

## **CHURCH STAFF**

Minister:	Rev. Rienk Vlietstra (to Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2017)
Organist and Music Director	David Melhorn-Boe (from Jan. 2018)
Operations Manager	Don Mitchell
Office Administrator	Ruth Ranson (to Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2017)
Bookkeeper	Madeleine Friederichsen
Custodians	Justin Sowik, Lisa Leavitt

## **CHURCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Co-Chairs	Lynn Freeman, Jack Soule
Chairperson Designate	
Secretary of the Official Board	Susan Davis
Treasurer	Kirby Ruthven
Financial Secretary	Roger Chown
Presbytery Representatives	Marylil Megginson, Deborah Elliott
Trustees	Roger Chown, Donna Delyea (Chair), Ross Drummond, Marilyn Huffman, Lorne Maclachlan, Don Robinson, Gale Rogers, Ex-officio Members: BUTG Chair, Co-Chairs Congregation, Finance Chair, Minister, Property Chair, Treasurer
Engaging the Spirit Chair	Lynn Freeman
Social Justice & Outreach Chair	Jim Leake
Art and Soul Chair	Barb Carr, Ellie Deir
Worship	Eileen Woloshyn
Ministry and Personnel	Ruth Wilson
Property	Kenn Doerksen
Finance	Lynn Freeman
Building Utilization Task Group	Jack Soule

## REPORT FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

This has truly been a year of change and growth. SSUC travelled an exciting and challenging journey the last 12 months, with many changes and accomplishments. It has been especially reassuring to see all members of the congregation pulling together and keeping the spirit of SSUC strong and vibrant, particularly when the course may not always have been clear.

Rev. Rienk Vlietstra provided a strong ministerial presence for the first six months of this church year, and his skills in serving as our interim minister were greatly appreciated. We had a wonderful appreciation lunch for Rienk and Susan in the Upper Hall in December. It was attended by most of the congregation. Their gifts to SSUC throughout the year were uplifting.

A Combined Joint Needs Assessment Committee was established with membership from both Chalmers and SSUC, with representation also from Four Winds Presbytery. Their report was tabled in September at congregational meetings of both churches. The recommendation “*That we request the Four Winds Presbytery to declare a vacancy for an ordered, full-time ministry personnel effective January 1, 2018*” was accepted solidly by both congregations. Direction was received from Presbytery, however, that an intentional interim minister should be sought. Consequently, a Combined Joint Search Committee was formed and commenced the search.

Based on the success of the 2016 financial campaign within the congregation in support of Friends of the Spire, as well as grants received from the Federal Government and the Rick Hansen Foundation, tenders were called for the construction project. Based on the cost estimates received, however, it was decided to defer work on the William St. entrance. The signing of the contract for the balance of the project took place June 20<sup>th</sup>. Construction of the elevator and washrooms, with upgrades to the conference room and hallways, lasted until mid-October – longer than planned, but the end result has been gratifying.

A Celebration Event on October 21<sup>st</sup> marked the successful completion of the project and welcoming the Kingston community to an Open House and ribbon-cutting ceremony. It was well-attended with Mayor Bryan Paterson, MPP Sophie Kiwala and the Rick Hansen Ambassador Andrea Andrecyk participating in the ceremony. Donald Mitchell was instrumental in the successful organization and staging of this gala event.

Active discussions between Chalmers and SSUC continued through the Joint Steering Committee about the potential to enhance our worship and service to the downtown Kingston and wider community through a shared staffing model, while also reducing pressure on the operating budgets of the two congregations. Plans were worked out to commence joint worship services in January, with each church hosting the services on alternating months.

The strong contributions of our volunteers and the faith of our congregation continue to be the major factors carrying us forward through this period of transition. We are implementing real change and making solid progress towards a new future for our congregation and in our commitment to the larger community. The outlook is encouraging! Thank you all!!

Respectfully,  
*Lynn Freeman & Jack Soule*  
*Co-chairs, Executive Committee*

## **MINISTER'S REPORT**

From your former Minister (until December 31, 2017)

Hello and Best Wishes to you all at SSUC.

It was a privilege to minister with you at Sydenham St. United Church from October 2016 to December 2017. Familiarizing myself with everything from your history to your ambitious Spire campaign was both a challenge and an exhilarating experience. But most satisfying of all were the interesting people Susan and I got to know, both in Church activities and in your personal lives. I sensed the Spirit at work in how you were all engaged and looking forward, both in your role as ministers to each other and the possibilities for ministering to your community and beyond. I trust you will continue to lean on that Spirit as you work with one another, with Chalmers United and with the Spire to bring that future into focus.

*Yours, in Christ, Rev. Rienk*

## **OPERATION MANAGER'S REPORT**

The past year was an uncommonly active year filled with major transition. The various annual reports speak to the tremendous level of activity. Perhaps less obvious is the abundant capacity of the congregation of Sydenham Street United Church. The vision of The Spire, ministry of SSUC, engagement of community, dedication of volunteers, plus commitment of staff from the many diverse organizations combined smoothly to guide us through immense change. Great inspired people made it happen. Congratulations!

Again, it has been my fortune to witness the progress and actions from hardworking volunteer members and leaders. Lynn Freeman and Jack Soule have effectively kept the decision-making process moving with a keen understanding and sensitivity of the diversity of the combined operations. Bruce Hutchinson has carried governance of The Friends of the Spire initiative to realize an independent incorporated not-for-profit with its own charitable status. Yet truly this work and the undertakings of our three branches of ministry, which certainly is led by key individuals, is ultimately successful because of an entire organization of impeccably gifted believers offering more than status quo.

It is a privilege to work alongside a caring and supportive staff. Reverend Rienk Vlietstra possesses that dual perspective of both professional manager and experienced minister which continued our visionary guidance and support. Ruth Ranson has inched nearer and nearer to retirement, she might even be retired; but magically she still finds the energy to ensure our scheduling and communications remain steady. The rest of us from Madeleine Friederichsen, Lisa Leavitt, Damien Macedo, Justin Sowik and Glen Thompson have each contributed favourably in a year of complex transitions.

Change has meant saying farewell to close partners such as Beverly Porter Music, Reelout Arts Project and Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites. These organizations and their staff and volunteers have continued to positively engage despite no longer directly operating out of The Spire. The impacts of the half-year development project meant adverse conditions for many building occupants and we are very appreciative to all for their patience and kind support throughout 2017 to realize this much-improved community facility.

Looking ahead at 2018, the operations remain in a state of transition as we look to set up The Spire's Building Management Group to begin directing staff and operations. A part of this process will bring exciting new community engagement both as governance and as building users. Regular Tai Chi classes, new events & concerts, increased meetings and seminars, regular music lessons, theatre rehearsals and other fresh usage of the building has begun; and we intend to add new not-for-profit organizations, upper hall events and additional programming that will complement the existing activity.

Overall, it's been rewarding as we continue to reform operations. We're engaging more community. People are noticeably excited. External community leaders and granting bodies show genuine attraction to our success.

Sharing church, partnering and other engagements will transition The Spire and SSUC to a sustainable community building.

Respectfully submitted  
*Don Mitchell, Operations Manager*

## **MINISTRY CIRCLE REPORTS**

### ***Engaging the Spirit Circle***

*Engaging the Spirit* is the umbrella under which Sydenham Street United Church organizes and supports worship and spiritual development, pastoral care, hospitality and fellowship, and other aspects of our congregational life. These activities deepen our faith, enrich our personal growth, and strengthen our relationships with each other.

This year has seemed so different from previous years. Yet, amidst the many changes that we have planned for and implemented over the past year, there remains continuity in the strong shared commitment of so many to the organization and community that we call Sydenham Street United Church. Today includes an evolving vision of being church, in collaboration with Chalmers United Church and in association with the United Church of Canada, in downtown Kingston. It is this that seems to have inspired, challenged and sustained us through changes, large and small, in the recent months.

So, what's new? We now gather to worship on monthly rotation at Chalmers United and Sydenham Street United Churches. A joint worship committee, with lay representatives from each congregation, has been working together since the early fall to recruit and support supply ministers, from our congregations, the local community and occasionally farther afield to lead us in worship. A new combined choir, directed by Dr. David Melhorn-Boe, has extended our knowledge and appreciation of music that celebrates the presence of God and includes traditional and contemporary expressions of the sacred. Carol Sleeth unfailingly provides administrative coordination in worship planning, preparation of bulletins and other details.

Those who arrive earlier on Sunday mornings are met with informal conversations over coffee and cookies with old and new friends. Our after-worship hospitality at both locations encourages further animated discussion and engagement among members of our two church communities who have committed to share worship.

On Sundays, at Chalmers and Sydenham Street churches, we offer children programs that explore the mystery of God, share the teachings of Jesus, and involve creative activities. In this, we have benefitted tremendously from the youthful enthusiasms of Hope and Joy Yen.

