

Port Nelson United Church



"Anchored in God ~ Sheltered by Christ ~ Sailing with the Spirit"

Annual Report 2015

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PORT NELSON UNITED CHURCH
MISSION STATEMENT AND CORE VALUES

Our Mission is:

To reach out to one another and our world as we grow spiritually in a caring, inclusive, Christian community enriched by meaningful worship.

CORE VALUES

A Sense of Community

Community was fundamental to early Christians and to the development of the early church. So it is at Port Nelson. A strong sense of community permeates Port Nelson. Jesus said, "Where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them." (Matthew 18:20) In the many ways in which we gather in community, Christ is present with us. At Port Nelson we believe that everyone has gifts to share. "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:4) Using our gifts demonstrates the Spirit of God at work and contributes to a sense of community.

Being Inclusive

At Port Nelson we welcome everyone to participate fully in the life of the community, no matter their age, race, gender, culture, belief, ability or sexual orientation. As followers of Jesus we believe that we are part of the body of Christ. The apostle Paul said that "the body does not consist of one member but of many" and all are indispensable. (1 Corinthians 12:14, 22-26)

Caring

Caring for one another is important and vital at Port Nelson. We seek to follow Jesus' encouragement to "Do to others as you would have them do to you." (Luke 6:31). We also follow the direction in 1 John 4:11 that, "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." The realization that we are loved inspires us to love one another. We are blessed. We share this blessing with others in the way we care.

Growing Spiritually

We recognize at Port Nelson that each one of us is on a journey through life and that many people have a deep desire to grow spiritually. We believe that this growth happens in many ways through worship, prayer, study, service, action and more. The prophet Isaiah said, "See I am doing a new thing!" (Isaiah 43:19) With eagerness we continue to anticipate many new ways that we can help one another grow spiritually.

Meaningful Worship

"Sing to the Lord a new song... Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the Lord." (Psalm 98) Worship is important! At Port Nelson worship is more than just a Core Value. It is a way of life. Through inspiring word, uplifting music, thoughtful prayer, poignant silence and in other ways we experience the Spirit of God in our midst.

Reaching Out

Jesus encouraged his followers to "Feed my sheep." (John 21:17) Since its beginning, Port Nelson has been reaching out, giving resources, time, money, and skills to support those in need. We strive to follow the words in 1 John 3:18 that we should "not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." We are ready to discover, encourage, and support new ways of sharing God's love.

**Port Nelson United Church
2015 Annual Report**

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STAFF



Minister: Rev. Dr. Michael Brooks

Leads the staff team, oversees the various ministries of the church; leads worship, baptisms, weddings. Provides staff support to Worship Ministry, Stewardship Ministry, Communications, Governance and the Trustees

email: michaelbrooks@portnelsonunitedchurch.com



Associate Minister: Rev. Gord Dunbar

Oversees pastoral care and outreach. Provides staff support to Pastoral Care Ministry, Teleministry and the Reaching Out Ministry

email: gorddunbar@portnelsonunitedchurch.com



Director of Music: Dr. Stillman Matheson

Oversees the music ministry and programs. Provides staff support to Worship Ministry, and the Choir Executive.

email: stillmanmatheson@portnelsonunitedchurch.com



Developer of Youth Ministry: Jay Poitras

Develops the ministry with youth in grades 6 to 12

email: jaypoitras@portnelsonunitedchurch.com



Developer of Children's Ministry: Sharon Holmes

Develops the ministry with children up to age 12

email: sharonholmes@portnelsonunitedchurch.com



Church Administrator: Rebecca Murphy

Administers the church office, including financial

email: office@portnelsonunitedchurch.com



Custodian: Rick Tucker

Ensures the property and buildings meet the needs of the various groups and ministries.

Provides staff support to Property Management Ministry

email: custodian1@portnelsonunitedchurch.com

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CHAIR OF COUNCIL – MARILYN PARSONS

“We sing of a Church seeking to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ’s presence in the world.” (*A Song of Faith*, p.7). The congregation of Port Nelson United Church strives to be a caring, inclusive family of Christians reaching out to our community and the world as we grow spiritually, supported by meaningful worship. This 2015 Annual Report is the “song” in which we tell the stories about how we live out our values. I hope you will read them all.

Leadership

Port Nelson is blessed with many many people who volunteer for and/or facilitate ministries, committees, programs, and other activities. We are supported and encouraged by superb, highly skilled ministers and staff. This year the Rev. Gord Dunbar began his term as President of Hamilton Conference, an important role in our denomination. On May 30th, we celebrated with the Rev. Louise Hart, her family and friends as she was ordained by Hamilton Conference. Louise has returned to Fort Saint John, B.C. to continue her ministry at St. Luke’s United Church.

Rekindle: Our Home, Our Future

We have been on a journey for the past five years exploring how our ministry can grow forward in a building that supports our mission and helps us more fully live our values. Renovation of the current space (excluding the Sanctuary) allows enhancement of programs for ourselves (e.g. Bible and book studies, Adventure Crew and Pinnacle, exploring our faith, developing community in small groups, congregational dinners, fundraising activities like Mistletoe Mart), better working conditions for our staff and volunteers (e.g. visible office space, new library), and enhanced community programs (e.g. enlarged GLEE camp, providing lunches for those who come for food vouchers, accessible safe space for many community groups). In November 2014, congregational approval was given to begin a \$3.2 million fundraising campaign for the renovation project.

January 2015 saw an enthusiastic, hard working group come together to organize the Rekindle Renovation Capital Campaign. Cathy and John Greven, Rod and Nancy McGrath, and Brian and Ellen Snell coordinated the campaign supported by Campaign Coaches™, Stan Harvey as Secretary, and a dedicated group of canvassers. Every Port Nelson family was contacted and many were visited. On September 27th, we celebrated the Campaign, its overwhelming success (almost \$2 million in pledges received from more than 135 families), and thanked the leaders. On November 22nd the congregation voted to go ahead with the renovations based upon the current pledges and a financial plan. The Campaign is not over; pledges continue to be made and donations received. I hope you will consider making and/or increasing your pledge.

Council Executive developed an organizational structure for the Project (see the diagram at the end of my report) which was approved by Council on January 13, 2016. The Project Management Team will be Stan Harvey, Pat O’Neill and June Wright. Please consider how your knowledge, skills and time might be used to help on a Project Team or with other Port Nelson mission/community activities and volunteer to be involved.

Marilyn Parsons - Continued

Community Activities

At the risk of duplicating reports in this document, I tell the story of three of the many community building, sometimes fundraising, and fun activities that occurred during the year.

On January 11th we celebrated with the PNUC Renewable Energy Cooperative Inc. as we “Threw the Switch” for the solar panels on the roof of the Sanctuary. For several years, with the passion and push of Cathy Greven, Port Nelson United Church has been developing an increasingly green philosophy in line with the United Church program called *Greening Sacred Spaces*, working proactively to reduce energy consumption, reduce waste and live a philosophy of stewardship and sustainability of the earth. For example, since 2010, we have reduced our annual electrical consumption by approximately 44% and water consumption by 20% without negatively impacting our day to day operations. The solar panels are one very visible reminder that we must “live with respect in creation” (*A New Creed*).

May 1st found many of us gathered at the beautiful RBG for a “Night at the Derby”, a major congregational fund raising activity. We built community and raised money for the work of the church as we bid on the silent auction items, purchased “fascinators” and hats, bought tickets to win the wine cellar, bet on a real horse race, ate a wonderful dinner and danced the evening away. Thank you to the organizers of this wonderful event.

On October 25th for the fifth time in seven years The Hot Five Jazz Makers presented an entertaining, energetic evening of wonderful music. The event, organized by Tim Rayner, Tiffany Harvey and others as a gift for the whole community, was attended by 350 people and the free will offering raised over \$2000.

Conclusion

As I end my two year term as Chairperson of Council I thank Council members, ministers, staff and members of the Congregation for your support and contributions. Thank you for volunteering without “arm twisting.” Thank you for competently using your knowledge, skills and judgment in doing the work of the church. Thank you for providing valuable feedback and encouragement. I pray that you will similarly support the 2016 Council and Chairperson, Alan Brown. I look forward to my new roles as Past Chair of Council, Chair of the Nominating Committee and Presbytery Rep. It has been an honour and privilege to Chair our Council.

“Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days.” (Fosdick, H.E. *Voices United* # 686)

-Marilyn Parsons, Chair of Council

For everything, there is a season.



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015
MINISTER - REV. DR. MICHAEL BROOKS

“Joyful Sharing”

As I write on this cold, sunny winter day, I am still basking in the joy of the Christmas that is not yet a distant memory. I am struck by one phrase from the Christmas Story. It is the message of the Angel, who said, “Fear not, for I bring you good news of great joy for all people” (Luke 2: 10). Joy is spoken into an experience of fear. Joy is stronger than fear. Joy is the inner feeling we experience when we are at peace. Joy is the outer emotion we display when we are profoundly blessed.

In any given year, a variety of spiritual experiences are real for a community. Certainly, some in our church community have experienced fear – a new diagnosis of cancer, a change in ability level, fear of the future. But, particularly in 2015, there was, I believe, profound joy. Both “marathon runners” and “excellent sprinters” found joy. The seemingly “marathon run” of the journey toward discerning more flexible, more accessible, more inclusive and more functional space for ministry came to a momentous point on Sunday, November 22nd when the congregation strongly endorsed proceeding with the Rekindle Renovation Project. It was a joyful day, and there has been even more joy since that day in what lies ahead. Equally important, the “excellent sprint” of refugee sponsorship – beginning in August – had its momentous point when Hamza – our first sponsored refugee – walked into the terminal at Pearson Airport and was greeted by those who had worked tirelessly for four months to prepare for his arrival. It was a joyful day, and there has been even more joy since that day.

My own part in this joy has been deep and rich. I had the fun of encouraging many – both staff and lay people – to build on their strengths – and then stepping back, holding the ventures in prayer, and watching God bless them. Here are just a few examples: We continued to build on our strength of meaningful worship with the added gifts of our new Director of Music and an increasingly growing number of people participating in the services. We continued to grow our strength of children and youth ministries through Summer GLEE Camp, as youth who were once campers took on senior leadership roles. Friday Family Fun Nights and PA Days are new initiatives that build on the strength of this ministry. We continued to grow our strength and passion for reaching out, as new facets strengthened the Food Voucher programme and our role in the Friday Night Community. The number of people involved in the mission of Port Nelson continues to grow, as does the ministry itself.

These are all signs of joy. They are God’s signs that our ministry is blessed and is touching lives. They are God’s signs that, while there will always be more that can be done, we are on a faithful path together.

Recently as part of our Joyful Sharing stewardship focus, the church family was asked to share one sign of joy in life. One person’s response summarizes what has been my experience of the past year: “There are too many to list, or to choose one!” We continue to be blessed.

*- In the Spirit of Joy,
Michael Brooks*

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ASSOCIATE MINISTER - REV. GORD DUNBAR

Last December I took a couple new to Port Nelson United Church on a familiarization tour of the building. The children were entranced by the labyrinthine passages, the “hidden” rooms, the “secret” passageways and the abundant Adventure Crew supplies – not to mention the large collection of children’s books and videos in the library. The parents smiled in relieved appreciation when learning of the pager system for child safety and the programmes available for children and youth. As we explored, the family were appreciative of the wide variety of opportunities the church offers and develops. Every time we encountered someone from the congregation the family was greeted with warmth, with interest and with a willingness to help as needed.

We can look back at last year as one which was pivotal because of our decision to go forward with the Rekindle Renovation Project, but what struck me most powerfully during that tour was that the human connection with others made the biggest difference for the family. They were able to experience the vibrant personality of Port Nelson United Church. All of the programmes, all of the resources, all of the community connections and all of the innovations provide but a splendid framework which is powerfully enlivened by the spirit of this congregation. Our congregational spirit continues to transform us because of the gifts of the risen Christ.

Those Christ-given gifts allow us to risk, to dare. I’m not going to list the many ways we change our community and the world one programme, one person at a time. You can read for yourself this annual report to discover the colourful tapestry of faithful living into which this congregation is woven. Consider this annual report as the Artist’s description of the ongoing creative design crafted from the souls of we who call Port Nelson our family of faith, our spiritual home. It is, however, a risk to allow the Artist to make use of us in the weaving.

