne Hyatt; and the counters were recognized.

New Business: - None

Recognition of Leadership in 2012

All those who had served the church as a member of one of the many committees or ministries were asked to stand and were acknowledged for their contribution, leadership and commitment.

Recognition of Leadership in 2013 - The Nominations Report 2013

All those who have offered to serve in 2013 as a leader or member of one of the many committees or ministries were thanked for their service and the congregation shared in a prayer of support.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment by Hope Cochran

Chair - Hope Cochran

Secretary - Heather Worton

Attachments:

- 1. List of attendees - 90 total**
- 2. St. Thomas United Church 2012 Annual Report**
- 3. Minutes of 2012 Annual General Report**
- 4. St. Thomas United Church 2012 Financial Statements**
- 5. St. Thomas United Church 2013 Budget for Operating Fund**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - JUNE 2, 2013

Declare we have a Quorum

We are meeting in the Sanctuary of St. Thomas United Church

Called to order at 11:31 am

Chair: Rev John Snyder

Rev. John gave some background on the need for the JNAC; need two from Presbytery to work with STUC representatives to give form and content to what STUC wants to do (with the position).

Purpose:

- to elect members of STUC to the JNAC
- defining ministry & mission for part time position for Children's Christian Education

Nominate Hope Cochran as Secretary

Motion carried

Must elect members as there is no nominating committee

Question from floor (Lori W.) How often does committee meet?

Ans: Rev Bob: gave brief background info with respect to March 9.12 UBM – full JNAC is not required. Presbytery was presented with information regarding the situation – most of the work is done. Therefore the JNAC should be done by the end of June

Lori Weller then volunteered to be on the JNAC

Rev John: The JNAC is to define how the position fits in with St. Thomas United Church and to come up with a job description

Nominations:

- Hugh nominated Barry Mingo
- Stu nominated Andrea Mendritzki
- Pauline Watson nominated Dennis Watson

Motion to close nominations

Hugh moved to close

JNAC for STUC is in order

Motion –

- 1st Elaine Taylor-Ker
- 2nd David Robertson

Motion carried

Meeting adjourned: 11:40 am

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2013

As Presbytery Rep for St. Thomas, Hugh Johnson welcomed those present and introduced Rev. John Snyder who will preside over this meeting on behalf of Calgary Presbytery, as Vicki McPhee is on study leave. Rev. Snyder explained his role and outlined the purposes and procedures for this meeting. He thanked the JNAC committee for their work.

The meeting was called to order at 12:07

1. Appointment of Secretary:

Motion to appoint Heather Worton as secretary for this meeting.

(Hugh Johnson, Marj Aucoin)

Carried.

2. Conditions of a Quorum had been met. (Attendance 34)

3. Report of the Joint Needs Assessment Committee - Barry Mingo

Barry provided the background of this JNAC appointed at the June 3, 2013 Congregational Meeting of St. Thomas United Church – its mandate to review the proposal for change to the role of Designated Lay Minister (DLM) for Ministry with Children and Families as originally defined in the JNAC of March 2011 to Congregational Appointed Children’s Christian Development Leader.

- Re-designation of the Staff Associate position to Designated Lay Minister position, role unchanged
- Vacancy in the DLM position early in 2013 led to the re-evaluation of this position.
- Determined that there was significant overlap of responsibilities with the Minister for Nurture, Education, and Outreach.
- Redefined role as a part time Congregational Designated Position (CDM), changing the position from a Presbytery accountable position to a Congregation accountable position.
- The new role description has been reviewed by the Executive Council and Calgary Presbytery has reviewed the proposed position and categorized the position as a Level 2 CDM.

The JNAC review of June 2013 included a comparison of the summary of the Unified Board Visioning Workshop of March 9, 2013 and a detailed comparison of the role descriptions as defined in the original JNAC with the proposed CDL for Children’s Christian Development.

The JNAC of 2013 recommends the following:

- That the JNAC report of March 11, 2011 be modified to replace the role of Designated Lay Minister for Ministry with Children, Youth, and Families (pages 26 & 27) with the new role, Congregational Appointed Children's Christian Development Leader (attached).
- In all other aspects, the JNAC report of March 11, 2011 should remain unchanged.

Barry also suggested that the Financial Statements and Budget for 2013 also be included with attachments: (1) JNAC Report of March 11, 2013 and (2) the new role description for the Congregational Appointed Children's Christian Development Leader, when sent to Presbytery for approval.

Motion that the congregation of St. Thomas approve the JNAC 2013 recommendations and attachments as presented.

(Barry Mingo, John Latter)

Carried.

Motion to disband the JNAC 2013, pending Presbytery acceptance of the report.

(Hugh Johnson, Marj Aucoin)

Carried.

Adjournment: 12:17

Attachments:

1. Attendance
2. June 7, 2013 Report of St. Thomas United Church Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC)
3. New Role Description: Congregational Appointed Children's Christian Development Leader

Respectfully submitted by Heather Worton

ST. THOMAS UNITED UNIFIED BOARD – 2013

100 Hawkwood Blvd. NW T3G 2S9
(403) 241-0366, fax (403) 547-5556

stthomas@shaw.ca

* designates resignation in 2013
bold denotes new in 2013

MINISTERS: Rev. Dr. Bob Fillier
Rev. Victoria Fillier

Rev. Dr. Bob Fillier
Rev. Victoria Fillier

STANDING COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chair *Hope Cochran
Vice-Chair **Jeff McLean**
Past Chair Ruthann Watson
Treasurer Betty Smith
Secretary Heather Worton
Presbytery Rep Hugh Johnson

FINANCE

Chair Greg Hyatt
Treasurer Betty Smith
Barry Mingo
Wayne Pennington
Envelope Steward Jo-Anne Hyatt
Counting Coordinator Derek Fenty
Staff Bob Fillier

TRUSTEES

Chair David Gray
Dennis Gidley
Elaine Taylor-Kerr
Carrie-Faye Wong

STEWARDSHIP

Chair Maureen Dodd
*Angela Waleski

*Mark Wagner
*Denis Chalifour

WORSHIP

Chair Cathy Rivard
David Robertson
Diane Luke
Drina Nixon
Staff Bob Fillier
Staff Victoria Fillier
Andrew Major
Candle Lighters
Diane French
*Linda Miller
Scripture Readers Fiona Craig
Decorators Shirley MacGregor, Lyn Tonkin,
Lori Weller

MUSIC TEAM

Chair Elaine Taylor-Kerr
Pat Robbins
Ron French
Staff Pam Bazinet
Staff Barb Robertson
Staff Kari Orosz
Staff Dick Worton
Staff Erin MacLean-Berko
Staff Kloria Wen
Staff Bob Fillier
Staff Victoria Fillier
Alternate Music Elizabeth Griffiths

