

Annual Report 2018



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

So that Christ's healing grace
may reach a hurting world,
we are committed to seeing
that all who seek are:
welcomed into community,
equipped with faith, and
supported in finding and following
God's call on their lives.



Runnymede United Church

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 10, 2019

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STAFF

Minister: Rev. Don Gibson
Music Director: David Ambrose
Organist: Carl Steinhauser
Soprano Soloist: Pat Ainslie
Alto Soloist: Sabina Santelli-Perez
Tenor Soloist: Trevor Peverley
Bass Soloist: Don Tripe

**Sunday School Coordinator
/Youth Leader:** Cayley Pimentel

Custodians: Jim Lien
Spencer Tripe

**Office
Administrators:** Pat Campbell
Alison Gadsby

BOARD MEMBERS

Chair of Board Derrick Hempel
Secretary Lynne Salt
Treasurer Brian Traquair
Past Chair Jeff Horbal

Members at large: Monica McGlynn Stewart
Allison Dekker
Cathy Boyd-Withers
Brenda McLaughlin
Hilary McLean
Paul Stewart
Rick Reed

EX OFFICIO

Clergy The Rev. Don Gibson
Chair of Trustees Roy Fischer
Chair of Ministry & Personnel Jocelyn McLean Tharpe/ Tara Yelle
Presbytery Representative Robin Pilkey

BAPTISMS

February 11, 2018

Isabel Gordon, daughter of Emily Stillwell and Joshua Gordon

May 13, 2018

Thomas Lane, son of Teres Edmonds and Michael Lane

May 27, 2018

Rachel Martin Brittain, daughter of Beth Martin and Katherine Brittain
David Marcotte, son of Sarah and Adam Marcotte
Theresa Marcotte, daughter of Sarah and Adam Marcotte

June 17, 2018

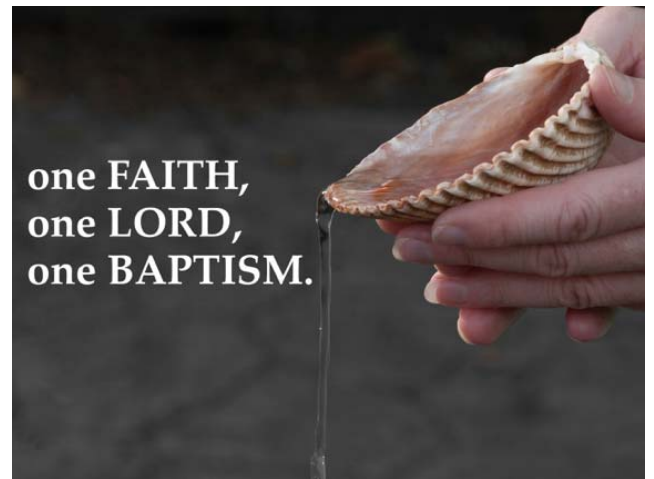
Theodore von Hagen, son of Mary Mather and Brent von Hagen

September 16, 2018

Karlie Kuhn, daughter of Karen and Tim Kuhn
Dexter Newton, son of Sara and Adam Newton
Meiqi Guo

October 7, 2018

Dominic Key, son of Susan and Randy Key



NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome through confirmation and transfer the following:



Daniel Botsko
Kathryn Botsko
Mequi Guo
Jack Kenny
Thomas Lane
Joshua Leung
Claire MacDonald
Sarah Marcotte,
Emily McNeill-Chamberlain
Nikolas Nagy
Adrian Reszczyński
Michael Sheehan
Clare Younder

WEDDINGS



May 19, 2018

Lisa Koverko and Anand Koshy

October 20, 2018

Ellen Traquair and Robert Castro



**Ruby McNeill
Edward Gibson*
Jane Cusler*
Joan Harper
Rudolph Bella**

*Runnymede United Church Member

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting February 11, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 12.05 a.m. by Derrick Hempel. The meeting opened with prayer led by Rev. Don Gibson.

1. Election of Chair and Secretary

Moved (Brian Traquair / Tom Axworthy) that Derrick Hempel be Chair and Neil Mather Secretary of the Annual General Meeting. Motion carried.

Derrick read aloud from the day's bulletin acknowledging that we were meeting on the traditional lands of indigenous peoples who had preceded European settlement.

2. Agenda

Derrick showed the proposed agenda on the screen. Moved (Don Dewees / Rick Reed) that the agenda be adopted. Motion carried.

3. In Memoriam

Derrick read the names of four members and adherents of the congregation who had died during 2017, followed by a moment of silence.

4. Voting

Moved (Rick Reed/ Jim Lien) that adherents are eligible to vote along with members on all matters at the meeting unless otherwise noted in advance. Motion carried.

5. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

Moved (Brian Traquair / Cathy Boyd-Withers) that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held February 26, 2017 be approved. Motion carried.

6. 2017 Annual Report

Moved (Hilary McLean / Stuart MacDonald) that the 2017 Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried.

7. Year in Review: Reflections on 2017

Derrick presented his report as Chair of the Board, found at pp. 17-18 of the Annual Report. In his presentation Derrick noted the contributions of the staff and the many volunteers listed in the printed report. He made particular mention of the team who had coordinated the kitchen renovation, noting that their contribution has continued through the year as people are learning how to make the best use of the new layout and equipment. He thanked June Pinkney and Dorothy Dunbar to coordinating the lunch prior to the meeting.

8. Nomination and Election of Board Officers, Members-at-Large and Committee Chairs

Derrick presented a slide with nominations for Board Officers: Derrick Hempel (Chair), Lynne Salt (Secretary) and Brian Traquair (Treasurer). He pointed out that there is not yet a nomination for Vice Chair. The terms continue through February 2019.

Derrick presented a slide with nominations for Members-at-Large: Brenda McLaughlin, Cathy Boyd-Withers, and Hilary McLean. He noted that there is a vacancy and that he would appreciate a volunteer or suggestions to fill the vacant seat. The terms end in February 2020. Moved (Stuart MacDonald / Allison Dekker) that the nominees be elected as Members-at-Large. Motion carried.

Derrick thanked Committee Chairs who are stepping down from their respective roles: Judy Hauserman, Paul Stenton, and Suzanne Gordon. He presented a slide with nominations for Committee Chairs: Don Dewees (Finance and Property), Jeff Horbal (Stewardship), Tara Yelle and Jocelyn McLean-Tharp (co-Chairs, Ministry and Personnel), and Karren Phair-Harvey (Pastoral Care). Derrick noted that the chair of Faith Formation and Christian Education is currently open. The terms end in February 2020. Moved (Stuart MacDonald / Bob Cossitt) that the nominees be elected to these positions. Motion carried.

Derrick showed a slide for information listing the continuing Board members not included in the preceding motions: Jeff Horbal (Past Chair); Members-at-Large Monica McGlynn-Stewart, Paul Stewart, Allison Dekker, and Rick Reed; and ex officio members Rev. Don Gibson, Rev. Katherine Brittain, Roy Fischer, and Robin Pilkey.

9. Auditor's Report

Stuart MacDonald presented his reports for the years ending December 31, 2015 and 2016, and printed in the Annual Report at p. 38 and 39 respectively. He thanked Brian Traquair for Runnymede's financial reporting, which is at a level of transparency and detail that he considers to be rare amongst non-profit organizations. Moved (Stuart MacDonald / Barry Gregory) that the Auditor's Report be accepted. Motion carried.

10. Treasurer's Report

Brian Traquair presented the Treasurer's Report for 2017 Operations, found at p. 19 of the Annual Report. Details of the Operating Statement and the congregation's other funds are at pp. 20-28 of the Annual Report. He explained that, while donations by the congregation are increasing in aggregate, the amount to the Current Fund decreased from the previous year. He noted that property-related costs were significantly above budget and that there had been an unexpected delay in the HST refund, offset by rental income above budget. Thanks primarily to the very successful Special Deficit Appeal near year-end, there is a surplus of \$6,925.

There was discussion of the Treasurer's recommendation that \$20,000 from the special appeal be transferred to 2018, which would enable a hiatus in fund-raising for one year to be followed by a resumption of accustomed or even greater need for fund-raising in 2019. It was suggested that the congregation might be encouraged to focus on increased regular giving during 2018. Moved (Tom Axworthy / Rick Reed) that \$20,000 be transferred to the 2018 budget designated as Fund-raising. Motion carried.

Moved (Ted Withers / Jim Lien) that \$6.925 be transferred from the Operations Fund to the General Improvement and Contingency Fund to eliminate the 2017 surplus. Motion carried.

Moved (Hilary McLean / Brenda McLaughlin) that the 2017 Operating Statement be adopted. Motion carried.

11. Trustees' Report

Bob Cossitt presented the Trustees' Report, printed at pp. 40-45 of the Annual Report. He explained that the equities component of the investments held by the trustees has been increased due to low prevailing returns on fixed-income securities, though the proportion is still small. Gary Norris noted that the trustees own 700 shares of Suncor Energy Inc., which is a major operator in the oil-sands and thus raises ethical concerns. There followed a discussion of whether the congregation might direct the trustees to develop and present a policy on ethical investment. Bob explained that the current policy avoids investment only in tobacco, alcohol, and cannabis on ethical grounds, and suggested that this list could be expanded by the trustees.

Moved (Stuart MacDonald / Don Dewees) that the Trustees' Report be adopted. Motion carried.

12. Stewardship Report

Jeff Horbal presented the results of the 2018 Stewardship Campaign, which had 53 pledge cards and indicated an increase in monthly contributions. He thanked Paul Stenton and David Whitfield for their service on the campaign over many years. He noted that the congregation's database has been improved and he thanked David Wilcox and Brian Traquair for their efforts in this regard. He reported that Deb Trepanier, Steve Hill and Roy Fischer will continue on the team, joined by Bart Egnal.

13. 2018 Budget

Brian Traquair presented the Board's proposal for a balanced budget in 2018, which at \$492,000 is \$20,000 larger than the previous budget. He explained that the budget is premised on an increase in regular giving of 2.3%, which is a reversal of decrease of 0.6% in the actual donations in 2017. Except for the fund-raising item discussed earlier, the proposed budget is similar to the previous year. The proposed budget and a plan for an additional two years are found at pp. 29-37 of the Annual Report.

Moved (Don Dewees / Don Tripe) that the 2018 budget be adopted. Motion carried.

14. Mission and Service Fund

Steve Gard reported that the contribution in 2017 was \$65,528, consisting of \$60,028 in congregational giving and \$5500 from the Craft Show. For comparison, the goal was \$64,000.

Moved (Steve Gard / Judy Whitfield) that the 2018 target be set at \$66,000. Motion carried.

15. Looking Forward

Derrick presented a brief description of a strategy for Congregational Growth and Development. A team has been convened and is working on a four-part initiative. The congregation may expect to learn more during 2018 through various communications.

16. Adjournment

The agenda having been covered and no other items of business being raised, Derrick called for a motion to adjourn. Moved (Don Dewees / Andrea Tavchar) that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:30p.m, with a closing benediction by Rev. Katherine Brittain.

STAFF REPORTS

From our Minister, Rev. Don Gibson

“So that Christ’s healing grace may reach a hurting world, we are committed to seeing that all who seek are welcomed into community, equipped with faith, and supported in finding and following God’s call in their lives”

Our Mission Statement captures some of what it is we strive to accomplish at Runnymede United Church. I believe our work together is to discover in deeper ways God’s grace in our lives and to offer it to others both near and far. I like the idea in the Mission Statement about ‘finding and following God’s call’ I would add to that experiencing. We live in a culture of information overload. We want to learn more about God but I think at a deeper level we want to know God’s grace by experiencing it in our lives.