Let’s continue to dare anyway. Let’s embrace the invitation in the words of one of the songs sung at the national meeting of the United Church General Council last summer:

Do we dare? let the grain die in winter
do we dare? feel the sun once again
do we dare? spread the seed in a new place?
do we dare try God’s new thing?
Do we dare?

As for me and my house we serve the Lord!
Let the soles of our feet touch the rivers we ford.
Baptism blessings for our new beginnings
yes me and my house we dare
to serve the Lord

Let’s continue to co-create our fuller selves as we accept Christ’s invitation into what is yet to become. In our becoming, let us foster ever stronger bonds of love one with each other as we serve.

*-In loving service,
Gord*

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 8, 2015 - MINUTES

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Marilyn Parsons, Chair of Council, at 12:03 P.M.

Marilyn read excerpts from *A Song of Faith* relating to congregations.

Voting Privileges and Enabling Motions:

Motion by Henk Kuiper, seconded by Susan Posgate, that Richard Hensen be appointed as recording secretary for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Port Nelson United Church. CARRIED

Motion by Jeffrey Vannan, seconded by Brian Duncombe, that voting privileges for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Port Nelson United Church be extended to adherents. CARRIED

Motion by Sharon Beasley, seconded by Nancy McGrath, that Gord Dunbar and Donna Hicks be appointed as parliamentarians, timekeepers and scrutineers for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Port Nelson United Church. CARRIED

Motion by John Greven, seconded by Zilla Myers, that each person speaking to a motion be allowed two minutes to speak; that no person may speak twice to a motion until all people wishing to speak have had a first opportunity; and that the Mover and Secunder may speak at the beginning and at the end of the discussion of a motion. CARRIED

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion by Susanne Zinkie, seconded by Rod McGrath, that the agenda for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Port Nelson United Church be approved as presented. CARRIED

WE CELEBRATE PAST MINISTRY

Approval of Minutes of 2014 Annual Meeting:

Motion by Pat Sweeny, seconded by Sam Weller that the minutes of the February 9th, 2014 Annual Meeting of Port Nelson United Church be approved as written. CARRIED

Approval of the Minutes of Congregational Meeting:

Motion by Brian Snell, seconded by Marty Wamsley, that the minutes of the November 2nd, 2014 meeting of Port Nelson United Church be approved as written. CARRIED

Council Reflection: Marilyn Parsons

Marilyn Parsons, Chair of Council, thanked all who stayed for the meeting. She spoke of the hard work of Council, and how she enjoyed working with the group. She noted the reasons she attends Port Nelson. She outlined how blessed Port Nelson is to have committed volunteers and staff. She updated the congregation on the proposed renovation project and the upcoming Capital Campaign to be officially launched on February 22nd 2015.

Approval of Actions by Council in 2014

Motion by Alan Brown, seconded by Ken Posgate, that the actions of the Port Nelson United Church Council for the year ending December 31st, 2014 be approved. CARRIED

Report from the Trustees: Marty Wamsley

Marty reported this past year has been a very active one for the Trustees. He highlighted the Trustees' investment in the PNUC Renewable Energy Cooperative and the time spent during 2014 to ensure that all of the necessary documentation was in place. He spoke about the installation of a metal roof over the sanctuary, which has an estimated life span of fifty years, and facilitated the installation of the solar panels.

Marty reminded us about the opportunities we all have for a planned gift by way of bequest, and to be acknowledged for that bequest in the Legacy Circle. Marty reported that for some time the Trustees have been interested in adding expertise in the Insurance field, and have found an excellent candidate in Steve Halfpenny. The Trustees believe that the addition of Steve to the Board would fill an existing void and would bring the number of Trustees to the desired level of six plus the Minister. Steve was introduced to the meeting.

Motion by Marty Wamsley, seconded by Henk Kuiper, that Steve Halfpenny be confirmed as an elected member of the Board of Trustees. CARRIED

Approval of 2014 Written Annual Reports:

Motion by Susanne Zinkie, seconded by Susan Posgate, that the written reports contained in the 2014 Annual Report Book of Port Nelson United Church be adopted as presented. CARRIED

Words of Appreciation: Susan Posgate

Susan Posgate, Chair of Ministry and Personnel, expressed her appreciation for our staff. She commented on the exemplary work of our ministers, Rev. Michael Brooks and Rev. Gord Dunbar, and the energetic, innovative contributions of the developers of youth and children's ministries, Jay Poitras and Suzanne Smith. Although we were saddened by Suzanne's unexpected departure in June, we were fortunate to have Sharon Holmes step into that role in August. Susan thanked Brian Snell for his almost year-long service as Interim Organist and Choir Director and celebrated the arrival in September of Stillman Matheson.

She also praised Rick Tucker for his diligent care of the church, along with Sam Garland as assistant custodian over the summer. Susan thanked our church administrator, Rebecca Murphy, Theresa Woolley, who assists the Treasurer, Steve Jones as Bookkeeper, and Christian Boin and his family for securing our building.

Susan noted that she had neglected to recognize the wonderful work of Rev. Candy Harvey, our Voluntary Associate Minister, in her written reports and apologized for the grave oversight. She finished by thanking the congregation for its support of staff, and the dedicated members of the Ministry and Personnel Committee.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Jones

Steve Jones reviewed the 2014 Financial Statements, as presented in the printed Annual Report. There was a net surplus of \$60,727 for the year ended December 31, 2014, resulting in an accumulated surplus of \$20,767. Steve remarked that this is the first time in some twelve years that we are not burdened by an accumulated deficit.

Motion by Steve Jones, seconded by Rod McGrath, that the Financial Statements of Port Nelson United Church for the year ending December 31st, 2014 be approved as presented. CARRIED

Approval of Auditors for 2014:

Motion by Steve Jones, seconded by Jim Thomblison, that Beckett Lowden Read LLP be appointed as auditors for Port Nelson United Church for the year ending December 31st, 2015. CARRIED

WE SEEK GOD’S GUIDANCE IN FUTURE MINISTRY

Report from the Endowment Fund Committee: Brian Duncombe

Brian reported that as a result of 2014 Endowment Funds investments there is \$11,320 to be disbursed. Council voted to recommend the following suggestions for the expendable funds:PNUC

1. Assistance Fund	\$2000
2. Vacuum and Air Cleaner	\$ 820
3. Assistive hearing devices	\$3,800
4. Food Voucher Program	\$3,000
5. Evacusleds for Joseph Brant Hospital	\$1,700

Motion by Brian Duncombe, seconded by Joan Thompson, that the recommendations of the Endowment Fund Committee of Port Nelson United Church, as approved by Council, be adopted. CARRIED

2014 Budget Presentation:

Steve Jones reviewed the budget for 2015. It reflects a \$20,000 increase in general offerings over the 2014 actual, which he feels is attainable because of some substantial increases in pledges by various Council members and a few other people to whom he spoke individually. There is a projected surplus for the year of \$386, and a projected accumulated surplus of \$21,153.

Motion by Steve Jones, seconded by Al Kingston that the operating budget of Port Nelson United Church for the year ending December 31st, 2015 be approved as presented. CARRIED

Nominating Report – Recommendation for Slate of Council Members for 2014: Brian Duncombe

Motion by Brian Duncombe, seconded by Susan Posgate, that the Nominating Committee Report and slate of Council Members of Port Nelson United Church for 2015 be approved as presented. CARRIED

Proposed Slate of Members of Council for 2015

Chair:	Marilyn Parsons
Vice Chair:	Alan Brown
Past Chair	Pat Gilmore
Secretary:	June Wright
Chair Worship Ministry:	Mary Carey
Attends Council for Worship Ministry:	Hamilton Jukes
Chair Pastoral Care Ministry:	Susanne Zinkie
Chair Reaching Out Ministry:	Brian Duncombe
Chair Property Ministry:	Ray Smith
Chair Spiritual Growth Ministry:	Jean Redgrave
Chair Stewardship Ministry	Nancy McKenzie
Treasurer:	Steve Jones
Finance Committee:	Rod McGrath
Chair Trustees:	Ron Gardner
Attends Council for the Trustees:	Marty Wamsley
Trustee (new)	Steve Halfpenny
Chair Ministry and Personnel:	Susan Posgate
Members- at- Large:	Ruth McQuirter, Richard Hensen, Jocelyn Birkes
Presbytery Representatives:	Jeff Vannan, Ann Fleming, Pat Gilmore

Proposed Members of the Youth Award Adjudication Committee 2015

Council:	Ruth McQuirter
Congregation:	Lorraine MacMaster
Ministry:	The Rev. Dr. Michael Brooks

Proposed Elected Members of the Endowment Fund Committee 2015

Chair:	Margaret Jane Wallace
Members-at- Large:	Margaret McMulkin, Dorothy McDonald

Closing: Marilyn Parsons

Marilyn thanked recording secretary Richard Hensen, parliamentarians Gord Dunbar and Donna Hicks, Stan Harvey on video and Ross Hicks on audio for their participation and led us in prayer.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion by Susan Posgate, seconded by Brian Duncombe that the 2015 Annual Meeting of Port Nelson United Church be adjourned. CARRIED

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: SEPTEMBER 27, 2015 - MINUTES

1. Call to order

Marilyn Parsons

2. Opening Prayer

3. Celebration of Success of Rekindle Campaign and Acknowledgements

Marilyn highlighted the steps that have been taken on this journey of renewing our space. She thanked the Rekindle team, John and Cathy Greven, Rod and Nancy McGrath, Brian and Ellen Snell and Stan Harvey for their outstanding job of garnering pledges of \$1.9 M. June Wright presented them with a token of the congregation's appreciation. Marilyn eventually asked the whole gathering to stand to thank them for their participation in the Rekindle: Our Home Our Future Campaign.

4. Voting Privileges and Enabling Motions

Motion 1:

"That June Wright be appointed as recording secretary for this congregational meeting of Port Nelson United Church."

Moved by Susanne Zinkie, Seconded by Susan Posgate. Motion carried. Marilyn thanked June for taking on this role

Motion 2:

"That voting privileges for this congregational meeting of Port Nelson United Church be extended to adherents."

Moved by Lorraine McMaster. Seconded by Ray Smith. Motion carried.

Motion 3:

"That Gord Dunbar and Donna Hicks be appointed as parliamentarians, timekeepers and scrutineers for this congregational meeting of Port Nelson United Church."

Moved by Ron Gardner. Seconded by Steve Halfpenny. Motion carried. Marilyn thanked Gord and Donna for taking on these roles.

Motion 4:

"That each person speaking to a motion be allowed two minutes to speak; that no person may speak twice to a motion until all people wishing to speak have had a first opportunity; and that the Mover and Secunder may speak at the beginning and at the end of the discussion of a motion."

Moved by John Greven. Seconded by Jackie Kingston. Motion carried

Motion from Council

Marilyn presented a brief history of the renovation project, which started in 2010. We had a New Facilities Investigation team, which presented a plan. A motion was made that we go back and determine if we could use some of the old structure rather than demolishing it all. Thus Renovated Facilities Investigation 1 and 2 were born. A great plan was presented to the congregation and was well received. The plan was accepted pending funding. A funding team was struck and they recommended that a capital campaign company be hired to run a campaign. Campaign Coaches™ was hired and oversaw the Rekindle: Our Home, Our Future campaign that resulted in pledges of almost \$1.9 M.

Motion 5:

“To proceed with the renovation project if we have at least \$2.5 million in capital pledges by October 14th”

Moved by Brian Snell. Seconded by Henk Kuiper.

5. Discussion of Motion

Marty Wamsley presented an outline of how the Council chose the figure of \$2.5 M. On behalf of the trustees, Marty and Ron Gardner approached three lending institutions. Those who were interested quoted a loan rate of 4.3%. The banks and also other churches which had undergone large projects stated that we must present a strong business plan as to how the loan would be repaid over a 10-15 year period. The cost to carry a loan of \$700,000 was deemed by Council to be affordable given there are members of the congregation willing to loan the church money for bridge financing, and that we would be eligible for grants. One cannot apply for grants until the project has started so that real value is unknown. With much input from Steve Jones, Treasurer, there was the thought that with \$2.5 M in pledges coupled with the other funding options we may in fact eliminate the need for external financial institution borrowing or reduce it to such a level that a viable repayment plan could be developed. We would still need a term loan to cover the pledges that were pledged over a 5 year period. Capital pledges are expected to be received as follows: 48% in year 1, 16% in year 2, 14% in year 3, and 11% in years 4 and 5. There was discussion stating that some felt we should move forward now and not wait until October.14th. One option presented was that the meeting could defeat the present motion and then present another motion for consideration. However, it was the opinion of the parliamentarians that the original motion could not be amended without changing the intent.