This Spring we renewed our exploration of faith questions and conundrums with the three-part discussion series on *Reconsidering What It Means to be Church*, with Rev. Norm Esdon and Rev. Dr. Wayne Hilliker. (See Norm Esdon's summary later in this report.)

Looking back to June 2016, when Rev. Elizabeth Macdonald was approaching retirement, she invited us to share our thoughts about what we should keep and what we could let go as part of *Engaging the Spirit*. Congregational members asked for more creativity and variety in worship, welcomed challenging sermons and the inclusion of visual and performance arts in worship that is relevant to contemporary needs and realities. Silence in worship was also recommended for listening to God. More use of the piano was recommended. Keep Lenten study, the Easter sunrise service and poetry, you said. You also asked us to engage children, grandchildren, and youth in meaningful activities. We have met some of these goals in 2017-18.

As we have embarked on a new path, we have also given up some things. Most vivid are saying farewell to Rev. Rienk Vlietstra as a full-time supply minister with our congregation for over 14 months and changing our relationship with Ruth Ranson, who served our congregation as church administrator for 12 years. The installation of the elevator made it possible for us to demonstrate our deep gratitude to Rienk and Ruth for their contributions to SSUC in the upstairs hall and also to reclaim this beautiful space for congregational celebrations.

From their arrival at SSUC in October 2016, Rienk and his wife, Susan, seemed immediately part of our church family and were generous in sharing their gifts and their counsel with us. They opened their home to us and introduced us to their family. I think that I speak for many, when I say that we miss them, and wish only the best for them as they set a new path for their future.

Ruth has been a constant presence for decades, long before she became the church administrator. Her decision to retire in early 2018 was celebrated in February with family and friends. Her encyclopedic knowledge of all things Sydenham Street Church and her faithful presence were greatly missed during her short absence. That she has returned to help with administrative matters as a volunteer during this transition is much appreciated.

The many activities associated with *Engaging the Spirit* would not have run so smoothly (or at all) without the *impresario* talents of our operations manager Don Mitchell. As distant as I am from the day-to-day operations of The Spire, even I have seen how central Don has been to our success in riding the waves of change in this extraordinary year.

It is also on the shoulders of many dedicated volunteers that *Engaging the Spirit* activities have continued and sustained our community and our relationships with each other on Sundays and other days throughout this year through worship, faith discussions and hospitality, pastoral care and circles of companionship, and our enduring and rewarding small groups. Annual reports from the coordinators of these programs are presented in the following pages, along with reports from other areas of our congregational life and ministries. Not included in this report but fully deserving of a Shout-out is Marylil Megginson's leadership in pastoral care since January.

In looking back, I recognize what a special community we have built at SSUC. In looking ahead, I welcome your thoughts and look forward to your continued engagement in worship and other activities supported by the *Engaging the Spirit Circle*.

*Lynn Freeman*  
*Chair, Engaging the Spirit Circle*

### ***Worship Committee Report for June-December 2017***

Members of the SSUC Worship Committee included: Rosemary Thoms, Vicki Ruthven (Secretary), Mary LeRoy, Robin Mallory, Rev. Norm Esdon, Eileen Woloshyn, (Chair), Rev. Rienk Vlietstra, Glen Thompson (Organist), and Lynn Freeman (Chair ETS)

We shared services over the summer with Chalmers taking July and SSUC August. After separate votes in June on the future of our two congregations, this proved to be our last of this summer tradition. We noticed that attendance was up at both locations.

Amidst the excitement of Norm Esdon's new book of poetry "Poems for God – Questers" and the celebration of the completion of the elevator/washroom improvements, we held a series of post-service discussions on the theme "Questions of Faith" led by Norm and Rienk.

We shared services with Chalmers twice in October, once with Drew Strickland preaching here, when Rienk was away, and again with SSUC being invited to attend the Hilliker Preaching Lectureship featuring Dr. Andrew Donaldson.

On November 19<sup>th</sup> we had Gustaaf Van Beers as our guest speaker. Gustaaf, a retired Economics professor from the University of Guelph, who has been attending SSUC for some time, talked about his work in his homeland of Indonesia and spoke on “Jesus’ Economics”.

That same service, Ruth Bryce, a Queen’s University student, offered “Reflections on a Rendezvous,” the UCC youth conference held this past summer in Montreal.

Our organist Glen Thompson left for a new position on November 19<sup>th</sup> and was replaced with Damien Macedo, a graduate from St. Michael’s Choir school in Toronto and a current Law student at Queen’s.

We celebrated Rienk and Susan at a lunch after church on December 17<sup>th</sup>. During Advent, Rienk chose to use Gord Downey’s poetry to enhance his sermons. His last service was Christmas Eve.

For our New Year’s Eve Day morning service, we reminisced about life at SSUC and spoke of our hopes for our new joint endeavour with Chalmers.

During the year we were fortunate to have people to step forward to assist with Scripture reading, music before, during and after the service as well as the artistic contributions from Art and Soul. We are fortunate to have so many willing to share their gifts of ministry.

The SSUC Worship Committee held its final separate meeting in December and formally disbanded after the final service on New Year’s Eve Day. (A smaller committee began meeting with Chalmers members as part of a new Joint Worship Committee in January 2018.)

It has been a wonderful experience working with such dedicated people who are strong of faith and commitment to our congregation. We work as a team and are committed to the success of our new joint worship experience as we look forward to the future.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Eileen Woloshyn, Chair*

### ***Joint Worship Committee Report for September 2017 – June 2018***

Members of the Joint Worship Committee are:

Lynn Freeman, Mary LeRoy, Vicki Ruthven, Rosemary Thoms, Eileen Woloshyn, (Chair), SSUC  
Bill Egnatoff, Joan Egnatoff, Faye Irving, Ann Patteson, CUC

Two members of CUC, Barb Fletcher and Susan Irving, met in September with Rosemary Thoms and Eileen Woloshyn from SSUC and Lynn Freeman as the Steering Committee representative. Dave Spooner was added shortly thereafter.

Our first meetings were filled with questions, laughter and a feeling of excitement. We had an immediate rapport based on our hopes for the success of our endeavors and our inquisitive natures. We did recognize that not everyone was as excited as we were and were mindful of the need to balance everything we have tried. We took time to understand how the other church put on worship and felt free to speak our minds.

Our mandate from the Steering Committee was to “plan shared worship services” beginning January 2018. We presented a report to the Steering Committee which, subsequently, went to our Executive bodies for approval.

Questions that were of prime concern were:

**Schedule of services** (Where do we meet?): The two most popular suggestions were every other week and every other month. The latter option was chosen as being more logistically sound for staff and the choir.

**Pulpit supply:** We had hoped to engage people for several weeks at a time. We knew that engaging a different person each week was a great deal of work. However, we were unsuccessful in engaging an extended pulpit

supply and ended up preparing Sunday services with a different speaker every week. Planning week by week has been stressful and time consuming but informal feedback from members of both congregations indicates that the quality of the services has been appreciated.

**Inclusiveness:** We wanted to have people from both congregations involved in each service. We believe we have met this goal.

**Accessibility:** Whether hearing assists or wheel chair ramps, we wanted everyone to feel a part of the service and we hope we have achieved that goal. Large print bulletins are available as well.

We were grateful to be able to delegate coffee hour, flowers, ushering and greeting to others and focused on Pulpit Supply and Services. These people contribute greatly to the welcome given and the feeling of belonging we are trying to foster.

We have been most thankful that so many wonderful speakers, clergy and lay, have come forward to lead our Worship Services. We have had interesting, challenging and unique presentations, each a gift to us all.

The following have shared their gifts for Ministry: Dr. Ruth Wilson, Rev. Dr. Wayne Hilliker, (twice), Katie Henderson, Rev. Norm Esdon, Bruce Hutchinson, Ian Malcolm, Rev. Dr. Stan Lucyk, Rev. Caroline Giesbrecht, Deborah Elliott, Ruth Wood, Sister Pauline Lally, Rev. Norm Esdon (Easter), Rev. Brian Yealland, (twice), Ruth Bryce, Margaret Moncrieff, the Welsh Choir **Cor y Gleision** from Cardiff Wales, Rev. Elizabeth Macdonald, Rev. Val Michaelson (twice), Rev. Dr. Stan Lucyk (inauguration of the new projection system), Bruce and Linda Hutchinson (Pride Sunday) and Rev. John Young (twice).

Our two congregations shared worship on Ash Wednesday at Princess St. United and Good Friday at St. Andrew's Presbyterian as well as a Sunrise Service at Lake Ontario Park with St. Andrew's, St. Mark's Lutheran, and Princess St. United. These Ecumenical services bring us together for worship with the wider community and have become a tradition.

It is marvelous to sing in and work with the joint choir and to enjoy the fulsome sound produced. The flute choir and various guest musicians add variety to the services.

