

2018



2019

A watercolor illustration of a church building with a steeple and a cross, set against a background of colorful washes in purple, orange, yellow, and blue. The words "annual" and "report" are overlaid in large, white, sans-serif font.

annual report

radical hospitality - spirituality - social justice - risk





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minister's report

REV. JOHN PENTLAND

I returned to Hillhurst in February after a six-month medical leave for hip resurfacing.

I wrote about the complications in the Globe and Mail's March 4 paper. I appreciate the care and concern of the community as I recuperated.

They say that a good organization runs well in the leader's absence. In this case, Hillhurst United went beyond expectations. The staff rallied and worked together, providing excellent leadership both on Sunday and throughout the week. We have a deep and thriving community and I am pleased with the

way it developed in my absence. It took me about two months to fully reintegrate. We had staff come and go, and welcomed many new faces on Sunday morning.

I continue to participate in the ongoing ministries of this seven-day-a-week community. I am grateful to the board for its work, the volunteers for their leadership, and the many ways that Hillhurst is an organic and vibrant responder to the needs that arise.

During the worship season, we explored the theme of Connections, Reel Theology, and the Easter stories post-Easter. The words, music, and rituals of this community matter and are well received. Each of us helps make this experience fulfilling for all.

It is worth noting that, in particular, the Everyday Outreach ministry, which offers food and fellowship for our street community, is both meaningful and thriving. It is great to meet this need and sad that we must step-in in this way. Nonetheless, we attend to our guests with compassion and grace.

This year, Monday Night Spiritual Nurture and our spring musical, Shrek, both deepened our community life. I'm pleased and amazed at this growth and connection. We continue to grow in our Right Relations, Contemplative, and Affirming ministries.

Each of these ministries matter and help ensure we are attentive and focused on the issues both here and in our city.

In closing, I wish to thank Rev. Don McLeod for his added fun and faithfulness to our community. I am sad that Rev. Sheena Trotter-Denis has departed as a staff person, and encourage her discernment about her future. Thankfully she remains an active and vibrant volunteer with us. Finally, I am grateful for Anne Yates-Laberge's leadership and ongoing enthusiasm.

I am excited about the coming fall and look forward to a city-wide event with Brian McLaren in November. Brian is a respected church leader in the states and we are pleased he will be in Calgary to support and encourage our public theology.

Thanks for all you do to make Hillhurst a place that welcomes everyone- whoever they are and wherever they're at on the journey.

- John Pentland

operations report

ANNE YATES-LABERGE

The last year has been a challenging, exciting, and fulfilling whirlwind. In just over a year, my role has shifted from KidSpace and Youth Coordinator, to Staff Lead, to Director of Operations.

The role started out as somewhat tentative and ambiguous after many staff changes, but my love, passion, and understanding for our church helped me find solid footing as a leader.

Off the bat, I focused on team dynamics and workflow. With an almost brand new staff, we established an organizational structure that made sense based on people's strengths. We created processes where there were none, centralized information, and introduced new technology. We also started working from the building instead of remotely, making Hillhurst feel more like a workplace and allowing for easy face-to-face collaboration.

The staff here are an amazing team and there is rarely a dull moment. Every day is full of surprises, hard work, and joyful moments as we work to refine the weekly rhythm of preparing for Sundays. We have a monthly potluck lunch and frequently visit Original Joe's happy hour after our meeting-filled "Torture Tuesdays."

We continue to find ways to invite you, our congregants, into the conversation. We've received lots of positive feedback about "the Hub," (formerly known as the kitchenette in the Heritage room). It's the go-to spot for people to find out more about the church, register for events, request congregational care, and sign up to volunteer. Our social media platforms are also a place for our community to come together. We now have over 3000 followers on Facebook and an online version of the Hub where congregants can interact with one another.



Speaking of Facebook, I was pleasantly surprised to be invited as an “influential community leader,” to their Community Summit in San Francisco where I spoke about Hillhurst’s radical inclusivity.

Facebook visited Hillhurst early in 2019 to film a video that will be shown on their Community Voices page during Pride week in June.

- Anne Yates-Laberge

board report

GAIL NIINIMAA

Last June, our board welcomed three new members - Larry Pearce, Darlene Loney, and June Bennie, as well as Peter McPherson as interim chair of M&P. This year, we will say goodbye to five members who have contributed to the board for many years: Terry Rock, Tim Kitchen, Willow Brocke, Sarah Elliot, and Peter McPherson. I'm looking forward to remaining on the board for one more year as past-chair, which will conclude my six-year commitment to the board. It has been an enjoyable year working with such a strong staff, committed board, and a vibrant and caring congregation.

In my first year as chair of the board, I focused on the age-old quest to move our meetings from technical, in-the-weeds discussions to big-picture, visioning conversations. Towards the end of the year, it was exciting to see these types of conversations take charge of our meetings and we could feel the difference. We spent time imagining and re-visiting the long-standing question of what to do with the "Annex,"- otherwise known as the gymnasium and office space. We were reluctant to make big changes with the wide fluctuations in staff, but had a very good visioning session in May where we discussed plans for the next seven years and contemplated John's three pillars of "Fishing Tips 2.0."