Following the discussion Marilyn called the question.

MOTION CARRIED. The voting was done by show of hands.

6. Marilyn expressed her thanks for the careful and thoughtful discussion. She also thanked Alan Brown for the PowerPoint™ slides and John Zinkie and Ross Hicks for staffing the sound system. Marilyn closed with prayer.

7. Meeting was adjourned.

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: NOVEMBER 22, 2015 - MINUTES

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Marilyn Parsons, Chair of Council, at 12:00 P.M. who apologized for the change in dates necessitated so that the congregation would have enough information in order to make an informed decision.

Opening

The hymn "God of Grace and God of Glory" *Voices United* #686 was read as a prayer.

Voting Privileges and Enabling Motions:

Motion by Susanne Zinkie, seconded by Leslie Harrison, that Richard Hensen be appointed as recording secretary for this congregational meeting. CARRIED.

Motion by Lorraine McMaster, seconded by Susan Postgate, that voting privileges for this congregational meeting be extended to adherents. CARRIED.

Motion by Kathy Rayner, seconded by Rod McGrath, that Gord Dunbar and Donna Hicks be appointed as parliamentarians, timekeepers and scrutineers for this congregational meeting. CARRIED.

Motion by Susan Redgrave, seconded by Anne Smith, that each person speaking to a motion be allowed two minutes to speak; that no person may speak twice to a motion until all people wishing to speak have had a first opportunity; and that the Mover and Seconder may speak at the beginning and at the end of the discussion of a motion. CARRIED.

Financing Plan

Marty Wamsley "walked" the meeting through the two financial scenarios prepared by the Ad Hoc Funding Committee for the Rekindle Project and circulated by email and in paper copy prior to the meeting

Renovation Project:

Motion by Ron Gardner, seconded by Elaine Brown, that Port Nelson United Church proceed with the Renovation Project based on pledges obtained to date of \$1.99 million and augmented by a plan for the remaining funding.

Discussion of the motion ensued.

Voting was conducted by secret ballot. A total of 134 total votes were cast; 100 Yes, 28 No and 6 Abstentions. **CARRIED.**

Motion by Anne Smith, seconded by Ron Gardner, that the ballots be destroyed. CARRIED.

Adjournment:

After a prayer, the meeting was declared adjourned by Marilyn Parsons at 1:15 PM.

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SPIRITUAL GROWTH MINISTRY

The mandate of the Spiritual Growth Ministry is “to provide spiritual growth opportunities in the church community in response to identified needs.” In doing so, this Ministry also demonstrates caring, inclusiveness and builds community. The Ministry supports the Adventure Crew, Port Nelson United Church Young Leaders (Pinnacle), youth and midweek groups, Small Group Ministry, the Library committee and Adult Spirituality events.

Thank you to all who volunteered, participated in activities, provided leadership and in other ways supported the Spiritual Growth Ministry in 2015.

CHILDREN and YOUTH

Staffing:

Sharon Holmes, Developer of Children’s Ministry and Jay Poitras, Developer of Youth Ministry, design excellent programs that benefit the children and youth. Their reports follow:

Children’s Ministry Report – 2015

Adventure Crew:

The Adventure Crew is our church program that includes children SK – Grade 5. We continue to have an average weekly attendance of 20 children. This year we have continued to run just one class. The older children seem to enjoy helping the younger children during the lesson period and the craft time and the younger children enjoy ‘hanging out’ with the big kids. I am very fortunate to have wonderful volunteers who help in the classroom on Sunday mornings. We use various themes to explore the Bible and life as a Christian through stories, crafts, games and songs.

We began 2015 learning about the Christian Calendar and how the celebrations in our lives fit into our Christian world. This year also had us go on a field trip to the Church library. Our hosts were wonderful and taught the children all about our library and the children were thrilled to take out a book or a movie.

We had fun doing our outreach projects this year. The children made Valentine’s Day cards that were mailed out to members of the congregation and Change Hunger bags - working to earn ‘change’ to make ‘change’. We raised \$250 for the Food Voucher Program. In November, the children held a bake sale to help the Food Voucher Program and raised \$275.

In our lessons this year we learned about Candlemas, how pretzels fit with Lent, and we took a journey through Holy Week. We went outside to cloud watch as we learned about Ascension Sunday and learned why we wear red for Pentecost. In June we finished up with a fun BBQ. We started our year in September with the Blessing of the Backpacks and getting to know each other. Then we headed into lessons about the Heroes we find in the Bible, what it means to be Thankful and finished the year learning about the story of the Birth of Jesus.

Mistletoe Mart

Our children worked very hard to make crafts for the Mistletoe Mart. The children made gift bags, Snowman Soup kits, Christmas Crackers and beautiful glass and tin ornaments. Some children made items at home and added them to our table. Many of these children also participated on the day of the Mart to help sell their goods and proved to be excellent sellers!! It was great to see so many children involved in the life of the church.

Musical Talents

Thanks to the musical talents of Tania Laurie our children had the opportunity to contribute to the Easter and Remembrance Day worship services to share their singing. During the White Gift service in December the children sang and used the hand chimes. It was fun having the congregation join in the singing with the children. Tania worked hard with the children and all of their hard work paid off. It was a beautiful performance. A huge thank you to Tania for helping to develop this important aspect of Adventure Crew and to Fae Falls and Stillman Matheson for their beautiful accompaniment!

Friday Family Fun Nights

The movies *Mary Poppins*, *Night at the Museum* and *Matilda* were enjoyed as the children and their parents ate pizza and popcorn. Our Halloween Night was a huge hit. About 50 of us enjoyed pizza and treats and produced 25 beautifully carved pumpkins along with many laughs, dancing and playing games.

The Fall found me having unexpected knee problems that resulted in surgery. Thank you to the parents and children that chipped in and helped me continue on the class and its projects as I hobbled around. I want to give a big thank you to Laura Handcock and Tania Laurie for stepping in and keeping the Adventure Crew running through my recovery after surgery.

Thank you to all who have who have given their time and talents to help our children grow within our church community.

-Sharon Holmes

PINNACLE: 2015 in Review

A Sense of Community

Port Nelson United Church Young Leaders (PINNACLE) celebrated its fourth anniversary in November 2015. Over the last four years, this program has been a safe place for youth and teens in grades 6-12 to meet, hangout, worship and to give back. The program has grown in our church. In September 2015, we said goodbye to several of our young people who headed off to various postsecondary institutions across the country; at the same time, we welcomed a very eager batch of new grade 6 participants. It's always great to see our college and university students when they return home to visit their families.

Being Inclusive

Whether they attend every Sunday or every occasional Sunday, or whether they attend a movie night or Halloween sleepover as guests of faithful members, all youth are welcome. We recognize that every young person is on an individual faith journey that we seek to nurture and support. Participants explore Christianity as it relates and makes sense to them, all the while building leadership skills to make positive change in their own lives and for others.

Meaningful Worship

The youth continued the Port Nelson tradition of leading the Palm Sunday and Gift Sunday services. The youth will tell you it is always a highlight of their year to design and lead the congregation in these two services. Our youth are a very talented group and they are always happy to share their talents in worship, be that through instrumental or vocal music, dance, or dramatic readings of the scripts they help write!

Caring

Campers and staff alike from GLEE Camp took over the church building for another 3 sold-out weeks in the summer of 2015. Both the energy and temperature levels were high. We were blessed to have such a strong camp staff team of teens and young adults from our church community leading over 80 campers each week. At the time this report was written, hiring for next summer's senior staff and the development of the 2016 brochure is well underway.

Growing Spiritually

In May of this year, we confirmed six young people from our two-year Confirmation Program. In September, we welcomed a new group of first-year participants. The interactive DVD and journal resource, "Animate Faith", was introduced as a curriculum for discussion groups for all confirmands and is serving as an effective guide in helping the youth explore their decision to renew their baptismal vows. A few highlights of the year were our work with Wesley Urban Ministries at the No-Charge Christmas Store and at a Sunday supper in February. The youth are excited for our upcoming March Retreat at Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre in Paris (Ontario that is!).

Reaching Out

As part of their service learning, PINNACLE youth continued their commitment to helping on the first Friday of every month at the "Friday Night Community Supper" held at Wellington Square United Church. Many of our youth have helped out in a number of ways including preparing the food, serving the meal, eating with the guests, and cleaning up at the end of the evening. The youth have enjoyed helping and are learning a lot from the dinner guests who are very willing to share their stories. Most recently, PINNACLE youth helped host, serve and clean up after Christmas dinner on December 21st to over 75 guests from the Food Voucher Program.

Reaching out continues to be a value embodied by the youth of Port Nelson.

- Jay Poitras

Nursery

Childcare for infants and toddlers is available every Sunday morning. A pager system allows parents to enjoy the service, worry free. A faithful group of volunteers staff the nursery in a large, bright, well-equipped space. Thank you to Stacey Cordner, Nell Konkin, Tamra Waletofea, Sarah & Gillian Byers, Carol Inkster, Murray Thompson, Margaret Hensen, Claire Jones, Rosemary Carr and Al Kingston. Helping when needed are Amber Liddle, Susan Redgrave and Elaine Whiskin.

GLEE Camp 2015 - Summer Report

Each year GLEE Camp grows into something bigger and greater, and this summer was no exception to that. In fact, one could say that this was GLEE Camp's greatest year for growth, expansion and leadership. The directing staff consisted of Claire Sweeny as the Assistant Director, Alec O'Halloran as the Program Director, and Brad Barnham as the Camp Director. The three led the camp as a cohesive team and fostered a strong chemistry, working off each individual's strengths to lead in the most effective way. That being said, the program consistently ran on time, rooms were tidied after each activity, and all staff was held accountable for their work in the camp. Counsellors were expected to be engaged with the campers and with the prepared program. The counselling staff was energetic, enthusiastic, caring and thoughtful in their care over campers. The music staff (Tania Laurie and Katelyn Emery) prepared some of the best GLEE Camp musical performances to-date, and due to the change from an evening performance to an afternoon performance, the concerts were better attended by supporting parents and loved ones. This was an exciting thing to see. Other than a few bumps along the way, camp ran very smoothly, and both campers and parents felt as though this was our best year of camp. I have high hopes for this summer camp, and can only imagine the great things that will come with a developing staff, camp program and camper/parent/staff community that is growing each year. It was my pleasure to direct once again this summer, and I hope to be involved in GLEE Camp in some way in the future.

*-Brad Barnham
Camp Director*

Elaine's Vision

Members of **Elaine's Vision** are ladies from Port Nelson who meet for support, friendship and service. Originally known as 2 UCW, it was renamed after Elaine Harrison when she died in 1995. Meetings used to be held in members' homes but it became necessary to meet at the church so that everyone could attend. Over the years, friendships have strengthened and the members are there to help each other in times of need. The service activities are usually very quietly completed. For many years, they made pies, fudge and cookies for Mistletoe Mart. Each year, members decorate the Christmas trees, hang wreaths and garlands and put up the Christmas decorations to enhance the festive air at the bazaar. More than one quilt has been made. Contributions are made to the Dr. Parsons Special fund for those in need as well as continued support to the Food Voucher Program. One project was shopping for and filling baskets for underprivileged girls. This Christmas, a donation was made to **Reach Out Burlington**, who support many charities. For years, the ladies organized a potluck dinner before the annual Ladies' Candlelight Communion Service. This event has changed to a dessert party.

