

2017



454 Rebecca St.
Oakville, ON

ANNUAL REPORT

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COUNCIL & SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP - 2017

Executive

Chair: Doug Francis

Vice Chair: (Position not filled)

Secretary: Keith MacMillan

Treasurer: David Fan

Team Chairs

Worship: Allyson Neufeld & Rob Phillips

Ministry and Personnel: John Perry

Christian Development: Wendy Walker

Outreach: Selina Bajorek

Property: Diane Wolder

Finance: Doug Francis

Trustees: Kent Palmer & Brad Neufeld

Capital Projects: Harold DeVenne

Communications: Bert Fonseca

Presbytery Representatives: Harold Devenne, Frank O'Byrne,

Stewardship: Vacant

Nurturing Care: Vacant

Capital Projects

Harold DeVenne - *Chair*

David Crown - *(Choir)*

Diane Wolder - *(Property)*

Doug Francis - *(Finance)*

Jason Morin - *(M@L)*

John Perry - *(M&P)*

Christian Development

Wendy Walker

Gerry Wight - *(Library)*

Jackie Di Lauro

Laura Harper

Deborah Laforet - *Diaconal Min.*

Communications

Bert Fonseca - *Chair*

Candy Allen

Greig Carson

Jessie Fan

Margaret White

Deborah Laforet - *Diaconal Min.*

Finance

Doug Francis - *Chair*

David Fan - *Treasurer*

Elizabeth Phillips - *Payroll*

Ron Shermet - *Office Oversight*

Fresh Expressions

Frank O'Byrne - *Chair*

Ministry & Personnel

John Perry - *Chair*

Candy Allen

Kent Palmer - *(Trustee)*

Pat Freedman

Pat Mason

Sharon Wiese

Memorial

Doug Francis - *(Council Chair)*

Rob Phillips *(Worship Co-Chair)*

Rev. L. Chamberlain - *(Resource)*

Deborah Laforet - *(Resource)*

Nominating

Doug Francis - *Chair*

John Perry - *(M&P)*

Rev. L. Chamberlain

Deborah Laforet - *Diaconal Min.*

Nurturing Care

Rev. L. Chamberlain - *Chair*

B.J. Young

Carilyn McNaught

Carol Crown

Gerry Wight

Judy DeVenne

Outreach

Selina Bajorek - *Chair*

Alice Deslauriers-Bunn

Carolyn Stinson

Kate Labelle

Deborah Laforet - *Diaconal Min.*

Presbytery Representatives

Frank O'Byrne

Harold DeVenne

Evan Laforet *(resigned)*

Property

Diane Wolder - *Chair*

Doug Gillham

Earl Wiese

Gary Collins

Jason Morin

Michele Swanson-Mousley

(Rental Coordinator)

Ron Brown

Tom Allen

Refugee Sponsorship

Alice Deslauriers-Bunn

Matt Jonah

Pat Mason

Selina Bajorek

Deborah Laforet – *Diaconal Min.*

*all in partnership with

Glen Abbey United Church

Stewardship

No team membership

Trustees

Kent Palmer – *Co-Chair*

Brad Neufeld – *Co-Chair*

Helga de Lint

Jennifer MacMillan

Jim Little

UCW

Carilyn McNaught – *President*

Pat Mason – *Vice President*

Worship

Allyson Neufeld – *Co-Chair*

Rob Phillips – *Co-Chair*

Julie Thompson

Michele Swanson-Mousley

Rev. L. Chamberlain

Deborah Laforet – *Diaconal Min.*

Sub-Committees**Garden**

Sharon MacMillan

Keith MacMillan

George Cooper

Gloria Francis

Jackie O'Byrne

Frank O'Byrne

Kathleen Terry

Judy DeMone

Library

Gerry Wight – *Chair*

Carol Crown

Cynthia Steneveld

Irene Carson

Janice Fournier

Margaret White

Marion Cumming

Marjorie Batchelor

Michele Swanson-Mousley

Ruth Holloway

Sharon Wiese

Loving God Loving Neighbourhood

Harold DeVenne - *Leader*

Allyson Neufeld

Jeff Kargus

Joan Ford

John Perry

Judy DeMone

Wendy Walker

Rev. L. Chamberlain

Deborah Laforet – *Diaconal Min.*

Sub-Committees Continued**Sanctuary Renovation**

Harold DeVenne- *Leader*

Brad Neufeld

Candace Allen

Catherine Arcand-Pinette

Cathy Duddeck

David Crown

Doug Francis

Elizabeth Phillips

Jarvis Sheridan

Julia Barber

Kent Palmer

Ron Brown

Ross Stretton

Wendy Walker

Sunday Fellowship Coffee

Darlene & Don Cox

Tots and Us

Carol Crown

Catherine Arcand-Pinette

Fay Copland

Jessie Fan

Nancy Schaubel

In Memoriam

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

Gabriel Steven Greenland
Clarence "Bev" Holmes
Kenneth Albert Hoole
Norma Irene Sprung
John "Jack" Arthur Sharp
John Henry Hosking
Rayner Charles Hayhow



These are the names of people who have passed away in the year 2017 and are included in St. Paul's Church Register for Burials. We give thanks for their lives and for the lasting impact they have had upon us.
We trust them to God's eternal care.

As you read through the report you are holding in your hands, you will read statistics and stories of the many events and activities that have happened at St. Paul's United Church over 2017. What you may not read about is the life-changing moments, spiritual awakenings and growth that has taken place over the year. This is not because they did not occur, but rather that is often not the focus of church annual reports.

St. Paul's is a wonderful congregation filled with great people searching and striving for meaning and purpose in their lives. St. Paul's is a place where people are encouraged to grow in their faith, find comfort in their times of struggle and celebrate moments of joy and renewal.

As I look back upon this past year, I am grateful to the people of St. Paul's for their continued support and love. Early in the year I had to have surgery to have my gall bladder removed. The cards, flowers and expressions of care and concern from St. Paul's was a great comfort. I was fortunate to have a quick recovery and got back to work in a short period of time. One of the first events that I returned to was a special communion service which took place on a Wednesday afternoon. How wonderful it was to return to a gathering of welcome and embrace!

In May, I had the opportunity to take a three month sabbatical. The last time I had taken a sabbatical was in 2010 after my mother had died. On that occasion, I took time to grieve and to grow in faith. This most recent sabbatical was radically different. I took a 12-week intensive program in Kingston at the Providence Care Hospital. This was a time of personal growth and extremely challenging work. It was while I was there that I discerned my call to leave St. Paul's United Church. This has not been an easy decision although I truly feel it is the right decision.

St. Paul's has been undergoing a time of discernment, trying to decide upon its future. People have spent time and energy envisioning and praying and discerning God's will for this wonderful congregation. I will be forever thankful for all the memories and learnings I have gained while being here. I will continue to hold St. Paul's in my prayers as you continue to look to the future. Returning to St. Paul's after the sabbatical was both challenging and rewarding. I have embraced some of the new learnings from my sabbatical time. I began a new preaching series working from the Narrative Lectionary and I found this to be quite fun! I have preached on some wonderful Bible stories that are not included in the Common Lectionary.

In October I began going to Vistamere Retirement Residence once a month to lead a Bible study/Reflection time. This has proven to be quite a delightful time, filled with stories and learning. As the year came to a close, we celebrated the birth of Christ. There are so many aspects to this story that I LOVE. This year I have been reflecting upon that fact that the Christmas story is a wonderful reminder of how we are to be like Mary, giving birth to new life; we are to be like Joseph in taking risks, and we are to be like Jesus....growing in faith; reaching out in love and being a tangible sign of God's love in the world.

Blessings!

What a year! In my last report, I mentioned that this year marked 10 years of being employed in the United Church, graduating with my diploma in Diaconal Ministry and being commissioned as a diaconal minister, and 20 years since moving to Canada from the U.S. and being married to an amazing person (Yes, you, Jeff!). But this year was also filled with firsts.

In May, Lexie left on sabbatical and I was on my own at St. Paul's for about 3 and a half months. In consultation with M&P and Council, it was agreed that I would offer worship leadership while Lexie was away and I had a wonderful time with it! I preached for five Sundays on the Book of Revelation, a book in our Bible about which I had always wanted to learn more, so I took the congregation along with me on that journey. Also during the summer, the congregation was welcome to put sermon topics in a box, from which four sermons were chosen and on which I preached. Four fascinating topics, which included: Vampires vs. Saints: Who lives longer?, Why do we ask for forgiveness from God if we are already forgiven? Was Judas evil or just following his destiny? and It's OK to be Gay; It's OK to be Lesbian. If you missed them, they can all be found on my blog, another new venture this year.
sophiawisdom54.blogspot.ca

During this time I also went to Chicago, twice! The first time was for an amazing conference on Re-imagining Children and Youth Ministry and the second was an opportunity to attend, for the first time, a World Diakonia event, where people from all over the world came to share their various expressions of diakonia and the celebrations and struggles of their diverse ministries.

Three weeks of full-day summer camps also kept me busy. We had close to 200 children participating in our summer and PD camps throughout the year with many more youth and adults who helped lead and offer their time in a number of ways. It's a great ministry that St. Paul's is able to offer our community and it wouldn't be a success without the number of people who step up to support the program.