BUILDING AND PROPERTY

Co-Chair Elvin Dorscher
Co-Chair David Blackadar
David Vermeulen
Trent Hunter
Richard Pon
Bill Roeske
Murray Lees
Hal Tonkin
John Robertson
Lyle Prokopowich
Craig Gallant
Computers Hal Tonkin
Staff Sandra Dusoswa
Staff Bob Fillier
Major Plumbing Dan Ahern
Lights *Ray Larison
Lights Allen Innis
Odd Jobs Elvin Dorscher, David Vermeulen
Murray Lees

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Kristin Raugust
Staff/Newsletter Sandra Dusoswa
Staff Bob Fillier
Presenters Kristin Raugust, Brian Shewan,
Greg Hyatt, Hal Tonkin,
Elaine Taylor-Kerr, Mark Wagner,
Dan MacDonald

Digital Arts Sub Committee

Hal Tonkin
Kristin Raugust

Sound/Audio Sub Committee

Chair John Robertson
Hal Tonkin
John McCrea
Brian Shewan
Denis Chalifour
Don Mills

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

Chair Maureen Dodd
Dennis Gidley
Carrie-Faye Wong
Kristin Raugust
David Smith
Barry Mingo

MISSION & OUTREACH

Chair Karen Kavanagh
Linda Dick
David Vermeulen
* Maxine Mendritzki
Rachel Murray
Swee Wong
Melinda-Rae Lyse
Staff Victoria Fillier
Loree Irving

PASTORAL CARE

Chair Marjorie Aucoin
Jan Mingo
Betty Thompson
Roger Anderson
*Judy Booth
Staff Victoria Fillier
Prayer Shawls Charlotte Cormier
Funeral Receptions Beth Phillips
WIN (Welcoming & Integrating Newcomers) & Ask Me
(part of Pastoral Care)
WIN Members Linda Miller
Sherrill Knight
Roger Anderson
Newcomer Contact Sherrill Knight
Fiona Craig
Elaine Gray
Ask Me Coordinator Sherrill Knight
Ask Me Coordinator Roger Anderson
Quilting for Others Janet Barker
Quilting for Others Lyn Tonkin
Community Time Pastoral Care

AFFIRMING GROUP (sub group of Pastoral Care)

Chair *Marjorie Aucoin
*Stu Robbins
Pat Robbins
Karen Kavanagh
Judy Booth
Rachel Murray

Staff Wanda Veer
 Staff Bob Fillier
 Staff Victoria Fillier

FAITH FORMATION

Chair Tom Snowden
 Members at Large Sandra Glass
Janice Campbell
 *Dale Bergeson
 Staff Victoria Fillier
 Nursery Coordinator *Dan MacDonald
 Library Winona Anderson
 SS Offering Lynn Tait

COMMUNITY FORMATION

Staff Christal Reed
 Nonie Johnston
 *Bob Ford
 Donna Swalm
 Staff Bob Fillier
 Brian Shewan
 AM Fun & Fitness Ellen Norrish
 Bridge Group Barbara Rodgers
 Primetimers Betty Thompson
 Wed Night Book Club Fiona Craig
 Open Art Studio Linda Knopf
Wednesday Night Dinner Sub-group
 Coordinator Wanda Veer

YOUTH ADVISORY

Chair Elaine Taylor-Kerr
 Jan Mingo
 Sharon Jones
 Correspondence *Susan Harrington
 John Latter
 Wendy Atkinson
 Joan Robertson
 Staff Victoria Fillier
 Staff *Andrew Taylor-Kerr
 Staff *Kevin Leitch
 Staff **Brittney Whittaker**
 Staff **Marika Wagner**

Staff **Matthew Taylor-Kerr**
 Junior Youth Rep Vacant
 JY Leader *Deyelle MacDonald (Jan.-June 30)
 JY Leader *Brittney Whittaker (Jan.-June 30)
 JY Leader *Matthew Taylor-Kerr (Jan.-June 30)
 JY Leader *Karl Wagner (Jan.-June 30)
 JY Leader **Heather Robertson** (as of Sept. 1)
 JY Leader **Taylor Thompson** (as of Sept. 1)
 JY Leader **Andrew Taylor-Kerr** (as of Sept. 1)
 JY Leader **Matthew Worton** (as of Sept. 1)

UCW

Past President Margaret Blakely
 President Lois Shewan
 Programme Coordinator Marilyn Barry
 *Gladys Marshall
 Treasurer *Diane French
 Secretary *Wanda Veer

REPRESENTATIVES

Observer Rep Marilyn Whittle
 Archivist Bill Cousens
 Presbytery Hugh Johnson

STAFF

Bob Filler (minister)
 Victoria Filler (minister)
 *Pat Shier (children & family ministry)
 Sandra Dusoswa (office manager)
 Kari Orosz (organist & children's choir accompanist)
 Barb Robertson (youth choir director)
 Pam Bazinet (adult choir director)
 Dick Worton (orchestra)
 *Kevin Leitch (youth leader)
 *Andrew Taylor-Kerr (youth leader)
Brittney Whittaker (youth leader)
Marika Wagner (youth leader)
Matthew Taylor-Kerr (youth leader)
 Erin MacLean-Berko (children's choir director)
 Kloria Wen (youth choir accompanist)
 Ferdinand (Ferdie) Justo (caretaker)

ANNUAL REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

A note from the Chair...

It's hard to believe another year has flown by. But what a busy year we've had.....from a JNAC to G41.....to saying goodbye to some staff and congregation members; to witnessing new marriage unions; to saying hello to new additions within our families; to welcoming new members to our congregation; to having our spectacular new website unfold; to putting in a full day of providing meals for Camp fYrefly; to participating in General Council's Comprehensive Review Task Group consultation. Whew! We've been busy again!!

As I said last year....we are doers!! We are also musical doers. We love to sing.....all the old favourites.... And we're up to the challenge of learning new songs throughout the year. We are working to strengthen our music ministry and build upon the strong base and traditions we have had for many years. So it is no surprise that we are working towards having St. Thomas recognized in the NW communities as a place for music.

Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Psalms 100:2. Our faith is strong.....no surprise there either. So it was time to sing it out by embodying our Faith Statement of Open Hands, Open Hearts, Open Minds into our weekly services. If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: James 2:8

When you read the reports of the various committees and groups you will be reminded of all the work we, the congregation of St. Thomas, have achieved in 2013 and plan to continue in 2014. Keep up the good work!!

I have enjoyed my time as your Chair of Executive Council. It has flown by but it has also given me much more insight into the workings of our church community. A change is as good as a rest. As I say goodbye and move on to other work within the church, I would like to thank everyone for their help, support, guidance and patience. We now welcome Jeff McLean to step up from Vice Chair to Chair. I know he will serve the Executive Council well.

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all (Rev 22:21)
Hope Cochran*

STAFF REPORT

Jesus said to them, "Go and share the gospel. Live the gospel. Welcome people into the household and family of God." While a paraphrase of the great commission, this phrase captures the essence of what Jesus was telling the disciples. It's a mission statement that sends the disciples out into the world and as such there are a couple of observations that are important to us, as a community of faith, as we look back at 2013.