Spiritual Growth – Continued

The members of **Elaine's Vision** continue to organize this beautiful evening of **Ladies' Dessert and Candlelight Communion Service**. Decorated tables are set in the O'Brien Room and upper gathering area. The atmosphere is very festive with delicious treats, coffee, tea and juice. At 8:00, along with ladies who have joined for the Candlelight Communion, everyone quietly lines up, holding candles. Singing *Silent Night*, they process into the candlelit sanctuary, a beautiful sight. This is a very emotional experience and frequently, there are some tears. This is a highlight of the Christmas season, a time to reflect and enjoy the closeness of the women and the special Communion Service.

Special thanks to Michael Brooks, Gord Dunbar, Candy Harvey, Brian Snell, Patricia Johnston and Alix Kingston for making this evening so memorable.

Interested in joining **Elaine's Vision**? Please come to the meetings at 7:30pm the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the O'Brien Room.

Prayer Group

Our group meets Thursday mornings at 9:30. We are a caring group who offers prayers for people who are experiencing health problems or who have personal crises. We are often asked to remember a person in prayer. Reverend Gord Dunbar unites us in prayer at the start of our session and asks us to pray for people in the congregation who are in need. We have books that we use as a learning Bible time as part of our concerns for all we care about. You are welcome to join us.

-Joan Milne

December 6th Come and Go Vigil

Walking into the sanctuary on the evening of December 6th, I was enveloped by the warm glow of candlelight and beautiful reflective music. I had come to spend time in the growing busyness of the season, to sit quietly and think about the 14 young women at Ecole Polytechnique years ago, who had been separated out from their male companions and fellow students and then gunned down by a young man who resented them for taking a spot in the Engineering program that he thought was rightfully his as a male.

Each year, as I look at the flames of the 14 red candles flickering, I wonder who each of the young women might have become, what gifts their brilliant minds would have given to Canada and the world, what families they might have had? Over time, I have wondered how their families have continued to cope with their loss, and how their lives have been irrevocably changed by a magnitude of loss that is incomprehensible to me.

The visual focus of the Come and Go Vigil is on the fourteen lives lost that day on December 6th in Montreal, now so many years ago. We don't want to forget that a terrible thing happened that day. This Vigil allows time to mourn their loss, to think about those who survived because they were male and so were sent out of the room. How have they managed knowing why they are still alive? Would anything be different if this situation were to occur today?

Spiritual Growth – Continued

My mind shifts, as it always does, to the lives lost due to violence in the past year. Domestic violence continues, and recently we have heard of examples of unprovoked violence as people have lost their lives in a violent way by being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Numbers of terrorist attacks are growing and we don't have the answer as to how to de-escalate the anger. More to contemplate.

Men are always welcome, and several have come out to the Vigil faithfully year after year. Men have a vital role to play in modeling peaceful conflict resolution and discussing violent language and behaviour when overheard. When violent behaviour is absolutely condemned by men and women alike, then perhaps, solutions will start to emerge.

The time passes very quickly. I light a candle or two in memory of specific people in my thoughts who have lost their lives violently. The music continues to sooth my soul. Much to ponder, much to give thanks for. Through the year I will think of those young women for whom the red candles burn brightly. I find the time spent remembering and thinking strengthens my resolve to always look for and support opportunities for peaceful resolutions of conflict.

Why not come next December 6th and spend some special reflective time with your own thoughts?

-Cathy Greven

The Caring Wisdom Circle

BOOK: The Gift of Years: Growing Old Gracefully by Joan D. Chittister

This book not only accepts but also celebrates getting old; the illuminating work looks at the many faceted process, from purposes and challenges to struggles and surprises.

The Caring Wisdom Circle's weekly discussions are deeply enriched by reading a chapter each week and then sharing how it relates to our own life journey. There are many chapters still to be shared and all are welcome to come and share your wisdom and caring with the group! We meet Thursdays at 1:30 in the O'Brien Room. Contact either Laurel Grace or Ann Fleming.

-Laurel Grace

Caring Connection Cookies and Poinsettias

This program is an offshoot of caring for "shut ins". It is a way to honour those members of our congregation who may not be able to attend services. Many of them have worked over the years to make Port Nelson United Church the vibrant community it is today. Each year, Gord Dunbar and Rebecca Murphy suggest names and many elves put together attractive boxes of cookies. Members of the congregation deliver the boxes and/or Poinsettias, making someone's day brighter with a special Christmas visit. This year, over 70 dozen cookies were baked for this project. Be sure to watch for word in the Notebook when you will be able to contribute your time and/or cookies next December!

-Laurel Grace

Men in Aprons

2015 was another successful year for “the crew”. Not only did we have seven luncheons but we managed to support the congregation by hosting six Saturday morning breakfasts, prepare and serve the chili for Mistletoe Mart, prepare and serve the pasta for the Spaghetti Food Voucher fundraiser and cooked and served pancakes for 160 guests at our annual Pancake Supper.

At our luncheons, we have a wonderful time cooking for ourselves and word has it, from the Food Voucher Volunteers, the lunch served is beyond ordinary!

There is always room for more men who are interested in a monthly get together.

-Hamilton Jukes

Seniors’ Luncheon

During 2015 the seniors enjoyed seven delicious lunches catered by Maitre D’ Catering. The average attendance at the luncheons was 31. We listened to presentations about the Royal Botanical Gardens, dementia and senior care at home. A barbeque was held in June and at that event we shared stories of how we spent summers in our youth. Stillman Matheson brought the year to a musical close with selections from Mel Torme and Frank Sinatra as well as favourite Christmas carols.

We would love for you to join us on the first Wednesday of each month. The cost is \$14.00 per person.

-Donna Duncombe

-Anne Smith

Travel Crafts

Our group meets the first and third Monday of the month at 1:30 in the O’Brien Room. Our purpose is to help people with disabilities to be creative by making crafts. We contribute these crafts to the Mistletoe Mart thereby helping everyone to have a good feeling of self-worth. We would like to have you join us.

-Joan Milne

Library Report

The Library is staffed one half hour before and after Sunday services. If members of the congregation have books they would like to suggest for the Library, please talk to someone on the Committee. We will be going book buying early in 2016.

We have an excellent selection of children’s books.

Our book sale at Mistletoe Mart 2015 was once again a success. We sincerely thank the members of Port Nelson for their generous donations of used books each year. The money we make helps to supply new books and DVD’s.

We have repeat customers each year at the book sale, who tell us we have one of the best book sales in Burlington, and we have some customers each year that tell us they budget all year to be able to buy as many books as possible at our sale. Library Committee members spend several days before the sale sorting books, as well as setting up the night before the sale. Some of the left over books from the sale this year were donated to another book sale. We realize as well how fortunate we are to have the ongoing support from the congregation in our Library budget. The last two years we have had a mini book sale in the spring.

Our biggest challenge remains a shortage of volunteers. Several former members of the committee are no longer active because of health concerns. We are fortunate to have several individuals who help us set up the night before Mistletoe Mart, and we have others who help us the day of the sale. If you have a love of books, and feel you could help us in the Library, please talk to someone on the Library Committee.

If you have not visited the library in the past, please drop in some Sunday and see what we have to offer. If you are a regular library user, we thank you for your ongoing support.

My sincere thank you to all the members of the Library Committee and the many hours of work they do each year. The Library is truly a labour of love.

*-Sharon Lipsit
Library Chair*

Port Nelson Ladies' Bridge Group

This group has been ongoing for many years and is a friendly, fun afternoon of bridge. At present our numbers have dwindled to twelve ladies as many of the longstanding members have decided not to continue. However, those remaining enjoy the game, regardless of their level of expertise. We play six games between October and April, at which time we have a catered luncheon in the O'Brien Room, followed by an afternoon of bridge. Small prizes are awarded to the winning teams who have amassed the highest scores. These six games take place in the members' homes and either a light luncheon or dessert is served. Each team hosts three games and three away and can be played at any time during the October - April timeframe. We would certainly welcome new members and hopefully with a partner in mind. The roster is put together in September and names, addresses and the schedule is mailed out at that time. Ladies, come and join us, you'll be happy you did.

Spaghetti Dinner

February 7, 2015, 150 Port Nelson folk enjoyed an evening of good food, friendly conversation and lively entertainment. This event was a "first" for Port Nelson and it was very successful! Over \$4700 was raised for our **Food Voucher Program!** The many volunteers made it a special evening. January 30, 2016 was our **Lasagna Dinner;** we hope you were there.

-Joan Thompson

Port Nelson Serves on Friday Nights

In the spring of 2014, at the “Garage Sail” event, Dr. Sweeny and I were discussing our shared passion for the Friday Night Community Dinner at Wellington Square United Church. I was relatively new to the Friday Night Community. Dr. Sweeny was well acquainted with the group. He told me of the origins of the dinner that began with “The Men in Aprons” approximately seven years ago.

What started as a dinner for approximately 30 people each week has increased to 300 people weekly!

Each week a different Church or Service group is on hand to tackle the daunting task of preparing, serving and cleaning up a dinner for 300.

For over one year now, the Port Nelson congregation has officially taken up the duty of handling the dinner on the first Friday of every month. In true Port Nelson spirit, the response has been one of abundance!

There is a preparation shift that involves a lot of chopping. This can be a very meditative experience depending on your mood or very companionable...standing elbow to elbow. The serving shift is wonderful! The food is served buffet style. This gives each volunteer the opportunity to meet and interact with almost every guest at the dinner. All volunteers are encouraged to take a break and sit down to enjoy dinner amongst the other guests.

When it comes to clean up, it is all hands on deck! As one can imagine, dishes and floors, tables and chairs for 300 is a BIG job to tear down. As of next month, a third shift has been added to the volunteer possibilities. Members may come just for dinner and clean up.

What started as a conversation on the front lawn of Port Nelson has become something so joyful and fulfilling for me. If not for the “Men in Aprons” and Michael Brooks’ commitment to the dinner, so many in the Community (Port Nelson and Wellington Square) would miss this opportunity. I would encourage all to come out once to experience Friday night.

- Nancy McKenzie

Small Group Ministry

Small group ministry exists to meet needs identified by members of the congregation to explore a variety of issues, to learn and to practice new skills, or to develop relationships. Forming a small group at Port Nelson is very easy. Anyone can do so. The only “rule” is that the topic/activity of the group fits within the vision, mission and values of Port Nelson. The group must be open to all who share the interest and want to attend. If you wish additional information about forming a small group, please contact me.

*-Jean Redgrave,
Chair of Spiritual Growth Ministry*

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

YOUTH AWARD COMMITTEE

The Port Nelson United Church Youth Award was established in September 2012 by the Church Council to recognize and celebrate the leadership of young people in the Burlington community in the area of being inclusive, particularly pertaining to the needs and concerns of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer (GLBTQ) people. The church's lead minister, the Rev. Michael Brooks and his partner, Mr. Jay Poitras, an educator, sought to establish a public and tangible way to celebrate *Being Inclusive* – one of the church's emerging core values – and to mark the occasion of their wedding on November 3rd, 2012.

The award consists of an annual one-time \$1,000 grant to a qualified young person in our community. The committee reviewed all applications for the 2015 award, and decided that, this year, there would be two co-recipients of the award. The successful recipients were **Jessica Blakely-DasSilva**, a grade 12 student at Corpus Christi Catholic Secondary School, and **Timea Sarai**, a grade 12 student at Aldershot High School.

Timea spoke to the congregation during worship on Sunday, May 24th with her family present. She also spent some time that day with the Port Nelson Pinnacle youth. The Youth Award was presented to Timea at the graduation ceremonies of Aldershot High School in June, 2015. Jessica spoke to the congregation during worship on Sunday, June 14th, and received her award at that time.

The Youth Award is open to any high school student in Burlington who has contributed to a more inclusive environment in school and/or community. If you know of a young person who would be a good candidate for the award, encourage that person to apply. The deadline for applications is May 1st each year.

-Michael Brooks



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

The Pastoral Care Committee has the goal of enriching the pastoral ministry provided to the people of Port Nelson United Church with the support of our Staff Resource Rev. Gord Dunbar. As Chair I am grateful for the support of 11 dedicated, caring individuals who in large and small ways work to carry out that goal.

I would like to introduce and thank them for their great work.

Sharon Ife: Teleministry – connecting with our families by phone and coordinating and training the folks who do the phoning. This is a very satisfying way to get to know our church family if you are looking for a volunteer opportunity one morning or evening a month.