I refer to the two dimensions of faith sometimes described as ‘head and heart’. The intellectual encounter with God and the spiritual experience...knowing and feeling. Both dimensions are key to a full encounter with God’s presence.

As a community of faith we do much to broaden the presence of God in people’s lives. In worship, activities and outreach we bring to life the grace, love and hope that God offers in knowing and experiencing Jesus.

What follows in this Annual Report describes a good portion of how we find and offer life at Runnymede United. It reflects faith alive and well in this place.

I want to thank our staff for all they do throughout the year to contribute to life at Runnymede. It is a privilege and lots of fun to work with them. Their commitment and support contribute much to what I am able to do.

I also want to thank our dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to set up worship on Sundays, sing in the choir, serve coffee, prepare meals, undertake outreach projects, manage the building and the finances.

In 2019 may we continue to know and experience God in ways that will enhance our lives and the lives of others in significant and needed ways.

Blessings in the name of Christ

Rev Don

MUSIC AT RUNNYMEDE

Another year has passed, and the sounds are still ringing after a fantastic year of music making!

The Chancel Choir is the backbone of our music program, made up of tireless volunteers who attend weekly rehearsals and share the leadership Sunday mornings with the ministerial and music staff. They even show up to lead singing in the summer! Their hard work has contributed so much to the worship at Runnymede, it is impossible to express enough gratitude for their gift of music. They are ably led by soloists/section leads Pat Ainslie, Sabrina-Santelli-Perez, Trevor Peverley and Don Tripe. The year was marked by some special services and events:

During the Lenten season, the choir explored music from the Jewish tradition, singing in both Hebrew and English

Our Good Friday service featured the dramatic and challenging Requiem by Maurice Duruflé with chamber orchestra and organ

We participated in Runnymede's first Pride service, which featured musical performances from Windermere United as well as students from Sheridan College's Music Theatre program

Our summer services were filled with diverse solo offerings from choir and congregation members.

Our children's choir participated in the Easter service as well as the Christmas pageant, adding Boomwhackers to their repertoire

The Chancel Choir joined forces with the Royal York Road United Church choir again for a massed choir for this year's reading of Dickens' A Christmas Carol

Special thanks to Cathy Boyd-Wither and Don Tripe for leading the music for this year's Pageant. ESA's Strad string ensemble once again provided accompaniment for the Carols By Candlelight, which featured a multi-movement work entitled Sing Noel. This work was purchased in loving memory of Wayne Howson, former music director at Runnymede who passed away in 2018 after a long battle with cancer.

My thanks to Rev. Don Gibson and Alison and Pat in the office for their ongoing support of the music program at Runnymede. Special thanks to our section leads/soloists Pat, Sabrina, Trevor and Don for their continued musical leadership in rehearsals and in services. And final thanks to Carl Steinhauser for his wonderful work as organist and occasionally covering for an music director!

As always, we have an open-door policy for the Chancel Choir – come out on a Thursday and try us out! Or join us for special services – details are always posted in the weekly bulletin. If not – sing with us from the pews and keep the music at Runnymede vibrant and strong.

Musically yours,
David Ambrose
Director of Music

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP

Sunday School

Sunday School Coordinator: Cayley Pimentel – runnymedeunitedyouth@gmail.com

Sunday School Teachers:

- Kathryn Botsko (K-Grade 2)
- Emily Chamberlain (K-Grade 2)
- Rae Kaufam (Grades 3-5)
- Kate Reed (Grades 3-5)

We meet as a team every two months to formally set out expectations, discuss what is working and what needs to be re-examined, review needed supplies, etc. We go over the curriculum every week, and I am on hand to support their preparation before service starts. Because I am spending time with the youth on Sunday mornings, and thus cannot be available to chat with new parents, check on kids who need to find their parents, etc., we have a volunteer Sunday School Host, who is available to field questions from new parents and take down their contact information, so that we can work on retention.

Teachers have access to the Sparkhouse curricula online through their online portal, but I also provide hard copies, and they can pick up the coming week's curriculum every Sunday. This gives us at least the week to prepare any materials we may need, and to fine-tune the activities to suit typical attendance, craft materials, etc. Teachers each have a folder in my office which they can access as they need on Sundays, and allows me to leave any notices or materials they need, as well as their pay cheques, relevant forms, etc.

This year has been a good one for the Sunday School program at Runnymede United Church. I took over from Rev. Katherine Brittain in July 2018, and spent the summer preparing the curriculum for the 2018-2019 school year. We continued our use of Sparkhouse curricula, as they are relatively detailed and offer a plethora of activities for our teachers to choose from, and we can tailor them to suit our needs and numbers.

I worked with Rev. Katherine to review the stories we explored in 2017-2018 and selected new ones for this school year. The first units of the year in September – December 2018 are as follows:

1. Creation
2. Isaac and Rebekah
3. Wandering in the Wilderness
4. Advent and Christmas
5. Jesus is Born!

We rotate through different activities, exploring the Bible stories through:

- Science (e.g. Exploring how light acts and moves, facilitating discussion about how God's light shines through us, and how He brought light into this world [Creation unit])
- Art (e.g. Designing creative mazes, exploring how the way is not always clear, but God will always bring us home and guide us, even if it feels as if we do not know where we are going [Wandering in the Wilderness unit])

- Creative Drama (e.g. Creating our own small versions of the nativity story, exploring different perspectives, like from the camels point of view, like what the news anchors might have discussed at the time [Advent/Jesus is Born unit])
- Cooking (e.g. We create delicious pig slop, and talk about what it would have been like to live with pigs [Prodigal Son unit])
- Bible Skills and Games (e.g. Racing to build the Advent / Christmas season timeline, and playing Pictionary-like games to show off our knowledge of the important people in the Christmas story [Jesus is Born/Christmas unit])
- Music (e.g. We discovered the instruments played by shepherds in Jesus' time, and created our own instruments {The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin unit})

We begin every class with a member of the congregation reading from the Sparkhouse Bible, bringing the K-2 and 3-5 classes together before they split into their respective groups (K-2 in the North Room, 3-5 in the Runnymede Room). At the end of the class, parents can pick up their children from Jewitt Hall, or teachers can help shuttle them to Memorial Hall/the Sanctuary, if needed.

Communication is sent out by e-mail as needed, as well as at the end of every unit so parents are kept abreast with what their children are learning, hopefully reinforcing these lessons at home. ☺

Youth Fall Retreat



Youth Group

2018 was a great year for the youth group, with a lot of opportunities for fun, learning, and deepening our faith. We had lots of chances to get to know each other, to get to know our relationship with God, and to expand our relationships with other members of the Runnymede United community. Early in 2018, we tried for bi-weekly, or at least monthly, social events outside of Youth Group time, and had drop-in hours where youth were welcome to stop by RUC to hang out, do homework, chat, have hot chocolate, etc. This model was not always successful, as many youth participate in myriad other activities and could not dedicate regular time in the evenings during the week. Later in the year, and into the 2018-2019 year, we offer some office hours (blended in with Cayley's scheduled office time for Sunday School coordination) and less frequent but often more attended bi-monthly events.

Worshiplude: February

Four youth went to Ottawa for an amazing Worshiplude weekend in early February 2018. We were hosted by St. Paul's-Eastern United Church in the heart of downtown Ottawa, walking distance from the Byward Market, the Rideau Canal, and Parliament Hill. We got to bond with other youth congregations from Ontario and Quebec (at our host congregation and at the big Worshiplude event itself), and had a lot of chilly fun eating Beavertails, skating, and exploring the culinary delights of downtown Ottawa!

Confirmation: May

This year, we ran a confirmation class with nearly a dozen confirmands, welcoming them in as adults, independently choosing to become members of the United Church. Together with Rev. Katherine Brittain, we explored what it means to be a modern Christian and what role faith has in our lives, and how we want to further expand and deepen our ties to not only to Christ, but to this community of faith at Runnymede. We met biweekly through the year, leading up to Confirmation, Mother's Day 2018.

Environmental Stewardship: Ongoing

This year, the youth group was integral to the planning of an Earth Day clean up in April and were excited to continue working with Barbara Titherington and Brenda Lien in the RUC native plant garden. We hope to continue this into the spring of 2019, and into the fall. Additionally, our theme for the RUCY Fall Retreat was 'Fruits of the Spirit' and within our discussions, talked about the importance of fostering growth as humans, but also in our natural environment. It is imperative now, more than ever, to continue this work and these discussions as young people, and as God's children!

Graduation: June

Together with Rev. Katherine Brittain, we prepared a brief celebration of our 2018 Grade 8 and Grade 12 graduates, celebrating them in front of the congregation and offering them gifts to carry them through to the next phase of their life!

Fall Retreat:

This year, we explored new stomping grounds, and had a wonderful fall retreat at Disciples Conference Grounds, just outside of Hamilton, ON. The theme of the retreat was 'Fruits of the Spirit' and we explored the gifts we are given and how we must nurture these gifts so that we can share them with others.

Parents were invited to carpool to bring the youth to the campgrounds, and then we had the grounds to ourselves, including 3 cabins, a huge full-service kitchen, a large dining hall, outdoor fields, a tire swing, basketball nets, outdoor seating... the list goes on! We made all our own meals, and youth were responsible for signing up for preparation and cleaning. We had sessions discussing the biblical context of the 'fruits of the spirit' and explored how we already use and experience those gifts, and

how we can work to bring them out more in ourselves and in others. We played some board games, lots of outdoor games, and even had lunch down by the beach! What a great weekend. ☺

Coffee Hour

This year, beginning in the fall, the youth group became involved (monthly) in preparing and serving during our after-service coffee hour, and it has been a great experiment in shaking things up! The youth have loved learning how to make coffee and tea and are becoming experts on getting everything set up and ready! It has been great to see them interacting with other members of the congregation who they might not get to see very often and getting more comfortable chatting with folks as they serve their coffee, tea, lemonade, and sometimes even some delicious treats!

This is an event that we will continue to do through the New Year, and depending on response, hopefully into the future! (Thank you to Katrina Hall for her never-ending patience and help with showing us the ropes and keeping us on task every month! ☺)

Kenya Youth Trip

Towards the summer of 2018, David Ambrose put out the call to youth regarding the 2019 Kenya Youth trip, and in the fall, we started meeting monthly! A dozen youth will be attending in the summer of 2019, and we have already begun practicing our Swahili, learning about current events, politics, religion, and life in Kenya. We had our first of three fundraising concerts in 2018, and can't wait for the next two in 2019.

Miscellaneous

- Youth helped with preparations and running of the Pride Service in May 2018.
- We had a few movie nights (in-house, and at Humber Cinemas).
- We participated in the RUC Craft Show, preparing baked goods for sale to supplement youth events in the future.
- Youth offered babysitting for parents who wanted the night off in the late winter of 2018.

Respectfully submitted by Cayley Pimentel
Sunday School Coordinator/Youth Leader

OFFICE REPORT

I will begin by thanking everyone who make working at RUC such a fulfilling experience. Great thanks go to Rev. Don for his continued dedication and support of the office. A special thank you to the M & P team for supporting my time off and a change in schedule. A very special thanks to Pat Campbell for joining the office team in what has been a seamless and quite fun transition. I hope it has been a positive experience to everyone, especially Pat! And certainly – without naming everyone – thanks go to David Ambrose, Carl Steinhauser, Cayley Pimentel and our in-house editors, Gary Norris and Judy Whitfield. Thanks to Jim Lien, Spencer Tripe, Don Dewees and the PropCom for keeping the church beautiful. Thanks to Brenda Lien, Laurie Tripe, Pat Ainslie and everyone who works tirelessly to ensure worship each and every week is bright, beautiful and organized! Thanks to Brian Traquair and David Wilcox for their support and guidance as I continue to manage and learn excel spreadsheets and the new-ish database. Thank you to the Board for their continued efforts and the Come to Life Team for working hard in community and church engagement.