During the year the following have greatly assisted with finding speakers for our Joint Worship: Lynn Freeman, Barb Fletcher, Susan Irving and Katharine Smithrim and they and Bill Egnatoff, Faye Irving and Eileen Woloshyn have guided the speakers through the bulletin meetings and assisted at services.

New members on the JWC are: Vicki Ruthven, Mary LeRoy, Faye Irving, Bill and Joan Egnatoff and Ann Patteson. Barb and Susan retired after our first several services but continue to be interested in helping and providing input.

I would be remiss without thanking the Staff, David Melhorn-Boe and Carol Sleeth, who are integrally involved in putting the service and bulletin together. Their assistance and experience has been invaluable and their patience greatly appreciated.

Ivan Brandsma, Don Mitchell, Justin Sowik and Lisa Leavitt have set up for choir practice, and weekly services, and handle mics and speakers for us. As well, behind the scenes, they make sure everything is where it should be each month.

It takes many hands to create Worship and we are thankful so many are willing to help.

As of this writing, the Summer Services are a work in progress.

We will continue to provide leadership in Worship until we have an Intentional Interim Minister in place. After that time, the JWC will assume a more traditional role, working with our Minister and Minister of Music to provide support for worship and related activities.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Eileen Woloshyn (Chair)*

### ***Circles of Companionship Report***

In the spring of 2013, we initiated a new and broader way for members of our community at SSUC to be in contact with and care for one another.

#### **Goals are:**

- Expanding opportunities for SSUC folk to get to know one another and to care for and be cared for by one another
- Sharing spiritual resources to nurture faith and deepen spirituality during this time of ongoing transition with the church and world
- Creating a more intentional congregational network to improve communication and offer lifelong care.

The congregation is divided into seven geographic areas and the people in each area are invited to get to know one another through potluck meals and other social gatherings.

A “**point person(s)**” facilitates the activities of the Circle with hosting of events and other leadership emerging from within the Circle. Thanks to Meikle and Margaret Turner, Sylvia Mann, Winn McKnight, Barb Carr, Mary Ev Wyatt, Don Robinson, Rosemary Thoms, Vicki Ruthven, Bruce Hutchinson, Susan Davis, and Linda Hutchinson for playing this role in various circles. Each Circle is evolving in its own unique way, depending on the members of the Circle and their needs/availability/interests.

The “point persons” meet 2 times a year with coordinator, Linda Hutchinson, and the minister to discuss outreach activities at Christmas and Easter, and to share news of the congregation as a whole.

We are very grateful for the assistance of Marylil Megginson, who, since January 2018 during our time without a called/appointed minister, has been on-call for ministerial pastoral care.

In a gentle, inviting way, Circles are reaching out to partners of worship attendees, long-time members who have become disconnected, shut-ins who long to be part of SSUC but are no longer able to attend worship and other events, supporting Circle members in their work/hobbies/passions. Circles provide an excellent way for newcomers to SSUC community to integrate and feel included. One Circle intentionally plans activities in spaces that are wheelchair accessible.

**During Advent 2017**, special cards (by David Craig) and a piece of Christmas cake, graciously made by Beth Leake, were delivered by each circle to 27 members who are no longer able to actively participate in the life and work of SSUC. Also 12 cards with a note were sent from the congregation to members and family for whom this would be the first Christmas since the death of a loved one or who had suffered other significant challenges during the year.

**On Easter Sunday/Monday 2018**, 16 small bouquets and 12 pots of flowers, kindly placed in the sanctuary by Margaret Gibson and her family, were delivered/enjoyed by volunteers to 38 SSUC people and friends who were living with difficult times.

**Birthday Cards for SSUC People who are 90 years old and over** – After many years of sending cards to those 90 and over, Winn McKnight has given up this wonderful outreach. Many thanks Winn for your caring over the years. Currently, Diane Soule is graciously creating beautiful hand-crafted cards for this outreach and Linda Hutchinson arranges for the delivery of them. Many thanks Diane for sharing your artistic gifts.



This intentional connecting has been even more important during our transition time since the departure of supply minister Rev. Rienk Vlietstra in December 2018, and as we await the appointment of a minister to be shared by SSUC and Chalmers UC.


It is interesting to note that Chalmers United Church, on learning of our Circles of Companionship for Pastoral Care, has adopted this model and are modifying it to meet their pastoral care needs.

Over all, as our Circles of Companionship evolve, we are becoming more connected, experiencing care and support, knowing that we are part of a smaller circle, linked to the larger circle of SSUC community . . . . the circle of Lifelong Care.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Linda Hutchinson, Coordinator*

***Small Group Ministry: Catch the Spirit***

<b>Group Name:</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Meetings/ Gatherings</b>	<b>Names on List</b>	<b>Average Attendance</b>
Coffee Hour Hosts	Diane Soule	weekly	35	7	3
Book Group, Tuesday Evening	Ellie Deir	monthly	11	14	10
Book Group, Tuesday noon	Susan Davis	monthly	8	6	4
Community Garden	Donna Delyea	seasonal	seasonal	5	n/a
Fixers	Kenn Doerksen	weekly	35	6	6
Hiking Group	Nancy Spencer	biweekly	10	18	5
Just Lunch	Meikle Turner	monthly	8	25 - 30	25 - 30
Movies & Coffee	Barb Carr	monthly	6	25	8
Pop Up Discussion Groups	Norm Esdon, Lynn Freeman, Wayne Hilliker, Rienk Vlietstra	fall, spring	2 x 3	20 - 30	20 - 30
Prayer Shawl Group	Sue Doerksen	quarterly	4	8	5
Greeters & Ushers	Mike Purcell	weekly	44	6	4

 SSUC Small Groups are gatherings of people with a common interest. They are self-organized but supported by two coordinators from the *Engaging the Spirit Circle*. Membership is open-ended and persons in the congregation are invited to start a new group at any time. In August, Coordinators encouraged Small Groups to start a meeting as early as possible in September, especially if they had taken a summer hiatus. Coordinators organized a “Moment for Small Groups” to inform people in the pews about the ministry and facilitated sign-up by locating sign-up sheets on card tables at the front of the Sanctuary and at Coffee Hour. Throughout the year, the chart of Small Group meetings was included in the Bulletin and individual groups leaders inserted information about their group activity. Some interesting facts: The Garden was designated as a Small Group responsible to the Property Committee. There are many wanna-be-hiker/walkers. Greeters and Readers are responsible to the Worship Committee. The Prayer Shawl Group included several people from Chalmers and produced 34 blankets/shawls which were blessed in a worship service for use in Pastoral Care. Who said, “Good things come in Small Groups?”

*Sue Doerksen & Barbara Parrott*  
 SGM Coordinators



## ***Hospitality Group Report***

The “function of hospitality” attempts **to ensure that a warm welcome and hospitality are offered** from the moment someone arrives on the church property to beyond - when they leave and hopefully return! This is accomplished through all of us as we reach out and are mindful of ways to be truly inclusive of all people. **Thanks to everyone for the hospitality you offer in your own unique way!**

The oversight of Hospitality continues under the leadership of one person with assistance in various ways from many others.

### **Continuing initiatives are:**

**Tables with chairs for coffee-time:** (3-4 card tables) are set up with cloths each Sunday for people to sit and chat. This has been much appreciated. Thanks to those who help set this up.

**Name Tags:** nothing is more welcoming than sharing your name with someone! Tags are now stored alphabetically in plastic boxes which can be easily transported to Chalmers UC when we meet there for shared worship every other month.

**Welcoming people of diversity:** In keeping with our desire to be more inclusive of all people, Jim Leake, Peter Goheen, Mary Leroy and Marylil Megginson have played a role in offering special support on our behalf. Thank you!

**Drop-In Centre for children ages 2 to 4 years:** Thank you, Justin and Lisa for setting this up every Sunday in the Conference Room. This offers young children and their parents a place for unsupervised activity when needed during the worship service.

**Coffee, Tea and Conversation:** Thanks also to the team of volunteers, under the guidance of Diane Soule, who provide refreshments every Sunday following worship and who often provide extra snacks prior to a congregational meeting.

**Administrative Support:** Thanks to Ruth Ranson for the ongoing support given to the Hospitality function – preparing name tags, etc.

**More Voices Songbook Repair:** 12 of the copies of More Voices were damaged and without covers. Richard Newman, Newman Print Shop, replaced covers on 12 copies of More Voices for \$1.00 plus tax each (New covers are laminated heavy card stock with same coloured design and have been recoiled).

**SSUC Outside Sign:** Many thanks to Kenn Doerksen and his team who facilitated the creation of our new outside sign . . . . “*The Spire . . . . and Sydenham Street United Church*”. It is beautiful and a wonderfully welcoming introduction to what people will find inside our building.

**Large print bulletins:** are now available each Sunday for our shared worship services. Also, the SSUC **sound system** has been upgraded to provide much better sound amplification. Thank you to those responsible for these important details of hospitality.