Another highlight of the summer was the privilege of accompanying youth from Halton Presbytery to Montreal for Rendez-vous, where more than 600 youth, young adults and their leaders gathered. This event highlighted the passion young people have for this church and its values and practices. The theme, "Be the Church," recognized that the church is not a building or a denomination, but is the people and that we need to be the face and hands, and sometimes the voice of Christ in the world. For St. Paul's, it was an opportunity to have two of our youth experience the wider church. In 2018, we will have more participating in national events. Stay informed and support them as they learn about the church, themselves, and God.

This fall I had the opportunity to meet with others doing children and youth ministry. They are all within Oakville but of different denominations. This was the beginning of conversation and the initial spark of new partnerships for St. Paul's. Currently we are working towards sharing resources for our summer camps but are beginning to look, in a broad way, at how we might support each other in our ministries.

And finally, of course, I have been involved in the ongoing visioning and discernment at St. Paul's, of our role in this community and how we envision our ministry and mission. As St. Paul's continues this discernment and an evaluation of its needs around ministry personnel, I go forward with an open mind

and an open heart, with prayer and an ear to God's call. May we all remember to be open to the Spirit in our lives and in our faith community. May it be so!

Organist & Director of Music

Ross R. Stretton FHCO, FGMS, FASC

Psalm 118: O Sing unto the Lord a new song, for He hath done marvelous things!

I am pleased to submit my report as Director of Music for 2017. We wish to thank our choirs for all their dedicated singing, commitment and devotion. We thank all the additional singers, musicians, directors and parents who support our Ministries of Music throughout the whole year. A special word of thanks to Catherine Arcand-Pinette who directs GLOW (advanced youth ages), to Bev Phillips who directs our Joyful Noise Singers, to Brad Neufeld who directs our Church orchestra and band musicians and to Anna Sheridan-Jonah, Deborah Laforet and Catherine Arcand-Pinette who arrange and prepare music for special presentations with our Praise Band and Singers throughout the year.

The Church is most grateful to Gloria Francis and the Concert Committee for the wonderful work that they have done to present Sunday afternoon concerts throughout the year. Thanks to Pat Freedman, our Choir President, who keeps us all informed, Judy DeVenne as Choral Music Librarian and Harold DeVenne and his team for providing refreshments at our Sunday morning pre-service rehearsals in Room 8. The Choir took part in the Variety Show the church presented in the spring.

On Mother's Day weekend in May, I held my 30th Annual Church and Organ Tour (our 6th Tour from St. Paul's United Church, Oakville) to Niagara South Presbytery United Churches: St. John's United-Stevensville; Central United-Welland; Grace United-Dunnville and South Cayuga Community United Church. We were impressed with the sights and sounds we experienced and the lovely people we met that made our day so enjoyable.

Our devoted Adult Choir was treated to dinner at El Spero Restaurant in June and the occasion was enjoyed by all. A special thank you to all the musicians and singers who came forward to present music at our summer services. We welcomed Carol Crown, Sue Hertell and Marie Lumabi as new members!

All of the choirs learned and performed several new pieces of choral music this past season. It is wonderful to combine all three choirs, from time to time, to present music. We appreciated the alumni of students who returned on Christmas Eve and sang with the Adult Choir. They are welcome anytime.

May we all serve the Lord in all we do and let our musical talents lift our spirits all week and each Sunday.

Most sincerely,

Ross

The Council of St. Paul's is responsible for managing the operations of the Church. This includes ensuring that the programmes and services are in place to ensure that St. Paul's can carry out a challenging, effective and rewarding ministry in the service of Jesus Christ. The Council is also responsible for the financial health of the congregation and for management and upkeep of our superb facilities. Council meets formally – generally every other month, to conduct business. It consists of the Chairs of the various Teams and the leaders of other organizations within the congregation. The Teams are hard-working and take their responsibilities very seriously. I sincerely thank the team members for their hard work and dedication during 2017. I also specifically thank the Chairs for their work with their teams and for their effective work on Council.

On behalf of Council and the congregation, I extend sincere thanks to Rev. Lexie Chamberlain and Deborah Laforet, Diaconal Minister, for their untiring work in continuing God's ministry at St. Paul's.

During 2017 there were many items of note. During the fall Rev. Lexie informed the congregation that after many years of service - she would be leaving St. Paul's at the end of July, 2018. She will be sorely missed. This will present challenges for 2018 as St. Paul's charts its course for the future. A JNAC committee is being established as the first step in planning and preparing for the future.

Also during 2017 the architectural firm SVN presented its design concepts for a possible renovation of the Sanctuary. The design concepts included some very exciting ideas. Studies within the congregation are proceeding and a formal design proposal will be presented in the future. I commend Harold DeVenne for his hard work and initiative in managing this project. I also commend Harold and his team for conducting a very comprehensive Visioning Programme during the fall. The ideas generated will be very helpful to the JNAC committee and to the congregation as we prepare for the future.

During 2016 and 2017 Council considered 8 Remits that were formulated by the United Church to drastically update its structures. Council was required to vote on 5 of those remits – Presbytery voted on the remaining 3. It will be very interesting to see how the new United Church unfolds.

In October, Council voted to approve in principle the sponsorship of another refugee family. There are several steps to be taken before government approvals are given.

Finally I thank the members of the congregation for their continuing support and for making 2017 another very successful year.

Helga de Lint, after years at the helm, has stepped down as our Chairperson, and has been busy getting me up to speed on the day to day workings of the Board of Trustees.

All members of the Board wish to thank Helga for her tireless leadership over the years and look forward to leaning on her for the foreseeable future.

The rental contract for the manse has been recently signed and will continue until April 2019 when it will be renegotiated.

The financial accounts of the Trustees are in excellent shape.

The Trustees would like to also thank Jim Little for his years of service. Jim is stepping down after the AGM.

If there are any questions please feel free to ask any member of the Trustees listed in 2017 Council Membership at the beginning of this report or posted on the church notice board for 2018.

CAPITAL PROJECTS*Harold DeVenne - Chair***Sanctuary Renovation Project**

The work on the Sanctuary renovation was slowed down during the year to allow for the discussions to take place within the congregation that came about as a result of the Loving God, Loving Neighbor initiative.

Those discussions have taken place and we have started up the Sanctuary Renovation Proposal Project once again.

We have reviewed and reduced the scope of the renovation, a sub-team has been very active assessing options for a new electronic organ and we are exploring options for new signage out front. The Finance sub-team is now assessing all of the options for funding the project. When this is complete, we will engage the congregation in a review of the draft proposal and seek to answer questions and inform those in the congregation. We expect the engagement with the congregation to begin after Easter.

After we have had an opportunity to engage the members of the congregation, we will request a special congregational meeting to formally discuss and determine if all, or portions of the project get approved, along with the necessary funding option. We feel that there have been sufficient discussions during the Loving God, Loving Neighbourhood initiative for the congregation to make an informed decision about the future.

**Minutes – 2017 Annual Meeting
St. Paul's United Church, Oakville ON
Sunday, February 19, 2017**

1. Welcome:

Deborah Laforet called the meeting to order at 11:50 am.

2. Opening Prayer:

Deborah Laforet led the meeting in a prayer offering thanks and asking for guidance.

3. Ministers' Comments:

Pat Mason provided greetings from Rev Lexie in her absence. Rev Lexie noted that 2016 was a year in which we were trying to determine what our mission was in the neighbourhood and the world in the face of declining attendance, notwithstanding we continue to meet our financial goals. Rev Lexie expressed her gratitude for the congregation's support of her ministry over the past year. Rev. Lexie's belief is we will continue to grow in our understanding of who we are and how we can serve God.

Deborah Laforet reminded the congregation that we are in the midst of discernment and evaluation and during this period we need to respect the opinions of each other. Also that we need to look outside our church to see how we might meet the needs of those that need to experience God's love that inclusiveness that peace and understanding that we all know is within our grasp. Let us not lose sight that Christ's love brought us here.

4. Nomination of Chairperson for the Meeting:

Motion: That Douglas Francis is appointed Chairperson.

Moved by Frank O'Byrne, seconded by David Crown.

.....Carried

Doug Francis assumed the Chair.

5. Nomination of Secretary for the Meeting:

Motion: That Keith MacMillan be appointed Secretary.

Moved by Frank O'Byrne, seconded by Ron Shermet.

.....Carried

6. In Memoriam:

As read by Deborah Laforet:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Phyllis McCartney | 7. Malcolm McDonald |
| 2. Claude Therrein | 8. Kenneth Brown |
| 3. Mary Murray | 9. Patricia Warren |
| 4. Emily Varley | 10. Jean Brown |
| 5. Ronald Hayward | 11. Margaret Poppewell |
| 6. Natalie Wilson | |

7. Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve: Moved by John Perry, seconded by Ron Shermet.

.....Carried

8. Motion to Extend Voting Privileges to Adherents:

That voting privileges, on temporal matters, be extended to adherents who regularly contribute to the life of St. Paul's.

Moved by Fay Copland, seconded by Carilyn McNaught.

.....Carried

9. Waiving of the Reading of the Minutes of the February 21, 2016 Annual Meeting.

Motion to waive:

Moved by Judy DeMone, seconded by Kent Palmer.

.....Carried

Approval of Minutes of the February 21, 2016 Congregational Meeting as Circulated

Motion to approve:

Moved by Bryan MacMillan, seconded by Jeff Laforet.