The first is the word 'go.' It's active. You can't be about the action of 'going' and stay still. There has to be movement and movement often takes us to different places and contexts. Even if we're returning to the familiar – nothing ever stays the same. There are subtle differences, nuanced changes; people are different, names change, places change, traditions change.

The second word that leaps off the page is 'make.' In the original translation Jesus says, 'go and make.' What's important here is the tense. It isn't go and continuing making, it isn't go and just keep doing what you've always done. Rather there is a sense of something new about to happen, which is already happening, which the disciples are called to be part of. Go and make: go and make something new; go and make new communities of faith; go and live out the gospel in new ways; go with appreciation for what has been and wonderment for what is yet to be. The rest of the statement is more about the mechanics of 'go and make.' The rest is a very simple set of instructions.

This summer during time in England for the annual GreenBelt Festival there was some time to visit castles and other historic sites and climb stairs, hundreds and hundreds of stairs. During one particular stair-climb-athon up a narrow winding staircase, there came a moment when you had to choose to either continue the climb or take a doorway to another staircase that led back down. You had to choose to keep going; to make another step; to climb higher, or to return back the way you had come; back to the familiar; back to what you'd already experienced and known. There isn't anything wrong with the familiar, far from it. We all need moments of stability and moments when we simply recharge and yet, we don't fully live out our potential if we don't 'go and make.'

In many ways, 2013 was such an event for the office staff. It was Victoria's and Bob's first full year having arrived in July 2012. There was transition in the ministry staff as we said farewell to Pat and Andrew and Kevin and as we welcomed Brittney. We spent time looking at our vision and mission priorities and add a significant clarification to our familiar phrase of open hands, open hearts, open minds, so that our vision statement is now: to live out our full Christian potential with open hands, open hearts, and open minds. We looked at our programing and decided that it was time to hit the pause button in some areas and in so doing acknowledge how each one had served us incredibly well in the past and yet also acknowledge that we cannot afford to be beholden to 'the way we've always done it.' We updated our staffing model that Calgary Presbytery approved. We started new programs including being part of Camp fYrefly. We welcomed people into membership, we baptized children, we affirmed relationships through marriage, we celebrated the lives of those who had died. We gathered together for study, for reading, for worship, for exercise, for art, for education, for knitting, for meetings, for planning, for stewardship, for outreach, for fun, for fellowship, and for food.

In many ways, 2013 provided us with the opportunity to clarify who we are and what St. Thomas is all about. 2013 gave us the opportunity to pause on a landing and discern whether or not it's time to turn around or forge ahead. As you read the various reports and read the stories of ministry in 2013 you'll see that in 2014 we're headed up the stairs and out into the world, embodying the great commission as we live out our full Christian potential with open hands, open hearts, and open minds.

Respectfully submitted by Bob Fillier

STATISTICS

This year there were:

New Members:	9	(-adult baptism, -confirmation, Re-affirmations – from Historic Roll)
Confirmations	1	(see above)
Re-affirmations	0	(see above)
Baptisms	7	
Weddings	3	
Funerals	5	
Transferred in	8	(see above)
Transferred out	0	

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

We were very sorry to lose Pat Shier, our Children and Family Minister, in January of 2013. Pat brought many new programs and initiatives for families in her role, and St. Thomas was richer for it.

Andrew Taylor-Kerr and Kevin Leitch resigned as our Youth Leaders in June, after several years of hard work building the youth program. Brittney Whittaker, Marika Wagner, and Matthew Taylor-Kerr started as the new Youth team in August.

Again, many thanks to the wise M&P members: Dennis Gidley, Barry Mingo, David Smith, Carrie-Faye Wong, and Kristin Raugust, who continue to offer support to our staff.

Thank you to Elaine Taylor-Kerr, the Youth and Music staff liaison. She keeps us all organized with their contracts and schedules. Thanks also to the Building and Property Committee, who oversee the work of Ferdie Justo, our custodian.

Faithfully submitted by Maureen Dodd, Chair

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Sunday morning worship comes together as a result of the combined efforts of many people. As we recap 2013, the worship committee would like to say, “thank you” to all those who have given of their time and talents this past year.

In January, our committee had a discussion about ‘the best’ printed worship outline for our congregation. In the end we decided that what we needed was a ‘short’ version, that included the Spirit Lines / Announcements and the worship outline, as well as a ‘full’ version. We also started a conversation about the frequency of Communion and the various ways Communion is treated within the Protestant tradition. As well, we continued to talk about the Duty of Care policy as it relates to aspects of worship. In January, Sunday School was offered only as part of the 11am worship, rather than at both services.

February meant the Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM). As in other years, the worship committee decided to do a blended one-service style of meeting and worship combined.

Starting in March, we looked at issues relating to living out the mission priorities established by the Unified Board Meeting. One aspect relates to equivalent hymn leadership at each of our worship opportunities. This conversation, and suggestions from communication cards, also led to an evolving discussion about the style of our worship and its timing on Sunday mornings. Holy Week and Easter provided us an opportunity to gather and experience the story of The Resurrection in different ways. Special thanks to David and Breanna Grey for their ministry of music on Good Friday and the Easter egg hunt which was a big hit on Easter Sunday.

Spring brought a visit from The Rev. Dr. Bruce Gregerson, from The General Council Office, who preached on Palestine and Israel. We heard from our youth about bullying with an excellent worship focusing on this theme.

Once again in July, Ron French and the Strummers provided us with a wonderful Stampede Service and Breakfast. Over one hundred folks were in attendance. Yahoo !! During the month of August, while Victoria and Bob took a well-deserved break, worship was led by a handful of members from our congregation. Their messages were personal, reflective, insightful, and very much appreciated.

September saw our first annual “Back to Church” BBQ and the dedication of our new Affirming banner, “Rainbow Dream.” In October, we started a seven week series that centered around the statement “I believe in God, but...” November was a busy month with piper, Irene Dawe accompanying our Remembrance Day

service along with Dick Worton on trumpet, the Stewardship “Inviting Generosity” campaign, our Volunteer Fair, and quite a few Baptisms.

This year, our Advent Liturgy “Christ Be Our Light” brought together music and words, with participation from the Choir, congregation, candle lighters, and readers. A big thank you to Hal and Lyn Tonkin for creating our new Advent Wreath. Music filled the church in December thanks to our Children’s, Youth, and Adult Choirs, and the Strummers. Once again we partnered with the Pastoral Care Committee for a Blue Christmas Service. Our three Christmas Eve worship experiences were all well attended. Over three hundred people were part of the 8:00 pm service where Harold and Loeta Black, along with the Adult Choir, transported us into the rural Newfoundland kitchen of “Fred and Mae” for our Christmas musical “Waiting.”