**Concerns:** With increased numbers of people at our shared worship services, we require more copies of **More Voices** in the future.

### **THANK YOU SSUC!!!!**

SSUC has hosted **Rainbow Sabbath**, an initiative of Bay of Quinte Affirming Ministries Action Team, which started in Four Winds Presbytery in September of 2014. This group of LGBTQ and Allies meets once a month with potluck supper and “potluck worship” . . . participants bringing stories, poems, music, etc. to share for worship. Leadership of the group is shared on a rotating basis. Average attendance is 12-14 people . . . people who are seeking a worshipful space where they can fully engage, celebrate and be celebrated openly and joyfully.

*Linda Hutchinson*  
*Coordinator, Hospitality*  
*The SSUC Observer Project*

**Process:**

- Announcements about renewing *Observer* subscriptions were placed in Sunday Bulletins on Oct 8, 15, Oct 22 (3 weeks). On the same Sundays, Linda Hutchinson had table in the office foyer for people to renew and make a voluntary donation of \$25 to cover the cost.
- Linda contacted some people by email and phoned a few
- Most of the 50 subscribers in 2016 were contacted
  - o 45 wished to continue to receive *The Observer*
  - o 1 wished to discontinue *The Observer*
  - o 1 has moved – so discontinued
  - o 3 subscribers died – so discontinued
  - o 0 new subscribers were attained

**Resulting number in the group subscription is 45.**

**Donations to cover subscription costs:**

- Many people asked about this spontaneously – how much and how to donate the money.
- The invitation to donate the cost of \$25 was given as an option, not a requirement to continue receiving the group subscription.
- As of December 5, 2017, \$900 from 33 donors has been given to Linda for the *Observer* subscription. Some others said that they would put in extra, indicating it was for *Observer*, with their offering. I estimate that we probably recovered \$950 of the \$1125 cost of the subscription – close to 84% of the cost, up slightly from about 80% in 2016.
- Good visits resulted from the few phone calls.

**Comments:**

This is our 9<sup>th</sup> year to contact *Observer* subscribers in person and I continue to think that this is a worthwhile initiative both as a great way to be in touch personally with some of the members of our community and to do some cost-recovery. Having the renewing option in person following worship reduces the phoning significantly.

*Linda Hutchinson*

*Coordinator, Observer Subscriptions*

***Exploring Questions of Faith***

We met October 22, November 5, November 19, and December 3, under Rev Rienk Vlietstra's direction, with about 12-14 people attending. (Rienk graciously offered to facilitate the discussion while Rev. Norm recovered from surgery.)

This was our first year of working together with Chalmers United in doing a faith discussion group (under Chalmers' "Christian Education and Faith Development Committee" and Sydenham Street's "Engaging the Spirit Circle"). We had three sessions — April 22, May 6, and May 27, each one after worship from 12 noon till 1:30 p.m.

We chose as our topic this year "What Is Church — Reconsidering what it means to be Church." This was one suggested by participants last year and one that also connects well with a major subject addressed in the work of Dr Robin Meyers who will be the speaker at Chalmers' "Hilliker Preaching Lectureship" 29-30 September 2018. We used Meyers' first and most well-known book, "Saving Jesus from the Church: How to Stop Worshiping Christ and Start Following Jesus" as a resource for discussion of our theme.

In the first two sessions we had thirty participants; in the third, about 22! Such interest, though an organizational challenge for effective discussion, was most encouraging to the co-facilitators (Rev. Wayne Hilliker, Rev. Norm Esdon, Lynn Freeman and assisted in Session 2 by Rev. Elizabeth Macdonald [sitting in for Lynn who couldn't be with us] who was the guest preacher for that Sunday.)

The first session was held at Sydenham Street United Church, all in one group of thirty. (We didn't know how many would show up till they showed up.)

The second session was held at Chalmers' Church House — a plenary group of all thirty, then breaking into three groups of about ten, each in different rooms of Church House. Significant snack food and water were provided to get people through lunch hour. (A special thanks to Bev Todd and Brenda Hilliker for the food, to Carol Sleeth and Ivan Brandsma for their significant organizational help, and to Bruce Hutchinson for providing his sound system.)

The third session was held in MacCallum Hall at Chalmers United.

The theme for the second session was decided based on the most popular suggestion (by far) that people offered in session one — If the Church were Christian Jesus would be a model for living rather than an object of worship. The theme for the third session was the next most popular offered in session one — If the Church were Christian inviting questions would be more valued than supplying answers.

We have been most encouraged by the very strong interest from and participation by both congregations. The Chalmers/Sydenham Street boundary disappeared. Also, almost thirty copies of Meyers' book "Saving Jesus ..." were purchased by participants.

We are considering possibly having two book studies of Meyers' "Saving Jesus ..." this summer. We will likely continue with a similar group either in the fall or in the new year, with input from group and congregational members about topics or themes.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rev. Norm Esdon for Rev. Norm Esdon, Rev. Wayne Hilliker and Lynn Freeman*

### ***Prayer Shawl Ministry***

On November 8, 2011 the Sydenham Street Prayer Shawl Group, part of the church's Small Group Ministry met for the first time, with eight knitters anxious to get started on a new project, Prayer Shawl Ministry. Since then we have created and blessed over 100 shawls, lap blankets, baby blankets, and prayer squares. Our small group was augmented this year with 5 people from Chalmers United Church for a couple of meetings. We enjoyed trading patterns, tips for knitting and crocheting and discussion on various topics. Our last meeting for the season will be on Friday May 26, 2017.

### ***Some yearly statistics***

Shawls (including lap blankets, baby blankets) – 34

Sunday service blessings – 1

Meetings – 4

Knitters & crocheters – 12

*Sue Doerksen, Coordinator*

*With Barbara Parrott*

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE AND OUTREACH MINISTRY**

### **We feed hungry people via food vouchers**

On Tuesday mornings, SSUC's team of 4-5 volunteers meets clients to discuss their needs and issue vouchers which vary in amount depending on family circumstances and size. While we have about 25 - 30 families that they see every one or two months, we also provide emergency vouchers, of lesser value, on a one-time-only basis. The vouchers are taken by the families to one of two stores who accept them as cash for the groceries, then mail us the cash register tapes which we add up and then reimburse the stores.

In 2017 we provided vouchers to about 25 families per month and 212 one-time-only clients. In total we issued vouchers amounting to \$24,750. We had some additional benevolent payments which brought the total benevolent fund payments to \$26,880. That we are able to help so many in need is such good news. Our caring is recognized in Kingston and so appreciated by the families.

The Benevolent Fund is not part of the congregation's budget. We fund this program through: soup lunches; band concerts; dramatic readings; grants; and special offerings at communion, but mostly through the congregation's givings to the fund. Thanks to all those who staged special events and to our regular donors. Last year, those sources raised \$18,979 and so we had to use nearly all of our nest egg of \$7600.

### **We feed hungry people with produce from our garden**

The Community Garden, which started as a student-run initiative in 2014, became an SSUC Small Group initiative in 2017 – with very promising results. A group of dedicated gardeners found reward in the work and, during the season, provided 170 lbs. of fresh produce to the Loving Spoonful's Grow A Row initiative – 70 lbs. over their goal! The Small Group is gearing up once again for the 2018 growing season – with a planting day scheduled for May 24th. The goal for 2018 will be to exceed last year's total and make the garden an initiative of which the Church and community may be proud.

### **We provide for the transfer of food to Loving Spoonful from people's gardens.**

We offer space for local gardeners to bring their excess produce for later pick-up and distribution by Loving Spoonful (LS). LS writes: '...From May to December a whopping 4,012 lbs. of food came through Sydenham Street United Church. We can't thank you enough for making this space available!'

### **We provide the fixings for a special meal at Christmas**

Our congregation, with the help of members of Princess St United Church, provided 32 baskets of the elements of a traditional Christmas dinner for over 100 needy individuals in our community, 29 of whom were children. This was accomplished through the generous donation of food, money and time by the Tuesday morning food voucher group and the two congregations. A total of 27 volunteers from both churches helped to sort the donated food, purchased fresh ingredients and packed and delivered the baskets. Donations of cash to the 2017 Christmas basket campaign were \$3,697, down from 2016 givings of \$4,290 with total costs for the fresh foods of \$1,313, the surplus going to the benevolent fund.

### **We sponsor a child development program for children from under-serviced families - The Helen Tufts Child Outreach Program**

We provide space, coordination, telephone confirmation of attendance and treasurers services for the Helen Tufts Child Outreach Program (HTCOP) which meets two nights a week in our building. In 2017, HTCOP operated as a four-way partnership between Frontier College (Michelle LaMarche), Queen's students with financial support from Queen's Alma Mater Society, First Baptist and Sydenham Street congregations. The program was started as a joint outreach program between Sydenham Street United Church (SSUC) and First Baptist church over 50 years ago. The focus of the program is to provide assistance with academic and social skills to about 35 school-aged children from under serviced Kingston families. Each child is paired with a volunteer Queen's student on either Monday or Thursday evening; both the children and students benefit greatly from the mentorship. Again, this program is financed mostly by Queen's AMS outside the congregational budget. Our contributions are space, time and talent.