.....Carried

10. Approval of the 2016 Annual Report – excluding financial statements.

Motion to approve:

Moved by Shirley Brown, seconded by Pat Mason.

.....Carried

Appreciation was expressed to Bert Fonseca for managing the preparation of the 2016 Annual Report. Ron Shermet reported a name correction from Ron to Rob near the bottom of page 13.

11. Appreciation of Council Executives and Team Members (retiring and continuing).

Doug Francis expressed the appreciation of the congregation to those who have served and are retiring and those who continue to serve in the many roles necessary to continue the work of St. Paul's. Special mention was made of retiring team members Bert Fonseca and Judy DeMone on Finance and Don Cox on Property for their tireless commitment to St Paul's over many years.

12. Council Executive and Team Chairs and Members:

Doug Francis referenced copies of the list of proposed Executive Council and Team members of Council as distributed, indicating that most positions had been filled.

Motion to approve:

Moved by Judy DeMone and Seconded by Sharon MacMillan.

....Carried

Motion: Council be authorized to continue to fill vacancies.

Moved by Bert Fonseca, Seconded by Jarvis Sheridan

....Carried

13. Trustees

Doug Francis referenced the letter required and received from Marg Stanley indicating her resignation as a trustee of St Paul's church.

Motion to approve resignation:

Moved by John Perry, seconded by Bert Fonseca.

....Carried

Doug Francis reported that the Trustees had nominated Jennifer MacMillan be appointed as a Trustee of St Paul's church.

Motion to approve appointment:

Moved by Fay Copland seconded by David Crown.

....Carried

14. 2016 Financial Statements:

- a) Elizabeth Phillips reviewed the financial statements as circulated. They showed a surplus for the year of \$16,181. This was attributed to greater than expected PAR offerings, rental income and Rummage Sale receipts. Other highlights were increased Outreach Income and lower than budgeted expenses.

Motion: The 2016 Income and Expense Statements and Balance Sheet, as circulated, be approved.

Moved by Elizabeth Phillips, Seconded by Bert Fonseca.

.....Carried

b) Reviewer of 2017 Financial statements:

Motion: D. Lawrence Blair, Chartered Professional Accountant, be appointed reviewer for the 2017 Financial Statements.

Moved by Elizabeth Phillips, seconded by Al Simpson.

.....Carried.

c) 2017 Contribution to M & S Fund:

Motion: St. Paul's to continue contributing 10% of envelope and PAR offerings, 10% of loose offerings and 100% of the Lenten offering to the United Church M & S Fund.

Moved by Elizabeth Phillips, seconded by Shirley Brown

.....Carried.

15. 2017 Budget:

Elizabeth Phillips reviewed the budget as presented. It projects a deficit of \$6,784, which is the lowest deficit we have projected in the last three years.

Motion: To approve budget as presented.

Moved by Elizabeth Phillips, seconded by Lorne Mousley.

.... Carried

Doug Francis congratulated the Finance Team for their ongoing Service to St Paul's.

16. Allocation of Anniversary Offering:

Kate Labelle proposed that the Anniversary offering be used to support the Canadian Feed the Children Charity as well as a local organization, the Drew Hildebrand Teen Benefit Fund and provided some background for why St Paul's should support these programs.

Motion to Approve.

Moved by Kate Labelle, seconded by Jeff Laforet.

.....Carried.

17. New Business:

Frank O'Byrne was asked to give a brief description of the Fresh Expression initiative (which 1% of St Paul's budget had been allocated). He indicated that a survey was underway to determine how these funds should be allocated.

18. Courtesies:

John Perry expressed St Paul's appreciation for all the work of our staff. He highlighted the role that Rev Lexie played in leading our Worship services, Nurturing Care, Visitation, Counselling and encouraging spiritual and congregational growth. He acknowledged Deborah's service with mentoring, Vacation Bible School, PD Camps, CE and Youth groups, Bible study and as Co Chair of Halton Presbytery. Congratulations was also expressed for her completion in 2016 of her MTS degree. Ross Stretton's tireless effort with his support of our church music at all levels was noted. The role of our part time university custodian Dylan Norton during the medical leave of our custodian Roy Mc Naught was also noted.

19. Closure of the Meeting:**Motion to approve:**

Moved by Al Simpson, seconded by Rob Phillips.

... Carried

20. Benediction:

Deborah Laforet delivered the benediction.

Douglas Francis, Chair

Keith MacMillan, Secretary

CHOIRS

GLOW (God Loves Our World)

Catherine Arcand-Pinette -Director

We have had a very successful fall. This September has seen our group of seven singing in church once and being very involved in the Christmas music season. We were sad to see some of our members leave for university and other pursuits but our “small but mighty” group has shown they are all up to the challenge!

Our spring concert was a huge success and the choir prepared almost an entire hour of music that was polished and uplifting. They were also able to raise some money for the youth programming in the church.

For 2018, we are preparing for more opportunities to sing in the service and possibly sing at Music at 10.

Directed by Catherine Arcand-Pinette, GLOW is ready to take on a brand new year with new music and excitement.

Joyful Noise

Bev Phillips - Director

A group of singers from ages 3 to 12 continue to make a Joyful Noise at St. Paul's! We have a group of approximately 14 enthusiastic children who come and sing with us on a weekly basis. We meet every Sunday morning at 9:15 in room 10.

Along with singing at Sunday morning services, we also participated in Christmas and Easter worship services and the Christmas concert. A highlight of this concert was to sing a selection together with the adult choir and our young adult choir, GLOW.

We were also happy to perform at the St. Paul's Variety Show and Music at 10. We were thrilled to welcome five new members in September and encourage new members to join the fun at any time.

(See also Director of Music Report, Page 7)

This year, Christian Development programs have been plentiful and productive, from our pancake Tuesday dinner in February to the much loved December Christmas pageant and our ongoing work with the Sunday School and Youth group. This year, we hosted three summer camps. We hosted our regular full day VBS (vacation bible school), involving 60 children. Because this week has been full and we were turning children away, we began a second week of VBS this year, with about 25 children. We also hosted an August camp through the GO Project for 20 children which explored social and environmental themes. All three camps were also led by a number of youth, grade seven and up.

This year we offered three PA day camps in November, February, and April. We hosted the church picnic at St. Paul's and a Welcome Back BBQ in September. We continue to have a very successful church friends mentoring program, as well as book and bible studies and the Sunday morning adult discussion group.

The youth have been involved in a number of retreat experiences, including a weekend camping trip and a leadership development retreat in June, the Niagara Youth Festival in October, and "Rendezvous," a national event held in Montreal for youth, young adults, and their leaders. The youth of St. Paul's joined other youth for this event from Applewood United, East Plains United, and Three Willows United. In November, the youth travelled to St. Paul's and Applewood to lead worship and share their experiences, and then did the same at a meeting of Halton Presbytery.

This year, it was brought to our attention that the students hired from the Canada Summer Jobs grant, which is granted to churches in Halton presbytery to hire students for our summer camps, are supposed to be working within one voting constituency. Unfortunately, the churches in Halton Presbytery make up many voting constituencies. Deborah, through the assistance of an "Embracing the Spirit" grant from the United Church, connected with other churches of different denominations in our voting constituency to invite them to work together next summer in hiring students for summer camps. With this grant, Heather Dancyger was hired to do much of the work of contacting the churches and inviting them to gather for breakfast to hear Deborah's proposal. As of this time, four other churches have agreed to work together. We look forward to working with our church neighbours and there is hope that it could be the start of other partnerships between the different faith communities in Oakville.

The Christian Development Committee has lost some of its members this year, and needs some new energy. If the work you've just read about interests you, please talk with Deborah. We would love to have you involved in the Christian development work of St. Paul's.

The Christian Development work needs lots of support and many hands to thrive and grow. We give thanks for the many people who supported this work financially, with their gifts, and with their time. We thank those who taught Sunday School, who led workshops at VBS and PA Day camps, who served snack at camps, who supported our youth activities, including camping and retreat weekends, who led the Sunday morning discussion group, and many others. St Paul's is a loving, giving, caring community and we are glad to be a part of it.

You will see the names of this team membership in the Council/Team listing at the beginning of the year's report which will give you an idea of who is doing things behind the scenes.

Deborah and Bert, assisted by Jessie, increased our Facebook postings during the year and notice that we are attracting slightly more 'visits' and 'likes' which vary depending on the type and content of posts. Facebook is a media which enables sharing of photos of people, such as performing musicians, special concerts, GLOW, Joyful Noise, but not just plain text. Therefore there is a limited number of postings that can be done with applicable photos. Please befriend our Facebook page and 'like' or 'share' what you see!

Thanks to Candy Allen, we published four Newsletters by email during the year. We call them 'eNews' in keeping with today's internet jargon and primarily because it is transmitted electronically by email. We have a 69% average opening rate out of 240 recipients. We then print a small number of copies which are delivered by Carilyn McNaught, along with the Sunday bulletin, to a limited number of church members who cannot attend.

Two advertisements of scheduled services were published in The Oakville Beaver newspaper, one at Easter and the other for Christmas.

Besides Greig Carson and Margaret White posting the sermon and bulletin, we tried to perform other maintenance of the website but soon realized that it would be best to start a new-improved (as TV ads will say), better structured, flashier, easier to maintain one. Besides someone with the technical skills, it is important to have someone who has knowledge of our church and we searched the congregation by eNews and Sunday bulletin for people of requisite skills but were not successful for many months. A very skilled outsider was recommended and started to work voluntarily with us first, to research and nail down our requirements, examine other similar church websites and look for suitable website hosts.