I completed updates on the Policies and Procedures Manual, which will be finalized and published before Easter.

Use of Space, and the revenue it generates, has continued to grow. We have become a popular and useful community resource with regular tenants that include the daycare, Barn Owl Music (2017), Little Theatre Etobicoke, Lifeguarding Academy, MumNet, Second Mile, Revealed Word, Scouts/Guides, Cantores Celestes, Moms of Bloor, Gloria's Knitting Group, Little Kickers Soccer, Balan Baseball, our men's hockey and basketball groups and many regular bookings from the City of Toronto. I look forward to growing this revenue stream without interfering with our internal groups. If you have any questions about how our use of space is managed, please do not hesitate to contact me or Don Dewees.

We hosted only two on-site weddings this year, which is not a lot for a church our size. I will be connecting with Kingsway-Lambton, who host a great number of weddings and employs dedicated staff to manage and coordinate them all.

As the Contributions Secretary, I have been working towards increasing our email communications and to date we have only 74 people who continue to receive statements and receipts via Canada Post. I hope to decrease this number in an effort to save money and make the office a little greener. Our Social Media presence continues to grow. Our Instagram presence is stronger than any other church in our area and a following as engaged – if not more – as Trinity-St.Paul's. We currently have 459 followers and although our average reach is approximately 30%, I hope to increase this by half in 2019. We attracted 40 more followers on Facebook and it has become an important platform for advertising events and connecting with members of the church and the community. Twitter remains elusive, not just for RUC, but for many churches. As a news-driven platform, it is challenging to do more than retweet others and to share our weekly worship email. It is filled with political posts that can divide and alienate users, so I have been treading lightly here. I urge you to share and follow as much as you can, as we gather and welcome new users and hopefully new members. The website redesign has been easier to manage.

Our newsletter continues to be published 3-4 times per year. Look out for our Spring, Summer and Fall newsletters. We are always looking for news from our families, so send your family news and photos to me at any time!

With the skills and talents of Wang Chow (thanks!!), we now have new Staff photos, which you can see on the bulletin board outside the office and on our website.

Office hours have increased with me in on Monday (unofficially) and Tuesday 9:00am to 4:00pm and Pat working 9:00am to 1:00pm Wednesday thru Friday.

Yours with thanks, Alison Gadsby, office@runnymedeunited.org

DATABASE REPORT

The database Servant Keeper was implemented in 2016 and RUC has now had three years of using it.

We are still trying to get the database information to provide an accurate reflection of the people who attend Runnymede and/or provide financial contributions, whether by gift to Runnymede or by paying for use of the facilities. The database still has a large number of entries for people who made single contributions many years ago and work is going on to tidy this up.

During the course of 2018 we continued to produce analyses of contribution data to help the treasurer and stewardship committee with their understanding of how contributions change over time.

During 2018 a procedures manual for using Servant Keeper at Runnymede was produced and signed off. The purpose of the manual is to provide a process for a consistent method of handling the information we keep in our system so that new users of the system have a template for handling the data.

Last year I reported that we were intending to use the Servant Keeper facility to send periodic statements and also tax receipts by e-mail. There has been a good uptake by families and individuals who have agreed to our sending this information by this mechanism. There were a few minor glitches using this mechanism in 2018 so we hope to get it better in 2019. If you have not signed up for receiving your statements and tax receipts this way and would be happy to have them by e-mail in future, please contact the office.

If you have any questions about Servant Keeper and the information, we keep in the system please do not hesitate to contact me.

David Wilcox
Database Administrator
dbadmin@runnymedeunited.org

BOARD REPORTS

BOARD CHAIR

Reflections on 2018

Things change, and our congregation changes. The past year saw a number of changes at Runnymede, and we adapt and move forward into 2019, charged with our mission to spread the Good News and to share and build the RUC community. The Board, together with the congregation, has explored our mission, our priorities, and our hopes for the future. We pray for guidance and wisdom as we make new decisions for the future.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner 2018

Thank you to Brenda Lien for coordinating a successful community-building event that brings together members, often for the first time, to share a meal and fellowship. This annual event has proven to be a highlight of church life for many, and we look to continue in the years to come.

Come to Life

The Come to Life group shared its ideas to take action in the four key activities of church life: Inviting people to Runnymede; Welcoming people once they arrive; Connecting people with each other and their spiritual gifts; Growing in faith and community, always. We have already seen some of these initiatives come to be realized and are excited to see more happen!

Tell Your Story - April

On an icy, blustery April day, approximately 50 Runnymeders came together to share their personal journeys and Runnymede stories. These stories and suggestions have helped us to understand who we are and what we expect as we continue to grow. Thank you to all who participated in a lovely afternoon of food and sharing.

Craft Show

Judy Whitfield and her team ran yet another very successful Arts & Crafts Show. Andrea and I attended (and picked up some unique pieces), and we marvelled to see what a well-run show the team had put together. And, of course, there is the pie. Mmmm.

Community Meal

Gail Hutton and the community meal team have hosted numerous meals, all well attended. We are blessed to have this wonderful outreach effort at Runnymede, and you are all invited to participate and serve.

Alpha

A successful Alpha program was run in the winter and spring of the year, and we had a healthy turnout of over 25 people, some from RUC, some newcomers. We look forward to running similar "Christianity 101" programs in the future.

Capital Improvements

Don Dewees and his property team have been busily making improvements and additions to the church building. The lighting has been changed and is much more efficient (an ongoing process), a new driveway has replaced the old obstacle course, the roof on the gym has been replaced, and many other small but important maintenance items have been completed. We are fortunate to have such careful and detailed managers of our church building!

Christmas Pageant

The Pageant featured over 50 Runnymeders coming together to tell the story of Christ's birth. It is always so heartening to see the multiple generations of our church working together, rehearsing together, and performing together in worship and offering.

Dickens' Night

This evening continues to be the highlight of the Christmas season, and it is, for many, the kick-off for Advent. All the proceeds go to The Stop Community Food Centre and is a great example of the many ways in which RUC reaches out to the community. We were blessed to have award-winning actors Barbara Gordon, Nancy Palk and William Webster, broadcast journalist Anwar Knight, opera singer/comedienne Mary Lou Fallis and CBC host Jeff Douglas.

Thank you

So faith takes work. And I would like to thank all those Runnymeders who have taken their faith and brought it to life through action. It takes people to run this church, and this church building is a testament to our collective faith and a place where we can put faith into action.

The Administrative Team

Alison Gadsby, our church administrator, is so much more than that. She looks after our needs by running an efficient office and supporting all the various demands of the church, including the use of social media to help spread the good news. We welcome Pat Campbell to the Office Team this year! We said good-bye to Santiago Duque as our caretaker and said hello to Jim Lien. Jim, together with our Sunday caretaker, Spencer Tripe, ensures that our spiritual home is well cared for. Their passion for their work is obvious, and we are lucky to have such a dedicated team.

The Worship Team

Cayley Pimental leads our Runnymede Youth, and we are blessed to have someone so gifted working with young Runnymeders and guiding them through many experiences as they grow in faith and understanding.

Reverend Katherine Brittain found a new calling in British Columbia, and we gathered in June to thank her for her service and to wish her, Beth and their children all the best as they embark on their new adventures.

Reverend Don Gibson has led a number of adult faith initiatives and post-sermon "talk-back" sessions which have been very popular. Reverend Don has also been a great help and guide as we prepare for RUC's future.

David Ambrose and Carl Steinhauser led us in worship and have provided a musical worship experience that is one of the most fulfilling and grace-filled in the city. We are so lucky to have them with us!

The RUC Board

The board has diligently guided this church throughout the year and I thank them all for their prayerful leadership and oversight of all that we do here at Runnymede.

Runnymeders

To all of you, the members of Runnymede United Church, a hearty thank you for your faith, your actions, and your support. We continue to come together to build our community in Christ's name, to spread the Good News, and to fight for justice. The coming year will be new in some ways, and I look forward to seeing what we can do together to worship God in 2019!

Derrick Hempel, Chair of the Runnymede Board

Runnymede United Church

To: Finance Committee & Distribution List
From: Brian Traquair
Date: January 14, 2019

Subject Treasurer Report Year-end 2018

FINANCIAL RESULTS

- Overall for the year 2018, we ended up with a surplus of \$34,017.
- The main reason for the surplus was the vacancy for the second minister position for half of 2018, and higher than expected rental income offset lower than budget current giving.
- The year-end financial report proposes transferring the surplus to the GI&C Fund.
- Total receipts were \$11,484 lower than last year (ignoring the \$20,000 fund raising carry-forward) with current giving lower (-\$7,717), loose giving higher (+\$1,302), rent higher (+\$23,195) and fund raising lower (-\$14,082).
- Total expenses were \$18,577 lower than last year-to-date, with staff lower (-\$27,361), office higher (+\$758), property higher (+\$14,249), presbytery dues higher (+\$1,223), HST refund greater (-\$8,200) and programs higher (+\$754).

FUNDS AND FUND RAISING

- The funds are all in a good position, particularly the GI&C and Capital Campaign Funds which both increased in 2018.
- Due to the generosity of the congregation in our 2017 Special Deficit Campaign, we transferred \$20,000 into 2018 to cover what we would otherwise need to raise.

BUDGET

- Overall, we ended up \$34,017 ahead of budget for 2018, primarily due to \$27,000 in lower staff costs resulting from the one-minister situation from mid-2018.
- Income was over budget with **current giving under** (-\$15,548), loose over (+\$1,320), **rent over** (+\$29,482) and fund raising over (+\$1,916). **Total income was +\$17,170 over budget.**
- Expenses were under budget with **staff under** (-\$36,549), under in office (-\$1,394), over in property (+\$24,284) and under in programs (-\$2,739). HST refund is \$539 better than budget. Total expenses were \$16,847 under budget.
- 2018 Mission and Service donations were \$68,870, over the \$65,528 in 2017. We exceeded our 2018 target of \$66,000.
- 2018 GI&C donations were \$22,908, under the \$24,370 in 2017.

FINANCIAL STATUS

- The bank balance at the end of the month was \$126,764.