Ellen Snell: Helping Hands – coordinating the delivery of meals and muffins to those needing assistance in their homes.

Jean Jewell: Shepherding the Visiting Elders. As the community changes and families are busy we will be discussing possible new directions for the coming year.

Mary Carey: keeping our postsecondary students connected and nourished with gifts cards.

Jean Redgrave: Coordinating Coffee hour volunteers who facilitate the wonderful visiting time after Sunday worship.

Dorothy McDonald: Hooking up willing drivers and those needing some assistance to get to services.

Peggy Ellicott: Coordinating the flowers which grace the chancel and delivery of them to those unable to join regularly in worship.

Laurel Grace: Organizing all of us to be part of the Cookies and Pointsettias – baking and delivering over 70 boxes at Christmas.

Garnet MacCara: Representative at Large – a wise voice.

Cathy & John Greven: Available to load iPads and MP3 players with your favourite music if you find yourself or family member in hospital.

As you can see, our aim going forward is to promote caring for each other by including all to whom we are called while strengthening our sense of community as a family of faith.

Please feel free to approach any of our committee about caring concerns or just for sharing ideas.

*Respectfully submitted,
-Susanne Zinkie (Chair)*

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

WORSHIP MINISTRY

The Worship Ministry plans the services in order to fulfill one of Port Nelson's core values – meaningful worship.

We are grateful to Sharon Holmes, Tania Laurie and Fae Falls who ensure that our worship services are enriched by the singing and the hand bell solos of our children of the Adventure Crew. We are also blessed that our youth and adults so freely give of their musical gifts to the glory of God by offering instrumental and vocal solos.

The choir seating was re-configured in 2015 and the Worship Ministry believes that the congregation hears the words to the music much more clearly. We are blessed with the musical leadership of Stillman Matheson who suggested the establishment of a student choral scholarship in 2015. We believe that this scholarship, along with the high quality of music at Port Nelson, continues to attract people to our church home.

As the *More Voices* hymn books were originally published in a spiral edition and as they were beginning to tear and fray, the Worship Ministry organized the re-binding of the hymn books into a hardcover edition. We expect *More Voices* to remain in good condition for many years.

We celebrate and appreciate the leadership of Jay Poitras and the Pinnacle Youth Group for leading the Palm Sunday service – a dramatization of the Last Supper with the 12 Disciples around the table. Burlington Baptist Church hosted the Holy Week Services this year with Port Nelson leading the Wednesday evening service in the form of Taizé. Port Nelson also organized the *cross walk*. We walked from Port Nelson to Wellington Square to Burlington Baptist before the Good Friday service with a meditation moment provided by the ministers at each location.

The Easter Sunrise service was again celebrated at Sioux Lookout Park. Grateful thanks to Cathy Waugh and Pat & Gord Gilmore for providing coffee and hot cross buns. Then we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord once again with glorious Easter music at our 10:30 a.m. service.

The Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, a Presbyterian Professor at the Vancouver School of Theology, was our signature speaker on April 26th. Part of his preaching style involved congregational participation in Bible reading, which was a meaningful and innovative addition to the service.

We celebrated not only the 90th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada on Sunday, June 7th, but also the ordination of the Rev. Louise Hart, who participated in worship. Two cakes commemorating both events were enjoyed by the congregation after the service.

The Worship Ministry continues to offer alternative services from time to time in the forms of Taizé and Iona, plus a yearly service with the Hot Five Jazz Group. We are always looking for new ideas for alternative worship services and we ask the congregation to please let us know of any ideas in that regard.

Worship Ministry – Continued

Those who were bereaved in the past year appreciate our yearly Memorial Service to honour their loved one.

Our Remembrance service took on a new format this year focusing on readings and music around peace. It will continue to evolve in the coming years.

Our Christmas Eve services at 4 p.m., 7 p.m., and 11 p.m. continue to grow and are appreciated by many outside of the Port Nelson congregation. Sharon Holmes capably led the 4pm service with a simple re-telling of the Christmas story for young children. We experimented with a change in our 7 p.m. service this year, with Santa explaining the true meaning of Christmas. Our youth participated in the play plus all young children who were attending the service were able to dress up and play a part.

We truly appreciate the many Worship volunteers who work quietly behind the scenes in order to make every service run smoothly

We are grateful for our worship leaders, Michael Brooks, Gord Dunbar, Stillman Matheson and, on occasion, Candy Harvey – our Voluntary Associate Minister. With their inspiration and careful planning we continue to praise God and be uplifted Sunday after Sunday. Rebecca Murphy and Rick Tucker continue to be our strong supports.

*-Mary Carey
Chairperson*



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY – STILLMAN MATHESON

2015 was a year of many successes in the music department and I have many people to thank for this:

- the individual singers and instrumentalists who enhanced our worship services: Michael Brooks, Chris Emery, Elaine Whiskin, Carolyn Whiskin, David Holt, Jamie Thomblison, Doug Robson, Katelyn Emery, Alec O'Halloran, Evan Dando, Claire Sweeny, Jacki Kingston, Hot Five Jazz Ensemble, Brian Snell, Tina Depko-Denver, Fae Falls, Alix Kingston and Jonathan Yantzi.
- sopranos Jacki Kingston and Alix Kingston and alto Liza Sheard, who sang so beautifully the solos in the Vivaldi Gloria on our spring concert program
- the members of the choir who meet every Thursday for practice and every Sunday to lead the congregation in song, and who presented an outstanding Festival of Lessons and Carols in December. I am very appreciative of their hard work and dedication, as well as their support and friendship.
- the choir executive who work behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly: Karen Pettit, Ellen Snell, Jen Newton, Jeff Vannan, Richard LeBlanc, Vicky Cooper and our president Brian Snell
- members of the Choral Scholarship sub-committee: Vicky Cooper, Yvonne LeBlanc and Dan Emery
- Ellen Snell for looking after the choir library so well
- everyone who has contributed financially to our Choral Scholarship fund
- a very supportive church staff, Worship Committee, and congregation

Special thanks to Jim Thomblison who retired from the position of Choir Librarian after many years of service. His considerable contribution to the efficient operation of the choir has been much appreciated.

In 2015 we were happy to welcome two new members into the choir, Dale Estey and Jonathan Yantzi, along with returning member Carrie Stewart and choral scholar Alejandra Fernandez.

Port Nelson is a wonderful faith community and I consider myself fortunate to be your Director of Music. With your support and assistance, I am looking forward to another year of great music-making.

-Stillman Matheson
Director of Music

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

CHOIR PRESIDENT – BRIAN SNELL

Stillman Matheson has now survived his first full calendar year with us and we are delighted! His leadership has inspired the choir to new levels of competence as he continually challenges us with musical scores of increasing difficulty. In addition to his ability as a choral conductor, Stillman has treated us to some fine organ music on Sundays as well as during two well attended organ recitals.

Last Spring, at the now annual concert, the choir sang the Vivaldi "*Gloria*" with a small orchestra and guest organist. We were thrilled to see so many in attendance to show their support for the choir and we hope that the audience numbers will only continue to grow as we present new works each year. The open offering from such events helps to offset the considerable costs of hiring professional instrumentalists and we are grateful for that support.

Stillman introduced the concept of a Choral Scholarship and entertained applications from interested music students. The scholarship provides up to \$2,000 in financial support to the student in return for participation as a member of the choir in the weekly rehearsal and Sunday Worship services. As word spreads, we hope that competition for this will increase.

New choir seating was introduced in September as an experiment. The sopranos now face the congregation and many comments have been received that the choir can be heard more effectively. Even more important, as a choir member, we can now hear the sections of the choir better. We are grateful to Brian Duncombe for constructing the new risers for the second row of sopranos – they can now actually see Stillman and the congregation can see them!

The annual Service of Lessons and Carols was, in my opinion, the finest we have sung in the five years I have been at Port Nelson. Music choices matched the readings so well and gave us a great variety of styles and levels of difficulty. Port Nelson has always had a well-deserved reputation for that service and continues to receive excellent attendance support.

The choir enjoyed social events during the year at the homes of Susan and Mark Rust and also Peggy and Bill Ellicott – I am grateful to them for hosting those fun occasions.

I would like to thank the members of the Choir Executive for the extra time it takes to carry out their various roles during the year. I also acknowledge the knowledge and wisdom musically of both Stillman and Michael Brooks as they work well together to plan our Worship throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
-Brian Snell, Choir President



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

REACHING OUT MINISTRY

What a fantastic year 2015 has been for the various outreach initiatives of Port Nelson United Church! We have truly been “reaching out to one another and our world” as we share our blessings with those around us locally and in the wider world.

Our major outreach activity is of course the Food Voucher Program. Every Thursday morning from 10AM until Noon, several of our members can be found just outside the sanctuary meeting people and providing some friendship, conversation, moral support, help contacting support resources and providing them with a \$25 PC gift card. Our gift card, supported by voluntary donations from our congregational community, provides a resource for the small things such as aspirin and personal care products that are often not available through the traditional agencies. We have also continued to supply various items such as mitts, scarves, muffins, etc. as available. In 2015, we distributed approximately \$40,000, which is a slight decrease from 2014. In order to try to ensure that the program remains viable, we were forced to make two significant changes in the way we operate the program. In the summer of 2015, after much reflection about the ever-growing need, we realized that we must change the rules so that any person was eligible for a voucher only every other month rather than monthly. At the same time, we began to turn away new people who were not residents of Burlington while still grandfathering in all current recipients. These changes seem to be working as anticipated and we have received little or no negative feedback from the recipients since they seem to understand our desire to be fair while reigning in the cost of running the program.

Late in 2015, we were one of the first groups in the area responding to the Syrian refugee crisis need for sponsorship partners. We initially requested to be partnered with a family of four. In the list of higher priority people seeking refugee status in Canada that we received back, we quickly made offers to sponsor a family of three women who were deemed to be in urgent need. We also made an offer of sponsorship to a single male, 19 years of age, who was also deemed to be a high priority. In December, the single male (Hamza) arrived and we have been working to settle him and get him started on the long road to productive citizenship. The three women are still waiting for final acceptance and paperwork by the Canadian authorities but we expect them to arrive shortly. We have been fundraising for support that will be used for both family units as things progress. One of the interesting things about this outreach project is that we have attracted several active participants to the work group from outside our congregational ranks, always a good sign that we are reaching out and engaging the community in a variety of ways.

Of course, we continue to support the FundScrip card program, operated primarily by Joan Thompson and her family who can be found every Sunday morning at a table just waiting to talk to you. The cards you buy can be used for a wide variety of weekly expenses such as gasoline, food and entertainment as well as serve as gift cards to others. A percentage of the cost of these cards is returned back to help support the Food Voucher Program.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the myriad other outreach programs that operate within our church. From helping prepare and serve dinner at Wellington Square United Church one Friday evening a month to our annual collection of money and toys for the Wesley Urban Ministries Christmas Store, we serve our local community and beyond. Our expanding offerings to youth of our community by way of “GLEE Camp” and various school PD day activities have generated a positive response within the community around us and we continue to look for ways to expand these types of programs.

Reaching Out Ministry – Continued

On behalf of the congregation, I would like to thank the members of our committee for 2015 as well as those who pitch in for the various outreach activities within our church community.

*-Brian Duncombe
Chair, Reaching Out Ministry*



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

The Ministry & Personnel Committee functions under the Pastoral Relations Committee of the Division of Ministry, Personnel & Education, the United Church of Canada. We follow guidelines found in the United Church Manual (revised 2013). The committee is a confidential, consulting body, which supports the pastoral relationships in the congregation. The committee works closely with resource staff at Conference and Presbytery while carrying out the required functions, which include supporting, reviewing, evaluating, interviewing, hiring and mentoring of staff. We are required to meet quarterly, reporting directly to Council. In 2015, the committee met seven times. Members of our team are: Susan Posgate (chair), Leslie Mercer, Jill Jukes, Marty Wamsley, Bill Willson and Sharon Beesley.

Our dedicated staff team is guided by the Mission of Port Nelson United Church-*To reach out to one another and our world as we grow spiritually in a caring, inclusive, Christian community enriched by meaningful worship.* Rev. Dr. Michael Brooks and Rev. Gord Dunbar lead the congregation in all aspects of worship, pastoral care, stewardship and reaching out to our wider community. Each minister performs duties according to his position description, with Michael overseeing the staff team in administrative areas.