Towards the end of the year, we made a standard 'minute announcement' at one of the Sunday services which resulted in a member of the congregation coming forward to be our webmaster, commencing in 2018... we are genuinely excited about this! Anthony Lucic is just about to start and become a member of our team for the new year.

Jeanne Kho, Office Admin., continued to send notices and advisories, by direct email, to members of the congregation but these are limited to death notices and emergency type information, dictated by Lexie and Deborah.

With the help of the Worship Team, we designed and printed new welcome cards for the church pews, in the 2nd part of the year.

Lastly, we created a Christmas card for inclusion in the end-of-year Ministers' and Council Chair's letter mailing.

I am extremely fortunate to have Fay Copland who has helped very much with the editing of the Annual Report where her language skills are of great use. Our combined printed newsletter and annual report publishing efforts for our church date back about 15 years!

Many thanks to all, formal team members and others, for their involvement in year 2017!

GUIDING

Deanna Jones - Community Guider & Liaison

8th Oakville Brownie Unit

Thank you St Paul's, for the space we use each week from September to June. We are grateful for the support we receive.

Our group has 22 girls this year, 20 last year. They are age 7 years to 8 years.

Our highlights have been:

- Fare Share Food Bank
- Halloween walk with sister guide group in downtown Oakville
- hug a tree quest, teaching about outdoor safety
- Humane society
- horseback riding camp at Circle Square Ranch
- upcoming sleepover at the ROM
- girl power/ stuffie Enrolment Ceremony
- cookie selling at Denningers
- learning about advertising
- celebrating holidays - Remembrance Day, Diwali, Christmas
- bike safety at the Peel Safety Village
- lots of badge testing
- mad science visit
- STEM Training at U of T

Again – Thank you for helping us to run a great guiding program for the girls!

7th OAKVILLE GIRL GUIDES

Caroline O'Keeffe – Unit Leader

Thanks to the generosity of St. Paul's United Church, our Girl Guide unit has continued to be able to meet weekly to help 25 to 30 young girls develop, have fun, give back to their community to help others, all while building lifelong friendships.

Our girls, aged 9 to 11, bounce into our meeting rooms at St. Paul's each Wednesday evening between September and June, so excited to see each other, knowing they are in a safe environment where everyone is treated equally, no one is excluded and everyone has an opportunity to try something new, and to have fun!

Over the past twelve months, while at St. Paul's, our girls have enjoyed:

- A Camp Sleepover - a full day and night spent at St. Paul's when our cabin booking fell through, last January. We are so grateful to St. Paul's for allowing us this accommodation – we would have had to cancel our camp otherwise. Our evening ended with each of our girls showcasing their special talent whether it was reading aloud, gymnastics, musical instruments, artwork, dancing, etc.

- A Fabulous Tea Party - where the girls dressed up in pretty dresses and wore hats. High Tea was served as we welcomed some guests of honour from our Guiding Community. The girls saw a slideshow and learned so much about the different Guiding Centres around the world that they may like to visit when they are older.
- A Career Night - Five parents, with varying occupations, from pilot to chiropractor to theatre costume creator, gave the girls great insights into these career options.
- A *Welcome to Guides* Sleepover - where we put up the tents in the big gymnasium for the girls to sleep in on their air mattresses. The girls enjoyed making a craft for their camp hats.
- Sewing and Knitting Nights - The girls learned how to knit and how to use a sewing machine. We made drawstring bags and then the girls purchased toiletries or slippers at the Dollar Store, using their own money, and the filled bags were then donated to Halton Women's Centre.
- Card Making - The week of Remembrance Day, the girls made special Valentines cards which were then mailed to Valentines for Vets in Ottawa. They will be distributed to our vets on February 14th.

All of this is accomplished with four to five Volunteer Leaders and two to three parents who step in if a leader is unavailable. We are truly blessed to have the use of the St. Paul's facility - the space, the kitchens, the warm feeling when you enter the physical building - and to be guided by Deanna Jones, a very special lady. It is also wonderful to have the busy little Beaver Unit down the hallway and the Pathfinders' Unit going on next door. It has all contributed so much to making our 7th Oakville Guides a very special unit. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

1st Oakville Pathfinders

Carol Fraser

We started the 2nd half of the guiding year with 7 girls.

In February, we had a camp at Blue Springs. Our theme was the Oscars. It was a mystery theme where we all dressed up in costume. We had a great time.

April found us going to Boy Scout Competition Camp. This camp tests our girls on their camp skills.

Out of 10 groups, 9 being from boy/girl scout groups, our unit, the only Girl Guide representative, won the competition camp cup. It was a great honour and this year (2018), we will need to step up further if we want to keep it.

This guiding year (2017-2018), we find ourselves with 9 girls.

In September, we attended the Boy Scout camp – Co-op camp. The theme was Vikings. We had to decorate our site in the Viking theme.

In November, our girls helped out with the Holiday Jingle at St. Paul's Church. They had a great time helping and giving back. We have done this for several years now and each time, we get more girls participating. Thank you, St. Paul's!!

We closed off the year of 2017 with our annual dinner and a movie. We did a gift exchange and had a lovely dinner at Boston Pizza and saw the movie, Wonder.

We hope this year will be just as or even more exciting for our Pathfinders.

We would like to thank St. Paul's for their support to Girl Guides.

Each year, the congregation of St. Paul's comes together to celebrate the beginning of the Advent season, with our annual Holiday Jingle Bazaar. Approximately 200 people are involved with the preparation, set up and operation of the bazaar each year, under the direction and guidance of the United Church Women (UCW).

Planning begins early in the year. Conveners are sought for each of the UCW tables. This year, experienced personnel coordinated most of these tables. Thank you to Edith Cunningham (Jewellery), Sharon Wiese and Fay Copland (Bake Table), Carilyn McNaught and Lynne Mader (Knitting), Catherine Arcand-Pinette, Jennifer Gunter, and Candy Allen (Country Store & Deli), Pat Mason and Gloria Francis (Silent Auction), and Diane Wolder (Buttons), for your leadership and willingness to be in charge of these UCW tables. Each of these tables involves considerable work in the months before the bazaar, to make or solicit items, package and price items, set up on Friday and then work on Saturday. For example, every piece of donated jewellery is washed and packaged. Teams of UCW ladies, organized by Irene Murray, made our popular tourtières. Miriam and Live UCW groups baked cookies for the Bake Table and made soups and other items for sale at the Country Store. Many members of St. Paul's made jams, jellies, preserves, and candy. Others knitted up a storm during meetings. Members of the congregation received phone invitations to the bazaar and to ask for baking for the Bake Table. Local businesses were solicited for donations to the Silent Auction Table.

There were some new volunteers this year who offered to coordinate an important segment of the bazaar. Judy DeMone took on the huge task of running Santa's Café. The Café is a focal point for both our shoppers and our volunteers. It is the place where people can catch up with old friends who are visiting, or simply relax during their hectic day. This year, the Café served about 160 people, with an additional 30 take-out orders, within a three-hour time span. That is a pretty busy restaurant! To do this successfully, the Café requires many volunteers to prepare and serve the food. Judy DeMone and Kent Palmer made the soup and chili respectively. On Friday, a team of seven ladies, led by Evelyn Little and Joan Ford, prepared the sandwiches. UCW members also made the cookies and squares that were served to our guests. Youth and adults from the church, as well as local Girl Guides, assisted with serving.

One important aspect of our bazaar is the involvement of the children, youth, and parents of our Sunday School. This year, they participated in a variety of ways. Heather Dancyger and Kate Labelle volunteered to coordinate Santa's Snack Shack, with the assistance of members of the Sunday School. The Snack Shack operated out of the large kitchen, and was open for business from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. They sold out of all their food. In addition, Sunday School members sold cookies, raising approximately \$135.00 for Food for Kids, a local agency providing food for children on the weekends. And, the Sunday School also offered items for sale that had been made by the members themselves. The profit from this table (\$108.00) also went to Food for Kids. Finally, many adults and youth provided music for the enjoyment of our customers.

The Bazaar requires many volunteers who work behind the scenes to ensure that things operate smoothly. Jeanne Kho, in the church office, provides considerable administrative support. For example, each year she contacts the town to receive permission for parking on the surrounding streets on the day

of the bazaar. This means that workers can park on these nearby streets without getting a ticket, leaving valuable parking space for our guests.

Shirley-Anne Cooper-Maimot, the general convenor of the bazaar, organized all the work required to obtain and support our vendors, many of whom have participated in our bazaar for five or more years. Terry Farris organized the nametags for the volunteers. Helga de Lint, UCW Treasurer, organized the money floats for the various tables and then had a team working with her to collect, count, and deposit the monies earned. Jeff Laforet organized the parking lot and security crews, as well as being our own Santa's elf! The ladies of the UCW Miriam unit distributed flyers throughout Oakville and organized the advertisements in The Beaver and in The Hamilton Spectator. The Communications team ensured that we had articles about the Bazaar on Facebook, in our church eNews (email newsletter) and on our website.