Brian

RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Payments

Year-end 2018

() means worse

2018 Budget		Last Year
Annual	Adjusted	To Date
350,000	350,000	342,169
6,500	6,500	6,518
95,000	95,000	101,287
15,000	15,000	15,000
5,500	5,500	6,227
0	0	15,271
20,000	20,000	14,182
492,000	492,000	500,654
92,200	92,200	91,000
79,300	79,300	78,250
1,000	1,000	-2,373
39,120	39,120	37,956
41,900	41,900	44,225
10,550	10,550	9,900
0	0	0
6,000	6,000	6,335
50,450	50,450	49,777
2,000	2,000	0
52,917	52,917	51,179
375,437	375,437	366,249
22,500	22,500	20,348
76,000	76,000	86,035
15,563	15,563	14,430
-12,500	-12,500	-4,839
15,000	15,000	11,507
492,000	492,000	493,730
0	0	6,924

CURRENT OPERATING ACCOUNT		vs. Budget	18 vs. 17	Adj	Final
RECEIPTS					
Envelopes (Current)	334,452	-15,548	-7,717		
Loose	7,820	1,320	1,302		
Rent	124,482	29,482	23,195		
Trustee Manse	15,000	0	0		
Fund Raising (Craft Show et al)	5,609	109	-618		
Fund Raising (Events/13th Mon)	1,807	1,807	-13,464		
Fund Raising Special (2017)	20,000	0	5,818		
Total Receipts	\$509,170	17,170	8,516		
PAYMENTS					
Salaries & Benefits					
Minister (Don)	92,200	0	-1,200		
Minister (Katherine)	51,500	27,800	26,750		
Subs (& sabbatical grants)	450	550	-2,823		
Office (Alison, Pat, Jim [sec])	34,207	4,913	3,749		
Property (Santiago, Jim, Spe)	44,519	-2,619	-294		
Youth (Cayley)	13,630	-3,080	-3,730		
Community Meal (team)	0	0	0		
Sunday School (team)	5,520	480	815		
Music (team)	48,542	1,908	1,235		
Contingency	0	2,000	0		
Benefits (All)	48,320	4,597	2,859		
Total	338,888	36,549	27,361		
Office Expenses	21,106	1,394	-758		
Property Expense	100,284	-24,284	-14,249		
Presbytery Dues	15,653	-90	-1,223		
HST Refund	-13,039	539	8,200		
Program Expense	12,261	2,739	-754		
Total Payments	\$475,153	16,847	18,577		
CURRENT OPERATING POSITION	\$34,017	34,017	27,093	-34,017	0

to GI&C

Last YTD
0
62,004
0
-44,956
10,500
10,300
1,788
17,175
9,345
11,672
15,466
3,576
710
3,796
536
2,301
0
-71,403
3,162
1,902
37,874

OTHER FUNDS	Jan 1/18	Receipts	Payments	Balance	Adj	Final
Coins Held	0	640	678	38		38
GI & C Fund	88,301	34,908	0	123,209	34,017	157,226
Mission & Service Fund	0	68,870	68,870	0		0
Capital Campaign	56,967	42,303	21,457	77,813		77,813
Choir Fund	10,500	0	126	10,374		10,374
Music and Musicians Fund	10,379	785	2,100	9,064		9,064
Pastoral Care Fund	1,648	1,055	468	2,235		2,235
Memorial Fund	5,736	750	0	6,486		6,486
Kenyan AIDS Orphans Fund	10,172	45,129	35,764	19,537		19,537
Outreach Fund	9,517	1,000	2,198	8,319		8,319
Community Meal Fund	7,399	4,641	9,325	2,715		2,715
Refugee Fund	28,596	2,752	3,091	28,257		28,257
Craft Show Fund Raising	875	14,670	14,757	788		788
Youth Mission (Kenya)	3,796	12,240	1,808	14,228		14,228
Youth Fund	5,982	176	430	5,728		5,728
Owed Other Organizations	2,236	10,464	9,897	2,803		2,803
Fund Raising Funds	20,000	0	20,000	0		0
Trustee Investments	-206,223	-58,314	-40,702	-223,835		-223,835
Pay Liabilities	8,162	5,227	10,227	3,162		3,162
Retained Earnings	1,902	0	0	1,902		1,902
Total Other Funds	65,945	186,656	159,816	92,785	34,017	126,802

BANK BALANCE

\$126,764

RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Payments

Year-end 2018

() means worse

2018 Budget		Last Year	PROGRAMS	Receipts	Payments	Net	18 vs. 17
Annual	Adjusted	To Date					
750	750	286	Adult Growth	819	2,137	1,318	-1,032
3,250	3,250	2,847	Clergy Continuing Education	0	724	724	2,123
1,000	1,000	280	Ministry & Personnel	0	698	698	-418
3,000	3,000	2,633	Music & Arts	800	3,647	2,847	-214
1,750	1,750	1,485	Stewardship & Communications	0	529	529	956
750	750	228	Sunday School	0	684	684	-456
500	500	124	Welcoming & Membership	0	1,375	1,375	-1,251
2,500	2,500	2,245	Worship	0	2,989	2,989	-744
1,500	1,500	1,379	Youth	2,140	3,237	1,097	282
15,000	15,000	11,507	Total Programs	3,759	16,020	12,261	-754

2018 Budget		Last Year	OFFICE	Receipts	Payments	Net	18 vs. 17
Annual	Adjusted	To Date					
1,000	1,000	731	Copying and Paper	0	1,004	1,004	-273
3,500	3,500	3,380	Envelopes & PAR	468	3,145	2,677	703
6,000	6,000	5,422	Photocopier	1,655	7,455	5,800	-378
1,500	1,500	1,337	Postage	0	628	628	709
5,250	5,250	4,732	Sundry & Software	0	5,071	5,071	-339
1,250	1,250	1,339	Supplies	50	1,676	1,626	-287
4,000	4,000	3,407	Telephone	534	4,834	4,300	-893
22,500	22,500	20,348	Total Office	2,707	23,813	21,106	-758

2018 Budget		Last Year	PROPERTY	Receipts	Payments	Net	18 vs. 17
Annual	Adjusted	To Date					
12,000	12,000	17,436	Building and Repairs	0	26,062	26,062	-8,626
3,000	3,000	2,437	Elevator Expenses	0	2,811	2,811	-374
8,000	8,000	15,638	Equipment and Organ Repairs	500	20,654	20,154	-4,516
10,250	10,250	10,245	Insurance	0	10,402	10,402	-157
3,000	3,000	3,057	Maintenance	0	3,093	3,093	-36
7,000	7,000	5,072	Supplies	0	6,226	6,226	-1,154
10,000	10,000	10,020	Hydro	0	7,699	7,699	2,321
17,500	17,500	17,390	Gas	0	18,383	18,383	-993
3,000	3,000	2,660	Water	0	3,691	3,691	-1,031
2,250	2,250	2,080	Workers' Compensation	0	1,763	1,763	317
76,000	76,000	86,035	Total Property	500	100,784	100,284	-14,249

Runnymede United Church

To: RUC Church Board
From: Brian Traquair
Date: January 16, 2019

Subject 2019 Budget and 3-Year Plan

OVERVIEW

The attached spreadsheets summarize the Runnymede United Church 2019 budget and 3-Year plan. This memo provides an explanation by budget area and the overall context for consideration of this plan by the Church Board and the Congregation.

2019 BUDGET SUMMARY

Income

On the income side for 2019, here are the important assumptions:

1. The 2019 Current Operations givings target is based on a +1.7% increase over 2018 actual giving.

We have not hit our current giving budget in 2015, 2016, 2017 or 2018 – and all were set at the same dollar figure of \$350,000! In 2018 we dropped by 2.3% from 2017 and missed the current operations budget by over \$15,000. As a result, we have set the 2019 budget \$10,000 lower at \$340,000. This still means an increase in current giving of +1.7% or \$5,600 in 2019.

2. Loose giving increased in 2018, after drops in both 2016 and 2017. We have therefore budgeted an increase of \$1,000.
3. Rental income has grown substantially in recent years and substantially exceeded budget again in 2018, which offset our congregational giving shortfall. We have set the rent for 2019 at \$118,000 which is an increase of our 2017 budget of \$23,000 and it is still less than the 2018 record levels, to be somewhat conservative.
4. Trustee manse fund income in 2019 is budgeted to increase \$3,000 to \$18,000. This decision was taken by the Trustees, as the amount had not changed in a decade or more.
5. The budget assumes that the Craft Show will continue to be successful and enable a donation of \$5,000 for Current and \$5,000 to M&S. The budget line also includes an additional \$500 that historically has come in from the Pancake Supper and other events which are not focused at fund raising but do have proceeds.
6. We have generally needed fund raising each year to balance the budget, but because of the staff transition and consequent lower costs in 2019, that is not the case this year. However, we will need fund raising funds in 2020 as we come back to full strength on staffing. The budget does not include any fund raising money in 2019, but Finance recommends we have a Deficit Dinner in the fall of 2019 to raise money for 2020.

Expense

On the expense side for 2019, here are the important assumptions:

1. We continue to have our minister Rev. Don Gibson in full-time ministry.
2. Our budget assumes hiring two half-time lay/contract roles for Engagement & Growth and Children & Youth, in the spring or early fall, and thus not a full year of expense.
3. We have Alison Gatsby and Pat Campbell sharing responsibility in part-time roles for church administration, with Alison also responsible for social media.
4. Jim Lien is our full-time caretaker and Spencer Tripe is our part-time Sunday caretaker.
5. In the Music program, we have David Ambrose as our part-time music director, Carl Steinhauser as our part-time organist and four part-time soloists (Pat Ainslie, Sabrina Perez, Trevor Peverley and Don Tripe).
6. In the Sunday School, we have four part-time Sunday School teachers. The cost is the same as budgeted for 2018.
7. In Youth, we have Cayley Pimental as our part-time Youth Leader, and also Sunday School coordinator for this church year.
8. Gail Hutton and Greg Philip share the part-time Community Meal Coordinator role. The budget shows \$0 cost for 2019 for these roles because the costs are drawn from the Community Meal Fund, as are food costs. We did this in 2018 as well.
9. We have included a Contingency provision in the staff area for unexpected staff costs.
10. Presbytery dues have been replaced by a UCC national assessment. The new national assessments are approximately double our presbytery dues. We are reaching the new levels in increments over a three-year period, which means they are about \$5,000 higher this year, and will eventually grow from \$15,000 in 2018 to about \$31,000 in 2022.
11. The budgets for Office, Property and Programs are based on last year's expenditures and take into account expected changes for 2019 as understood by Finance and Property. We had a number of property expenditures in 2018 which will not repeat. The net impact is \$13,000 more in expenditures in 2019 compared to the 2018 budget, but \$8,500 less than 2018 actuals.
12. The net expenses include an assumed HST refund that is more than we received in 2018. Refunds have been higher in 2018 and 2019 as they arise from our capital campaign projects but are delayed due to the government refund process.

Commentary

The overall result is that the 2019 budget is a balanced budget, at \$2,000 lower in income and expenditure level than last year's budget and \$20,000 below last year's actuals.

The budget for 2019 will require the Board and Congregation to:

- a) build attendance and giving that will result in a +1.7% increase in giving for current operations donations from the congregation, and +2% per year in 2020 and 2021
- b) see continued rental income from current and new tenants close to 2018 levels
- c) continue to build annual fund-raising programs to raise \$20,000 from events and other sources to make up our structural deficit each year

2019 THREE YEAR PLAN SUMMARY

The goal over three years is to grow congregational giving and control costs so that we remain in a balanced budget situation each year. Our main challenge is to ensure that our giving outpaces the increases in staff costs and inflation in office, property and programmes.

We need 2.0% increases in Current Operations giving in each of 2020 and 2021 for us to support our staffing levels in Ministry, Sunday School, Music and Youth, plus annual salary and inflation increases. In 2018, giving shrank -2.3%. Our budget for 2019 is a +1.7% increase in Current Giving which translates to a -2.9% reduction from our 2018 budget. We hope that 2018 is an aberration resulting from staff transition and perception of reduced financial needs.

The plan assumes continued and increased annual fund raising. We intend a deficit dinner in 2019 to provide fund raising for 2020. For 2020 and 2021, and beyond, we need to build an annual fund raising capability to yield \$20,000 per year.

Action

The Treasurer and the Finance Committee recommend this 2019 Budget and 3-Year Financial Plan to the Board and to the Congregation for approval at the Annual General Meeting.