The children are led by Sharon Holmes, Developer of Children's Ministry, and the youth by Jay Poitras, Developer of Youth Ministry. It is a pleasure to watch the youth of our church involved in so many areas of service- participating in worship, helping out with Friday night community dinners at Wellington Square United Church, setting up and assisting in many aspects of Mistletoe Mart, hosting the food voucher guests for Christmas dinner, and working at the Wesley Urban Ministries Christmas store. We are thrilled to listen to the children who grace us with wonderful choral music and the very special bell chorus. Sharon continued to present PD programs during the year, which were filled with children from the wider community.

Stillman Matheson directs the choir in moving presentations of music throughout the year. Stillman's expertise at the organ and piano imbues worship services and concert evenings with special joy. This past year, Stillman introduced a musical scholarship, provided to a student who gives time to the choir on Sunday mornings.

Rick Tucker, as Custodian, works through all kinds of weather and with many outside groups occupying our spaces, to provide a clean and safe environment for all, both inside and outside the church building. Rick ensures our summer students are trained in Health and Safety regulations prior to beginning employment. During the summer months, Eric Hollingsworth provided help with the many summer cleaning chores as Assistant Custodian.

Rebecca Murphy juggles the comprehensive role of Church Administrator through all the seasons of the church calendar. Rebecca handles the needs of the staff and the busy congregation, which this year has included the many aspects of the Rekindle campaign. Theresa Woolley is instrumental in helping our treasurer Steve Jones keep our books in order.

The summer GLEE camps were busy, noisy and fun-filled weeks. Camp Director Brad Barnham was supported by Claire Sweeny Assistant Camp Director and Alec O'Halloran Program Director in delivering exciting three weeks of camp to maximum numbers of children from the church and the community.

Ministry and Personnel – Continued

We said farewell to Christian Boin as our lock up person the end of August and wished him well as he began the next chapter in his life at university. Jacqueline Boin, supported by her family, continues to provide security and lock up coverage of the church each day of the year.

One of the responsibilities of the congregation is to encourage the continuing education of our staff. Many staff members explored educational opportunities throughout the year, enhancing their day-to-day working lives and those with whom they minister.

On behalf of the congregation, I extend to all staff our sincere gratitude for all that you do in ministering to us in the pulpit, at the organ console and piano, in the office, the building and at home.

-Susan Posgate, Chair

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015
STAFF TEAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
ADDENDUM TO MINISTRY & PERSONNEL REPORT
REV. DR. MICHAEL BROOKS

Each year the Staff Team formulates shared goals to guide our common work and ministry in the service of Christ and the church. It is hoped that, by framing our overall goals as a team, each member of the team can contribute her or his unique gifts to the strengthening of our talented staff compliment. As the staff Team Leader, it is my responsibility to ensure that the team goals are monitored, and to offer leadership as, together, we work toward achieving the goals we have discerned to be God's way forward for us. From time to time throughout the year, we reflected together on the goals and the extent to which they were helping (or hindering) our common ministry.

For the year 2015, the Port Nelson Staff Team developed the following goals in a collaborative way:

Goal 1:

To present a unified front to the public.

Reflective Evaluation:

As major decisions were being made by the church family in 2015 around the Rekindle Campaign and renovation project, the staff discerned that it would be most helpful to be intentional about supporting one another. In the spring of 2015, we crafted an open letter to the church family indicating our support for the Rekindle project, and our willingness to work together through the opportunities and challenges that will inevitably present themselves in the coming months.

Goal 2:

To continue to be inclusive of the entire staff as we enjoy social and professional time together.

Reflective Evaluation:

The staff enjoyed social time together on a number of occasions, both as a staff team and also with our respective families.

Goal 3:

Name and grow forward the collective strengths of the present staff team

Reflective Evaluation:

We completed the *Strengthsfinders* tool by Tom Rath which identifies individual strengths and how they can contribute to a team. We discussed this tool at staff meetings as we sought to be conscious of one another's strengths and gifts in all that we do. In September, we welcomed Laura Macro as a facilitator for a half-day retreat on the *Strengthsfinders* tool.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

MISTLETOE MART COMMITTEE

You know the saying "It takes a village to raise a child"? Well it takes an amazing church to run a wonderful event. 2015 Mistletoe Mart was the effort of all in the church to a common goal, a successful bazaar. The contributions made by the Port Nelson members will allow our church to better support the needs within our community.

So many people work to make our annual bazaar a success, some for the entire year and others for the short term. All of these efforts are needed and so very much appreciated. Over 200 volunteers signed up to help and so many more arrived to set up and take down, to donate items and to simply help wherever they could. As well, we would not have enjoyed this success if people had not arrived to buy. We heard from many artisans that we are the best bazaar. They mentioned how well we look after the artisans. Many commented on how well they had done and were eager to return. All good sign.

Thanks to the Venturers and the Scouts who make the set up on Thursday and the restoration of the rooms on Saturday a yearly contribution of their time. Thank you to Tammy White, who stood guard at our Volunteer Only door. And Tammy we apologize for the chair lift delay. Thank you to Grant Sweeny and Chris Emery for the security on Friday night. Thank you to Rebecca Murphy for producing and printing programs, inserts and many other tasks. A huge thank you to Rick Tucker who goes above and beyond for three days and then some, managing all the garbage.

Thank you to the Men in Aprons who make chili. There were so many wonderful teenagers who participated in many areas and over many days. Thank you to Stillman and members of the choir for the beautiful music that enhanced the event.

Thank you to the women of Elaine's Vision who decorated the narthex, the upper auditorium and the lower hallway, adding much festive cheer.

Many people came just for the book sale organized by the Library Committee and then when they saw all that was available, they stayed to shop. Thank you to Michael and to Gord for their patience when we requested the time for announcements.

And last but certainly not least I want to say a very special thank you to the committee chairs. What a wonderful team who all work incredibly hard.

- Brian and Donna Clarke, co-chairs of the collectibles
- Laurel Grace, chair of jewelry, scarves, hats, purses
- Judy Totten, sewing
- Beth Kuiper, knitting

Mistletoe Mart- Continued

- Mat Ardron and Leslie Harrison, co-chairs of the silent auction
- Susan Redgrave, chair of baking and preserves
- Karen O'Halloran, chair of artisans
- MargaretJane Wallace who with the precision of a general places artisans and others in the church
- Lisa Gibson and Jean Redgrave, Co-chairs of PR and publicity
- Nancy McGrath, Ann Fleming, Pat Gilmore and Sharon Beesley, Co-chairs of our ever popular dining room
- Debbie Strum, Chair of finance
- Nancy McKenzie, Chair of crafts and pie sales.

They have expended hours and hours of their time and tons of talent.

What is so very amazing to understand is that this list of chairs is only the top of our pyramid! Under each of these names are the names of so very many more folks who helped in innumerable ways! Parking, running the stair track, selling, buying, cleaning, baking, making sandwiches, cooking chili, serving, tossing tables and chairs, sweeping, on and on! We donated a sum of about \$22,000 to the church.

21 years is a major commitment. That is the number of years Jean Redgrave has been working with the Mistletoe Mart. Jean first joined the Mistletoe Mart committee when she retired in 1994, in charge of all publicity, internal and external. She then brought her daughters Karen and Susan on board - Susan and Jean chaired the craft table for years and then Susan took over the bake table. Karen has been instrumental in our artisan rentals. She can't be sure but Jean thinks she has chaired Mistletoe Mart for 5 or 6 years.

When I volunteered to chair this committee, I was unaware of the amount of work and the amount of organization, which goes into the event. Jean has been right there beside me, helping all the way. She was a perfect mentor, never directing, mostly subtly suggesting. A mentor is one who is an experienced and trusted advisor, a trusted counsellor or guide. I was so very fortunate to have the best mentor possible in my new role. I could never have managed without her. In addition, thank you for the 21 years, which you have supported this very important fund raising and friend-raising event. We are blessed to have you. Many of our volunteer leaders have decided to remain on the committee which is very good news.

-June Wright, Chair

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

During 2015, most of us were eager to hear the final result of the Rekindle Campaign. When we heard, it was wonderful; we are devoted to Port Nelson United Church and its renewal!

The Stewardship Ministry and our financial stewardship, separate from Rekindle, in 2015 was very good. Our church family responded “Joyfully” to pledge cards at Christmastime, sharing not only their prayerful pledge for giving but personal signs of joy! God has certainly blessed us with many riches.

A Night at the Derby was our spring fundraiser at the Royal Botanical Gardens. Music, horses, bourbon, fascinators and fun....all came together for a great evening. It may not have been one of the biggest fundraisers on the Port Nelson books; however, the time and talent recorded was priceless.

One of the hopes of the Stewardship ministry for 2016 is to tap into more of our gifted congregation. Working together on a fundraiser or a craft project or a dinner is such a wonderful way to grow closer to each other as a church family.

We welcomed a new member to the committee this year, Susan Hill. She brings a wealth of Stewardship experience from her time in Chicago. She has already brought forward some wonderful ideas to our meetings!

I will be marking the end of my term as chair of Stewardship as I submit this report. It has been almost four years. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity. I remain committed to Port Nelson and to the Stewardship Ministry.

-Respectfully,
Nancy McKenzie

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT MINISTRY

Over the past year, the Property Management Ministry (PMM) supervised a number of initiatives in order to maintain the building and surrounding grounds.

Last winter we noticed that the solar panels shed snow quickly and that this snow accumulated in the gutters of the steel roof. This year we had heating cables installed in and above the gutters on both the south and north sides of the sanctuary roof.

The heating system continued to function (thankfully!) but constant maintenance is required. Again, this year we replaced leaking or failed pumps as well as failed valves and noisy valve actuators. We believe that the system is now quieter, particularly in the sanctuary during worship services.

It was noted in the 2013 annual report that we had lost some significant renters; however, our rental base has remained stable since then with the exception of the Burlington Choral Society that ceased operations. We were fortunate to secure Elections Canada as a tenant for 3 months and this gave our 'bottom line' a significant boost. Pat O'Neill did an excellent job of liaising between PNUC and Elections Canada (as he did the year before with Elections Ontario) and the whole project ran smoothly. The Elections Canada staff expressed their appreciation at how well the process went from August through to November. Unfortunately, with majority governments at Queen's Park and in Ottawa, we are unlikely to attempt to tap into this source of income until 2018 at the earliest.

The previous annual report noted a water seepage problem in the foundation along the north side and west end of the sanctuary building. This summer we had Wm. Groves Ltd. excavate these areas and repair the weeping tiles. During the process, it was also discovered that a drain line carrying roof runoff to the sewers on South Drive was also broken and needed replacement. The net cost for all this work was just under \$34 000 which used a large part of the Elections Canada rent noted above.

The hard work of the PNUC Renewable Energy Cooperative Inc. and the church which saw the installation of solar panels to the sanctuary roof in 2014 resulted in two further 'pats on the back' in 2015:

- Port Nelson United Church was granted a Greening Space award by Halton-Peel Regions
- The solar panel project was the subject of a write-up in the UCC Observer magazine.

Again, this year, volunteers from the congregation assisted the PMM in its endeavours:

- over the summer the gardens were tended by Donna Duncombe, Paul Leece, Cheryl Moore, Lynn Rawson, Susan Redgrave, Paul and Janice Sweeny, Bill and Joyce Wallace, Sam Weller and Marty Wamsley
- Brian Duncombe constructed a set of risers for the choir members seated behind the communion table.

Property Management Ministry- Continued

I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the PMM who have volunteered to work on behalf of the congregation over the past year: Bill Carr, Cathy Greven, John Greven, Henk Kuiper, Paul Leece, Rod McGrath, Pat O'Neill, Cliff Smith, Brian Snell and Rick Tucker. They have been a great team to work with and, as individuals, have never hesitated to take on a task when a situation arose.