There were also various specialty items at the bazaar. Parents and children could visit the photo booth. Children could have a visit with Santa and also participate in the Pick and Spin. A bazaar cannot operate without the efforts of many people to set up the tables early on Friday morning and to restore the church on Saturday afternoon. The men and women who offered their services for these tasks include the Pubs and Pews group and numerous others. Please know that your organizational support of the bazaar was very much appreciated. In addition, the Boy Scouts troop that uses St. Paul's for its meetings, arrived Saturday afternoon to help with the clean up.

The following is a summary of the monies earned by all our efforts: Bake Table - \$904.30; Country Store and Deli - \$1927.23; Santa's Café - \$517.29; Buttons - \$87.60; Jewellery - \$1131.00; Knitting - \$613.80; Silent Auction - \$2627.50; Vendors - \$845.00; Santa's Snack Shack - \$121.44; Sunday School Table - \$108.00; and Sunday School cookies - \$134.55. After paying all expenses, the Holiday Jingle Bazaar made a profit of \$8006.59. All in all, our 2017 bazaar was another successful event. This would not be possible without everyone's efforts and support. Thank you, St. Paul's.

The library is open when the church is open.

Our library continues to be busy on Sunday and on Monday mornings when moms and tots stop in after Tots and Us. Check the portable book cart on Sunday outside the library door or in Watt Hall. We are part of the Christian Development Committee and invite new volunteers to join the library committee.

A group of dedicated library members sort books and videos/DVDs frequently. Book displays on the main bulletin board in the library are changed on a regular basis. They are created by Ruth Holloway and receive many compliments.

In May 2017, our Plant Sale raised funds for purchasing books and DVD's. We thank everyone for their help with the sale as well as the support of the congregation by purchasing the plants.

If you are cleaning out and find books or DVD's, that belong to St. Paul's library, we would appreciate having them returned to us. We continue to purchase a variety of new books and DVD's. Book suggestions are always welcome. Copies of the United Church Observer and Mandate Magazine are available for borrowing.

Our Committee meets four times a year. We take turns every 6-8 weeks in the library on Sunday mornings. If interested, speak to any one of the volunteers on Sunday morning.

We welcome comments and suggestions from the staff and the congregation as we strive to keep our shelves filled with materials that are current and relevant. Drop by and check out our library!

We began the initiative in late 2016, when we had an opportunity to take part in a Presbytery- funded journey to look at who we are as a congregation and then find a path forward into the future.

We began the journey on October 4, 2016 with the initiation of the IMNA survey, where 100 members of the congregation completed the survey. The important steps and dates are below.

October 4, 2016	100 members of the congregation took part in a month-long IMNA survey. Just as a reminder, IMNA stands for Identity, Mission, Needs Analysis.
November, 2016	The results of the survey (100 page document) were received.
November, 2016	EDGE (as a reminder, this is a Network for Ministry development within the United Church of Canada) completed and delivered the Property Scan Report.
February, 2017	We received the IMNA Executive Summary Report from the EDGE Consultant.
March, 2017	A small team completed the Community Roundtable Event, where over 30 outside groups and agencies gathered one morning to help us understand our Neighbourhood.
April 9, 2017	IMNA Corner begins with portions of the IMNA survey provided as a discussion starter. (A new set of data every 2 weeks until late June.)
April 25, 2017	A small LGLN Planning Team was assembled to plan how we will engage the congregation in discussions and exploration of the information and assessment reports we have received.
May 15, 2017	EDGE provided the Congregation Assessment Report, which takes all of the surveys and information and provides an assessment of the individual pieces and then makes recommendations.
Sept 24, 2017	We started a six-week Table Talk discussion which occurred after church with whoever showed up. We had anywhere from 15-24 people engaged during the 7-week period. The questions were supplied by EDGE and every 2 weeks we received a summary from them of the input from each week. The summary also included a listing of “Themes” they saw emerging and some challenging observations.
November 25, 2017	Our Visioning Day took place with 52 members of the congregation taking part.

We have since received a summary report from the facilitator for the Visioning Day which will be circulated to the congregation in the coming weeks. The Planning Team will also meet and start developing a Statement of Mission based on the input from all of those present on Visioning Day.

As we moved through the activities above, different people have helped with different sections. Judy DeMone played a big role in facilitating the IMNA Survey, while the Community Roundtable Team consisted of Lexie, Deborah, Joan Ford, Julie Thomson, Jackie O’Byrne, Wendy Walker and Terry Farris.

The Planning Team was created to plan the Table Talks, the Visioning Day and also draft a Statement of Mission. This team consisted of John Perry, Allyson Neufeld, Judy DeMone, Wendy Walker, Jeff Kargus and Harold DeVenne, with the guidance of Lexie and Deborah.

All information created by work completed has at some point been posted on the website and hard copies made available in the Narthex. If you feel you want a copy of any of the output, please feel free to contact Harold DeVenne (hdevenne@gmail.com) to request it.

Finance

Doug Francis - Chair

The finances for St. Paul's for 2017 came in close to the budget for the year. The deficit was \$7,713.61 compared to the budgeted deficit of \$6,784.29. It is important to note, of course, that we were expecting a deficit and we ended up with a deficit. Envelope offerings, PAR (pre-authorized remittance) givings and loose offerings were all less than budgeted. Partially offsetting these shortfalls was the fact that we received significant funds through bequests. Detailed financial statements will be made available separately. St. Paul's ended the two previous years with significant surpluses so in recent times, the need for stewardship reminders and activity has not been obvious. St. Paul's Council is currently well aware that such action is now important.

Please take the time to review the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2017. They provide much information about the workings of the church and of the programmes that are carried out by the Church. Our primary source of income continues to be member and adherent offerings. Giving through PAR is a very convenient way to make your offering and I encourage you to switch to PAR if you have not already done so.

I extend great thanks to the Finance and Count Team members for their continued hard work and commitment.

I particularly thank the members of the Finance Team for their continuing hard work and commitment. David Fan assumed the role of Church Treasurer and is responsible for producing the financial statements once Jeanne Kho completes the data entry. Elizabeth Phillips looks after the payroll and Ron Shermet looks after the office and the Count Teams. We are also very appreciative of Judy DeMone and Bert Fonseca, the previous Treasurer and Chair of Finance, for the help they have provided to David and me as we assumed these new-to-us roles.

The Nurturing Care Committee serves St. Paul's United Church throughout the year by providing various ministries and helping to support others. We are grateful to the many people who extend a helping hand and a word of compassion to those who are in need of support and care.

In 2017, we hosted two special communion services that took place on a Wednesday afternoon in the Friendship Room. We provide these services for those who may not be able to attend worship on Sunday mornings. We are grateful to Tom Allen who provided music for us at both of these services. We also must acknowledge the generosity of the High Five UCW Unit who would have had their monthly meeting the same day as the communion services. Both times, women from the unit joined the service and in doing so, they helped to extend the feeling of welcome and inclusion for all those who attended. People who attend these services express their gratitude to those who drive them to the church and those who provide the luncheon and refreshments.

Throughout the year we have people visit at Long Term Care residences and in the hospital. We are very grateful to those who help with the pastoral care visiting. We would like to remind everyone that if someone in their family is in the hospital and would like a visit, please call and let the church know. "Tots and Us" continues to run under the direction of the Nurturing Care Committee. We are grateful to the women who provide this wonderful ministry. It is such a delight to hear the children's voices as they sing and play.

We are very fortunate to have people who are willing to prepare casseroles, soups and muffins which are delivered to those who are experiencing grief or illness. In 2017, we delivered 11 casseroles, 4 soups, and 12 packages of muffins. Cards are also sent throughout the year to let people know we are thinking of them and keeping them in our prayers. In total, 159 cards were delivered (either by hand or mail). Of these cards, 84 of them were made by the children who attended Vacation Bible Camp at the church. Two prayer bears were given out over the year as a symbol of St. Paul's love and prayers and concern.

In the Fall, when Rev. Lexie returned from sabbatical, we started a new practice in our monthly meetings, called Narrative Theology. Each month a member from our team shares some of their personal history. This time provides us the opportunity to get to know one another better as well as to practise our listening skills.

We have also started a phone ministry. We began this in the fall and will hopefully continue it in the next year. We are aware there are church members who are home bound and so it is our hope that a friendly call from another church member might help them to feel 'connected' to the St. Paul's family. If you would like to be on our phone list, please let Reverend Lexie know. If you would be willing to call someone a few times a year, please speak to Reverend Lexie.

The Members of the Nurturing Care committee would like to thank all of those who have made casseroles, visited, delivered cards and supported this important ministry.

We have been blessed by God, and we pray that we may be a blessing to others.

The members of the Outreach Team would like to take this opportunity to thank the congregation for its ongoing support. The Team has been able to extend support to every level of society including local, regional and international. Here is a description of the projects at each one of these levels, to which we were able to extend your support.

We supported an international entrepreneur project called KIVA, managed and monitored for us by Doris Cassidy. We started in 2009 by investing \$2,279, which was loaned and repaid many times. We have lent \$23,225 in the last 8 years with 157 loans to 72 countries.

\$20,808.69 paid back to us over the years
 \$150.00 loan given, time expired, money refunded to us
 \$131.91 loss due to non-payment (delinquent)
 \$191.79 loss due to currency exchange
\$1,942.61 current amount outstanding for 30 loans
\$23,225.00 8-year total

\$1,942.61 current amount outstanding for 30 loans
 \$12.20 available KIVA credit
 \$131.91 delinquent
\$191.70 loss
\$2,289 Today's Total

The Outreach Team also sent a financial donation to the Caribbean Hurricane Disaster Fund. This international rebuilding fund was matched by the Canadian Federal Government.