The Worship Committee (David Robertson, Diane Luke, Drina Nixon, Linda Miller, and Andrew Major) work hard, along with the ministry team of our congregation, to create meaningful worship experiences. Music (Elaine Taylor-Kerr), Candle Lighters (Diane French), Scripture and Minute for Mission readers (Fiona Craig), Greeters (Linda Miller), Audio Visual (Kristin Raugust and John Robertson), Banners (Lyn Tonkin) and those who decorate our Sanctuary all contribute to making our Sunday mornings so special. As you can see it takes a lot of people to make worship on Sunday happen.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Rivard

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The members of St. Thomas continue to practice year-round stewardship with the many gifts and volunteer hours that are given every week.

The theme of the Fall 2013 campaign was “Inviting Generosity.” Through stories from congregation members in various ministries, video clips, prayers, and a game show, the campaign reminded all of us of the impact of sharing our many blessings. Pledge Sunday concluded with a thank you cake for all.

Many thanks to Denis Chalifour, Angela Waleski, and Mark Wagner, who spent many hours and shared their amazing talents on stewardship campaigns over the last several years, and have now left the committee.

Respectfully submitted by Maureen Dodd on behalf of the Stewardship Committee

LEGACY GIVING COMMITTEE

Our Mandate:

- The definition of a Legacy Gift is a gift to the Church, or other charity (such as bequests in wills, gift annuities, insurance, securities etc.) from a donor's estate or accumulated assets and not their income.
- Legacy Giving is a long-term stewardship strategy that will complement the congregation's annual-giving stewardship strategy since more than 99% of the money from Legacy Gifts is deferred - that is the gift comes to the Church upon the donor's death.
- As specified in the Legacy Giving Policy of St. Thomas, this committee is responsible to:
 - (i) develop and promote a Legacy Giving Program for the congregation;
 - (ii) provide information to interested members and adherents about the Legacy Giving Program;

- (iii) arrange a Legacy Giving Information Session for interested congregational members every two or three years;
- (iv) be a resource to members and adherents who wish to make a Legacy Gift;
- (v) work with the Regional United Church Financial Development Officer and keep them informed about any finalized Legacy Gifts or donors who wish to meet with them to discuss or arrange a Legacy Gift;
- (vi) write “thank you” letters to those who make a Legacy Gift;
- (vii) write acknowledgement letters to executors, lawyers, etc. where appropriate;
- (viii) report annually to the congregation and regularly to Executive Council;
- (ix) keep a permanent record of donations to the Fund;
- (x) receive applications for financial assistance from the Fund in accordance with the operating guidelines and in accordance with policies and procedures established by the congregation;
- (xi) make disbursement recommendations to Executive Council regarding the financial assistance applications received by the committee;
- (xii) review any restrictions on any proposed Legacy Gift in accordance with the Gift Acceptance Policy contained in the Policy, and make recommendations to Executive Council for final decision making on acceptance of such Legacy Gifts;
- (xiii) annually review the Policy so that any recommended changes may be presented to Executive Council and then the congregation for approval according to the amendment guidelines in the Policy;
- (xiv) ensure that all the Legacy Gifts are celebrated and their donors recognized in appropriate and faithful ways ensuring that individual wishes are respected.

- The Fund is separate and distinct from all other church funds. Money from the Fund is not to be used to cover regular and ongoing operational requirements of the church, but rather it is to be used to expand the ministry and mission outreach of St. Thomas United Church.

2013 Activities:

- Ongoing communication with the Financial Development Officer of the United Church to discuss Legacy Giving.
- Legacy Giving bulletin inserts were used from time to time throughout the year.
- Hosted 2 separate Legacy Giving related sessions for the Congregation:
 - Financial Planning;
 - Will & Estate Planning;

Planned 2014 Activities:

- Continued use of Legacy Giving bulletin inserts to keep the topic in front of the congregation.
- Host the third Legacy Giving related session on Funeral Planning
- Host a more general Legacy Giving Information Session for the congregation in the fall.

Respectfully Submitted by Andrew Major

MUSIC TEAM

The music team consists of 6 staff members plus the music leadership team. The staff members are responsible for music selection, running the weekly practices, and ensuring their choir/orchestra presents music in church on a regular basis. The music leadership team assists with coordination between the musical groups, with the Ministers, and with the Church office. They also gather congregational input on the programs, perform the annual performance reviews, and recruit new staff as needed.

The music staff this year has been Kari Orosz (Organist, Children's Choir accompanist), Pam Bazinet (Adult Choir director), Dick Worton (Orchestra director), Barb Robertson (Youth Choir director), Kloria Wen (Youth Choir accompanist), Erin MacLean-Berko (Children's Choir director, Ensemble Director). Pam took a two month leave of absence in February and March. Erin directed the adult choir in Pam's absence.

The Children's Choir is for children in grades 1 to 6. They practice Thursday evenings between 6:00 and 7:00 from September to April and share their music in Church at least once per month. The Youth Choir is for youth in grades 6 to high school and beyond. They practice Wednesday evenings between 7:00 and 8:30 from September to May and share their music in Church once or twice a month. The Adult Choir is for those who have decided they are too old to sing with the Youth. They practice Thursday evenings between 7:15 and 9:30 from September to June. They sing at one service every Sunday between the Sunday following Labour Day and Father's Day. The Orchestra is for anyone who plays an instrument regardless of skill level. They practice from September to April between 7:00 and 8:30 on Monday evenings and play in Church once per month. The Strummers are an informal group of folks who like to play strummed instruments and sing. They meet Thursday evenings between 6:15 and 7:15 and participate in Church services as they feel ready. Erin has organized four Ensemble groups this year. A ladies ensemble sang at Joy of Song, a classical ensemble sang on Father's Day, a different classical ensemble sang in November, and a Christmas group sang in Church on Dec 1, for the Blue Christmas Service, and at Watergrove Community Centre.

Highlights from the year include the Adult and Youth Choirs singing at Twelfth Night, performances at Scenic Acres Senior's residence and at Agape Hospice by the Children's Choir, Joy of Song service, a talent show in May, the Stampede Service created and presented by the Strummers, the Children and Teen Choirs' presentation of 'Three Wee Kings', and the Adult Choir's presentation of 'Waiting' (script written by Bob Fillier, music taken from 'Night of the Father's Love' by Pepper Choplin) on Christmas Eve.

Several people have provided assistance with the music program throughout the year. The music leadership team consisted of Pat Robbins, Ron French, and Elaine Taylor-Kerr. Elizabeth Griffiths recruited musicians to share their talents at services where there is no choir, or during the offering. Barb Veitch maintained the music inventory records. Several people helped file music and with music selection. Parents of Children's and Youth Choir members have assisted with costumes, props, snacks, the sound system, etc. Erin MacLean-Berko, Barb Tetzlaff, Pauline Watson, and Kloria Wen accompanied services when Kari was unavailable. Thank you to all of the staff and volunteers.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Taylor-Kerr

MISSION AND OUTREACH

The objective of the Mission and Outreach Committee is to educate and inspire our Congregation to participate in local and global mission and outreach projects as a response to God's love. This is accomplished by:

- 1) Providing a broad range of volunteer opportunities so that active hands-on involvement in mission and outreach projects grows from year to year.
- 2) Fostering a charitable atmosphere within the church community so that our children and youth develop a vision of perpetuating and expanding our ministries.