Contemplative Ministry

Deepening and grounding our community with contemplative practices

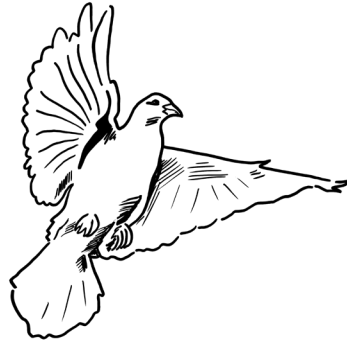
Food

How we serve and enjoy food at HUC in Outreach, Blenn-dinners, Sunday Lunches, etc.

Virtual Church

How we serve the wider church community in the digital age





ministry and personnel

The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee is responsible for supporting, overseeing, and supervising ministry personnel and lay staff.

This year, we focused on implementing and improving the staff model introduced earlier in 2018. We revisited our communications, HR records, policies, and practices based on the United Church of Canada guidelines for M&P committees. We also pursued a

course of action to raise awareness of our role with leadership, staff, and the congregation.

We are grateful to past-chair Willow Brocke for her guidance, direction, and mentorship and to Peter McPherson for stepping in as acting chair. Jeannette Carlson will assume the role of chair in 2019/2020.



hillhurst united church staff 2018-2019



John Pentland
MINISTER



Anne Yates-Laberge
DIRECTOR OF
OPERATIONS



Keith Murray
AFFIRMING
COORDINATOR



Peter Kelsch
FINANCE
ADMINISTRATOR



Nancy Watts
FINANCE
ADMINISTRATOR



Nancy Chegus
DIRECTOR
OF MUSIC



Don Mcleod
MINISTER



Bruce Petherick
ACCOMPANIST



Bethanie Tillet-Wair
KIDSPACE



Jennifer Lohin
YOUTH
COORDINATOR



Jake
YOUTH
COORDINATOR



**Herman
Shiu-Hong Ng**
KIDSPACE



Nick Coates
THRIVE
YOUNG ADULTS



Mike Adashi
SOUND TECHNICIAN



Helena Lamb
OFFICE & VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR



Jim Arthurs
DAYBREAK LEAD



Ilinca Poon
CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY LEAD



Adam Schlinker
KIDSPACE



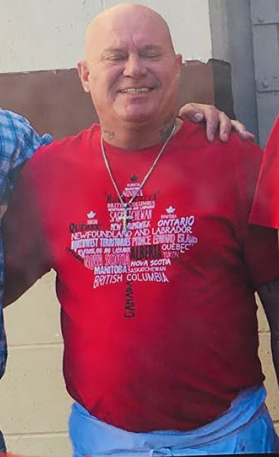
Tony Snow
RIGHT RELATIONS LEAD



Justin Macosky
CHORAL DIRECTOR



Adam Yates-Laberge
SOUND TECHNICIAN



volunteers

HELENA LAMB, OFFICE & VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR

A large group of dedicated volunteers make our worship services and seven-day-a-week ministries possible. Thank you to our volunteers who offer their time and talents in areas such as:

- Office administration
- Information technology
- Building maintenance
- PowerPoint and Facebook Live
- Sacraments such as communion, bread kneading, and baptisms
- Sunday lunches and coffee service
- Ministries such as Spiritual Nurture, Right Relations, KidSpace, Music, and more.

In June, we hosted a volunteer forum where we celebrated our core volunteers and gathered feedback on what we can do better to engage new volunteers. In the fall, we will host a series of training workshops. The invitation is always open to join our volunteer team. If you are interested in any of these areas, please contact Helena Lamb through the church office.



DAY A WEEK
ACTIVITIES



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
EVERY SUNDAY



SERVICE VOLUNTEERS
JULY 2018-JUNE 2019



thank you volunteers



COFFEE CREW



FACEBOOK
LIVE TEAM



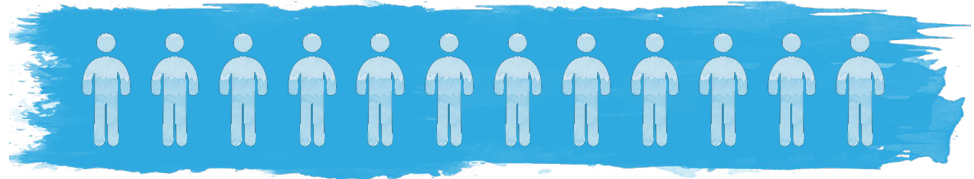
GREETERS



POWERPOINT



OFFERING/COUNTING



12 seats on our board of directors



30 small ministry positions



**4 maintenance
volunteers**

+ 4 everyday office volunteers



30 outreach volunteers



memberships

At Hillhurst, we often describe our congregation using Rev. John Pentland's "three circles" of the curious, the comfortable and the committed.