**We support the Mission and Service (M&S) Fund of the United Church of Canada**

In 2017, SSUC members contributed \$48 903 to the M&S fund. Our target was \$50,000 and for the first time in a long time we did not meet our target. The 2017 amount was down from \$53,578 in 2016 and \$51,300 in 2015. With these monies UCC partner churches can continue with the day-to-day support for projects in Africa, the middle East, Asia and the Caribbean. M&S money also goes to community chaplains and Indigenous justice work here in Canada.

**We continue to provide safe space for groups to meet**

We have, for years, opened our church spaces for community use by self-help groups like AA and Al-Anon, groups working to restore health to people and families facing issues of addiction. The congregation's support of the general fund makes it possible to continue to offer the use of this building for outreach and social justice causes.

**We are participating in the Joint Truth and Reconciliation Action Group**

Along with members of Chalmers United Church, we are working to listen, learn and share knowledge about the opportunities and options for reconciliation with Canada's First Nations peoples. This new group was formed by several interested members from the congregations to develop our responses to the 94 calls for action contained in the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Poverty and social justice issues continue and we thank the congregation for their support of time and talents and for joining together to accomplish more than we ever could acting as individuals. I personally offer a special thanks to staff members Ruth Ranson and Donald Mitchell and to those listed below who have provided leadership through the year.

Members of the Social Justice and Outreach Committee:

Martha Clarke, Mabel Corlett, Peter Goheen, Jim Leake, Kate Mackrell, Margaret Meyer, Michael Purcell, Mary Reid, Nancy Spencer

Food Voucher Volunteers:

Norm Esdon, Barb Landon, Mary LeRoy, Marylil Megginson, Margaret Meyer

Christmas Basket Team:

Kirby Ruthven plus the food voucher volunteers

Helen Tufts Child Outreach team members from SSUC:

Janine Chown, Martha Clarke, Peter Goheen

Community Garden group leader:

Donna Delyea

Mission and Service enthusiast

Peter Goheen

Joint Truth and Reconciliation Action Group

Lynn Freeman

Respectfully submitted,

*James Leake, Chair, Social Justice and Outreach Committee*

## **INTER CHURCH REFUGEE PARTNERSHIP**

The Inter Church Refugee Partnership (ICRP) was formed in the spring of 2015, with a goal to bring Syrian refugees to Kingston and to provide sponsorship for them for their first year. Sydenham Street UC was a founding member of the partnership, along with St Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chalmers United Church, Princess Street United Church and (for the first year) Faith United Church. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church maintains an associate status with ICRP.

In the summer of 2017, three of our families completed their sponsorships. The Hamdan family of 8 was able to purchase a small house and a car and they have various sources of income now. The Bedawi family of 7 continue to occupy a townhouse, they now have a van, and Mohammad is working toward becoming a taxi driver. The AlAlwah family of 6 remains in their rental apartment, they are continuing their English lessons (progressing very well), and Haitham works at a pizzeria and is hoping to attend college once his English has reached an appropriate level. Both parents are working toward their Canadian citizenship and the children are doing well in school.

In December, 2017, a new sponsored family arrived in Kingston, the Al Salloum family of six. ICRP found temporary accommodation for them and they took occupancy of a townhouse in February, 2018. Three children are attending schools while the youngest has daycare provided by LINK where the parents are taking English lessons.

ICRP has agreed, in partnership with a generous Kingston family, to sponsor a husband and wife couple and a single man from Syria but they have not yet received notice of acceptance to Canada. As well, we continue to support a single Nigerian man, currently in Germany awaiting completion of formalities to bring him to Canada. Sydenham Street has two members on the ICRP Steering Committee, Mike Purcell and Peter Goheen (Kenn Doerksen retired in February, 2018). Many members from SSUC have contributed much volunteer time to the Syrian families' needs, including Marylil Megginson, Rosemary Thoms, Vicki Ruthven, Peter Goheen, Kate Mackrell, and others. And many, many members of our congregation have given money, furniture, professional advice and thoughtful suggestions to help with this massive undertaking.

Sydenham Street United Church has every reason to feel proud of their participation in ICRP.

Faithfully submitted,

*Peter G. Goheen, SSUC representative to ICRP*

Note: This report was written by Kenn Doerksen, whom I succeeded as SSUC representative, whose knowledge of the ICRP far exceeds my own. Peter G. Goheen.

## **ART AND SOUL MINISTRY**

Highlights of the past year for the Art and Soul Circle include:

1. Art and Soul members were very involved in the October 21<sup>st</sup> Spire event, setting up a display in the Conference Room that highlighted arts, culture, and heritage in the building. The displays included Art and Soul projects such as the rainbow installation in the Sanctuary, the Beatitude Banners, and the Spire group posters. Congregational musicians Morna Graff, Meikle Turner and Barb Carr, along with former music director Charlie Walker, provided music in different parts of the building during the event. T-shirts were produced with the Spire logo for volunteers to wear on the day.
2. We designed an Advent mobile, consisting of the first letters of the four Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, and also Christmas. At each Advent service and the Christmas Eve service, everyone was given a snowflake at the beginning of the service. People were invited to come forward, take a letter for that week's theme from the mobile and replace it with their snowflake. The mobile of letters gradually transformed into a mobile of snowflakes.

3. We helped with publicity for the well-attended candlelight Christmas Carol Reading by Don Mitchell and friends, and the concert by the Communications and Electronics Garrison Military Band. Members of Art and Soul provided cookies, Christmas cake and hot cider for the intermission in the Christmas Carol reading.
4. Members of Art and Soul provided SSUC Christmas cards that accompanied the Christmas cakes that were distributed to shut-ins before Christmas.
5. Art and Soul helped with the Sing-Along event on February 3, a fund raiser for The Spire. Members of Art and Soul helped with publicizing the event, ushering, collecting donations, providing information about The Spire, and providing and serving cookies, cakes and hot cider at the intermission. The event was a big success and raised over \$1,500 for The Spire.
6. Art and Soul arranged for ushers for the Welsh choir concert and sing-along on April 28/29 and did some publicizing of the events.
7. Doors Open takes place on June 16, 2018, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We are planning on having the rainbow front steps again this year, plus congregational musicians providing background music in the Sanctuary while visitors are looking around.

We would like to thank the congregation for their support of these projects, and we look forward to another creative year.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Barb Carr & Ellie Deir, Co-chairs*

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Preparation of the 2018 SSUC budget was modified slightly this year, because of the commitment of Chalmers and Sydenham Street Churches to begin worshipping together in January 2018. Executive members and *Engaging the Spirit* program leads were invited to submit their 2018 budget projections to the Treasurer in the early fall and a budget proposal for estimated costs in these areas was presented to the executive for review.

A joint finance committee, with representatives from Chalmers and Sydenham Street Churches was formed in the late fall, with the foremost responsibility to determine the costs of worship, with related staff costs, and how these costs should be appropriately shared.

#### ***Joint Finance Committee***

Chalmers representatives, Bob Little and Joan Simeon, and Sydenham Street representatives, Jack Soule, Kirby Ruthven and Lynn Freeman met several times throughout December and January. During these meetings, we reviewed the budget framework used by each congregation, attempted to identify costs associated with worship, and determined how these costs should be appropriately shared. Our meetings were instructive and congenial.

Formal budget proposals for each congregation were presented at separate congregational meetings held in late January and approved by each congregation. Each congregation currently tracks costs incurred for worship and provides the other with an invoice at regular intervals and a transfer of funds is arranged by the Treasurers. The Treasurers maintain contact with each other, as required.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lynn Freeman, on behalf of the Shared Finance Committee*



## **MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

This has been year of transitions for the congregation and for the M&P Committee. Elizabeth Macdonald retired in June 2016 after 14 years as our minister. In October 2016 Rienk Vlietstra was appointed as our full-time supply minister. He and his wife Susan quickly become an integral part of the SSUC community. Rienk brought many gifts, insights, and experience to his work with us. At the end of December, he finished his formal ministry with us, and we were pleased to celebrate this at a potluck dinner event.

Glen Thompson became our music director and organist in August 2016 and remained with us until November 2017. His enthusiasm, talents and expertise were much appreciated.

In March 2018 Ruth Ranson retired as our office administrator. She kept everything running smoothly for many years and has a great depth of knowledge of the church and its congregants. We celebrated her retirement along with her extended family at a congregational potluck dinner. Ruth has returned as a volunteer in the office. Donna Delyea has also volunteered in the church office since Ruth's retirement, and we are very grateful to her for this gift.