*-Ray Smith, Chair
Property Management Ministry*



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015
PNUC MEMBERSHIP ROLL – DECEMBER 31, 2015

RESIDENT MEMBERS – JANUARY 1, 2015 **700**

Removed From Roll during 2015

- a) By transfer (3)
- b) By death (11)
- c) By request (0)

Status change to Non-Resident (1)
Total (15)

RECEIVED DURING 2015:

- a) By Profession of Faith 7
- b) By Transfer 3
- c) By Council 0
- Total 10

RESIDENT MEMBERS – DECEMBER 31, 2015 **695**

NON-RESIDENT – JANUARY 1, 2015 **13**
 Removed by death, Council (7)
 Added 1
NON-RESIDENT – DECEMBER 31, 2014 **7**

Weddings - 9 Baptisms - 12 Funerals - 21

(As recorded in Church Registers)

-Lorraine MacMaster, Roll Clerk



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015
IN MEMORIAM

Stella Anderson

Marjorie Black

Len Churchward

Eric Cunningham

Alex Davidson

William Ellis

Dorothy Ellsworth

Doug Gilroy

Bill Gowe

Grace Hall

Nedra Johnson

Donald Kemp

Donald McQuesten

Mary McQuesten

Ken Montgomery

Lorraine Radford

Carol Risso

Margaret Simpson

Walter Turek

Gerard Vandenberg

Jacob VanGeyn

Shirley Wilson



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ENDOWMENT FUND

The annual income from this fund is allocated to local, national or international projects. These projects are approved by the congregation based upon the recommendations of the Endowment Committee and the Church Council.

ENDOWMENT FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENT - 2015

Receipts		Disbursements	
Donations	\$ 0.00	Port Nelson United Church - Assistance Fund	\$2,000.00
Interest Earned	<u>\$ 17,077.32</u>	Port Nelson United Church - Property Ministry – Vacuum & Air cleaner	\$ 820.00
		Port Nelson United Church – Worship Committee – Assistive hearing devices	\$3,800.00
		Port Nelson United Church – Food Voucher Program	\$3,000.00
		Joseph Brant Hospital Foundation – Evacusleds	\$1,700.00
		Bank Charges	<u>\$ 105.45</u>
Total	<u>\$17,077.32</u>	Total	<u>\$11,425.45</u>
	Balance, January 1, 2015		\$423,103.70
	Excess of receipts over disbursements		<u>\$ 5,651.87</u>
	Balance, December 31, 2015		<u>\$428,755.57</u>

Please note, the disbursements listed above were approved at the Congregational Meeting of February 2015. The \$11,320 disbursed represents the interest earned in 2014.

The Endowment Fund Committee has the interest earned from 2015 available for worthwhile projects in the year 2016. We trust, that in time, the interest generated by the Endowment Fund will do much to meet the increasing opportunities facing Port Nelson's congregation. The Committee requests you consider the Endowment Fund when doing your estate planning.

Endowment Fund - Continued

Up to December 31, 2015, the capital fund received monies in the memory of the following people as a donation to the Fund:

Rev J.E. & Mrs. Ina Anderson	Keith Holder	William (Bill) Newport
Ethel Adams	Ruby Horn	Robert Newton
Virginia Binko	Lionel Horncastle	Dennis Parker
Isobel Brocklehurst	Elsie Hummel	Ross Parker
Don Brown	Jean Isbister	Robert Oikawa
Lloyd Brown	Mildred Jehu	Frances Parsons
Evelyn Bryce	Edith Johnson	William Parsons
Ian & Marion Butzer	Melvin Johnson	Vera Posgate
Kay Campbell	Rev Bev Johnston	Kitty & Jack Ramsay
E. Carmichael	Shirley Johnston	Gordon Redgrave
Reta Carmichael	Fay Key	May Richardson
Dorothy Carson	James Keys	C. Gordon Robinson
Earl B. Carson	Harry Kiefhaber	Wilf Scholfield
Winnifred Clark	Bea Koleff	Rev Don Scoates
Elizabeth Cole	Lyla Kyer	Ada Scoates
Charlotte Cook	Vera Lennie	Susan Scrimgeour
Donald F. Coons	Earl & Janet Lindley	Dan Seagrove
John Covert	Ken & Lorna Lloyd	Marjorie Shakespeare
Willa Davidson	David Lofft	Stanley Sheldon
Phil & Ruth Davies	Jill Loosley	Elinor Shepherd
Phil Davies	William Loosley	H. Lawrence Shepherd
Nesbitt Dobson	Alice Lugg	Gertrude Smith
Mary Margaret Edwards	Gladys & Douglas Lyons	Ted Sopinka
Vern Enson	Olive Macaulay	Margaret Stewart
Helen Eishoff	Rachel Anne MacCara	Joan Marilyn Sutton
Roy Evans	Helen MacLeod	Harold & Frances Tovee
Ethel Fanshaw	Dorothy McCaughan	Eleanor Vincent
Jane Fisher	Jean McCurdy	Glen Vincent
Janet Fraser	Beattie McDonald	Kathleen Walden
Gordon Fullerton	Helen McDonald	Alexander (Sandy) Wallace
W.J.C. & Marian Gooch	Thomas McLarty	Balfour Waugh
Mike Gresko	Bruce McMulkin	Evelyn Webber
Alice Halfpenny	John McMulkin	Lloyd & Donald Webber
Dick Hall	Jean Millar	Reta Werner
Harold Hall	Richard Millar	William (Bill) Whiskin
Bill Herbison	Carolyn Milroy	Basil Williams
John Hinckley	Cliff Nelson	
Kitchener Hodgins	Alex Nethery	

MargaretJane Wallace, Chair, Endowment Fund

PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE ENDOWMENT FUND – 2005 to 2015

2015

Port Nelson United Church	
- Assistance Fund	\$2,000.00
Port Nelson United Church	
- Property – Vacuum & Air cleaner	\$ 820.00
Port Nelson United Church	
- Worship – Assistive hearing devices	\$3,800.00
Port Nelson United Church	
- Food voucher program	\$3,000.00
Joseph Brant Hospital Foundation	
- Evacusleds	\$1,700.00

2014

Port Nelson United Church	
- Reaching Out Ministry	\$ 500.00
Port Nelson United Church – Glee Camp	\$3,000.00
Nelson Youth Centres	\$3,500.00

2013

Port Nelson United Church – Carpet Cleaner	\$2,650.00
PNUC Renewable Energy Cooperative Inc.	\$3,900.00
Port Nelson United Church Trustees – Legacy Giving	\$ 400.00
Nelson Youth Centres	\$2,500.00

2012

Port Nelson United Church – Food Vouchers	\$4500.00
Port Nelson United Church – Folding Chair Dollies	\$1100.00
Port Nelson United Church – Renovation Investigation	\$5000.00

2011

McMaster Campus Ministries Council	\$2000.00
Developing World Connections – Adaptive Eye Care	\$ 300.00
Nelson Youth Centres	\$3000.00
North South Partnership for Children	\$2000.00

Endowment Fund - Continued

2010

Port Nelson United Church – Landscaping Equipment	\$1,300.00
Port Nelson United Church – Governance Facilitator	\$4,000.00
Port Nelson United Church – Engineering Assessment	\$6,000.00
Developing World Connections – Adaptive Eye Care	\$ 700.00

2009

Port Nelson United Church – Upgrade of Office PCs	\$1,392.52
Port Nelson United Church – Adult Spirituality	\$2,000.00
Port Nelson United Church – Audio Equipment	\$2,100.00
Port Nelson United Church – Roof Fund	\$6,500.00

2008

Port Nelson United Church – Spiritual Growth Ministry	\$1,500.00
Port Nelson United Church - Various Projects	
O'Brien Room – Air Conditioning	\$3,000.00
Pew Bible Shelves	\$2,000.00
Habitat for Humanity – Halton	\$2,000.00
Nelson Youth Centre	\$2,500.00

2007

Port Nelson United Church – LCD Projector	\$1,480.86
Port Nelson United Church - Various Projects including	
Design Redesign – O'Brien Room	\$1,000.00
Lloyd Auditorium – Roller Blinds	\$2,000.00
O'Brien Room – Air Conditioning	\$2,000.00
Habitat For Humanity – Halton	\$1,500.00
CODE	\$1,700.00
Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital Foundation	
Dialysis Unit	\$1,000.00

2006

Nicaragua Experience	\$2,501.48
Port Nelson United Church – Defibrillator	\$1,656.00
Port Nelson United Church – Fans for Lloyd Auditorium and other repairs.	\$1,900.00
Port Nelson United Church – Property Committee	\$1,000.00
Honorarium for Adult Spirituality	\$1,000.00

2005

Pilgrimage to Taize – Port Nelson United Church Youth (3 x \$750.00)	\$2,250.00
Port Nelson United Church – Folding Tables	\$ 423.35
Port Nelson United Church – Communication Committee	\$ 450.00
Carpenter Hospice	\$1,000.00
Port Nelson United Church – Property Committee	\$2,800.00
Nicaragua Experience	\$2,500.00

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015
THE PAUL DAWSON FUND

Paul Dawson was a member of Port Nelson United Church for 24 years at the time of his death in 1999. He was an active participant in all church activities, serving as an Elder for most of those years and working on various committees as needed. He exhibited a keen interest in the world around him. Paul believed that education, at each juncture along the continuum of life, to be an essential part of living.

After Paul's death, Susan Posgate (Dawson) proposed and funded the creation of an educational fund that would be used by the Senior Minister, Associate Minister and Staff Associate for the purposes of their continuing education. The monies provided by this fund are intended to enhance, but not replace existing Continuing Education funding which is included in the regular employment packages. Thus the Paul Dawson Fund came to be. Administered by the Trustees, the principal of the fund is invested and the yearly income from the fund is divided amongst the ministerial staff in support of their continuing education events/programs/opportunities. Proposals for the fund monies are prepared by the ministerial team and presented to the Ministry and Personnel Committee for ratification.

The Paul Dawson Fund continues to gratefully accept donations. The fund is instrumental in allowing the staff to nurture their faith by continuing to learn and grow in areas apart from their daily employment. Donations should be made out to Port Nelson United Church and designated to "The Paul Dawson Fund".

The fund currently has assets of \$52,150.00 with interest of approximately \$500 expected to be available for use in 2016.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

PILKEY FUND

Interest from the Pilkey Fund is used exclusively for local Outreach Projects. The Reaching Out Ministry recommends the projects to the Trustees for ratification.

As at year end, the total bequest of \$75,382.00 has provided more than \$189,000.00 “for use in the community that Port Nelson serves”.

PILKEY FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENT – 2015

Receipts

Interest \$1,125.54
Total **\$1,125.54**

Disbursements

Total **\$0.00**
\$0.00

Balance, January 1, 2015 \$78,561.93
Excess of receipts over disbursements \$ 1,125.54
Balance, December 31, 2015 **\$79,687.47**

Note: The interest of \$1191.61 earned in 2013 and \$1158.14 earned in 2014 have not been disbursed and are included in the balance listed above.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE PILKEY FUND SINCE ITS INCEPTION

<u>RECIPIENTS</u>	<u>ACCUMULATED AMOUNTS</u>
Inter-Church Council	\$35,700
Nelson Youth Centres	\$43,500
Halton Women’s Place	\$ 6,700
Danielle’s Place	\$ 4,300
Radio Reading Service	\$ 2,550
Port Nelson United Church – Watoto Choir Event	\$2,100
Port Nelson United Church – Food Voucher Program	\$1,500
Children’s Assessment Centre	\$ 3,500
Joseph Brant Hospital	\$ 1,450
I.D.E.A. Burlington	\$ 3,500
Burlington Bereavement Council	\$ 1,250
Halton Adolescent Support Services	\$ 5,650
Big Sister Youth Services Hamilton Inc.	\$ 9,500
Burlington East Emergency Food Bank	\$ 3,000
Burlington Counselling & Family Services	\$10,500
Friendship Program	\$ 2,650
Salvation Army Family Services	\$ 1,300
Schizophrenia Society of Ontario (Burlington Chapter)	\$ 4,900
Burlington Association for Community Living	\$ 1,100

The Hub	\$ 3,750
Friends for Success	\$ 2,300
Habitat for Humanity	\$8,100
Burlington Youth Wellness	\$1,000
Burlington Association for the Intellectually Challenged	\$2,800
Camelot Centre Adult Day Program	\$2,900
The Carpenter Hospice	\$1,200
INCITE – A Single Moms Support Group	\$5,400
Other Agencies \$1,000 or under each	<u>\$17,366</u>
	<u>\$189,466</u>

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015
FACILITIES SUSTAINABILITY FUND

This Fund was created in 2011 to provide a means to support the maintenance of the Port Nelson United Church buildings and grounds by way of bequests and planned gifts. There have been no donations made to this Fund since its creation.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015
OUTREACH FUND

This Fund was created in 2011 to provide a means to support the outreach work of the congregation in our local and worldwide communities by way of bequests and planned gifts. There have been no donations made to this Fund since its creation.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015
BUILDING CAPITAL FUND

The Building Capital Fund was established in December 2012 for the purpose of providing a means of supporting major capital initiatives of Port Nelson United Church. It was initially funded by two donations received and held as “Designated Funds” until the Building Capital Fund was created. The Fund is open to contributions from anyone by means of gifts or bequests.