The United Church of Canada defines those who have become engaged in a church congregation as either Adherents, Members, or Full Members. Adherents are invited to participate in all aspects of church life including voting at Congregation General Meetings on most matters.

Occasionally, there are Motions presented at Congregation General Meetings where only Full Members are permitted to vote. Examples include the hiring of a new Minister or significant church property decisions.

This is a list of congregants that either transferred their membership from another United Church or took part in one of the two membership classes offered at Hillhurst United this year.

TRANSFERS

January 30, 2019

- Richard Scott Stauffer
- Karen Stauffer

NEW TO THE UNITED CHURCH

March 31, 2019

- RaeAnne Langdon
- Spirit River Striped Wolf
- Teresa Wilson
- Don Shineton
- Mary Graham
- Bonnie Roberge
- Michael Brown
- Tiffany Neufeld
- Barbara Kennedy
- Randall O'Connor



baptisms

Baptism are held once a month, following a baptismal class offered to participating parents. It is a privilege for us to provide this sacred time.

Congratulations to the following children and their parents:

Elias Sahat Pakpahan

Johan Pakpahan and RosalinePakpahan

Brighton Anton Manvieler

Michael Manveiler and Bryanne Manveiler

Easton Davies

Stu Davies and Kaylee Davies

Liam James McDonough

David McDonough and Amy McDonough

Henry Joseph Kane-Lemke

Chad Lemke and Shannon Kane

Carter Neil Webb

Jeff Webb and Alison Webb

Jacob Austin Fisher

Aaron Fisher and Kathryn Wytmsa-Fisher

Joshua Alexander Brown

Janet Brown

George Emerson Bacon

George Bacon and Jennifer Sturgeon

Sasha Maria Rose Radomski

Shaun Radomski and Chelsea Hiebert

Isla Margaret Cynthia Palmer

Samantha Palmer and Lisa Niinimaa

Barrett John Palmer

Samantha Palmer and Lisa Niinimaa

Christine Marilyn Smith

Raymond Smith and Marilyn Smith

memorials

We offer the opportunity for people to have funerals and memorial services in our sanctuary. Our staff provide a meaningful, sacred time for people in grief. With the help of many we also offer a reception following the service to provide space for families to gather with the people who love and support them. Thank you to all who serve in this way. Our sincere condolences to the friends and family of the following individuals who passed this year.

- George Clay Martin
- Thomas Chester Else
- Knut Olavson Vesterdal
- Johanne Comtois
- Kristen Leah Sapieha



weddings

We host about 15 weddings and vow renewals a year. As an affirming church, we welcome all people to get married in our sanctuary. A marriage prep class is held once a year, offering couples tools and skills for a happy and successful married life.

We congratulate the following couples on their weddings this past year, and are so thankful to have been able to share in such a meaningful part of their lives together.

- Veronique Kamke & Katherine Gauthier
- Patrick Sperry & Dolly Sillito
- Fraser McLeod & Sarah Nielson
- Guillaume Carlier & Gillian Mckercher
- Joanna Slusar & Stefan Chopyk
- June Bennie & Carolyn Galotta
- Mackenzie Haffey & Baylee Mancuso

affirming ministry

KEITH MURRAY

What does it mean to be an Affirming church?

The United Church of Canada states that affirming communities publicly declare their commitment to inclusion and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and continually seek to live more fully into God's way of welcome, love, and justice for all creation."

Our affirming statement is...

We accept each other as we are and welcome the ministry and participation of all persons regardless of age, gender identity, gender expression, health, race, sexual orientation, differing abilities, religious or ethnic background, or economic circumstance. We hope that in all we do, including our worship and community life, God's unconditional love is experienced.



We gathered and learned.

"Something Completely Different," our inter-faith group for LGBTQ2IA+ folks, hosted many special guests, such as:

- Queer psychologist, Jill Thompson
- Psychologist Willow Brocke
- Members from El-Tawhid Juma Circle, Calgary's only Affirming Mosque
- Pam Rucker, Director of Affirming Connections

We also gathered for a Queer Christmas Feast potluck, held an intergenerational tea with Calgary's Rainbow Elders, and marched with the HUC community in support of Gay-Straight Alliances.



We collaborated.

With our Refugee and Right Relations ministries. Community organizer and Serbian LGBTQ+ refugee, Boban Stojanovic, held a special service followed by a workshop on supporting LGBTQ+ Refugees in Canada. We are currently exploring the opportunity to sponsor LGBTQ+ refugees with our refugee ministry.

In collaboration with HUC's Right Relations Ministry, we hosted Two-Spirit scholar, educator and community organizer, Harlan Pruden. Pruden gave a public talk on Two-Spirit identity, a workshop on Two-Spirit reconciliation, and a media literacy workshop for members of the Two-Spirit community in collaboration with VOICES YYC.



We celebrated!