All of these staff changes took place after approval in June 2017 by both congregations of a joint staffing plan with Chalmers United Church. We have been enjoying joint worship services, led by a joint choir since January 2018. Our own M&P Committee was ably led by Barb Parker until the end 2017.

We have a joint M&P committee with Chalmers United Church which has been working on implementing all aspects of the joint staff plan. At the time of writing we are awaiting the report of a presbytery commission which it is hoped will address the concerns of some Chalmers congregants about the plan. Because of this, not all aspects of the plan have been implemented.

Don Mitchell continues to be an invaluable member of our staff, ably managing the building and rentals and contributing his creativity and understanding of our mission to the congregation.

Justin Sowik does an excellent job as our primary custodian; Lisa Leavitt helps with custodial duties and Sunday services.

The members of the Ministry and Personnel Committee are Peter Goheen, Robin Mallory, Sylvia Mann, Barb Parker (until November 2017), and myself.

Sydenham Street United Church is blessed to have such dedicated and hardworking staff and we thank them for all that they do.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Ruth Wilson, Chair*

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Since the last report (for 2016), SSUC underwent a dramatic transformation, as we did major renovations to make The Spire more accessible and better able to attract users to the building. These included: installation of a three-floor elevator; more than doubling our washroom capacity to 7 women's, 6 men's, and 2 mixed/accessible units; re-painting and installation of new pot lighting and new flooring in the conference room (former chapel); repainting and installation of LED strip lighting in the main floor hallways and lobby area; new fire safety doors for laneway stairwell areas; HRV system to ventilate all washrooms, with an access to the roof through a hatchway, for inspections; increased fire containment time in the boiler room; change in hardware to doors between Sanctuary and lobby, to allow crash bar exit capability; and, many smaller pieces to this \$600,000-plus project.

We had anticipated re-roofing the flat roof section adjacent to the laneway in 2018 but severe rains caused water to leak in and do damage to walls in the laneway stairwell and the annex adjacent to the upper kitchen. As a

result, and in conjunction with the major renovations, we authorized Amherstview Roofing to repair that portion of the roof, for \$33,674. This leaves the small flat roof above the William Street stairwell to be repaired and we will hope to do this in 2019.

In addition, this past year (2017/18), we:

- contracted with Mark Spencer (sound technician at the Grand Theatre) to inspect our Sanctuary sound system, resulting in purchase of two new microphones for the pulpit and lectern, and a new sound board (which had been producing a noticeable hum, being well past its live expectancy), for \$1,750;
- following the renovations, did an extensive cleanup of the basement floors leading to the elevator, removing numerous bags of cement dust (Fixers);
- re-painted all three sets of steps at the front of the church using a traction paint, which seems to provide good traction throughout the year (Fixers);
- removed several trailer loads of junk/waste from the basement (Fixers);
- installed a new Spire/SSUC sign, which was paid for by Friends of the Spire (Fixers);
- re-surfaced the walls damaged by the roof leaks (Fixers and Eric Soule). Due to the awkward location and height of the stairwell itself, and the increasing age of the Fixers, we will be getting professional help to complete the painting there;
- twice replaced burned-out bulbs in the sanctuary chandeliers (Fixers);
- pruned bushes, raked leaves, and cleaned out flower garden (Fixers);
- assisted with planting and added topsoil to the Community Garden (Fixers).

As SSUC moves to a new form of governance in conjunction with The Spire, the Building Management Group will become responsible for items heretofore assigned to Property. I will chair the BMG initially, and the Group will report regularly to SSUC Executive Committee and to the board of Friends of the Spire, ensuring common knowledge of the building to both. In future, this report will be titled Report of Building Management Group.

The Fixers include Jim Berry, Tony Clark (support and advice), Kenn Doerksen, Bruce Hutchinson, Jim Leake, Kirby Ruthven and Jack Soule. They meet Thursday afternoons and on special call-out days and have made a tremendous contribution to the maintenance of our building. Don Mitchell provides invaluable assistance and suggestions for the Fixers.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Kenn Doerksen, Chair, Property/BMG*

## **FRIENDS OF THE SPIRE**

The development of Friends of The Spire grew out of the congregational decision made in June 2013 to “work to separate the cost of maintenance and capital costs of the building from the congregation.”

Significant progress has been made since the report to the congregation in 2016-2017. Highlights include the following:

### **Status of Friends of The Spire Organization as of June 2018:**

- Having received their Letters Patent as an Ontario Corporation in April 2017, the corporation was approved as a charitable organization by Canada Revenue Agency on March 16, 2018. This means that Friends of The Spire Inc. can issue their own tax receipts and apply for grants not available to faith-based organizations. This is a significant step forward for the corporation. Board members are: Bruce Hutchinson, President; Liz Bates, Vice President; Ross Cameron, Treasurer; Ellie Deir, Secretary; and Stephanie Lafond, Don Robinson, and Jack Soule as members at large.

### **Construction:**

- A major achievement of 2017 was the construction project which resulted in:
  - The installation of an elevator from the basement to the second floor
  - Upgrading to 16 modern washrooms including two accessible washrooms, one on each floor
  - Painting, improved lighting and ceiling in hallways and the conference room
  - The planned upgrade to make the William Street Door accessible was postponed until we are certain there are sufficient funds to do the work. It is planned to undertake this project in 2019.
  - See below for a full construction report

### **Celebration**

- A well-attended open house event to celebrate the completion of the first phase of construction was held on October 1. A celebration event was required by one of our funders. The guest speaker was Ken Greenberg a well-known planner and city developer from Toronto. A number of the groups who use the building put on displays and acted and screened a movie. The ribbon cutting for the elevator included Andrea Andrecyk, ambassador for the Rick Hansen Foundation, Mayor Brian Paterson, MPP Sophie Kiwala and members of Friends of The Spire.

### **Fund Raising**

- Current fundraising at this time has amounted to over \$900,000 which includes a \$20,000 pledge for the William Street accessible entrance. Of the total raised, about \$200,000 has come from sources outside the congregation. Many thanks to all of the approximately 150 donors to the project. Friends of The Spire Inc. are continuing with the community campaign with an increased emphasis on broader and more consistent communications.
- In September 2017, A repayable loan of \$50,000 was received as a bridging loan from the Four Winds Presbytery Development Corporation. This funding ensured that the funds in the separate Project Fund did not go into deficit when construction invoices became due.
- Since reporting in the 2017 Annual Report, funds have been received from The Churchill Foundation, The James Henderson Foundation, Empire Life, a pledge from the Larry Gibson Estate and ongoing individual donor support.

### **Management of the Building**

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Trustees of SSUC and Friends of The Spire has been updated and signed by both parties. This MOU defines the relationship between SSUC and Friends of The Spire and provides for the establishment of a Building Management Group (BMG) consisting of four members appointed by SSUC and three appointed by Friends of The Spire. The BMG will operate the building under the terms of the MOU. Donna Delyea serves as the “administrator” of the MOU for the Trustees and Ross Cameron for Friends of The Spire.
- The BMG has been established and has begun to work out how this new system will function in practice. Members are Kenn Doerksen, Chair, Marilyn Huffman, Jack Soule, Murray Reilly, Liz Bates, Ross Cameron and John Schaeffer (a building systems expert). Don Mitchell is an ex-officio member.
- A grant in the amount of \$20,000 was awarded to the project to fund the development of shared custodial services amongst one or more congregations. The grant is intended to build on the experience in managing a multipurpose church building to the advantage of congregations and the community.
- A focus for both the Building Management Group and Friends of The Spire in 2018 will be on increasing the number of regular office and space users in the building.

### **Endowment Fund at Community Foundation**

- A donor-advised Fund Agreement has been established at The Community Foundation for Kingston & Area to establish an endowment fund, the income from which will be directed to regular maintenance and repairs to the building. Current investment in the fund is about \$70,000. Income from the fund is expected to be around 7% of the value of the fund in 2019.

## **Communications**

- Friends of The Spire has engaged an external communications expert to assist with raising the profile of The Spire in the community to enhance fundraising efforts and attract potential users to the building.
- Friends of The Spire are using Salesforce software to track donors and prospects and to assist with communication to supporters.
- Friends of The Spire are working with the Frontenac Heritage Foundation on holding a workshop on regenerating/reimagining faith buildings. It is anticipated that the workshop will be held in May 2019 at The Spire. Two charities, Faith and the Common Good and the National Trust have offered to provide support based on a number of similar workshops they have sponsored across Canada. The objective is to learn from others and share our stories.
- Many, many thanks to the congregation, SSUC Executive, Art & Soul, SSUC Trustees, Don Mitchell, Rev. Rienk Vlietstra, Four Winds Presbytery, Bay of Quinte Conference, General council staff, Bob Little of Cunningham Swan, and Tina Baily of The Community Foundation for Kingston & Area, for their encouragement and support of this innovation in supporting the sustainability of a heritage community hub.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bruce Hutchinson for Friends of The Spire*

## ***Construction Project Report***

Following the successful financial campaign within the congregation, and then congregational and Presbytery approvals to proceed, the Construction Project Management Team was formed. It represented SSUC and Friends of The Spire in working with the architect, Bruce Downey, to manage the construction project. Based on the bids from the two contractors, it was immediately apparent that the costs would be higher than expected. Therefore, it was decided to hold off on the William St. accessible entrance portion. The balance of the project was authorized to proceed and the contract was signed with the Anglin Group Ltd on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Construction got underway the week of June 26<sup>th</sup>, making use of the quiet summer period in the building. Some complications were encountered during the project that had not been anticipated. The foundation for the elevator needed to cut into the base of the old church foundation, which meant some extra shoring up of that old foundation. Also, it was soon apparent that the interior walls of the 1960s addition had been constructed of red tile, which has a tendency to crumble when penetrated. This required relocating some of the doorways and modifying the designs for the washrooms. As well, there were additional costs associated with unplanned, but necessary, modifications to the electrical system.