Brian Traquair, Treasurer, Runnymede United Church

**RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
2019 BUDGET**

SUMMARY Budget	2017 Actual	2018		2019 Budget	Better (Worse) Vs Forc		Notes on Budget
		Budget	Actual		Vs. Bud	Vs Forc	
Receipts							
Envelopes	342,169	350,000	334,452	340,000	-2.9%	1.7%	Percent increase for envelope giving
Loose	6,518	6,500	7,820	7,500	1,000	5,548	Reduce from prior goal of \$350K
Rent	101,287	95,000	124,482	118,000	23,000	-320	Set close to 2018 actual
Trustee Manse Funds	15,000	15,000	15,000	18,000	3,000	-6,482	Bring up close to 2018 actual
Fund raising (craft show)	6,227	5,500	5,609	5,500	0	3,000	Trustees agreed increase in interest income
Fund raising (deficit reduction)	15,271	0	1,807	1,000	1,000	-109	Craft show continues; assuming same funds
Fund raising (special)	34,182	20,000	20,000	0	-20,000	-807	Deficit dinner in 2019 BUT for 2020 year
Total Receipts	520,654	492,000	509,170	490,000	-2,000	-19,170	No special fund raising
Payments							
Salaries & Benefits							
Minister (Don)	91,000	92,200	92,200	94,800	-2,600	-2,600	2019 compensation
Minister or Lay Staff (TBD)	78,250	79,300	51,500	55,000	24,300	-3,500	Set to cover two 1/2 time lay roles 2/3 year
Substitutes	-2,373	1,000	450	3,000	-2,000	-2,550	Increased substitutes due to staff change
Office (Alison, Pat)	37,956	39,120	34,207	37,500	1,620	-3,293	2019 compensation and coverage
Property (Jim, Spencer)	44,225	41,900	44,519	47,000	-5,100	-2,481	2019 compensation and coverage
Youth (Cayley)	9,900	10,550	13,630	17,600	-7,050	-3,970	2019 compensation
Community Meal (Gail, Greg)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2019 compensation (\$2,400 offset by grant)
Sunday School (team)	6,335	6,000	5,520	4,800	1,200	720	Four part-time teachers
Music staff (David, Carl, soloists)	49,777	50,450	48,542	50,000	450	-1,458	Music staff (director, org + 4 soloists)
Contingency & Increases	0	2,000	0	2,500	-500	-2,500	Salary increases and contingency
Benefits (All)	51,179	52,917	48,320	50,550	2,367	-2,230	Benefits indexed to staff and salaries
Staff Expenses	366,249	375,437	338,888	362,750	12,687	-23,862	
Office Expenses	20,348	22,500	21,106	22,500	0	-1,394	See detail on next page
Property Expenses	86,035	76,000	100,284	82,750	-6,750	17,534	See detail on next page
Presbytery Dues / Assessment	14,430	15,563	15,653	21,000	-5,437	-5,347	Agreed RUC graduated assessment plan
HST Refund	-4,839	-12,500	-13,039	-15,000	2,500	1,961	HST combined refund components
Program Expenses	11,506	15,000	12,261	16,000	-1,000	-3,739	See detail on next page
Total Payments	493,729	492,000	475,153	490,000	2,000	-14,847	
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	26,925	0	34,017	0	0	34,017	

**RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
2019 BUDGET**

DETAILED BREAKDOWN	2017		2018		2019		Better (Worse) Vs. Bud Vs Forc		Notes on Budget
	Actual	Budget	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget			
PROGRAMS									
Adult Growth	286	750		1,318	1,500		-750	-182	Increase to prior year actual
Clergy Continuing Education	2,847	3,250		724	1,750		1,500	-1,026	Set to one minister budget
Ministry & Personnel	280	1,000		698	1,000		0	-302	Last year's budget
Music & Arts	2,633	3,000		2,847	3,000		0	-153	Last year's budget
Stewardship & Communications	1,485	1,750		529	1,250		500	-721	Reduce from prior year budget
Sunday School	227	750		684	1,000		-250	-316	Increase from prior year budget
Welcoming & Membership	125	500		1,375	2,000		-1,500	-625	Add Come to Life project work
Worship	2,245	2,500		2,989	3,000		-500	-11	Increase to prior year actual
Youth	1,378	1,500		1,097	1,500		0	-403	Last year's budget
Total Programs	11,506	15,000		12,261	16,000		-1,000	-3,739	
OFFICE									
Copying and Paper	731	1,000		1,004	1,000		0	4	Last year's budget
Envelopes & PAR	3,380	3,500		2,677	3,000		500	-323	Reduce from prior year budget
Photocopier	5,422	6,000		5,800	6,000		0	-200	Last year's budget
Postage	1,337	1,500		628	1,000		500	-372	Reduce from prior year budget
Sundry & Software	4,732	5,250		5,071	5,250		0	-179	Last year's budget
Supplies	1,339	1,250		1,626	1,750		-500	-124	Increase to prior year actual
Telephone	3,407	4,000		4,300	4,500		-500	-200	Increase to prior year actual
Total Office	20,348	22,500		21,106	22,500		0	-1,394	
PROPERTY									
Building and Repairs	17,437	12,000		26,062	14,000		-2,000	12,062	Increase from prior year budget
Elevator Expenses	2,437	3,000		2,811	3,000		0	-189	Last year's budget
Equipment and Repairs	15,638	8,000		20,154	9,000		-1,000	11,154	Increase from prior year budget
Insurance	10,245	10,250		10,402	10,500		-250	-98	Increase from prior year budget
Maintenance	3,057	3,000		3,093	3,000		0	93	Last year's budget
Supplies	5,072	7,000		6,226	7,000		0	-774	Last year's budget
Hydro	10,020	10,000		7,699	10,000		0	-2,301	Last year's budget
Gas	17,389	17,500		18,383	20,000		-2,500	-1,617	Prior year actual plus an increase
Water	2,660	3,000		3,691	4,000		-1,000	-309	Increase to prior year actual
Workers' Compensation	2,080	2,250		1,763	2,250		0	-487	Last year's budget
Total Property	86,035	76,000		100,284	82,750		-6,750	17,534	

**Runnymede 2019 Budget
3-Year Financial Plan**

SUMMARY	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	2020 Plan	2021 Plan	Notes
Receipts							
Current Operations (Envelopes)	344,278	342,169	334,452	340,000	346,800	353,700	Percent increase in total receipts
Loose	7,051	6,518	7,820	7,500	7,500	7,500	Percent increase in envelope givings
Rent	86,757	101,287	124,482	118,000	122,500	125,000	Unclear we can grow above \$350K/year
Trustee Manse Funds	15,000	15,000	15,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	Assumed flat over the planning period
Fund raising (craft show & misc)	5,907	6,227	5,609	5,500	5,500	5,500	Continued growth, mostly in prices
Fund raising (deficit dinner et al)	11,440	15,271	1,807	1,000	17,500	20,000	New Trustee transfer level
Fund raising (special or Trustees)	0	14,182	20,000	0	0	0	Craft show annual goal & misc fund raising
Total Receipts	470,433	500,654	509,170	490,000	517,800	529,700	Deficit dinner in '19 for '20, then 2021 again Fund raising done in 2017 carried into 2018
Payments							
Salaries & Benefits							
Minister (Don)	89,500	91,000	92,200	94,800	94,800	94,800	Percent increase in total expenditures
Minister or Lay Staff	77,000	78,250	51,500	55,000	75,000	75,000	Full time minister
Staff substitutes	900	-2,373	450	3,000	1,000	1,000	Two part-time lay staff (only 2/3 in 2019)
Office (Alison, Pat)	37,135	37,956	34,207	37,500	37,500	37,500	Reduced subs with full staffing
Property (Jim, Spencer)	40,552	44,225	44,519	47,000	47,000	47,000	Church administration team
Youth (Cayley)	12,028	9,900	13,630	17,600	12,000	12,000	Daily & Sunday caretaking
Community Meal (Gail, Phillip)	0	0	0	0	0	0	Youth leader only under new staff model
Sunday School (team)	6,268	6,335	5,520	4,800	4,800	4,800	Two part-time co-ord's paid out of CM fund
Music staff (David, Carl, soloists)	47,117	49,777	48,542	50,000	50,000	50,000	Sunday school teachers (4)
Salary Increases (and contingency)	0	0	0	2,500	7,500	12,500	Music director,organist, soloists
Benefits (All)	49,605	51,179	48,320	50,550	52,700	53,600	Salary increases [cumulative] (about 2%)
Staff Expenses	360,105	366,249	338,888	362,750	382,300	388,200	Employer benefits & taxes
Office Expenses	23,208	20,348	21,106	22,500	25,000	25,500	Gradual increase in costs
Property Expenses	65,164	86,035	100,284	82,750	83,000	84,000	Gradual increase in costs
Presbytery Dues / Assessment	15,495	14,430	15,653	21,000	25,000	28,000	Escalation toward Assessment of \$31,188
HST Refund	-8,751	-4,839	-13,039	-15,000	-15,000	-14,000	Rebates decline after capital projects done
Program Expenses	15,769	11,506	12,261	16,000	17,500	18,000	Gradual increase in costs (special in 2019)
Total Payments	470,990	493,729	475,153	490,000	517,800	529,700	
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-557	6,925	34,017	0	0	0	Balanced budgets

Envelope Increase History	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Change over prior year	-2.3%	-2.3%	0.9%	-0.1%	6.3%	2.6%
Envelope Change Year-over-Year	(6,917)	2,513	(173)	18,668	12,404	8,193

Note: 2020 can also be achieved with no fund raising but a 7% increase in Current Operations Giving

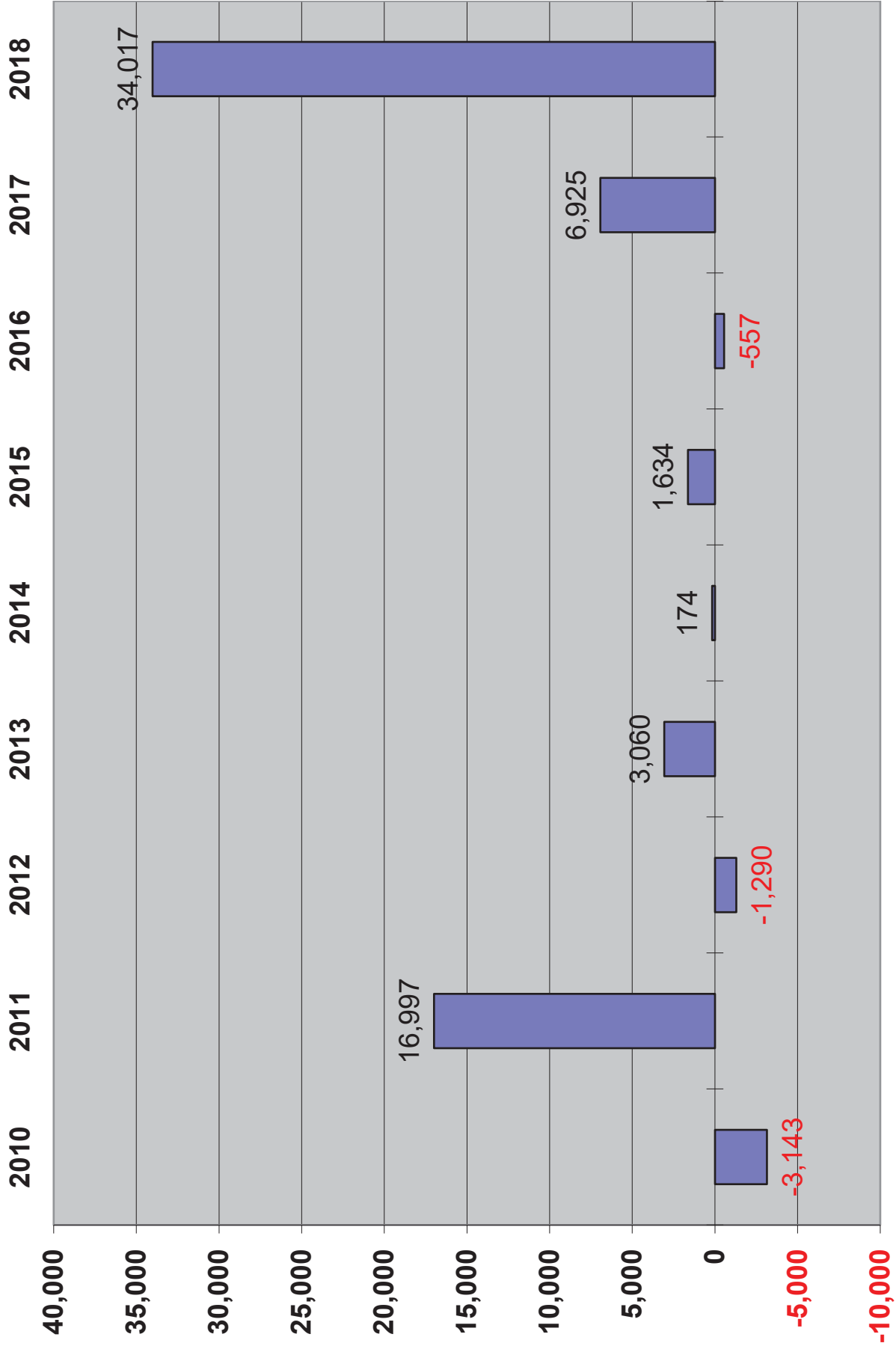
RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH FINANCIAL HISTORY