To kick off Pride week 2018, Evans Yellow Old Woman and members of YYC Voices: Calgary's coalition of Two-Spirit, Trans, Queer + Straight People of Colour, joined us to bless the hoisting of the new Pride Progress Flag to the exterior of the HUC Sanctuary. Designed by Daniel Quasar, this new symbol was raised in support of the intersectional identities in our communities continuing to face disproportionate levels of discrimination and marginalization, and to publicly declare our commitment to continue working together to dismantle systems of oppression while striving to be an ongoing safer, braver and more inclusive space for all.

Over 100 of us marched together in the 2018 Pride Parade after a special Pride Service led by Keith Murray, featuring a Hillhurst United Church first- drag performances by local drag royalty! We hosted the inaugural PRIDE Communion in the Streets, with our Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis leading Affirming ministers from throughout the community, in a multi-denominational sacrament. Together we broke bread and shared grapes with hundreds of Calgarians awaiting to march through the streets, and shared our love with over 60,000 people.





spiritual formation

In the last year, Hillhurst continued to develop opportunities for members and friends to explore and deepen their spirituality.

We began to use “Spiritual Formation,” as an umbrella term to encompass three main opportunities: Spiritual Nurture, Exploring Elderhood, and the Contemplative Ministry. Since joining the ministry team in September 2018, Rev. Don McLeod has focused much of his time supporting this area of ministry, working closely with many Hillhurst community members.

Spiritual Nurture

People gather in the Heritage Room on Monday evenings and the occasional weekend to nurture spiritual connections with themselves and others. Spiritual Nurture events combine content, conversation, and connection. Monday night meetings attract an average of 25 (often different) people each week. Workshops attract as many as 50 to 80.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- Bruce Sanguin, our 2018 theologian in residence, explored healing emotional childhood wounds and shifting from control to letting to.
- Belden Lane, theologian and author from St. Louis University, provided the talk “Conversations with the Natural World” to over 80 people.
- Jane Voigts, stand up comedian and preacher, hosted a Comedy Cabaret, Improv Workshop, and Sunday reflection (in which Hillhurst staff showed up on stage wearing 70s-style pantsuits).
- Poet Richard Osler joined a group of 18 creative writers in November for his fourth annual Poetry as Prayer weekend workshop.
- Psychologist Dr. Beth Hedva provided a workshop on betrayal and trust.



We continued fan-favourites such as Reel Theology, where we discuss underlying themes in noteworthy and Oscar-nominated films, and our “Read it or Not” Book Club covered six philosophically focused texts.

Thank you to the team behind Spiritual Nurture: Donna Friesen, Janet Frohlich, Robin Galey, Rev. Don McLeod and Rev. John Pentland. Do you have ideas for future events or themes? We welcome ideas at spiritual.nurture@hillhurstunited.com.

Contemplative Ministry

A key part of our focus on spiritual formation at Hillhurst is our Contemplative Ministry. We now have two gathering times for meditation and contemplative prayer (DayBreak and Day’s End). We are also looking to expand our exploration of the contemplative path with other kinds of contemplative practices. In this light, a new four week course on embodied prayer was offered this June.

DayBreak and Day's End

DayBreak has served as our anchor for the Contemplative Ministry for the last several years and we are grateful for the wisdom and gifts Susan Cooper brought to help establish this ministry. After Susan decided to take a step back, Jim Arthurs, an active member of DayBreak, took on the role of contemplative ministry coordinator.

DayBreak continues to offer silence, music, curated readings, visual images, and poetry with conversation and discussion following each service every Wednesday morning beginning at 7am. DayBreak averages about 15 people per service. Jim also is currently providing spiritual accompaniment for interested members of the DayBreak community.

In December we introduced an evening service during Advent which was very well attended, averaging about 25 people per evening. Live music was integrated for each of the four weeks, led by volunteers. We have continued the evening service, naming it Day's End. It is currently being led by William Brook and Darolyn Daniels with support from other volunteers. Attendance has been between 8 and 20 people, averaging around 12. All are welcome.

Exploring Elderhood

In the fall of 2018, several people expressed interest in the passage of elderhood, both in their own lives and for our church community. This discussion arose, in part, after Beldan Lane's presentation during a Spiritual Nurture session last October where he explored three markers on the path of elderhood. With many traditions and resources available to us through Christianity, Indigenous traditions, and other spiritual paths, the Exploring Elderhood ministry was born.

We have held five evening sessions exploring various themes related to elderhood such as "Opportunities as we Age" led by Judy Steiert and "Morality and Conscious Aging" led by June Churchill. Tony Snow, our Right Relations Lead, has offered to accompany us on this journey and is prepared to share an Indigenous perspective on the role and meaning of elders in community life. Volunteers David Finch and David Swann have been instrumental in organizing these sessions.



thrive young adults

Thrive is our program for 20 to 30 somethings who are looking for a community to explore their faith and spirituality.