Furthermore, as the project progressed it became evident that the conference room and hallways/foyer on the main floor should have their appearances improved to do justice to the overall upgrades. This involved new ceilings and lighting in these areas. The end result has clearly enhanced the overall appearance.

While the original completion date had been forecast for mid-September, there were several delays that pushed the work into October. The last items were completed just prior to our Open House and Celebration Event on October 21<sup>st</sup>! The total project cost amounted to \$666,703 versus the original forecast of \$636,500. The elevator portion of that amounted to just over \$251K and the washrooms, along with everything else, was about \$415K.

This certainly proved to be a major project, one that I am sure everyone is relieved to see behind us. The noise and dust at times made working in the building particularly challenging for our staff. A large thank you is in order to them for tolerating less-than-ideal working conditions, and for all those who helped out – especially the Construction Project Management Team: Kenn Doerksen, Liz Bates, Roger Chown, Don Mitchell, Michael Purcell, Kirby Ruthven and Jack Soule. Thanks also to everyone who contributed in many different ways!

Respectfully submitted,

*Jack Soule, Construction Project Team*



**The Spire Project – Financial Position – 2016 – March 2018**

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Donations</u></b>	<b><u>Grants</u></b>	<b><u>Expense Categories</u></b>	<b><u>Amounts</u></b>	<b><u>Balances</u></b>
<b>2014/2015</b>	-	-	2014/15 Accrued Audit	\$11,000	(\$11,000)
<b>2016</b>	\$398,508	-			\$387,508
			Campaign Consulting	\$ 9,874	
			Campaign Admin.	\$ 3,814	
			Legal	\$ 1,170	
			Bookkeeping	\$ 249	
			Financial Audit	\$ 5,933	
			Promotion	\$ 3,259	
			Project Support	\$ 5,682	
			<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>\$29,981</u>	
			<i>Year-end</i>		<u>\$357,527</u>
<b>2017</b>	\$334,837	\$82,000			\$774,364
			Elevator Project	\$251,328	
			W.R. + Hallways	\$415,375	
			Campaign Consulting	\$ 21,634	
			Campaign Admin	\$ 1,193	
			Bookkeeping	\$ 909	
			Financial Audit	\$ 5,717	
			Promotion	\$ 20,572	
			Celebration Support	\$ 15,006	
			<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>\$731,734</u>	
			<i>Yearend (Including 2016)</i>		<u>\$ 42,630</u>
			(Presbytery loan not included)		
<b>2018 (incl. March)</b>	\$56,788	-			\$ 99,418
			Campaign Admin	\$ 707	
			Bookkeeping	\$ 327	
			Promotion	\$ 923	
			<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>\$ 1,957</u>	
			<i>Balance to end March</i>		<u><u>\$ 97,461*</u></u>

\* \$50,000 is to be transferred to The Spire Capital and Development Fund at the Community Foundation.

**Separate Statement for The Spire Celebration Event (included in above accounts)**

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expense</u>
<b>The Spire – Celebration – October 21, 2017</b>			
4561	Donations – ads + door	1,449.55	
4562	Grants – Rick Hansen Fdn	10,000.00	
5987	87 – Equipment		13.57
5988	88 - Services/Contractors		3,009.27
5989	89 - Ent/Hospitality		7,268.04
5990	90 - Administration		2,019.64
5991	91 - Advertising/Promotion		2,452.61
5992	92 - Travel/Accommodation		208.78
5997	97 - Rental - glasses		33.67
		<u>11,449.55</u>	<u>15,005.58</u>
	<b>REVENUE minus EXPENSE</b>	<b>-3,556.03</b>	

Respectfully submitted,  
*Bruce Hutchinson for Friends of The Spire*

**FOUR WINDS PRESBYTERY REPORT**

If the Remit regarding the three-council model is approved at General Council this summer, Presbytery and Conference will be replaced by a Regional Council. Our organization as a Church will be very different and we will have to live into it. The two committees I serve on at the Presbytery level - Pastoral Relations and Pastoral Oversight are working very hard to finish up as much of their work as possible before changes take place on January 1, 2019.

This year we spent a lot of time in Presbytery meetings talking about Remits. We also approved JNACs' being established and then their reports, calls and appointments, and a budget. We have a new website where we can register as planning to attend the meeting and make reservations for the Presbytery meal. The President of Conference, Wanda Stride, spoke at a meeting and talked about her vision for the Church. Faith United presented their vision of creating a garden with ceremonial and recreational facilities to help build reflection and reconciliation with the indigenous community. This garden is to be off Highway 15 on land owned by the United Church. They subsequently received a grant from the United Church to help make their dream a reality.

We had our meetings this year at Land O' Lakes Emmanuel in Northbrook, Deseronto, Chalmers, St. Andrew's by the Lake, Grace in Napanee, Zion in Kingston, Trinity in Elginburg and Emmanuel in Odessa.

We know that the Church will continue no matter how it is organized and we will find community with the Churches that are geographically close or those that have common goals. Change is hard and patience is sometimes in short supply but who knows what exciting ways to be Church are just around the corner?

Respectfully submitted,  
*Marylil Megginson on behalf of Deborah Elliott and myself.*

## REPORT FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees of Sydenham St United Church during 2017/2018 were Roger Chown, Donna Delyea, Ross Drummond, Marilyn Huffman, Lorne Maclachlan, Don Robinson (new member as of September, 2017) and Gale Rogers (new member as of November, 2017). Lynn Freeman, Kirby Ruthven, Jack Soule and Rienk Vlietstra (until Dec. 2017) were active participants in their ex-officio capacities. Donna Delyea chaired the Committee and Marilyn Huffman acted as scribe. Josée Thériault of RBC Dominion Securities Inc. continues to be our portfolio advisor.

The Trustees are an active, conscientious group who take their responsibility seriously, thoughtfully and with a desire to be guided by the Holy Spirit, the values of the United Church of Canada, and the Congregation of Sydenham Street United Church.

No donations were made to the Endowment Fund in 2017 and monies being held for the Elevator Fund were transferred out in September, 2017. As of March 29, 2018, assets within the Endowment Fund were \$213,834.09; \$90,104.04 of that continues to be identified as Restricted.

The Church's Endowment Fund portfolio consists of both Restricted and Non-Restricted designated amounts. Restricted Funds are donations which have 'specific' and 'general' fund designations, allowing only the interest to be used for designated purposes, often designated by the donor in their will. The Trustees are respectful of the wishes of those who donate to Sydenham St. United Church. In 2017, interest in the amount of \$2,760.89 was transferred to the Operating Account in accordance with the wills of the donors. The amount is dependent on current interest rates.

While the Church's Endowment Fund portfolio continues to be well positioned, the ongoing annual withdrawals (more than interest earned and donations made) negatively affect the Market Value of the Fund. As the amount of the Endowment Fund diminishes, it has become prudent to invest in secure funds with less risk and less income potential. In September, 2017, the Trustees were advised by our RBC portfolio manager, Josée Thériault, that we may need to think about transferring the portfolio to a balance fund; the RBC does not consider trust accounts of less than \$250,000 viable/cost efficient. With that in mind, the Trustees have been actively investigating alternative investment options.

As at December 31, 2017:

- The Value of Funds was noted to be \$171,463.30 (down from \$311,793.30/2016)
  - \$90,104.04 Restricted
  - \$81,359.26 Non-Restricted (down from 196,341.64/2016 – not including the elevator monies)
- Interest Earned in 2017 was \$11,468.24
- As of December, 2017 \$151,581 had been transferred to the General Fund:
  - \$30,000 to cover the cost of 2017 approved/forecasted deficit
  - \$10,577 to cover the cost of 2017 insurance
  - \$35,000 to cover the cost of flat roof repairs
  - \$50,000 to cover an anticipated deficit overage in 2017\*
  - \$25,967 that was being held in the Endowment Fund for the elevator (including interest)
  - \$37.25 interest on Ethel Lee Capitalized Income (remainder of interest not previously transferred)

\* *Happily, we recently returned \$47,239.11 to the Endowment Fund, as the 2017 deficit was not as significant as expected. As at March 29, 2018 the fund balance was \$213,834.09.*

In addition to managing the Endowment Fund, the Trustees continue to work with the Property Committee to maintain the building and other capital assets of the church. We review insurance policies, a risk assessment was conducted, and the church's assets have been appraised for insurance purposes. We have also provided necessary documentation, etc., as needed, to keep The Spire Project moving forward.