Runnymede United Church Financial History	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual
Receipts								
Current Operations	294,053	296,566	296,393	315,061	327,465	335,658	344,278	342,169
Loose	9,219	10,314	10,065	9,815	9,214	10,562	7,051	6,518
Rents	41,179	55,302	59,705	72,642	70,486	77,231	86,757	101,287
Trustee Manse Funds	16,500	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Craft Show and Fund Raising	7,612	10,574	4,500	5,423	5,554	6,218	5,907	6,227
Fund Raising Events	4,824	4,109	1,425	14,610	26,267	13,243	11,440	15,271
Special/Trustee Fund Raising	0	0	12,000	12,000	6,000	0	0	14,182
Total Receipts	373,387	391,865	399,088	444,551	459,986	457,912	470,433	500,654
Payments								
Salaries & Benefits								
Minister (first)	66,900	34,350	54,000	83,500	85,600	87,750	89,500	91,000
Minister (second)	66,900	68,700	46,000	71,700	73,720	75,750	77,000	78,250
Minister (third)			29,225	0				
Minister (substitute)	550	1,725	715	-113	2,511	462	900	-2,373
Office	33,420	33,720	34,270	34,920	34,920	28,101	37,135	37,956
Property	35,925	36,350	37,665	40,998	39,010	37,100	40,552	44,225
Youth	6,600	8,000	5,880	5,600	11,868	10,080	12,028	9,900
Community Meal (staff)	0	0	0	0	0	2,400	0	0
Sunday School	3,900	7,200	4,560	5,765	5,580	7,864	6,268	6,335
Music	37,920	39,780	40,500	41,250	42,300	42,663	47,117	49,777
Benefits (All)	37,854	35,928	37,327	48,178	52,894	46,029	49,605	51,179
Total	289,969	265,753	290,142	331,798	348,403	338,199	360,105	366,249
Office Expenses	11,796	11,574	13,411	14,956	17,828	27,347	23,208	20,348
Property Expenses	54,419	75,457	76,063	70,723	70,923	68,096	65,164	86,035
Presbytery Dues	12,600	12,750	11,550	12,702	13,357	14,625	15,495	14,430
GST/HST Refund	-4,351	-4,542	-9,772	-10,338	-8,075	-9,762	-8,751	-4,839
Program Expense	12,097	13,876	18,984	21,650	17,376	17,773	15,769	11,506
Total Payments	376,530	374,868	400,378	441,491	459,812	456,278	470,990	493,729
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-3,143	16,997	-1,290	3,060	174	1,634	-557	6,925

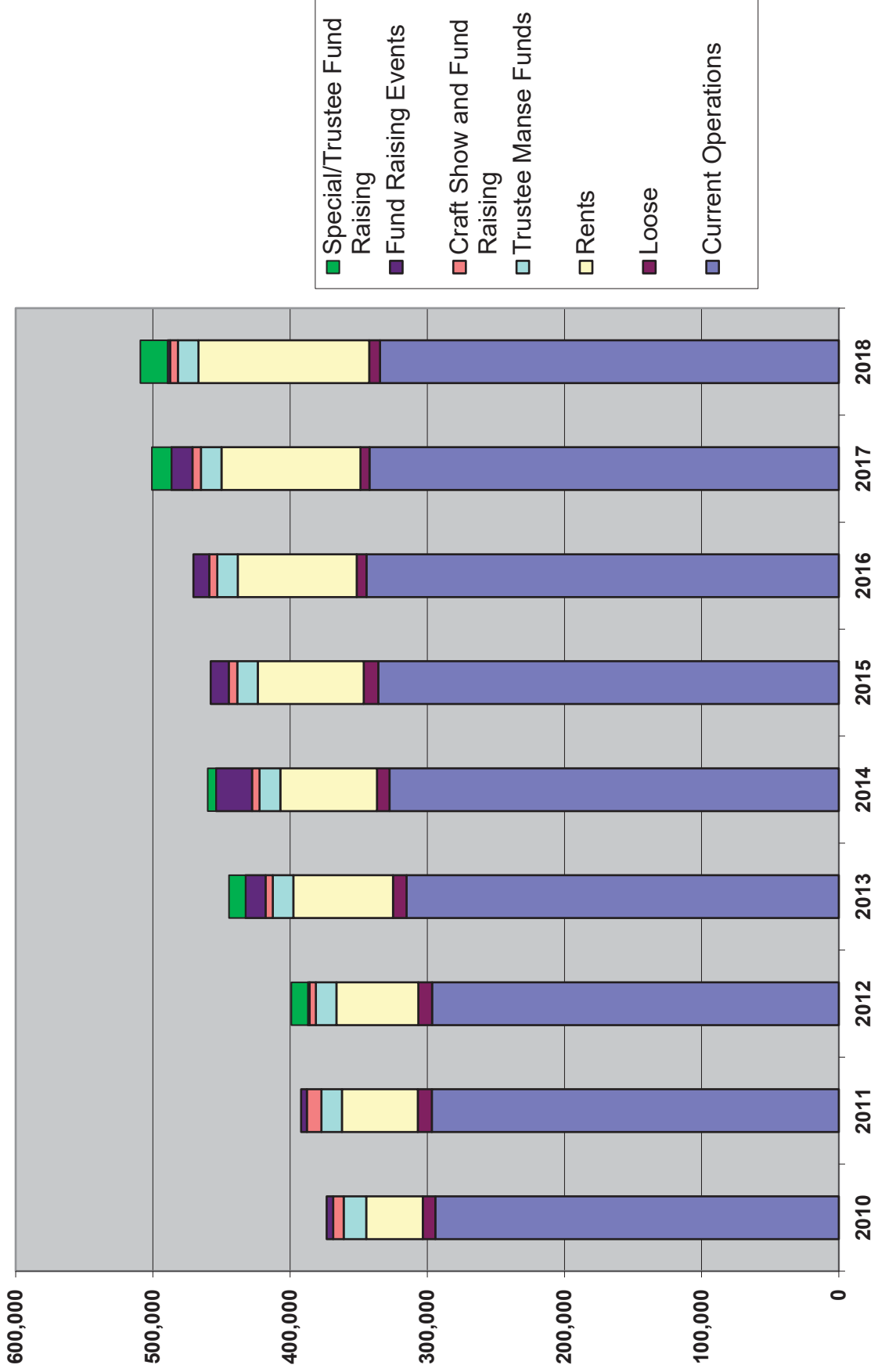
**RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
FINANCIAL HISTORY**

DETAILED BREAKDOWN		2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual
PROGRAMS									
Adult Growth		969	-362	608	301	1,049	194	208	286
Clergy Continuing Education		1,098	962	200	4,150	2,311	3,446	4,890	2,847
Ministry & Personnel		499	2,185	2,742	4,553	1,484	872	2,214	280
Music & Arts		2,055	2,812	2,594	2,382	1,372	4,291	3,136	2,633
Stewardship & Communications		1,795	971	1,391	1,596	2,299	2,438	1,752	1,485
Sunday School		685	114	1,807	1,944	2,803	1,795	832	227
Welcoming & Membership		136	548	1,460	1,086	910	1,232	-100	125
Worship		2,394	2,274	3,573	2,266	1,819	2,229	1,497	2,245
Youth		2,316	1,764	2,000	972	929	1,276	1,340	1,378
Total Programs		11,947	13,876	18,984	21,650	17,376	17,773	15,769	11,506
OFFICE									
Copying and Paper		1,633	1,512	1,032	1,618	762	1,240	1,657	731
Envelopes & PAR		1,497	1,607	1,432	1,716	2,090	2,309	3,669	3,380
Machine Contracts		2,163	2,066	2,542	2,755	6,472	9,995	5,686	5,422
Postage		615	1,527	1,039	587	1,457	1,630	1,138	1,337
Sundry & Software		1,550	1,697	2,533	3,299	2,862	6,284	6,479	4,732
Supplies		1,215	279	1,712	1,180	190	1,232	162	1,339
Telephone		3,123	2,886	3,121	3,801	3,995	4,657	4,417	3,407
Total Office		11,796	11,574	13,411	14,956	17,828	27,347	23,208	20,348
PROPERTY									
Building and Repairs		9,726	24,672	14,681	13,248	10,843	3,125	8,023	17,437
Elevator Expenses		804	3,273	4,172	3,239	2,829	2,710	4,912	2,437
Equipment and Repairs		7,384	5,486	13,315	5,845	3,211	6,557	3,336	15,638
Insurance		7,310	7,619	8,741	9,030	9,933	9,933	10,089	10,245
Maintenance		3,374	3,370	6,112	3,410	3,480	3,147	2,506	3,057
Supplies		4,105	5,101	5,323	8,112	8,063	7,703	7,266	5,072
Hydro		6,261	7,429	6,442	7,552	8,467	8,009	8,784	10,020
Gas		12,828	15,694	13,879	15,627	20,002	22,351	15,272	17,389
Water		1,586	1,626	1,755	2,542	2,084	2,348	2,939	2,660
Workers' Compensation		1,041	1,187	1,643	2,118	2,011	2,213	2,037	2,080
Total Property		54,419	75,457	76,063	70,723	70,923	68,096	65,164	86,035