This year we welcomed the leadership of Rev. Nick Coates, minister at Red Deer Lake United and friend of Hillhurst's. With Nick's leadership, we explored the theme of playfulness. We started the year gathering on bean-bag chairs in the gym and we're ending by gathering around a table eating a meal we made together.

We've explored some spiritual practices, talked about mental health, and discussed things like resurrection, Lent, and some of the crazier stories in the Bible. With all of that, plus the fact that friendships were made, marriages happened, and growth was experienced - it was a pretty amazing year. If you're interested in joining Thrive, visit our Facebook group, Thrive Young Adults, or email thrive@hillhurstunited.com.



in the news

CALGARY CHURCH'S BELLS TO TOLL 49 TIMES FOR ORLANDO SHOOTING VICTIMS

JUN 11, 2018 | VANESSA HRVATIN | CALGARY HERALD

PENTLAND: USING THE BIBLE TO JUSTIFY AMERICA'S SEPARATION OF FAMILIES WAS 'ABHORRENT'

JUN 21, 2018 | REV. JOHN PENTLAND | CALGARY HERALD

CALGARY CHURCH UNVEILS NEW STYLE FOR PRIDE FLAG

AUG 26, 2018 | MICHAEL FRANKLIN | CTV CALGARY

CALGARY CHURCH ASKS MINISTER OF BORDER SECURITY TO PREVENT SERMONS BY VISITING 'HOMOPHOBIC' PASTOR

SEP 17, 2018 | EVAN RADFORD | THE STAR

ACTIVIST SAYS RECOGNITION OF 2-SPIRIT IDENTITY A CRUCIAL PART OF RECONCILIATION CONVERSATION

OCT 28, 2018 | SARAH RIEGER | CBC



KidSpace

KidSpace had a fantastic year, focusing our curriculum on a central question - how does our faith invite us to live?

Throughout the year, we explored stories, made connections with other ministries, crafted, sang, and played together. Our KidSpace teachers, Herman Ng, Bethanie Tillett-Wair, Jake Carlin, and Jen Lohin, thrived under the leadership of KidSpace lead, Ilinca Poon.

Highlights this year included presentations from the Outreach, Affirming, and Right Relations Ministries, making cookie jars for the Outreach team, participating in the Christmas Angel Tree program, KidSpace Reel Theology, and joining with Calgary Reads for a church-wide book drive.

We grew our volunteer team this year and are extremely grateful to have so much love poured into the KidSpace program. A special thank you to Jane Allen, Tammy Nelson, Mary Graham, and Nicola McCay for their help in the nursery this year and to Diane McPherson, Lea Komaromi and Dan Elliot for their help in all of our other classrooms.

This year we also started a KidSpace parent group that lends their time and expertise to Ilinca. Thank you Tammy Nelson, Jenn Shehata, Anastasia Hendryanto, Christy Guenter, Kelly Osaka and Robin Kidd for being a part of this important group.

messy church

Messy Church is for families with young children to build community, eat together, and get messy! We break bread every month with a themed potluck and enjoy activities both at the church and in the

community. Highlights and themes this year included a winter carnival, pizza and movie night, love and pasta night, a visit to the Calgary Reads book sale, and a board game night.









ADDITIONAL L
Millport
GARAGE SALE
FRIDAY (Sept 1)
12pm - 8pm
SATURDAY (Sept 2)
8am - 5pm
SUNDAY (Sept 16)
8am - 3pm

youth ministry

This was a year of notable change for the youth group at Hillhurst United Church. Our Staff Lead Anne Yates-Laberge passed the torch onto Jennifer Lohin as the new Youth Ministry Coordinator. Jen now works alongside Jake Carlin to organize and meet with the youth on Friday nights for an array of fun activities.

Although there were some big changes, Youth Group continued to be a community where youth, grades 7 to 12, can come to have fun and be themselves. This year, we focused on the theme, “How does our faith invite us to live?” We had many discussions about how faith helps and motivates us throughout our lives.

We had numerous guest speakers come to talk to us about topics such as our Outreach program and our church’s affirming history. We engaged in discussions about what it means to be who we are and how to accept and allow others to live freely as well.

The youth are also an active part of the church community by occasionally preparing lunch or dessert for Sundays and participating in the musical. We look forward to continuing to learn and grow together in the upcoming years.

Some of our highlights included:

- Skating at the Olympic Oval
- Tie-dyeing
- Self-defense classes
- Cake decorating night



music ministry

NANCY CHEGUS

It is a pleasure to be back in the Music Lead position for our amazing Music Ministry. My role has been to support the programs we have in place and look for ways of expanding and enhancing other HUC programs with music leadership. Beyond the work of our Children's Choir, Adult Choir, Music Teams, and Musical, this year I offered some music leadership to Kidspace and to the Day's End Contemplative service during Lent.