The Anniversary Offering was allocated to the Outreach Team and Carolyn Stinson chose *The Drew Hildebrandt* and *Feed the Children* organizations as recipients for the offering. In addition, Carolyn had a speaker from *Feed the Children* to come to St. Paul's to give us an overview of their program.

The Outreach Team chose the Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre to receive our Thanksgiving Offering. This local program provides assistance to single parents to return to the employment sector. Another one of a myriad of programs that the Centre provides is exercise classes for seniors as well as a time of fellowship over a healthy lunch. Since the Oak Park Centre operates with a minimal number of paid staff, it is difficult to have a speaker come to St. Paul's; however, many of us accessed the video that is provided on their website.

A second project at Thanksgiving was organized by Alice Deslauriers-Bunn. On Thanksgiving Sunday, the St. Paul's Outreach Committee gathered 9 congregation members and one community helper to prepare and serve a meal at the Wesley Urban Ministries Day Kitchen in Hamilton. We were guided in our efforts by Wesley Chef Sam and pastoral care minister, Sue. We also contributed \$450 from the outreach budget to cover costs for the meal.

154 service users attended to share a meal in a safe space for food, warmth and fellowship. Given the rewarding nature of participating in this event, it was a time of community building, both within and

beyond the St Paul's community. Our plan is to continue with this initiative on a yearly basis with our designated Sunday being in February or March, beginning in 2018.

At Christmas, we always think about the families supported by Wesley Urban Ministry in Hamilton, Ontario. This year, Wesley took care of a total of 2500 individuals. This group includes the homeless, teenagers, the unemployed and several refugee families. Generous members of St. Paul's congregation placed gifts for all ages under our Christmas tree as well as contributing financial support for Wesley families.

It is noteworthy that our church donated a total of \$41,857 to outreach; \$30,943 of this was to UCC Mission & Service. (Please see Financial Statements for Year Ending Dec 31, 2017.)

Therefore it is apparent that our church community has supported:

- people around the world who are struggling to build a new life for themselves by creating small businesses.
- people who require some redirection in their lives.
- children who would find themselves hungry and in many other difficult circumstances.

To all contributors, please accept our most sincere gratitude!

Worship

Allyson Neufeld – Co-Chair

The Worship Team for 2017 included the following lay members: Allyson Neufeld, Michele Mousley, Rob Phillips, Julie Thomson and Rachel Couban. In addition to the lay members, Rev. Lexie Chamberlain is an important part of the team. Our extended team has many members who help on a weekly basis, to keep our worship services running smoothly. This includes: greeters, ushers, sound technicians, readers, communion teams, sanctuary decorators and those who look after the pews and flowers.

Our congregation benefited from having guest speakers join us for worship. In May, we had a special Anniversary Service for Drew Hildebrand and Feed the Children. In July, a former minister, Susan Sheridan, from our own congregation, did the sermon.

"Music at 10" was piloted in 2015 and was successful throughout 2017; we plan to continue the program again in 2018. On the last Sunday of each month, extra music was scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. The result has been a good cross section of St. Paul's musical talent coming forward to share their music.

In May, Lexie took a three month sabbatical. Currently Deborah is on a three month sabbatical. In September we had a Fire Drill that went well. Although the fire drill was run by the Property Committee, Worship was integral to the planning and execution of the drill.

Worship at St. Paul's is ever evolving. The Worship Team looks to 2018 to continue supporting this important work in the life of our church.

Please see Council Membership list at beginning of this report for members of this team.

The following is a summary of **a)** notable improvements to the church building and **b)** major property responsibilities:

Notable improvements:

- Installation of new gym door 'panic' bars.
- Replacement of all T-12 florescent tubes (now obsolete) throughout church with LED tubes. Hydro incentive plan assisted with cost in a minor way.
- Purchase of 'walk-behind scrubber' machine for improved and faster floor cleaning.
- Wall signage of fire exit routes in all rooms (in accordance with fire safety rules) and established regular 'pull station' testing and fire extinguisher and exit light monitoring.
- Paint 'refreshing' of Room #10, Room #6, stage and parts of the gym....by David Crown.
- Installation of LED lighting to electrical room and custodial office...by Harold DeVenne.

Major Property Responsibilities:

- On-going church maintenance/problem solving for both interior and exterior aspects of church operation.
- Sunday church opening duties.
- Permit & contract renewals.
- Co-ordination of custodial services.
- Assist with rental requests/ liaison with co-ordinator (Michele).
- Oversee lawn mower maintenance.

The Property Committee appreciates the assistance/contributions of the following 'teams' and 'friends' to the maintenance, aesthetics and financial health of the church:

- Lawn cutting team
- Nightly security check team
- Garden committee
- Special friends – David Crown, Harold DeVenne, Keith MacMillan, Doug Francis, and Don Cox.
- Michele Mousley – Rental co-ordinator
- Jeanne Kho – Valued resource

Finally, the Property Committee would gratefully welcome new members to our team with flexible commitment an option.

Over the years, the congregation of St. Paul's has assisted in helping various families settle in Canada. Initially there was the Tan family, part of the large number of refugees from Viet Nam, after the Viet Nam War. Next was a family from the former country of Yugoslavia. During and after the Bosnian wars, it was very dangerous for a Serb to be married to a Bosnian. St. Paul's supported a small nuclear family of three individuals, to help them settle in Canada.

Following the national uproar about the Syrian civil war, and the many refugees losing their lives trying to escape their homeland, many church groups took up the call to support Syrian refugees trying to find a better life. Within this process, a Refugee Committee was re-established at St. Paul's. This committee was composed of Deborah Laforet, Carolyn Stinson, Selina Bajorek, Wendy Walker, and Jackie Di Lauro from St. Paul's and Gary Dobbie, Chris Middlebro, and Paul Peters from Glen Abbey United Church.

This committee worked diligently with the United Nations Refugee initiative. They eventually were able to bring the Hre Family from Myanmar. This sponsorship involved some funding from the Canadian Government to supplement the financial, spiritual, emotional, and organizational support provided by the committee, with the support of the St. Paul's and Glen Abbey communities. In December 2015, the father Biak, the mother Van Dawt and their two-year-old daughter Monica came to Canada. While in Canada, their second daughter, Selina, was born. The family initially settled in Oakville, but by the summer of 2016, they were assisted to move to the Kitchener area, where there was a well-established Myanmar community. The family is now self-sufficient and doing well in Kitchener. Biak has a full-time job, has worked on his English language skills, and has learned to drive. Monica has begun junior kindergarten.

Although the sponsorship agreement with the Hre family was officially over as of December 2016, there have still been opportunities to provide support to the family in 2017. These opportunities included helping Biak with resume preparation and job interviews, as well as financial support at Christmas and to offset the cost of snow tires for Biak's newly purchased car.

In 2017, a member of St. Paul's, Hana Mansoor, approached members of the Refugee Team to ask for support in bringing members of her extended family to Canada. The members of Hana's birth family, as well as her extended family, are Iraqi citizens who fled the destruction of their homeland following the Iraqi Gulf War, and the emergence of ISIS. As Christian Arabs, they were persecuted and forced from their jobs. They fled to Lebanon, and have lived as refugees in that country.

A call went out for new volunteers for the Refugee Team. At present, the team is composed of Deborah Laforet, Selina Bajorek, Alice DesLauriers-Bunn, Matt Jonah, and Pat Mason from St. Paul's and Gary Dobbie, Chris Middlebro, and Paul Peters from Glen Abbey. This committee began meeting in July 2017. In September, a submission was made to the St. Paul's Chairs Committee for permission to begin the application process. Subsequently, at the Council meeting in October, a motion was passed to support this application process.

In the fall, there was extensive time spent to complete the necessary immigration paperwork. This involved many contacts with the family to obtain the required information to complete the various documents. This sponsorship application will be with the United Church of Canada (UCC) as a

Sponsorship Agreement Holder. The UCC does not provide financial support. Rather, the UCC helps to determine an individual's eligibility for resettlement, so that their application can proceed.

Just before Christmas, all the paperwork was sent to Ammar Youzbashi, our contact person at the UCC. We are requesting to sponsor a total of eight individuals, including Hana's aunt, Juleet Barsoom Eeshoaa Eechoaa, and three of Juleet's adult children - Salam Zakar Mansoor Sakaria, Mariam Zakar Mansoor Sakaria, and Suzan Zakar Mansoor Sakaria. In addition, Miriam's husband, Salam Zuhair Hanan Awlo, and Suzan's husband, Anas Salim Ayshoa Kolan, and their two sons, Dani (age 6) and Tonee (age 9), are part of our application. We are hopeful that our applications will be within the quota of applications given to the UCC by the Canadian Government for 2018. It is our understanding that the UCC quota will be given in March.

Rummage Sale

Shirley Ann-Cooper - Convenor

Report submitted by *Carilyn McNaught*

Our Garage/Rummage Sale, held on April 22nd, 2017, was a huge success raising \$3626 for our church general fund and helping us to support our community projects. The Sunday School operated the Snack Shop on Saturday.