- 3) Educating and inspiring our congregation to seek justice and love kindness in everyday life.
- 4) Creating opportunities for members of the congregation and beyond to use their “open hearts, open minds and open hands” to assist others in need and create a better world for all.

The M&O Committee was once again delighted by the number of initiatives that were undertaken and supported by the congregation of St. Thomas. Below is a brief description of many of the activities undertaken by the Mission and Outreach Committee in 2013:

Local Projects

We hosted two *Inns From The Cold* at St. David’s United Church, where we provided dinner, overnight accommodation, breakfast, and a bag lunch to about 40 homeless people, many of them families. We had volunteers prepared for an “Inn” in June but that was cancelled due to the flood and all of the families were temporarily housed in shelters. At the end of August we had an Inn ready on the Friday night but due to scheduling problems with the Inn office we had to take down the set-up we had done and distribute the food that could not be frozen until the next Inn.

The Veterans’ Food Bank received and greatly appreciated about four carloads of food which the congregation donated.

Again this year we continued to support our *All Roads Lead Home* family. This organization provides support to families who have moved from homelessness into stable housing. We adopted our first family in May of 2010, a single mom with two daughters 14 and 16 years old. We have been providing rides to the grocery store and medical appointments, tutoring in math and science and coffee and conversation, as well as assistance with moving.

Our Christmas project this year was to adopt three families for the holidays. The congregation generously provided grocery store gift cards, essentials to keep the families warm, and gifts for each member of the family. We want to thank everyone in the congregation for their overwhelming generosity and support, making 2013 a wonderful Christmas for these families. Your contribution of gifts will keep these families warm, fed, and feeling cared for the whole year through.

Last year, Mission and Outreach started a new project making dinner one Sunday a month for the homeless youth living at the *Boys and Girls Club* shelters, *Avenue 15*, and the *Safe House*. This year we provided volunteer groups to make dinner 4 times, including dinner on Christmas Day. So far we have had only limited success recruiting volunteers but we are looking for new ways to better involve the congregation in this initiative.

Last fall, Melinda-Rae Lyse joined our committee as our new *Habitat for Humanity* representative. She has been extremely successful with recruiting volunteers for projects, fundraising for the “Women’s Build”, and directing donations of gently used household items to the ReStore.

Global Projects

Our International mission project for last year was *Child Haven International*, a Canadian charity that has built eight homes for destitute children in India, Bangladesh, Tibet, and Nepal. Inspired by the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, *Child Haven* provides food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, and education for over 1000 needy children and about 150 women, regardless of gender, race, caste, color, culture, or religion. The children are not westernized

but are instead taught about their own culture. They are provided with education to help them be productive members of the community and some receive scholarships to attend college or technical school. *Child Haven* also cares for many senior citizens, without family to care for them, who are like grandparents to the children.

Child Haven is almost completely funded by donations from individuals. In April, Melinda-Rae took a cheque from St. Thomas for over \$4,600 to Fred and Bonnie Cappuccino, the founders of *Child Haven*. This cheque, with our donation from last year, takes us to a total donation of \$11,036.82, well over our \$10,000 goal. We wish to thank the congregation for their support and incredible generosity.

Our foster child with *Plan Canada*, Nyeme Gbilimou of Guinea, Africa had reached an age where she is no longer considered a child and does not qualify for support. We have adopted a new foster child, Sahadatou Morou from Tillaberi, Niger, Africa. The Sunday school children will send cards, letters, and pictures to greet her.

Looking Forward

In 2014, the Mission and Outreach Committee will continue to facilitate congregational efforts in a number of projects including support for *Inn From The Cold*, *All Roads Lead Home*, *Veterans Food Bank*, *Avenue 15*, *Habitat for Humanity*, and *Adopt A Family*. We are also working with Victoria to plan an “Exposure Tour” in 2015, to introduce members of our congregation to the culture and daily life of people in another country.

Current M&O Committee members consist of Gwen Campbell, Linda Dick, Victoria Fillier, Karen Kavanagh, Melinda-Rae Lyse, Rachel Murray, David Vermeulen, and Swee Wong. We also welcome Loree Irving as a new member to the committee.

We want to sincerely thank Maxine Mendritzki, a past member of the M&O Committee, for her contributions to the committee, the congregation, and our community.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Kavanagh, Chair

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In 2013, the Youth Advisory Committee consisted of two staff members plus seven volunteers. The staff members are responsible for planning and running a Sunday morning program and a weekly social event for youth in grades 7 to 12. The program runs between September and June. The Youth Advisory Committee acts as a sounding board for the staff and assists in planning, finding volunteers, and communicating with the Congregation. They also gather input from youth and the congregation on the programs, perform the annual performance reviews, and are a part of the committee to recruit new hires as needed.

The focus of the Sunday morning program is on spiritual development and exploring social justice issues. The youth regularly attend portions of the church service and also have discussions in the youth room. They planned and ran a Church service in June on the topic of bullying. They also participated in other services by serving communion and reading scriptures. They have helped out occasionally on Sunday mornings by serving coffee and leading Sunday School. Up until June, the youth attended Pathways at a south Calgary United Church. Pathways consisted of sharing a simple meal, attending a youth oriented worship service, having a discussion on faith or social justice topics, and having a social time. This program has been discontinued but replaced with

Naked Faith in the fall of 2013. Naked Faith is a monthly event similar to Pathways but run by the Calgary Presbytery Youth Resource person and the Youth Council.

The youth were involved with mission and outreach projects again this year. In the spring, they launched a fund raising campaign for the Ecumenical Water fund. They raised over \$800 through a cake walk, a carnival, and other activities. They made sandwiches for Alpha House in the spring and joined forces with Symons Valley Youth Group to make 390 sandwiches for Alpha house in November. They provided most of the volunteers needed to run Parents' Day Out in November, wrapped the Christmas gifts for Adopt a Family, and went Christmas caroling at the homes of senior members of the congregation.

Weekly social events are mostly a time for fellowship and volunteer service. Activities have included Pathways, Naked Faith, swimming, bowling, games night, movies, mini golf, tobogganing, skating, roller blading, attending Presbytery-wide youth events, etc. Our youth leaders planned a tournament night and invited other youth groups to come and participate. A Youth Retreat at Kamp Kiwanis, organized by several Calgary youth leaders and youth, was well attended by St. Thomas Youth.