BUILDING CAPITAL FUND – FINANCIAL STATEMENT – 2015

Receipts		Disbursements	
Donations	\$507,835.00		
Interest	<u>\$ 1.78</u>	Bank Charges	<u>\$ 31.00</u>
Total	<u>\$ 507,836.78</u>	Total	<u>\$ 31.00</u>

Balance, January 1, 2015	\$ 189.10
Excess of disbursements over receipts	\$ 507,805.78
Balance, December 31, 2015	<u>\$ 507,994.88</u>

NOTE: Balance includes \$507,835.00 in ReKindle Project pledges transferred from Port Nelson United Church for administration by the Trustees until required by the project.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015
LEGACY CIRCLE

A gift by will, known as a bequest, provides the opportunity to create a legacy for Port Nelson United Church, once the needs and those of your loved ones have been met. The **Legacy Circle** has been established to recognize and acknowledge individuals who have confirmed their intention to make a bequest to Port Nelson United Church.

As a member of the Legacy Circle and confirming one's intention to make a planned gift, we can help ensure our church remains vibrant and financially fit for our children and grandchildren.

We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals who have confirmed their intention:

June Wright
John and Susanne Zinkie
Anonymous (2)



NEWS ALERT: EXCITING FINANCIAL TIMES AT PORT NELSON

While some churches in Canada have been falling on challenging times Port Nelson United Church in Burlington, Ontario is bucking the trend.

Treasurer Steve Jones reported “we had a surplus in 2015 of \$22,552 so together with the surplus at the beginning of the year we now have an accumulated surplus of \$43,319 at December 31, 2015”.

Asked what he attributes the rosy financial picture to Jones says it is the result of “many people working on common goals for funding our many exciting projects. There’s a buzz in our church that has been building for several years now.”

“General offerings increased about \$32,000 or over 7% this past year thanks to new members and some people increasing their givings significantly. These funds help support our staff team, who in turn support our many programs”. Jones estimates that “over 53% of our expenses go toward two key core values of ‘reaching out’ and ‘caring’ for those in need”.

PNUC is giving to programs such as Food Vouchers of over \$40,000; Mistletoe Mart, the major fundraising project, at \$22,259; Partnership West Food Bank \$5,420; Refugee Sponsorship \$27,734; PNUC Assistance Fund \$14,261, to name but a few.

Total revenue for all of these programs increased over 7% from \$626,855 to \$663,568.

On top of those successes the Rekindle Capital campaign began late in the year. By December 31, 2015 \$562,629 had been given and funds have still been pouring in early in 2016.

God does also provide in mysterious ways. Ray Smith, chair of the Property Ministry, reported to Council that at the beginning of the year “we had a major ‘seepage problem’ in the foundation at

the west end of sanctuary and this would cost us around \$33,000”.

Shortly after the Council received this bad news Pat O’Neill, a member of Property, said “we worked hard to get Elections Canada to rent our location in the Fall. Initially we signed them up to rent for two months. Then they asked to rent for 2 extra weeks and then the Writ was dropped a month earlier than planned so the rental income climbed. In the end we raised \$44,399 and this more than paid for our seepage problem”. Jones concluded, “God does help provide for us and he keeps showing us evidence over and over again. Pat did another amazing project management job, with Rick Tucker our custodian, in coordinating another successful election rental for two years in a row”.

We also spoke to Joan Thompson, who has been a tireless worker for the Food Voucher Program and the Gift Card Program. She reported joyously “Our group raised over \$40,000 for each of the past two years so that we could give out over 1,600 \$25 gift cards. Most importantly we helped to support and raise the spirits of many people living on the edge. Through this program we are able to provide one-on-one support to the people in need. Warm caring people like Diane Handcock, Carolyn Ellison, Bonnie Gowe and Dorothy Stansfield give generously of their time for this much needed service”.

June Wright chaired Mistletoe Mart, with the assistance of the past Chair Jean Redgrave and their large group of volunteers, and raised a record \$22,259. Leslie Harrison started a new and improved silent auction for MTM and “this helped push us over the top” said June. Leslie said she plans to “make it even better next year”.

Nancy McKenzie was another tireless contributor by helping chair the Stewardship Committee that leads the annual campaign for general offerings.

NEWS ALERT: EXCITING FINANCIAL TIMES AT PORT NELSON

She also led a fun and fundraising event at the RBG in the Spring which raised over \$8,000 and helped build community. She devoted much of her volunteer time to partnering with Wellington Square United and bringing out PNUC members once a month to "Friday Night Community" that serves over 200 marginalized people in Burlington and Hamilton. McKenzie said "this partnership does not hit our financial books but it leads us more and more in the direction of a caring, vibrant community".

Behind the scenes many other people have a hand in helping with finances.

"Rod McGrath never says no and always finds the time help keep us on track as the Chair of Finances" says Jones. He also added "a team of 20 people quietly count the weekly offerings out of the limelight.

Rebecca Murphy our office administrator and our accountant Theresa Woolley diligently help in collecting and accounting for our finances". So it seems that, at Port Nelson United, God is calling this faith community to act and go forth in building community in a caring, inclusive way by reaching out. Great attributes as it embarks on growing spiritually with a Rekindled spirit.

-Steve Jones, Treasurer

Port Nelson United Church

QUESTIONS?: please call Steve Jones, CPA, CA Treasurer 905-319-3515 x 21

Statement of Operating Revenue, Expenditures and Surplus

Years ended Dec 31, 2013/2014/2015 and Budget for 2015

	<u>Actual</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>2014</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>2015</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2015</u>	<u>Line</u>
Revenue	-0.6%	-0.7%	7.0%		
Offerings	457,085	453,925	485,886	473,925	1
Observer revenue	1,245	80	140		2
Misc income	385	5	11		3
Special fundraising ideas	575	8,590	2,635	15,000	4
Facility use	22,912	18,029	20,648	19,000	5
Rental of roof to Co-op and cost recovery		2,100	4,200	4,200	6
Co-op cost recovery			2,367	1,000	7
Stewardship - Mistletoe Mart	21,289	20,721	22,259	20,000	8
Fundraising events	16,932	18,849	10,961	18,000	9
Total Revenue	520,423	522,299	549,107	551,125	10
					11
Expenditures					12
M&P staff compensation and related costs	362,320	357,808	371,734	382,600	13
Accrued sabbatical costs			6,000	6,000	14
Office expenses	17,106	20,539	18,841	19,000	15
Property management	55,797	64,926	60,401	64,960	16
Reserve for future repairs/renovation	0		1,000	1,000	17
United Church Observer	5,310	5,178	0	0	18
Other - Audit	3,638	3,898	4,054	3,650	19
Other - Interest and bank charges	3,113	2,448	2,661	2,200	20
Other - computers	5,934	4,300	2,498	3,500	21
Worship Ministry	11,885	10,081	9,396	11,400	22
Spiritual Growth	2,124	2,382	3,291	3,000	23
Teleministry	709	938	1,037	900	24
Pastoral Care	1,602	2,153	2,498	2,300	25
Stewardship	1,000		0		26
Communications	1,611	1,949	2,015	2,000	27
Council		304	433	500	28
Outreach					29
M&S Congregation	31,996	31,775	34,012	33,175	30
Presbytery and other	19,705	19,289	19,803	19,803	31
Total Expenditures	523,850	527,968	539,674	555,988	32
Operating revenue less expenditures	(3,427)	(5,669)	9,433	(4,863)	33
Other revenue (expenditures)					34
Special donations to reduce the deficit	700	20,000	0		35
Food voucher program donations	29,815	40,919	38,895	42,000	36
Shopping card program	3,275	2,463	2,916	2,500	37
Food voucher given out	(33,090)	(43,382)	(41,811)	(44,500)	38
Elections Canada/Ontario revenue		46,396	44,399		39
Water seepage repair West/North of Sanctuary			(33,929)	(30,000)	40
Fundraising for water seepage repair			0	30,000	41
Re-landscaping after seepage repair			0	2,000	42
Use Garden Tour funds for property			1,226	1,826	43
Funds from Why Christmas for operating			1,423	1,423	44
M & S Special appeals received	12,782	11,009	8,422	10,000	45
M&S Special paid out	(12,782)	(11,009)	(8,422)	(10,000)	46
	700	66,396	13,119	5,249	47
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(2,727)	60,727	22,552	386	48
Surplus (Deficit), beginning of year	(54,605)	(39,960)	20,767	20,767	49
Surplus (Deficit), end of year	(57,332)	20,767	43,319	21,153	50

Port Nelson United Church

Balance sheet as at December 31,		<u>line</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>		
	<u>#</u>					
<u>Current assets</u>	1					
Bank	2	\$121,105		\$193,131		
GST/HST receivable	3	5,625		6,762		
Prepaid expenses and misc receivable	4	7,167		8,884		
Loan to PNUC Renewable Energy Co-op	5	0		0		
	6	<u>133,897</u>		<u>208,777</u>		
<u>Current liabilities</u>	7					
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	9	15,218		15,477		
Special funds and liabilities **	10	96,184		147,009		
	11	<u>111,402</u>		<u>162,486</u>		
<u>Surplus (Deficit)</u>	12					
Capital visions fund	13	1,728		3,072		
Surplus, end of year	14	20,767		43,319		
	15	<u>22,495</u>		<u>46,391</u>		
	16					
Total liabilities and surplus	17	<u>\$133,897</u>		<u>\$208,877</u>		
	18					
<u>Special funds</u>	20	Balance				Balance
	21	<u>Jan 1/15</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>		<u>Dec 31/15</u>
Adaptive Eyewear	22	5,910	921	2,487		4,344
Accrued sabbatical costs	23		6,000			6,000
Reserve for future repairs	24		1,000			1,000
Wesley Urban Ministries	25	236	820	892		164
Pew Bible Project	26	1,062		1,062		0
PNUC Assistance Fund	27	0	14,261	14,261		0
Deferred Flower Fund	28	7,025	789	1,425		6,389
Memorial Funds	29	2,815	3,505	2,519		3,801
UCW Funds	30	567				567
Choral Scholarship Fund	31	0	2,878	1,174		1,704
Friends of the Music of PNUC	32	2,467	2,357	1,414		3,410
Funds held for Trustees	33	400		400		0
Christmas dinner	34		2,160	1,502		658
Sutton Library Fund	35	2,213				2,213
Disaster relief Nepal	36	0	365	365		0
Refugee Sponsorship	37		27,734	2,180		25,554
Miscellaneous funds	38	153				153
Drama Club Events	39	493				493
Glee Camp	40	8,211	3,245			11,456
Garden Tour	41	1,826		1,226		600
Adult Spirituality Scholarship	42	486				486
Teleministry Helping Hand Fund	43	625	150			775
Renovation Project Fund	44	43,157	297	34,539		8,915
Rekindle Capital donations	45		552,629	507,835		44,794
Sanctuary Accessibility donation	46		10,000			10,000
Partnership West Foodbank	47	0	3,558	3,558		0
Why Christmas - PNUC operating	48	1,423		1,423		0
Student gift cards	49	0	1,460	1,460		0
Coffee fund for food voucher program	50	110	25			135
Youth Award	51	8,598		2,000		6,598
Food voucher program carried to next year	52	8,407		1,607		6,800
	53					
Special funds and liabilities **	54	<u>96,184</u>	<u>634,154</u>	<u>583,329</u>		<u>147,009</u>