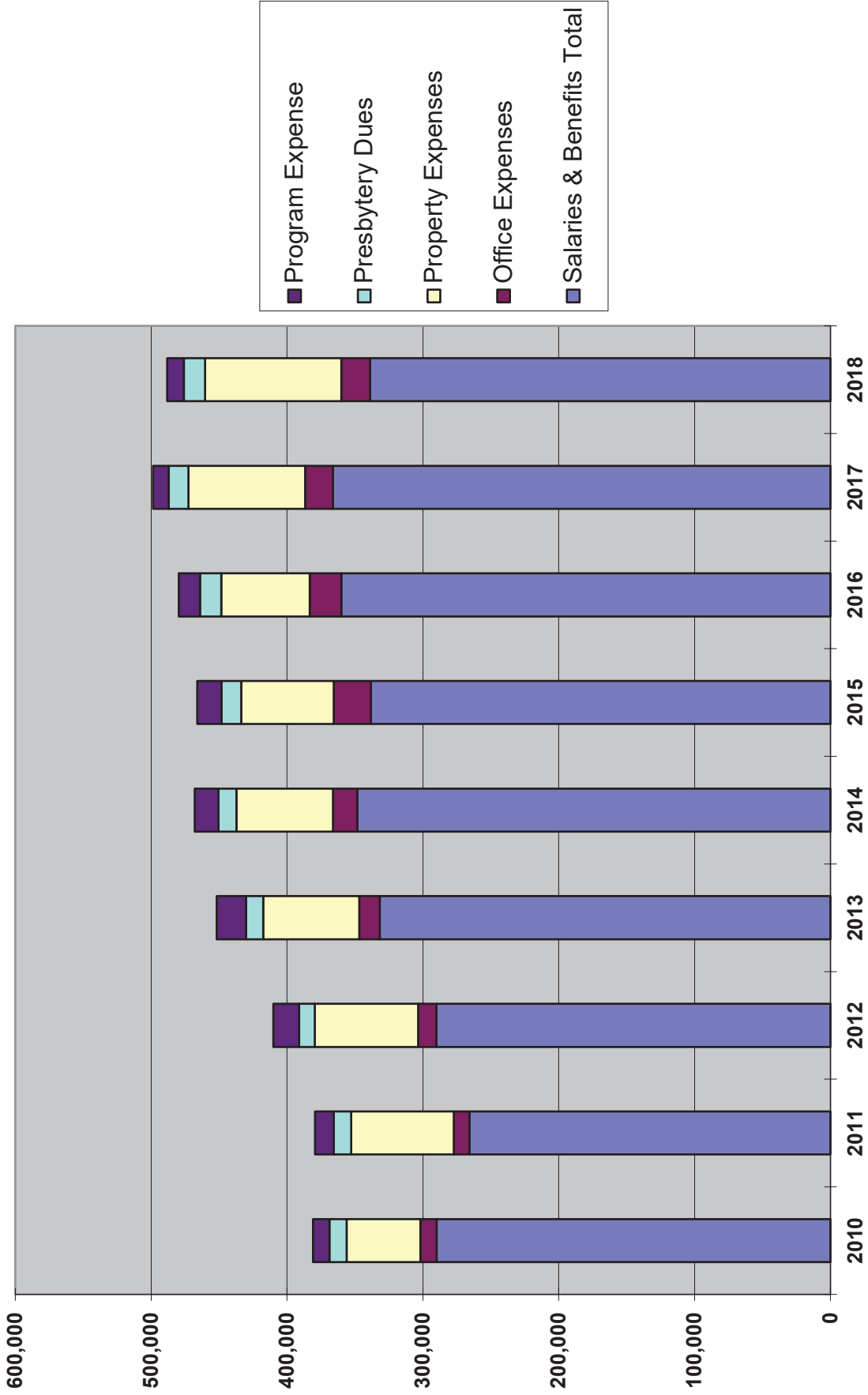
ANNUAL DEFICIT OR SURPLUS



INCOME BY TYPE OVER TIME



Expenses by Type over Time

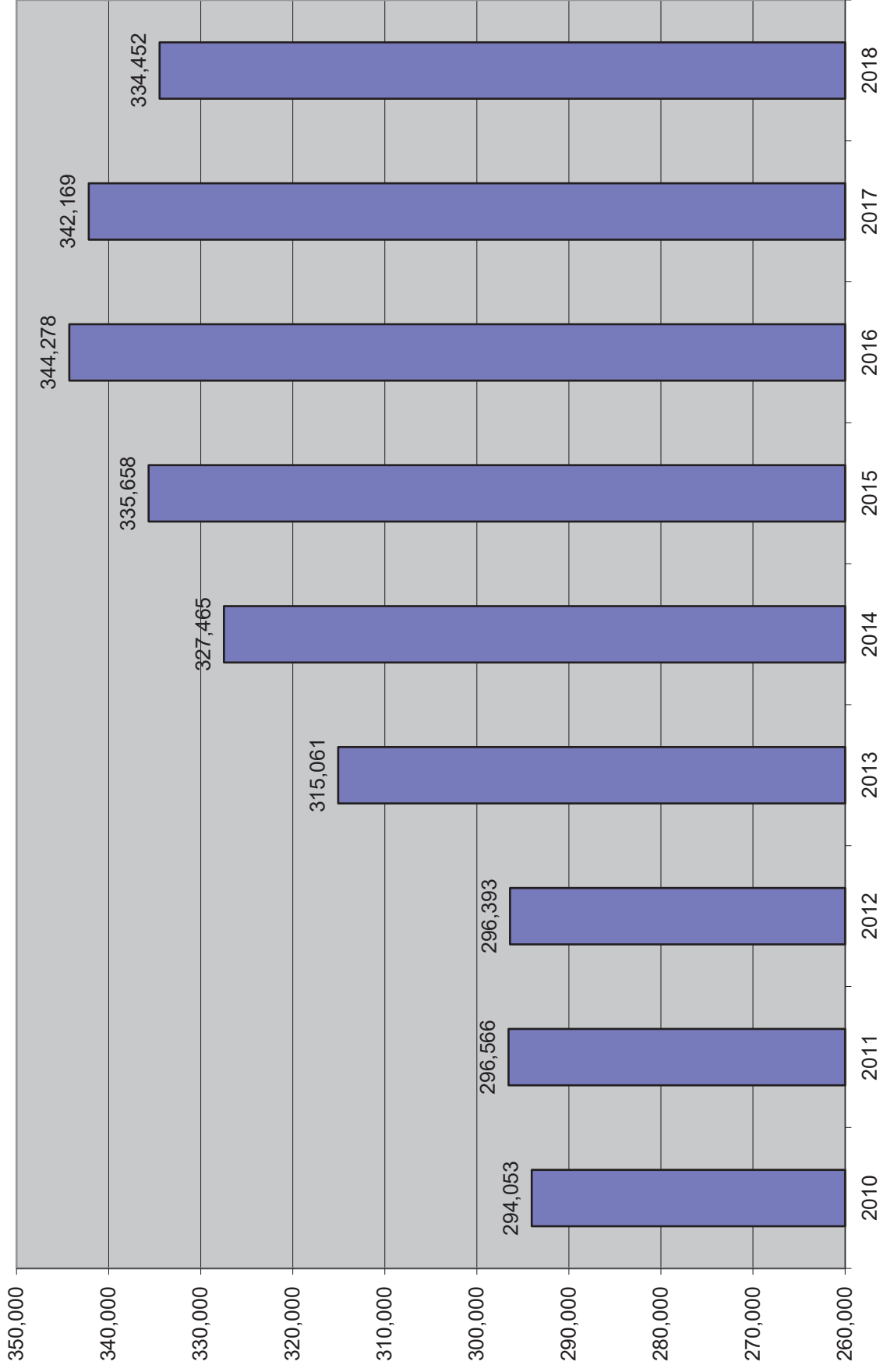


**RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
GIVING HISTORY**

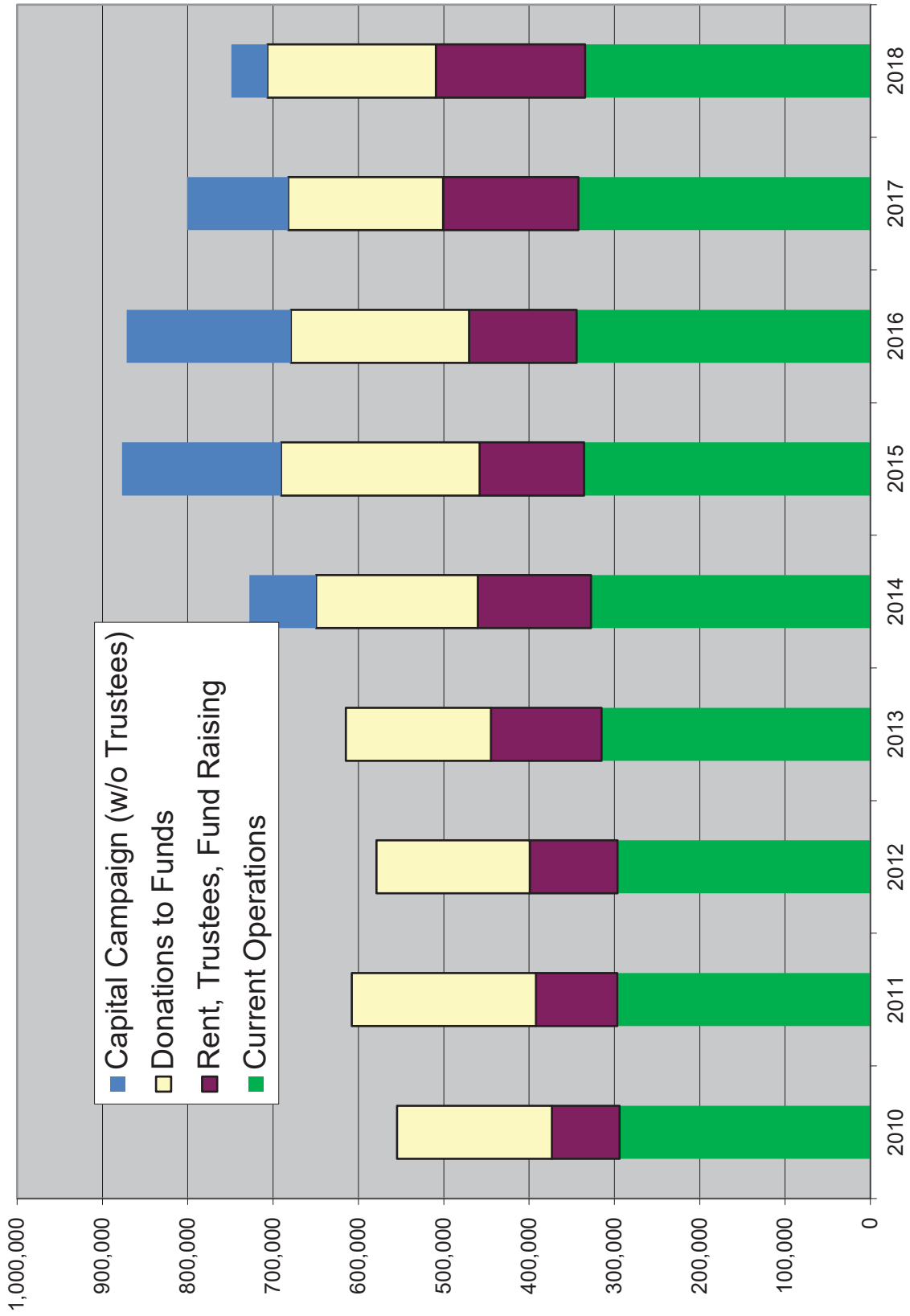
Runnymede United Church Giving History	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Actual
Receipts									
Current Operations	294,053	296,566	296,393	315,061	327,465	335,658	344,278	342,169	334,452
Loose	9,219	10,314	10,065	9,815	9,214	10,562	7,051	6,518	7,820
Rents	41,179	55,302	59,705	72,642	70,486	77,231	86,757	101,287	124,482
Trustee Manse Funds	16,500	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Special Fund Raising	7,612	10,574	0	14,610	26,267	13,243	5,907	6,227	5,609
Craft Show / Flea Market	4,824	4,109	5,925	5,423	5,554	6,218	11,440	15,271	1,807
Trustee Deficit Coverage	0	0	12,000	12,000	6,000	0	0	14,182	20,000
Total Receipts	373,387	391,865	399,088	444,551	459,986	457,912	470,433	500,654	509,170
Funds									
Capital Campaign Fund					78,200	186,360	192,472	268,467	42,303
Flower/Pastoral Care Fund	905	830	1,094	1,344	536	1,050	1,230	760	1,055
GI & C Fund	27,532	30,467	52,350	41,946	24,250	27,962	33,670	24,370	34,908
Memorial Fund	1,775	605	1,360	100		3,355	716		750
Mission & Service Fund	60,256	55,545	56,375	59,308	57,638	67,241	63,086	65,528	68,870
Music and Musicians Fund							10,300	79	785
Kenyan AIDS Orphans Fund	20,305	37,159	31,245	30,493	30,384	23,598	36,334	28,387	45,129
Out of the Cold/Com Meal Fund	6,999	6,130	6,657	8,367	13,519	8,098	8,036	2,267	4,641
Outreach Fund	13,880	9,636	6,068	2,654	4,358	948	10,696	790	1,000
Owed Other Organisations	22,820	17,051	6,425	11,283	28,813	13,378	11,791	11,204	10,464
Refugee Fund			6,660	1,100	2,000	4,573	20,380	29,340	2,752
UCW/Craft Show	10,541	10,722	11,446	12,475	12,143	12,107	12,510	13,448	14,670
Youth Mission Trip (Kenya)	6,480	44,608			14,020	67,307			12,240
Youth Fund	9,907	3,222	144	995	2,050	3,255	50	5,446	176
Donations to Funds	181,400	215,975	179,824	170,065	267,911	419,232	401,271	450,086	239,743
Total Donations	554,787	607,840	578,912	614,616	727,897	877,144	871,704	950,740	748,913