Our music ministry is really blessed with such talented musicians and teachers to take our lead roles. Many thanks to Bruce Petherick on keyboard and organ, Justin Macosky our Adult choir director and Lori Follis our Children's Choir director. Thanks also to Jane Allen, Children's Choir accompanist, and to Christy Guenter who accompanied our Adult Choir for Choral Fest. Of course, a big thank you to all the enthusiastic singers who come out week after week to prepare the music that enhances our worship experiences.

Adult Choir

The Adult Choir continues to perform in worship about two times a month, alternating with Music Teams to support the Sunday morning worship themes each week. Under the direction of Justin Macosky, each year we have been able to stretch our musical skills and broaden the scope of our song selections. Justin has provided a challenge for all singers, regardless of singing experience and expertise. In January we participated again in the Twelfth Night concert at Parkdale with other United Church choirs, and in March we sang in Choralfest again, receiving a platinum rating – the highest level a choir can achieve.

Children's Choir

The Hillhurst United Children's Choir celebrated a fifth season this past year with 29 young choristers ranging in age from 7 to 12. Wednesday night rehearsals were filled with song, rhythm, music appreciation, becoming better singers and musicians, and of course, a lot of F-U-N, thanks to the direction of Lori Follis. The choir sang for our Pet Blessing service, collaborated with the Adult Choir for a fall concert called My Favourite Things, and ended the season singing their Christmas music during worship on December 23. From January to May many of the choristers went on to participate in the musical.





Shrek the Musical

On May 10 to 12 our production of Shrek the Musical took to the stage with 55 cast members and about 25 more behind the scenes. This hilarious story helped us reimagine a few fairy tales and delivered a great message about accepting ourselves and others just the way we come. Our talented cast did an amazing job to the delight of about 826 audience members over 4 shows.

We extend a big thank you to our Production Team: Nancy Chegus, Eva Knight, James Ravenhill, Gail Niinimaa, Jim Thompson-Goodchild, Denise Lewington and the dozens of volunteers who helped on sets, stage crew, front of house, and concession. It takes a lot of time and effort by a lot of dedicated people to bring each production to the stage. We are grateful for the sense of community this annual production offers to all involved.

55

CAST MEMBERS

25

BEHIND THE SCENES

826

AUDIENCE MEMBERS

refugee ministry

DON WORKMAN

February 2019 marked the third anniversary of the arrival of the Yassin family in Canada, as refugees sponsored by Hillhurst United Church. Three years is an important milestone because it means the Yassins are now eligible for Canadian citizenship.

Nour Yassin and her husband Ali Bilal celebrated the birth of their son, Mayar, in September 2018.

All of the Refugee Ministry's formal sponsorship contracts have concluded and the Refugee Ministry did not initiate any new sponsorships in the past year. Refugee Ministry volunteers continue to check-in and provide informal support for the refugees that we have sponsored.

We have enough funds to sponsor another family and a new group of volunteers is meeting regularly with the intent to submit an application to sponsor another family. We anticipate that Hillhurst will help another family to arrive and settle in Canada before the end of 2019. To learn more about the Refugee Ministry, email refugeeministryteam@hillhurstunited.com.





right relations ministry

TONY SNOW

This year, our Right Relations Ministry celebrated its fourth year.

It was an extremely busy one, with our monthly meetings attracting between 15 and 65 people and the addition of Tony Snow, our Indigenous Right Relations Lead. We're thrilled to have Tony lead our group, and have learned a lot from him.

Tony is a member of the Stoney Nakoda First Nation and is currently a candidate for ordained ministry

with the United Church. He is completing studies at Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre and the Vancouver School of Theology. Tony's father, the late Dr. Rev. Chief John Snow, was the first United Church of Canada ordained Indigenous minister in Alberta and Tony continues the work his father began with his brother John and sister Gloria, who are also training for ministry.



This year, the Right Relations Ministry is pleased to host the Urban Indigenous Circle (UIC), a Spiritual Home for Indigenous people seeking wholeness in the urban environment. All Indigenous people are invited to gather to discuss and practice their cultural teachings and ceremonies at this monthly gathering led by Tony Snow in collaboration with Elders from Morley, McDougall United Church, and St. Andrew's Regional Ministries.

We are looking forward to participating in National Aboriginal Awareness Week this month by hosting events honouring Indigenous Women, celebrating Indigenous Arts and holding a Land Acknowledgement workshop.

Over the past year the Right Relations Circle has:

- Brought Indigenous leaders Harlan Pruden (in collaboration with the Affirming Ministry), as well as Rev. Ray Aldred, and Bob Joseph to Hillhurst United Church to lead circle discussions on Right Relations
- Invited the congregation to participate in our events outside the church: trips to Wordfest to see Wab Kinew, Tanya Tagaq, and a tribute to Richard Wagamese; joined the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's March; and went to the Jubilee to see the Making Treaty 7 and Niitsitapi Dance production of Okotoks.
- In collaboration with McDougall United Church, held events honoring and Remembering Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls on Red Dress Day in May.
- Held a special "Indigenous View of Advent" event hosted by Tony Snow.
- Screened documentaries
- Met with other churches and community partners to collaborate on different projects.