For months, people collected their junk which became "treasures" for shoppers. A U-Needs Storage container stored these items in advance. Then early Friday morning, "the forces" were out setting up tables, carrying boxes and sorting the furniture, clothing, books, etc. This is also a social time, meeting new people and having fun, not only for our members but their friends and groups who rent the church as well.

Some of our furniture and items went to the Refugees. After the sale, other community groups profited from the goods not sold as items went to Safetynet Children and Youth Charities, Salvation Army, Humane Society, Literacy Society, Value Village and Wesley Urban Ministries.

A big thank you goes out to those who advertised, donated items, set up, sorted, worked at the tables, worked in the parking lot, manned the doors, and shopped. A special thanks to the UCW treasurer, Helga, and her counters; Jeanne, our secretary, who did so much extra work for us, and the Boy Scouts who helped us clean up at the end.

Next rummage sale is April 21, 2018.

7th Trafalgar Scout Group Annual Report, 2017

On behalf of 7th Trafalgar Scout Group, we would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to the Membership and Staff of St. Paul's United Church for their ongoing support of our Group and the Scouting Program.

The Sections have fully adopted the Canadian Path, Scouts Canada's revamped program. The new program has four key elements: Youth Led, Plan-Do-Review, Adventure and SPICES (Social, Physical, Intellectual, Character, Emotional and Spiritual). The Four Elements provide the Youth with the opportunity to play an active role in facilitating and creating their own Youth-Led Path and Program. The Plan-Do-Review element creates a more engaged and reflective process for our members, which they can apply to all their Adventures (and there will be many Adventures!) SPICES will provide Youth with a program that fosters well-rounded individuals, better prepared for success in the world.

Section	Weekly Meetings			Membership	
	Night	Time	Duration	Youth	Volunteers
Beaver Colony (5-7yrs)	Wednesday	6:25pm - 7:25pm	Sept. to May	31	7
Cub Pack (8-10yrs)	Wednesday	7:30pm - 8:45pm	Sept. to May	32	10
Scout Troop (11-14yrs)	Tuesday	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Sept. to August	13	6
Venturer Company (15-17yrs)	Wednesday	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Sept. to August	4	3
Group Committee	Varies	Varies	Sept. to August	N/A	4

We are always looking for more people to join us – Youth and Volunteers. If you would like more information, please contact us at 7thtrafalgar@oakville.scouter.ca

1. 7th Trafalgar Group Committee

The 7th Group Committee is made up of Parents and Volunteers who support the Section Scouters and organize events and fundraising activities to help support the Group's Youth and Program activities. They include:

- Running the amazing 7th Trafalgar Ninja School in November at Camp Impessa, (Our Ninja-themed All Sections Camp). Ninjas assembled at the Gong and tested their aim, agility, craftsmanship and battle skills.
- Hosting a Christmas Bowling party at Hopedale Lanes for 77 youth and parents.

- A year-end BBQ in June at Lion's Valley Park, thanking our Volunteers and Youth. We also held a moving up ceremony where Youth members, who are moving up to the next section in September, are welcomed in their new section.
- Organizing the Group's Scout Popcorn fundraising campaign (which takes place every fall).
- Organizing Apple Day, Scout Canada's National Community Awareness event in October of each year. Proceeds from these events go directly to equipment and supplies used by the Youth as part of their regular program meetings and camps.
- The Group is also running a Euchre Night fundraising event (April 20, 2018). This event is open to the public and tickets will be available in late February.

2. 7th Trafalgar Scout Group Beaver Scout Colony

Section Overview

Fun and friendship is the cornerstone of the Beaver Scouts program.

Beavers opens the door for your child to discover the world. It is filled with a little bit of everything – outdoor activities, games, music and sports. Along the way, Beaver Scouts meet new friends, learn cooperation and teamwork and develop self-confidence.

2017-2018 Program Year

The Beaver Colony has been divided into 4 lodges which are smaller working groups. The Beavers frequently divide into these small groups to complete activities and brainstorm ideas and review the program after each term (Fall, Winter, Spring).

This fall, the Beavers have participated in the following adventures:

- Outdoor climbing
- Indoor games and activities (including our Elf Training night)
- Crafts (both a Halloween craft and a '3 crafts' at our Christmas craft night)
- Discovering ways to help our parents and friends
- Visit to the Oakville Fire Station
- Night hiking
- Investiture to the Colony for new Beavers
- Outdoor campfire at our Orientation meeting
- Many Beavers attended our All Sections camp in November.

Upcoming adventures for the winter and spring are planned as follows:

- Outdoor skating
- Sledding night
- Park clean-up
- Castles and Catapults night
- Tae Kwon Do demonstration and class
- Outdoor games
- Creating and racing Beaver Buggies
- Night Ops sleepover at the Hamilton Warplane Museum

- Winter Beaverree at Blue Springs Scout Reserve (Beavers will work on Winter Outdoor Activity Skills badges.)
- All Oakville Sections camp in June

3. 7th Trafalgar Scout Group Cub Scout Pack

Section Overview

With the Cub Scouts motto of "Do Your Best" front and centre, Cubs are encouraged to try new and more challenging activities. Learning important first aid skills, paddling a canoe for the first time, or leading a game at camp will open the door for Cubs to try other adventures they never thought possible.

Along the way, Cubs learn how to take care of themselves and work as a team – and most importantly have a lot of fun!

2017-2018 Program Year

The Cub Scouts meetings include Outdoor Adventure Skills programming from the 9 areas under Scouts Canada new Canadian Path such as Vertical (Climbing), Sailing, Scoutcraft, Camping, Trail, Winter, Paddling, Aquatic and Emergency skills. Weekly meetings can also involve indoor and outdoor games, arts and crafts, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) projects and site visits to places like the fire department.

Cubs are also encouraged to work independently on Personal Achievement badges which cover a wide variety of personal interest areas. The Cub may select an area he is interested in and come up with his own plan on how he will learn more. Personal Achievement badges are designed to encourage Cubs to develop individual interests, hobbies, knowledge and skills.

The highlight of our program year is always Cub Kars where the Cubs spend several meetings designing and building, weighting, decorating and racing their Cub Kars. Our Cubs then take their cars to the Annual Oakville Cub Car Challenge. 7th Trafalgar has always placed well in this competition.

Our Cubs also took part in our annual Apple Day event, held in the fall. Our annual Christmas bowling party and year-end, wrap-up BBQ picnic are always well attended. We also attend the 7th Trafalgar World Thinking Day (Founders Day) Pasta Dinner for friends and family on February 22 every year.

This Scouting year will offer 4-5 camps for Cubs. Our first camp in the fall included all sections (Beavers through Venturers) and had a Ninja theme. In January we head to the ROM for a "Night at the Museum." Cubs are learning to navigate the urban environment and are planning the route from Oakville to the ROM, using public transit. Our winter camp will focus on Outdoor Adventure Skills for winter activities, teaching youth how to prepare for the weather and conditions accordingly. Spring and summer camp will follow with youth staying outdoors in tents and expanding their outdoor skills. In June, Oakville is holding an "All Sections All Oakville" area camp like the 100th Anniversary camp held years ago. This will be an opportunity for all Oakville area groups to camp together.

4. 7th Trafalgar Scout Group Scout Troop

Section Overview

Scouts is about having fun while gaining valuable leadership skills and self-confidence.

Scouts enjoy outdoor adventures like mountain biking, rock climbing and lots of camping while working together with other young people to accomplish thrilling challenges and contribute to their communities.

2017-2018 Program Year

The Scout regular meetings include indoor and outdoor games, camp and wilderness skills along with Scout craft activities, including rope lashing, stove, lantern, and fire safety, axe and saw safety, knife safety, outdoor survival skills. Scouting requires a strong outdoor focus. One meeting per month (average) is held outdoors. This year, we have also had in-depth discussions around the topics of camp planning, showing respect for selves and knife safety. We had a number of outdoor hikes, swim nights at a local pool in order to earn swim badge and determine the swimming skills of participants. We have also had a couple of laser tag nights, built a rope-making machine and developed a code of conduct.

Scouts have been busy working on completion of core aspects of the program including Promise, Law, Motto, Troop Patrol Structure, Citizenship, Leadership, Personal Development and Outdoor Skills.

Our Scouts participated in the Oakville Scouts “Amazing Race Scout Edition” this year. Over 100 Scouts from the Oakville Area participated.

The Scout leaders along with a parent volunteer organized our group participation in the annual Apple Day event in October, which is always very successful at raising community awareness of the Scout Movement. Our Scouts actively participate in the Scout Popcorn program to raise funds for group programming. Congratulations go to Jayden McBride for being the highest seller in the group.

The Scouts/Venturers organize and hold a family spaghetti dinner for all of the 7th Trafalgar Scouting Group on World Thinking Day (Founders Day) each third week in February at St. Paul’s Church. All are welcome to attend to celebrate with us. The Scouts attended our annual Christmas bowling party and year-end, wrap-up BBQ picnic.

Community events: We have plans to volunteer at the Oakville Fareshare Food Bank. Our Scouts participated/volunteered with clean-up duties following the St. Paul’s Pancake Dinner and the annual spring /fall Rummage Sale events. We intend on volunteering again this year to assist with clean-up at Pancake and Rummage Sale events.