Anticipated 2018 draws on the Endowment Fund are approximately \$14,000 (insurance and interest on the restricted fund) – this is a good news story, as the church is currently projecting a balanced budget. If this continues to be the case, it is possible that the majority of the draw could come from interest from investments – a rare thing.

Last, but not least, I would like to extend the Trustees' heartfelt thanks to 'The Fixers', who have done an amazing job of keeping the building and property in good repair – their efforts are very much appreciated!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Donna Delyea, Chair, Board of Trustees*

## **CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP**

### *Deaths*

Gertrude Bain  
Bill Seath  
Nora Kellam  
Patricia Smith  
Pearl Thurlby  
Robert McKnight

### *Marriages/Commitments*

Andrew Ross Drummond and Sara Ann Ward

### *Sacrament of Baptism*

### *Transfers In*

### *Transfers Out*

David Hunt



**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Statement of Financial Position

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

Statement of Operations

Schedule of Operating Expenses

**SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**as at December 31, 2017**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Memorial Fund</u>	<u>Benevolent Fund</u>	<u>Trustee Fund</u>	<u>Total 2017</u>	<u>Total 2016</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
Cash	\$ 133,139	\$ 9,243	\$ 6,442	\$ -	\$ 148,824	\$ 413,620
HST recoverable	62,093	-	-	-	62,093	10,799
Accounts receivable	3,490	-	-	-	3,490	-
Prepaid Expense	-	-	-	4,407	4,407	4,407
	<u>198,722</u>	<u>9,243</u>	<u>6,442</u>	<u>4,407</u>	<u>218,814</u>	<u>428,826</u>
Investments	-	-	-	238,915	238,915	314,240
	<u>\$ 198,722</u>	<u>\$ 9,243</u>	<u>\$ 6,442</u>	<u>\$ 243,322</u>	<u>\$ 457,729</u>	<u>\$ 743,066</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>						
Accounts payable	\$ 75,444	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,444	\$ 14,112
Presbytery loan	50,000	-	-	-	50,000	-
Deferred Income - Spire	53,630	-	-	-	53,630	368,527
	<u>\$ 179,074</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 179,074</u>	<u>\$ 382,639</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>						
Internally restricted (note 1)	-	9,243	-	-	9,243	208,268
Externally restricted	-	-	6,442	4,463	10,905	16,624
Unrestricted	19,648	-	-	124,255	143,903	20,931
Endowment fund	-	-	-	114,604	114,604	114,604
	<u>19,648</u>	<u>9,243</u>	<u>6,442</u>	<u>243,322</u>	<u>278,655</u>	<u>360,427</u>
	<u>\$ 198,722</u>	<u>\$ 9,243</u>	<u>\$ 6,442</u>	<u>\$ 243,322</u>	<u>\$ 457,729</u>	<u>\$ 743,066</u>

**SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH**  
**Statement of Changes in Fund Balances**  
**as at December 31, 2017**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Memorial Fund</u>	<u>Benevolent Fund</u>	<u>Trustee Fund</u>	<u>Total 2017</u>
<b>Fund balances, beginning of year</b>	\$ 20,931	\$ 8,688	\$ 12,161	\$ 318,647	\$ 360,427
<b>Surplus (deficit)</b>					
General Income	(76,897)	-	-	-	(76,897)
Benevolent Fund	-	-	(8,107)	-	(8,107)
Christmas Basket	-	-	2,388	-	2,388
Trustee funds	-	-	-	289	289
Memorial Fund	-	555	-	-	555
	<u>(76,897)</u>	<u>555</u>	<u>(5,719)</u>	<u>289</u>	<u>(81,772)</u>
<b>Transfer from trustees</b>	125,614	-	-	(125,614)	125,614
<b>Transfer to trustees</b>	<u>(50,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Year</b>	<u>(1,283)</u>	<u>555</u>	<u>(5,719)</u>	<u>(75,325)</u>	<u>(6,158)</u>
<b>Fund balances, end of year</b>	<u>\$ 19,648</u>	<u>\$ 9,243</u>	<u>\$ 6,442</u>	<u>\$ 243,322</u>	<u>\$ 354,269</u>

**SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH**  
**Statement of Operations**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2017**

<b>CONGREGATIONAL INCOME</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Envelope contributions	\$ 173,926	\$ 156,538
Loose Collections	2,361	3,498
Anniversary and Initial	45	62
Interest restricted	2,761	1,856
Observer	993	1,045
Special outreach collection	228	1,085
Special fund raiser - refugee	13,155	
MGOS	220	235
Rent	72,292	75,814
Special events		317
STAR		5,304
Lightintolight		30
Other		2,861
	<u>265,981</u>	<u>248,645</u>
<b>CONGREGATIONAL EXPENSES - Schedule</b>		
Outreach	19,609	11,951
Program	7,005	8,244
Administration	9,092	9,584
Employment	212,673	200,058
	<u>248,379</u>	<u>229,837</u>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS</b>	<u>17,602</u>	<u>18,808</u>
<b>PROPERTY EXPENSES</b>		
Church maintenance	14,789	13,856
Organ/Piano maintenance	1,892	0
Utilities	23,261	23,626
Insurance	10,941	10,578
Major maintenance projects	37,517	32,485
Rental expenses	5,974	5,573
Grounds maintenance	125	124
	<u>94,499</u>	<u>86,242</u>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<u>\$( 76,897)</u>	<u>\$( 67,434)</u>
<b>INTERIOR RESTORATION</b>	<u>\$ 289</u>	<u>\$ 383</u>
<b>BENEVOLENT FUND</b>		
Contributions	\$ 18,978	\$ 22,981
Expenses	( 27,085)	( 23,883)
	<u>\$( 8,107)</u>	<u>\$( 902)</u>
<b>CHRISTMAS BASKET</b>		
Contributions	\$ 2,388	\$ 4,310
Expenses		( 1,742)
	<u>\$ 2,388</u>	<u>\$ 2,568</u>
<b>MEMORIAL FUND</b>		
Contributions	\$ 555	\$ 1,565
Payouts	0	0
	<u>\$ 555</u>	<u>\$ 1,565</u>
<b>Spire Project</b>		
Contributions	\$ 334,837	\$ 398,508
Grants	82,000	
Payouts	( 731,734)	( 29,981)
	<u>\$( 314,897)</u>	<u>\$ 368,527</u>

**SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH**  
**Schedule of Operating Expenses**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2017**

**CONGREGATIONAL EXPENSES**

**Outreach**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Helen Tufts Nursery School	\$ 0	\$ 3,600
Refugee project	13,165	1,075
Outreach & Social Justice	14	628
Presbytery assessment	6,430	6,648
	<u>\$ 19,609</u>	<u>\$ 11,951</u>

**Program support**

Observer	1,035	1,503
Worship		
- Choir/Music/Honoraria	2,805	500
- Anniversary/Pulpit Supply	600	2,900
- MGOS supplies	0	8
- Candle/Worship supplies	411	741
Affirm - net	100	100
Newspaper Notice/Public Relations	1,193	1,101
Art & Soul	59	50
Planning (fundraising network)	0	788
Hospitality	321	38
Other	481	515
	<u>\$ 7,005</u>	<u>\$ 8,244</u>

**Administration & Supplies**

Stationery	\$ 179	\$ 435
Postage - net	221	265
Office supplies	1,855	1,639
Photocopy supplies - net	1,081	640
Konica Minolta Supplies	1,410	1,531
Konica Minolta rental	996	1,365
Telephone - Office	2,056	1,733
Bank charges	642	345
PAR charges	294	285
Computer support	358	1,346
	<u>\$ 9,092</u>	<u>\$ 9,584</u>

**SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH**  
**Schedule of Operating Expenses**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2017**

cont...

<b>Employment expenses</b>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Salaries/Housing	\$ 178,832	\$ 162,279
Travel	1,881	394
Books - Minister	0	0
Contract services	5,376	4,577
Moving	0	2,006
Spiritual direction - Minister	0	134
Staff development	1,392	1,313
Communications	644	290
Employment levies	24,548	29,065
	<u>\$ 212,673</u>	<u>\$ 200,058</u>

**SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH**  
**MISSION AND SERVICES**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2017**

<b>Mission and services</b>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Mission and service contributions	\$ 48,904	\$ 53,578
Mission and service payments	( 48,904)	( 53,578)
	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>