**conversation
connection
& friendship**



sunday lunch

You know the feeling - the 10:45 service ends, the last hymn is sung, and it's time for lunch! Our Sunday lunches are a big part of what makes Hillhurst a place of radical hospitality.

We have several teams that work tirelessly throughout the year, feeding 120 to 150 people on Sundays. This important ministry allows folks to gather after service, break bread together, catch up, and meet new people.

Serving lunch for over 100 people every week is no easy task. Thank you to our volunteer lunch teams for planning, shopping, and cooking every week. The lunch ministry is made possible thanks to donations from attendees.

A special thank you to our lunch team leaders: Nancy and Bob Watts, Darlene and John Loney, Mike Collette, Doug Jamieson, Caroline and Stewart Thompson, Lynne Dalcin, Deb Langman, and Ilinca and John Poon. If you would like to volunteer with our lunch ministry, please contact the office at office@hillhurstunited.com.

8

LUNCH VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED EVERY SUNDAY

120+

LUNCH GUESTS
SERVED EVERY SUNDAY





everyday outreach

Our Outreach program started four years ago with a few volunteers sitting at a card table, offering conversation and maybe a snack to anyone who needed it.

Some days, two or three members from our street community would come in for a visit, some days there were no guests. Today, Outreach serves lunch to upwards of fifty guests, three days a week. The guests and volunteers experience something special at Outreach, a sense of community that they've created together. Once the meal is served, volunteers sit with the guests to eat, talk, and listen, forming relationships, telling jokes, and sharing stories every week.

50+

NUMBER OF
LUNCH GUESTS

3

DAYS A WEEK





blender events

BECKY ROCK

Hillhurst United Church's exciting "fund and fun-raising" Blender events were a smash success again this year! More than 40 hosts stepped up to offer their tantalizing and uniquely-themed Blen-Dinner parties, which included the following themes:

Savour Scandinavia, Rib Ticklin' Time!, Ukrainian, Perogy Party, Kentucky Chew, Tex-Mex Fiesta, Pentland's Pancake Pandemonium, Global Gluten-Free Gala, Lamb & Libations, Hold My Beer!, Maritime Feast, Jazz & Jambalaya, Vine-Lover's Lane, Salmon & Delilah, Sunny Cider-House Rules, Domestic Goddess, Golf in January, and Newfoundland Kitchen Party!

This year also included an OutRAGEous Oscar Party, featuring Justin Macosky's animated and enthusiastic play-by-play of the Academy Award broadcast, and Musical Musings, featuring the immense talent of Bruce Petherick in concert.

This year, we offer a special thanks to a few generous donors, whose gifts enabled the opportunity for us to reduce ticket costs for some and offer seats to tireless volunteers.

The Blender Events included the annual 'Sponsorship Auction' for the beautiful 'Crooked Church' painting, generously donated by artist Marlene Whyte. Each year, HUC members vie for the chance to become the painting's named 'sponsor,' which has enabled Marlene's gift to keep on giving to HUC, year after year.

This year, we thank Nancy and Bob Watts for their generous sponsorship bid! Their names will be added to the placard acknowledging all of our Crooked Church painting sponsors for their kind support.

Between all of the Blen-Dinners & parties, with 198 dinner-seats sold, total revenue was \$17, 800 and much fun was raised by all.

40+

NUMBER OF BLENDER
DINNER HOSTS

198

TOTAL NUMBER OF
DINNER SEATS SOLD

\$17,800

TOTAL BLENDER
REVENUE



women's retreat

Around 20 women gathered in the FCJ Retreat Centre in Calgary for two days to explore the theme of "Playing with Spiritual Practices." The weekend was full of morning yoga, delicious meals, rest, and good conversation. Lori Follis led a session on the journaling practice of Morning Pages, Donna

Friesen explored Expressive Arts with the group, Janet Groen led a session on communing with nature, and Christine Lindberg led a workshop on meditation. It was a restorative weekend full of laughter, love, good food, and growth.

Dear Annie, Heri, Donna, Janet,
Christine and Daralyn,

Thank you for this wonderful weekend. I've had a wonderful time. I've relaxed. I've learned. I've laughed. Sometimes I need to be surrounded by women. We have a special energy.

I loved how each part of this retreat was different and yet it all integrated. If you had asked me before if I was interested in learning and practicing new spiritual practices or disciplines, I would have said "no". I feel like I am already overwhelmed with the to-do's in my life. But this weekend I've felt invited to try things and I've discovered joy, peace and rest. Thank you for sharing your gifts. With gratitude, Tammy







care &
comfort

congregational care

NANCY CHEGUS

Congregational Care has had wonderful leadership over the past few years, so it is my pleasure to expand my duties at Hillhurst and offer my own leadership in this area. I started by consulting with previous leaders and organizing a Congregational Care Event at the end of April. This event brought together previous volunteers in all aspects of congregational care and provided us an opportunity to offer our gratitude, do some evaluation, and look ahead to what we can effectively offer this large and diverse congregation.