Our program goal is to ensure an outdoor activity/camping trip every 2 months. Since our last report, we have held 7 camps. The Scouts went Winter Camping at Scout Camp Everton on Jan. 13th weekend, held a joint Scout-Cub Camp at Blue Springs Scout Camp, April 7th weekend, our annual Algonquin trip in May on Victoria Day Weekend, year-end Camp Senior Scouts/Vents at Pinehurst Conservation Area, June 9th weekend, Kick off Camp-Mount Nemo Scout Camp, Sept 22nd weekend, Challenge Trophy Camporee in upstate New York, Oct 20th weekend, and our Annual All Sections Camp at Scout Camp Impessa, November 11th weekend. The Scouts are planning a Winter Camp at Scout Camp Everton in

January and the Venturers are planning an outdoor winter camp in Algonquin Park in February, 2018. As well, we are planning to attend Dorchester Friendship Camp in the spring, before our Algonquin trip. Our 5 day/4 night Algonquin trip in May is the highlight of our program and this year will be no exception. Last year was a very challenging interior canoe trip that included shooting a level 3 rapids and several portages.

This year, we are extremely proud of Patrick Reilly and Aidan Bradley, who earned the Chief Scout Award. (Scouts Canada's highest award in the Troop Program)

5. 7th Trafalgar Scout Group Venturer Scout Company

Section Overview

The Venturer Scout program offers exciting, real-life, hands-on experiences for youth. Venturers learn to nurture an active, healthy lifestyle, acquire the knowledge and skills for career development and participate in thrilling outdoor adventures. Weekend events, extended hikes, Leave No Trace camping, spiritual reflection, community service and more round out the Venturer experience.

2017-2018 Program Year

September had the Venturers prepare for a short canoe trip into Algonquin Park by retaking a swim test and planning menus, trip, and gear for a one night excursion to Rain Lake.

October saw the Venturers and leaders, along with a parent volunteer, organize our group participation in the annual Apple Day event in October, which is always very successful at raising community awareness of the Scout Movement.

November began with Venturers contributing to the success of St. Paul's Holiday Jingle Bazaar, by assisting with the takedown of booths, tables and chairs, and general clean up. The Venturers also volunteered their time in support of the Oakville Scouts "Amazing Race Scout Edition" this year in order to make sure that everything went smoothly for all Oakville Scouts who took part. Over 100 Scouts from the Oakville Area participated. The Venturers also contributed to the success of the 7th Trafalgar All Sections Camp.

In December, the Venturers began to plan their Winter Camp and made a strong showing at the Annual Holiday Bowling Party. January and February will focus mainly on the planning and execution of a 3-day and 2-night back-country winter camping trip into Algonquin. Venturers will be completely responsible for all elements of planning, preparing and reconciling the camp finances.

The Venturers, alongside the Scouts, will organize and hold a family spaghetti dinner for all of the 7th Trafalgar Scouting Group on World Thinking Day (Founders Day) each third week in February at St. Paul's Church. All are welcome to attend to celebrate with us. March, April, and May will see the Venturers assisting with the other 7th Trafalgar sections, and preparing for their annual multi-day canoe trip.

Our Venturers intend on volunteering with clean-up duties following the St. Paul's Pancake Dinner and the annual Rummage Sale event as we have done in previous years.

"Tots and Us" is a gently-gearred program for pre-schoolers and babies, along with their caregivers. It runs for one hour, 10 -11 a.m., on Monday mornings at St. Paul's. We offer two age-related levels of free play in two of our Sunday School rooms downstairs. The children can choose from a variety of toys and activities in these spaces, during the first half hour.

At 10:30, it's time to move into the small auditorium where music and storytime take place, ably led by our own Catherine Arcand-Pinette. Before the program wraps up, a snack of cookies and juice is served to the children and tea/coffee is available for the adults. Our small guests can visit our library to colour or check out books/videos before they leave for home.

In the year, 2016-17, we had 25 tots registered, with approximately 12 attending each Monday morning. Since September, 2017, we have had 13 registrations with 6-7 the average count, each week. Although the attendance is less, this year, the tots who do come out always have fun. We are pleased to set up the program, regardless of the number present, because it's such a joy to get to know these little ones and their moms, dads, grandparents or babysitters. The staff and caregivers benefit from our social time together as much as the little ones do. The Monday morning start gets our week pleasantly underway, especially through the dreary wintertime.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from our program, please direct them our way. All are welcome and we would be glad to see new faces joining us.

For members of this team please see Council Membership list at the beginning of this report

United Church Women*Carilyn McNaught - President*

The United Church Women (UCW) have the purpose to unite all 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, Fellowship, and Service.

We have 55 members divided into four units (groups) which meet different days and times, once a month, except in the summer. There were 5 general meetings (1:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.) and one executive meeting held the second Tuesday of the month.

Our January general meeting was used to plan and co-ordinate our activities and fundraising events for the year. In April, we tested our knowledge of The Bible and St. Paul's with "St. Paul's Jeopardy" which was fun, as answers were called out. Cathy Duddeck, our Regional Councilor, brought us up to date on the construction of bridges, plazas, Glenn Abbey Golf Course development, etc. at our June meeting. In September, we invited the public to hear about "trafficking/sexual exploitation in our community, with our speaker, Rev. Jennifer Porter. At our annual December potluck lunch and carol sing, "Bert Fonseca and the Boys" (Harold DeVenne and Ron Brown - The Three Wise Men), got everyone in the Christmas spirit. Our Least Coin worship service was held.

Leadership from the UCW was instrumental in co-ordinating many church activities. The UCW Outreach Committee provides care and nurturing to grieving families by organizing the preparation of refreshments for funerals held at the church. Joan Ford, Evelyn Little and Terry Farris provide maintenance and cleaning services for the three kitchens. Some ladies attended World Day of Prayer and the Halton Presbyterial UCW Annual Meeting. We were in charge of the Sunday coffee in March.

On Nov. 4th, our fundraiser, The Holiday Jingle Bazaar, made a profit of \$8006. We wish to thank the co-convenors, Shirley-Anne Cooper-Maimot and Judy DeMone, and the members of St. Paul's, as well as our Scouting and Girl Guide Groups for their tremendous support, provided during this event.

This fundraiser helps provide financial support to St. Paul's, community services and outreach organizations. Please READ our Financial Report to see where this money was given. At our "over and above" meeting in December, we also gave \$500 to Kerr Street Ministries, \$500 to the Salvation Army, put aside money to re-cover the ten chairs (table) in the friendship room and to assist the refugee family.

Every organization requires leadership. During 2017, we were lucky to have the leadership of the following individuals: Carilyn McNaught (President), Pat Mason (Vice-President), Helga de Lint (Treasurer), Terry Farris (Corresponding Secretary), Sharon Wiese (Stewardship), Irene Murray (Membership), Joan Ford, Evelyn Little, Marg Stanley (Outreach), Cynthia Steneveld (Sarah Unit), Carilyn McNaught (High Fives Unit), Sharon Wiese (Miriam Unit), Catherine Arcand-Pinette (Live Unit). Many thanks to everyone for providing their time and energy. All ladies are invited to join in the fun, fellowship and worship.

See next page for UCW Financials

Editor – *Fay Copland*
Publisher – *Bert Fonseca*

St Paul's UCW
Balance Sheet December 2017

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	Current Year	Previous Year
ASSETS		
UCW CURRENT ASSETS		
First Ont. Credit Union	\$9,575.70	\$7,926.07
UCW GIC	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
UCW PST Recoverable	\$111.39	\$45.80
UCW GST Recoverable	\$42.46	\$18.49
Subtotal UCW Current Assets	<u>\$17,229.55</u>	<u>\$15,490.36</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$17,229.55</u>	<u>\$15,490.36</u>
EQUITY		
UCW EQUITY		
UCW Equity	<u>\$17,229.55</u>	<u>\$15,490.36</u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>\$17,229.55</u>	<u>\$15,490.36</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>\$17,229.55</u>	<u>\$15,490.36</u>

St Paul's UCW
Income and Expense Statement
January 2017 - December 2017

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	Current Period	Prior Year
INCOME		
UCW INCOME		
UCW Holiday Jingle	\$10,092.99	\$10,862.50
UCW Rummage Sale	\$5,686.00	\$0.00
Vendor Deposits H. Jingle	\$845.00	\$1,270.00
UCW Funerals	\$2,405.00	\$1,975.00
UCW Offerings/Donations	\$1,167.00	\$1,458.05
UCW Offerings Loose	\$202.00	\$10.00
UCW Interest	\$142.51	\$112.80
Least Coin	\$0.00	\$57.00
Subtotal UCW Income	<u>\$20,540.50</u>	<u>\$15,745.35</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$20,540.50</u>	<u>\$15,745.35</u>
EXPENSES		
UCW EXPENSES		
UCW Holiday Jingle	\$1,785.74	\$2,825.08
UCW Funerals	\$400.00	\$417.55
UCW Memorial Fund	\$100.00	\$600.00
Contrib. to General Fund	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
UCW Expenses	\$838.92	\$2,515.65
UCW Presbytery Assessment	\$93.00	\$105.00
Community Outreach	\$5,000.00	\$3,900.00
Project's St. Paul's/M&S	\$950.00	\$4,650.00
UCW Rummage Sale	\$5,633.65	\$0.00
Least Coin	\$0.00	\$57.00
Subtotal UCW Expenses	<u>\$18,801.31</u>	<u>\$15,070.28</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$18,801.31</u>	<u>\$15,070.28</u>
EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES	<u>\$1,739.19</u>	<u>\$675.07</u>