A Junior Youth group for children in grades 5 & 6 is held one Friday evening of each month between September and June. They play games, do crafts, have a snack, and get to know each other better. From January to June, Deyelle MacDonald, Matthew Taylor-Kerr, Karl Wagner, and Brittany Whittaker led this group. From Sept to December, Heather Robertson, Andrew Taylor-Kerr, Taylor Thompson, and Matthew Worton led this group. From January to June, the staff members were Kevin Leitch and Andrew Taylor-Kerr, with Brittany Whittaker and Matthew Taylor-Kerr substituting as needed. After four great years as youth leaders, Andrew and Kevin both decided to resign. A big thank you to them for the wonderful program they provided for the Youth over that time period. Since Sept, Brittney Whittaker, Matthew Taylor-Kerr, and Marika Wagner have been the youth leaders. The committee consisted of John Latter, Susan Harrington, Wendy Atkinson, Joan Robertson, Jan Mingo, Sharon Jones, and Elaine Taylor-Kerr. Thank you to all for their dedication to the youth program at St. Thomas.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Taylor-Kerr

COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL ARTS TEAM

In 2013, the Communications Committee focused on maintaining the following goals:

- Provide communication channels for St. Thomas news and information through newsletters and the website
- Provide an enhanced worship experience through the use of projected text, graphics, and videos
- Design and distribute promotional material to enhance the image and awareness of St. Thomas United church within the community

Members of the Communications Committee included John Robertson, Hal Tonkin, Kristin Raugust (Chair), Sandra Dusoswa (staff), Bob Fillier (staff), and Carrie-Faye Wong (proof-reading).

The Digital Arts Group is a subcommittee of the Communication Team and had the following members: Hal Tonkin, Kristin Raugust, Elaine Taylor-Kerr, Greg Hyatt, Mark Wagner, Brian Shewan, Dan MacDonald, and Jeff McLean.

After our website was hacked in the spring, John, with the help of Bob and Hal on the design end, created a new website that launched this fall. We have continued the use of Pro Presenter during services and Hal has spent significant time working on the systems to ensure they run smoothly. In addition to this, our staff committee members, Bob and Sandra, have been busy continuing the creation of weekly slide presentations, preparing and distributing monthly newsletters, and submitting advertisements to local papers.

In 2014, John will be training users on how to update their own page on our website to increase the relevance and timeliness of the information we are sending out to our community. We will also be looking at new ways to advertise services and special events, including bold signs and social media.

Respectfully submitted by Kristin Raugust

SOUND COMMITTEE

Members of the Sound Committee: John Robertson – Chair

David Robertson, Hal Tonkin, Brian Shewan, John McCrea, Denis Chalifour, Don Mills

Committee activities in 2013 included:

- Setting up the audio to support activities in the Sanctuary and the Mountainview Hall
- Designing and operating the sound for the Sunday performance of the St Thomas Talent Show in May (Many thanks to Don Mills and Brian Shewan)
- Designing the sound for the Youth Choir Christmas play
- Preparing the combined web audio for past services

Highlights and Recognitions:

- Web services have been retooled to work on all devices (iPads, iPhones, and Androids)
- Web services are put together weekly by Brian Shewan and John McCrea (many thanks)
-

Plans for 2014:

- Replace the pulpit microphone to allow for better sound reproduction.
- Replace/repair the Nursery wireless sound
-

Respectfully submitted by John Robertson

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

Pastoral Care is all about members and staff of St. Thomas providing spiritual, emotional, and practical support to anyone in the St. Thomas church family. The Pastoral Care Committee is a group of 6 dedicated people but the army of volunteers we call on for Pastoral Care happenings is HUGE. St. Thomas truly understands that we all participate in the far reaching well-being of our own church family. Every one of us has a role to play in Pastoral Care – from making everyone who comes through our doors feel like family to supporting each other in times of crisis. The Pastoral Care team takes this mission one step further and is the epitome of Open Hands, Open Hearts,

and Open Minds - putting in countless volunteer hours to lead and coordinate the many Pastoral Care Programs of St Thomas, typically behind the scenes.

In the past year we have delivered over 65 meals and food support to various families in their time of need. Our knitters make numerous prayer shawls for those requiring support and for children being baptized throughout the year – presently on hand, 9 shawls and 3 baptismal shawls. The Prayer Shawl group meets most Tuesday afternoons upstairs in the lounge. However, many folks knit/crochet prayer shawls, baptismal shawls, and prayer squares at home. Twenty-one prayer shawls were distributed to those needing solace during times of loss, bereavement, surgery, cancer treatment, and illness/recovery. Three Baptismal shawls were given to babies. Prayer squares filled a basket at the entrance to the sanctuary for anyone wanting one for consolation. A sale of knit items in December brought in \$511.50, which is used to buy more yarn for our projects.

Our visiting program has made more than 50 visits to seniors, shut-ins, and those under medical care. We have done a number of funeral receptions, assisted at special services, and planned and promoted inspiring educational events, including a yoga class, the cancer presentation by Dr. Steve Robbins, and the heartwrenching story of Lorinda Stewart, the mother whose daughter was held hostage in Somalia for 460 days. We have also given out grocery cards via our ministers to those in need of a hand-up.

Ever wonder who organizes the coffee, tea, juice, and cookies after Sunday services all year and coordinates our Ask Me Hosts? Who mailed 137 cards on behalf of the congregation this past year? Who welcomes Newcomers, organizes Drumming Circles, Christmas cookie gift boxes, and so much more...? Pastoral Care at St. Thomas.

In 2013, Drumming Circles were held in the Sanctuary on the second Tuesday of the month. More children attended in 2013 because they could attend for free; adult fee is \$10. Attendance ranged from 17 to 30 people at each circle. Marsha Read, Energy Medicine Practitioner/Instructor, was the facilitator. 90% of the revenue paid her fee; the balance was put towards the church budget. We expect to start the circles again soon.

Hospital and home visits, counseling, and all Pastoral Care programs – we could not do any of this without your incredible collaboration. Volunteers extending a hand to welcome or comfort are what makes our Pastoral Care programs possible. There are so many possibilities to give back to the people that St. Thomas touches – participate in existing programs or help start new initiatives to extend our support in exciting new directions.

Remembering our church family

Many of us lost important family members and friends over the last year. St. Thomas also said a sad farewell to these folks in our midst. In our hearts and memories, they will always live.

Bill Garner

Gail Vermeulen

Bob Hilker

Lois Murray

Spencer Winters

Pastoral Care is definitely the initial way to live out the St. Thomas Mission statement of Open Hands, Open Hearts, Open Minds. Going forward in 2014.....Compassion and Pastoral Care is everyone's calling! We would love to hear from you. Contact any of us on the Pastoral Care Committee if you would like to help in any way. You do not have to be on the committee (though we happily welcome new recruits anytime). Perhaps you could help us re-introduce the Healing Touch program with a trained practitioner, generate further pastoral training, or expand

our Affirming initiatives such as the Camp Firefly group effort in making and serving meals that we did in July 2013.