As we move forward, we will continue to offer care through the prayer shawl ministry, hospital and home visitations, the prayer chain, comfort food, and card writing. I am very grateful for all those already involved in these areas. We continue to welcome new caring volunteers who would like to participate in this important and engaging ministry.

finance report

DAVE HARKER

Throughout 2018 the financial support of our congregation allowed the staff and their wonderful volunteers to invest their time and talent in support of our core beliefs.

This year was financially difficult for Hillhurst. Several unanticipated events led to a \$40,000 cash deficit and an operating deficit of \$74,000.

A large part of this was because our donations declined this year. The board spent time exploring why and decided that we should vastly improve our communications. We need to ask for what we need. With this in mind, a group of passionate volunteers led by Terry and Becky Rock came together in the spring of 2019 to form a stewardship committee. Stay tuned for their initiatives in 2019/2020. Their creativity and passion has already sparked new energy into this important part of church life.

Our aging building didn't have any significant issues this year, so we were able to meet our budgeted building and maintenance costs. The finance committee is working with the stewardship committee to create a separate fund to set aside for imminent building issues.

Whether it's time, talent, or treasure, thank you for supporting our community. Your contributions allow us to live out our core beliefs of hospitality, social justice, spirituality, and risk.

finances

UNAUDITED BALANCE SHEET as at December 31, 2018

	Operating Fund	Major Gifts & Bequest Fund	Innovation Fund	Capital Fund	Refugee Fund	2018	2017
Current Assets:							
Cash & Savings Accounts	\$ 98,414	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 98,414	\$ 214,949
Short-term Investments	425,604					425,604	368,445
Accounts Receivable & Prepaids	31,242					31,242	10,108
(Due to)/from Other Funds	(540,629)	119,877	16,336	363,798	40,618	-	-
Total Current Assets	14,631	119,877	16,336	363,798	40,618	555,260	593,502
Property				5,232,000		5,232,000	5,266,000
Total Assets	\$ 14,631	\$ 119,877	\$ 16,336	\$ 5,595,798	\$ 40,618	\$ 5,787,260	\$ 5,859,502
Liabilities:							
Accounts Payable	\$ 8,930	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,930	\$ 7,570
Deferred Revenue	5,441					5,441	4,750
Total Liabilities	14,371	-	-	-	-	14,371	12,320
Net Assets:							
Unrestricted Funds	260					260	339
Internally Restricted Funds		119,877	16,336	5,232,000		5,368,213	5,439,877
Externally Restricted Funds				363,798	40,618	404,416	406,966
Total Net Assets	260	119,877	16,336	5,595,798	40,618	5,772,889	5,847,182
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 14,631	\$ 119,877	\$ 16,336	\$ 5,595,798	\$ 40,618	\$ 5,787,260	\$ 5,859,502

finances

UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS for the year ending December 31, 2018

	Operating Fund	Major Gifts & Bequest Fund	Innovation Fund	Capital Fund	Refugee Fund	2018	2017
Revenue:							
Contributions	\$ 590,676	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 590,676	\$ 799,561
Rental Income	114,984					114,984	100,197
Fundraising and Miscellaneous	29,364					29,364	33,283
Grants	24,000					24,000	32,440
Programs & Ministries	(1,756)					(1,756)	10,062
Investment Income	7,160					7,160	5,179
Total Revenue	764,428	-	-	-	-	764,428	980,722
Expenses:							
Salaries, Wages and Benefits	\$ 588,517					\$ 588,517	\$ 704,767
Building Operations	104,873					104,873	111,160
General and Administrative	63,159	-	-	-	-	63,159	69,225
Amortization				34,000		34,000	34,000
UCC Presbytery and Conference Fees	30,448					30,448	27,680
Innovation Fund Expenses			8,664			8,664	-
Refugee Program Expenses					2,550	2,550	16,943
Fundaising and Miscellaneous				363,798	40,618	404,416	406,966
Total Expenses	260	119,877	16,336	5,595,798	40,618	5,772,889	5,847,182
Excess/(Deficiency) of Revenue over	\$ 14,631	\$ 119,877	\$ 16,336	\$ 5,595,798	\$ 40,618	\$ 5,787,260	\$ 5,859,502

finances

UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS for the year ended December 31,2018

	UNRESTRICTED	INTERNALLY RESTRICTED				
	Operating Fund	Major Gifts & Bequest Fund	Innovation Fund	Capital Fund	Capital Fund	Refugee Fund
Opening Fund Balance, December 31, 2017	339	\$ 148,877	\$ 25,000	\$ 5,266,00	\$ 363,798	\$ 43,168
Excess/(Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	(29,079)		(8,664)	(34,000)		(2,550)
Transfers	29,000	(29,000)				
Closing Fund Balance, December 31, 2018	260	\$ 119,877	\$ 16,336	\$ 5,232,000	\$ 363,798	\$ 40,618



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