My deepest thanks to our very devoted committee – Jan Mingo, Betty Thompson, Beth Phillips, Charlotte Cormier, Roger Anderson, and Sherrill Knight. Very integral parts of our team are our exceptional visitors, the Ask Me hosts, and wonderful coffee makers. You folks are fantastic!! A huge thank you and gratitude to the countless individuals we call on for meals, baking, appetizers, emergencies....and our now-retired Judy Booth, Liz Smith, Barb Cousens, and Dorothy Muir. Thank you for your remarkable enthusiasm and talent.

On a personal level, I wish to thank a multitude of people for your astounding assistance and support for my daughter and her 3 children during and after the June flood. There were thousands affected by this devastation and I can't even put into words how amazing all of you were. With meals, a home to live in, new freezer, gluten-free food, new washer & dryer, handmade quilt, back-breaking labour, links for financial, city and insurance help, clothing, emotional support and a great deal of cash – we were humbled beyond measure. You really stepped up to the plate both for my daughter and for so many, many others in similar situations. You all know who you are – believe me, you have my family's deepest gratitude and appreciation. Thank you.

Thank you for caring. As we welcome another year, let's all continue making a difference!

Respectfully submitted by Marjorie Aucoin (chair)

AFFIRMING MINISTRY

Within the United Church of Canada, each congregation individually votes on becoming an Affirming congregation. Four years ago the congregation of St. Thomas voted overwhelmingly to become an Affirming Ministry after researching issues carefully for a year. This signifies publicly that we are intentional in being fully inclusive, welcoming, accepting, and respectful of all people regardless of differences, whether that means sexuality, age, ability, colour, ethnicity, status, or economic circumstance.

Open Hands, Open Hearts, Open Minds – we consistently succeed in being warm, friendly, and hospitable as a church family. Clearly we have a passion for inclusion! Our decision to go forward with this important ministry is a key achievement in conversations that need to matter in our society. Congratulations to our congregation who remain wholeheartedly committed to these values through our actions, faith statement, and deeds.

The rainbow flag is displayed in the Narthex and the Affirming logo is installed on our church building outside. We continued to be intentional in our mission this year – the beautiful banner that graces our sanctuary is called Rainbow Dream. It was designed and quilted by Lyn Tonkin, Sheila Humphrey, Barbara Lees, and Katie van Veldhuizen and hung with a specially designed rod made by Hal Tonkin. Thank you so much – it serves to remind us all of the journey we are still on, while beautifying our worship space.

Camp fYrefly in July was a flurry of activity when a St. Thomas volunteer team of cooks, servers, and bottle washers fed a large group of camp goers for a full day. What a success this was, so much so that we expect to carry on the passion going forward into 2014.

The Affirming Group of St. Thomas (a sub-committee of Pastoral Care) from the outset has consisted of Stu Robbins, Wanda Veer, Pat Robbins, Karen Kavanagh, Judy Booth, Rachel Murray, Bob & Victoria Fillier, and Marjorie Aucoin. Stu and Marjorie have now stepped down so if there are folks out there who would love to get

involved, don't hesitate to get in touch with the remaining committee members. A big thank you to an extraordinary bunch!

Respectfully submitted by Marjorie Aucoin

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The St Thomas UCW Group continues to be a small but committed group of ladies. During winter (dark evening) months, we meet in the daytime... usually a Wednesday afternoon. During summer (bright evening) months, we meet on Monday evenings. This combination has been fairly successful.

We have hosted a variety of meetings during 2013. A Saturday afternoon in February brought a speaker from the Brenda Stafford Centre. She spoke of the cycle of domestic abuse. In March, one of our members, Margaret Blakely, gave an interesting and informative talk about the history of UCW in Canada. In April, we heard from another member, Swee Wong, of her fascinating journey from Singapore to Canada. In May, some of our members attended the Symons Valley Dinner Theatre. In June, our members met for a potluck and walked in the Silver Springs remembrance forest and botanical garden. Our September meeting saw us sharing many of our members' summer adventures. In October, Katy Booth presented her interesting adventures in Mexico. In November, one of our members, Barbara Lees, opened her home to share her family's exquisite collection of antique crafts. In December, we met for a Christmas Potluck Brunch.

Our annual Student Union Ticket book sales were successful again this year. Thank you to the helpers and purchasers of this fund raiser. These profits are used to fund annual UCW donations. In 2013, our donations went to United Church M & S Fund, Brenda Stafford Centre, and United Church Gifts with Vision.

We continue to take Fair Trade Coffee orders four or five times per year. The income generated allows us to supply our St Thomas Church with coffee throughout the year.

All women in the congregation are technically members of the UCW. We welcome you to attend any meeting or event.

The UCW purpose is to unite the women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service.

Executive for 2013: President: Lois Shewan; Treasurer: Diane French; Secretary: Wanda Veer; Program Coordinators: Marilyn Barry and Gladys Marshall.

Respectfully submitted by Wanda Veer

FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE

Our Focus:

Our Committee provides opportunities for people of all ages within the congregation and the community to:

A. explore and grow on their journeys of faith

B. nurture spiritual growth

C. increase understanding of the nature of Christian life in relation to the world around us

The Committee consists of four people (one being Rev. Victoria), along with the dedicated volunteer support of up to a dozen people (Sunday School teachers, Sunday School large-group leaders, Sunday School materials coordinators, Library coordinator etc.)

Sunday School

2013 was a year of transition. The departure of Pat Shier, early in the year, resulted in many of her roles and responsibilities being handled by Rev. Victoria and the Faith Formation Committee. To date, we have not been successful in hiring a part time Children's Christian Development Leader. In 2014, the Committee will need to re-evaluate this vacancy and the possible options for providing ongoing leadership and coordination of the Sunday School program.

St. Thomas Sunday School program is for children ages three through Grade six. The total number of children who have participated in Sunday School in 2013 was 28, with an average weekly attendance of 8-10.

In January 2013, due to low Sunday School enrollment levels, it was decided to offer Sunday School solely at the 11:00 a.m. service. The small class sizes at the 9:15 a.m. service led to challenges in presenting the program; we felt it was more effective to concentrate our volunteers' efforts at the one service and provide an opportunity for the children to come together in a larger group rather than two very small, separate groups.

The finding of adequate numbers of Sunday School teachers is an ongoing issue. By moving to the one 11:00a.m. Service, (amalgamating teachers), we hope it will become easier to find the requisite number of teachers to offer Sunday School.

Late in 2013, the Sunday School experimented with using a purchased curriculum versus the curriculum developed in-house (that we had been using for 9 years). Feedback from the teachers so far is positive. We are continuing to evaluate the new curriculum in order to determine which meets our current Sunday School needs best. A decision will need to be made about which curriculum to use in the future.

Programs Offered in 2013

-Sunday School

-Nursery

-Book Study: 10 Things They Never Told Me About Jesus, author John Bell (led by Rev. Victoria)

-Book Study: Insurrection: to Believe is Human ;to Doubt is Divine author Peter Rollins (led by Rev. Victoria)

-Interfaith discussions and activities with an Islamic Group

-“Let's Celebrate Being Strong and Courageous”- family event featuring pizza supper, followed by magician, Steve Harmer

-“Advent Calendar Date Experience”

-“Faith Formation Survey”: types of programs, congregational interests, and best timing

- Adult confirmation and membership classes were offered; 5 people attended

Lending Library

A free Lending Library for books, videos, and games for people of all ages is located on the second floor. Requests and recommendations for new materials are welcome. Thank you to Winona Anderson, our Librarian, for organizing and maintaining our Lending Library.

Nursery

The Nursery provides a safe, caring environment for little ones (from newborns to age three). Currently, some of our youth provide child care and are paid \$10.00 per service by the Church. Each person has a Red Cross Babysitting Certificate, as well as having had in- house procedure training. We continue to seek people who will fulfil the role of nursery attendant, so that this can continue to be offered at each of our services.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Snowden, Faith Formation Chairperson

PRIMETIMERS

Primetimers is a group offering fellowship for the over 55’s in the church. Others are welcome to join us also.

January – Coffee Party in the Narthex with a slide show by Peter Usher – 35 people

February – St. Peter’s Players “The Sound of Music” – 25 people

March – Coffee Party in the Narthex – 16 people

April – Loughheed House Lunch & Tour – 18 people

May – Symons Valley Dinner Theatre “Desperate Ambrose” – 22 people

June –Coffee Party in the Narthex – 13 people

July – no event

August – no event

September – Chinook Honey Farm Tour of Apiary & Meadery – 11 people

October – Coffee Party in the Narthex – 15 people

November – Lunchbox Theatre “That Men May Fly” – 19 people

December – Christmas Lunch at Tony Roma’s - 28 people

Many thanks to all those who have hosted our coffee parties, Peter Usher for his slide show in January, and Diane & Ron French for helping with the Christmas Lunch.

Respectfully Submitted by Betty Thompson

BUILDING & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Building and Property Committee is responsible for keeping the church building and property well maintained, and for providing improvements in response to the changing needs of our church family. The committee oversees the contracts for the church caretaker, summer lawn care, and winter snow removal. It also negotiates and manages facility use agreements for the many groups and individuals who utilize the church building throughout the year.

The committee is very indebted to its many active members who cheerfully bring their time, skills, and talents to this work. Whether it is for spring yard clean-up, summer gardening, painting, dry walling, carpentry, electrical wiring, carpet laying, door hanging, light fixture replacement, or computer wizardry – a little help goes a long way in keeping St. Thomas in tip top condition.

The church had been anticipating that the roof shingles would need replacing in the next few years which would have represented a major expense. Due to hail damage, we were very fortunate that the shingles could be replaced this year under our insurance policy.

Our largest expenditure this year was for resealing and painting of the church parking lots. We expect that this remedial work will stave off the major expense of repaving the parking lots for the foreseeable future.

The roof drains were modified in the front of the church to increase their capacity during heavy rains and to solve an overflow problem. Several of the concrete sidewalk sections in the front walkway were also replaced because they had sunk, creating a water-pooling and ice hazard. Handicapped door openers were added to the front entrance and the doors received some minor repair and strengthening. The electrical wiring work required to power the openers will be completed in early 2014. Work also commenced to close off the original handicapped entrance which has long been dysfunctional. The liberated space will be converted into a more effective storage area.

The committee also negotiated two new weekly facility use contracts this fall; one with a yoga fitness group and the other with a Muslim prayer group.

Respectfully submitted by Elvin Dorscher and David Blackadar

REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY

St Thomas continues to be involved in the work and organization of the wider church through its work in Calgary Presbytery, Alberta and Northwest Conference, and General Council. Pat Shier, Hugh Johnson, Stu Robbins, and Roger Anderson were all members of Calgary Presbytery during portions of 2013 as were our paid, accountable ministers Bob and Victoria. Stu resigned as a member at large in 2013, having served in a number of capacities in Presbytery, most recently as a zone convenor. On behalf of Presbytery I would like to thank Stu for the many hours he devoted to the work of the Church over the years including Education and Students, Personnel Support, and as a zone convenor. Reverends Bob and Victoria have been active in Presbytery, with Victoria assuming

Stu's former position as a zone convenor, a leader for the Fresh Start* program, in addition to her work for the National Church. Bob has been involved on behalf of Presbytery in meeting with Deer Park and McDougal as they explore worshipping together while still maintaining the two distinct congregations. Both have provided sage advice over some of the bumps in the road this last year, thank you. A special thanks to Harold Black who participated as a witness in an appeal launched against Calgary Presbytery that was heard in April of 2013.

St. Thomas is entitled to one representative for each 100 resident members to a maximum of four. This is a great opportunity to get to understand the broader church and for St. Thomas to assist in the growth and development of the United Church in Calgary.

In late 2013, Calgary Presbytery decided to try a new method of handling the Church's work. Rather than having a full meeting of Presbytery every month there will only be three to five meetings of the total Presbytery, and much more of the work will be delegated to either the Executive and/or the four Commissions (Personnel Support, Local and Global, Congregational Support, and Planning & Administration). The Commissions will meet as needed rather than at fixed times every month as they have in the past. Thus the commitment in being a Presbytery representative will likely involve less time than in the past. The full Presbytery will meet as noted above less often, as noted above, likely for close to a full day and deal with less business and more spiritual and educational matters. The first of these meetings, since the adoption of the new approach, is being held January 25, 2014, at the Canyon Meadows Golf Club, with the principal of the Vancouver School of Theology providing the theme discussion.

Presbytery (there is a comprehensive review being undertaken that may result in new structures) is the governing body of the United Church that most directly impacts St. Thomas. The more who participate, the greater the influence of St. Thomas in the work of the United Church in Calgary and beyond.

Various members of St. Thomas participated in Presbytery by being members of Search and Joint Needs Assessment Committees, discernment committees, and the Youth and Young Adult ministry needs assessment. Hugh Johnson was the Chair of the Ministry of Planning and Administration for the first six months of 2013, a member of the Executive Committee, and a member of the Conference committee on mission support grants. David Blackadar continues his work on the Campus Ministry Advisory Committee and is a key cog in their fundraising efforts.

If you are interested in seeing what goes on in other churches there is always a need for presbytery representatives on all sorts of committees. It is a challenging and rewarding experience. For those whom I may have missed I apologize.

Respectfully Submitted by Hugh Johnson, St. Thomas Presbytery Representative, and Chair of Calgary Presbytery

* Fresh Start is a program being tested by the National Church in the three Presbyteries in South Alberta and is designed to assist congregations and paid accountable ministers when starting a new pastoral relationship.