Projects	washrooms office chimney	outside doors	office reno electrical kitchen gran	phone sys sewer fix kitchen gran	asbestos drains capital	carpet rads choir switch	kitchen audio nursery	gym roof	parking lot asbestos removal
Total Receipts year-over-year	(1.4%)	4.9%	1.8%	11.4%	3.5%	(0.5%)	2.7%	6.4%	1.7%
Total Donations year-over-year	(7.7%)	9.6%	(4.8%)	6.2%	18.4%	20.5%	(0.6%)	9.1%	(21.2%)

Current Operations Giving Trend



Donations over Time
Total Current Receipts versus Donations to Funds



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Preface to the 2018 Trustees Report

As most of you will know the last half of 2018 was a challenging time for investors. For accounting purposes, we are required to include in investment income the change in the market value of our assets from year to year. In 2018 the market value of our assets declined by unprecedented amounts. The Manse Fund declined by \$24,130 or 7% and the Estate Funds declined by \$28,050 or 5%. We expect that over the long term our portfolios will regain this decline and continue to grow at historically normal rates.

To show the composition of our investment income in a more transparent way we have broken it down into three separate lines on the financial statements. Line one is composed of dividends and interest received. This is the actual cash received into our account from our stock and bond holdings. The second line is made up of realized gains, changes in accrued interest, bond amortization of premiums and discounts, return of capital amounts from trust units, and any other miscellaneous accounting adjustments. The third line is the aforementioned change in market values shown as "Unrealized gains (losses) on investments."

The Manse Trust Fund

The Manse Trust fund was established when the church manse was sold in 1981. With the approval of Toronto West Presbytery, the income from the proceeds of the sale provides the basis for monthly grants paid to the Operating Fund of the church, as a contribution to the housing allowances paid to our ministers. The 2018 contribution has been maintained at the 2017 level of \$15,000.

Investment income from the fund was (\$14,823) compared to \$24,586 in 2017. The net result was a deficiency of revenue over expenditures of (\$29,823) in 2018 versus an excess of \$9,586 in 2017.

The balance of the Manse Funds at year end was \$304,107 compared to \$333,930 in 2017.

The Estates Trust Fund

Fortunately for the Estates Funds the decline in market values was more than offset in 2018 by the receipt of a generous bequest for \$40,702 from the estate of Marjorie Scotland, a long time and active member of our congregation. No gifts or bequest were received in 2017.

Income from investments was (\$15,404) compared to \$10,149 in 2017. As of December 31, 2018, the Trustees held \$223,835 from the Church Operating Account compared to \$206,223 in 2017. The Estates Fund balance at the end of the year was \$362,780 versus \$338,602 in 2017. These amounts do not include the balance due to the Church Operating Account. At December 31, 2018 year-end, the sum of \$42,235 is restricted to the use of income only, compared to \$42,554 in 2017. There are no funds restricted to use for a specific purpose at year-end. The Unrestricted funds at year-end are \$320,545 compared to \$296,048 for 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Trustees of Runnymede United Church

Bob Cossitt (Treasurer), Roy Fischer (Chair), Joan Howard, Julie Lee, June Pinkney and Brian Traquair

TRUSTEES OF RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MANSE TRUST FUND

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

		2018	2017
Year ended December 31			
		\$	\$
REVENUE	Dividends and interest received	14,931	11,332
	Realized gains (losses), accruals and other adjustments	(5,624)	10,891
	Unrealized gains (losses) on investments	(24,130)	2,363
	Total investment income	(14,823)	24,586
EXPENSES	Transfer to church operating (Housing Allowance)	15,000	15,000
	Total Expenditures	15,000	15,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses		(29,823)	9,586
Net assets beginning of year		333,930	324,344
Net assets, end of year		304,107	333,930

BALANCE SHEET

		2018	2017
As at December 31			
ASSETS	Investments at book value (see Schedule A attached)	269,012	275,360
	Mark to market adjustment	34,305	58,435
	Investments at market value	303,317	333,795
	Accrued Interest on bonds	-	-
	Funds on Deposit with Banks	790	135
		304,107	333,930
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
TOTAL NET ASSETS		304,107	324,344
TOTAL NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		\$ 304,107	\$ 324,344

**TRUSTEES OF RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Schedule of securities held at December 31, 2018

Schedule A

MANSE FUND

		Book Value	Market Value
Common Shares	No. of shares	\$	\$
ALLIED PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE TRUST	1,000	15,497	44,320
BANK OF MONTREAL	500	33,417	44,595
BCE INC	500	18,807	26,965
BIRD CONSTRUCTION INC	1,500	15,160	9,165
BROOKFIELD PROPERTY PARTNERS L P	1,100	30,755	24,222
ENBRIDGE INC	349	16,688	14,801
NATIONAL BANK OF CANADA	500	31,490	28,025
PEMBINA PIPELINE CORP	650	29,635	26,332
TELUS CORPORATION	300	14,228	13,575
SMARTCENTRES REAL ESTATE TRUST	300	19,953	30,830
TORONTO DOMINION BANK	500	36,825	33,930
	Total common shares	<u>\$ 262,455</u>	<u>\$ 296,760</u>
Mutual Funds	No. of fund units		
RBC INVESTMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT Mutual Fund	656	<u>\$ 6,557</u>	<u>\$ 6,557</u>
TOTAL		<u>\$ 269,012</u>	<u>\$ 303,317</u>

**TRUSTEES OF RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

ESTATES TRUST FUND

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year ended December 31

		2018	2017
		\$	\$
REVENUE	Gifts and bequests received	40,702	-
	Dividends and interest received	14,799	17,708
	Realized gains (losses), accruals and other adjustments	(2,152)	(3,669)
	Unrealized gains (losses) on investments	(28,051)	(3,890)
	Total investment income (loss)	(15,404)	10,149
	Total revenue	25,298	10,149
EXPENSES	Contribution for cost of building appraisal	-	2,543
	Contribution of income on restricted funds	1,120	2,050
	Contribution of funds to Capital Campaign	-	150,000
	Total expenses	1,120	154,593
	Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	24,178	(144,444)
	Net assets beginning of year	338,602	483,046
	Net assets, end of year	\$ 362,780	\$ 338,602

BALANCE SHEET

As at December 31

		2018	2017
ASSETS	Investments at book value (see Schedule B attached)	599,495	529,827
	Mark to market adjustment	(16,143)	11,908
	Investments at market value	583,352	541,735
	Accrued Interest on bonds	2,329	2,072
	Funds on Deposit with Banks	934	1,018
TOTAL ASSETS		586,615	544,825
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
LIABILITIES	Funds due to church operating account	223,835	206,223
	Securities received In kind for the Capital Campaign	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES		223,835	206,223
NET ASSETS	Restricted to use of income only	42,235	42,554
	Restricted to use for a specific purpose	-	-
	Unrestricted funds	320,545	296,048
TOTAL NET ASSETS		362,780	338,602
TOTAL NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		\$ 586,615	\$ 544,825

**TRUSTEES OF RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Schedule of securities held at December 31, 2018

Schedule B

ESTATE FUNDS

	Par Value	Book Value	Market Value
Bonds		\$	\$
BROOKFIELD ASSET MANAGEMENT INC 5.30% due March 1, 2021	75,000	76,119	77,987
ROYAL BANK OF CANADA 1.968% due Mar 2, 2022	50,000	49,077	48,721
MUNICIPAL FINANCE AUTH OF BRITISH COL.UMBIA 4.60% due Apr 2, 2026	60,000	59,698	66,893
Total Bonds		<u>\$ 184,894</u>	<u>\$ 193,602</u>
Common shares			
ALTUS GROUP LIMITED	900	33,488	21,303
BROOKFIELD ASSET MANAGEMENT	500	23,813	26,160
DOLLARAMA INC	600	31,682	19,482
INTACT FINANCIAL CORP	300	31,636	29,757
LINAMAR CORPORATION	100	7,140	4,530
QUEBECOR INC CL - B	1,400	33,543	40,236
RESTAURANT BRANDS INTERNATIONAL INC	400	31,526	28,528
ROYAL BANK OF CANADA	245	23,868	22,893
SUNCOR ENERGY INC	700	31,683	26,691
THOMSON REUTERS CORPORATION	453	25,918	29,927
Total common shares		<u>\$ 274,296</u>	<u>\$ 249,507</u>
Mutual Funds	No. of fund units		
RBC INVESTMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT Mutual Fund	14,030	<u>\$ 140,305</u>	<u>\$ 140,305</u>
Total Estate Fund Assets		<u>\$ 599,495</u>	<u>\$ 583,414</u>

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL

The Ministry & Personnel Committee (M&P) is a confidential, consultative committee that is responsible for the clergy and lay staff of the church. This volunteer committee supports the Church Board, the church community, and church staff on personnel matters. The committee also serves as a confidential forum for the church community to provide input from the congregation on staff related issues. Members of M&P are Jocelyn McLean-Tharp, Tara Yelle (co-chairs), John Hogarth, Gillian Horbal, Julie Lee and Brian Traquair. Judy Hauserman, previous Chair of the committee, stayed with us for the 2018 calendar year before departing in December. Our thanks to Judy for her M&P leadership and guidance for many years!

Staff Reviews

M&P conducts formal and informal individual reviews with ministers and staff, the purpose of which is to ensure that the mutual needs and requirements of ministers, staff members and of the Runnymede congregation are being met.

Staff at Runnymede

2018 saw the departure of Rev. Katherine Brittain in July. Rev. Gibson graciously moved into preaching full time and has been well-supported by our paid staff. We also had a change in our Caretaking complement: upon Santiago Duque's departure in March 2018, Jim Lien stepped in to replace him, and we have been well-served by Jim's attention to our custodial needs as well as in his Security role. Spencer Tripe remains as our Sunday caretaker. In the office, Pat Campbell joined us in May as a temporary part time administrator. Her status was changed to permanent part-time in October.

Cayley Pimentel, Youth Leader, stepped up to take over more of our Sunday School activities and lead our Sunday School teachers after Rev. Brittain's departure. Cayley is well-supported by the Faith Formation & Christian Education committee, as well as by our returning teachers Kathryn Botsko and Emily Chamberlain, and new teachers Rae Kaufman and Kate Reed. Sunday morning nursery care has been taken over by parent volunteers!

We also want to thank our many staff who continue to give of their time and talent. Alison Gadsby and Pat Campbell share office time and duties; Gail Hutton and Greg Philip as Community Meal Co-coordinators; our music Director, David Ambrose, Organist Carl Steinhauser, and soloists Pat Ainslie, Sabrina Perez, Don Tripe and Trevor Peverley.

Our minister and staff are joined by a core of many volunteers. The combined efforts of the minister, full and part-time staff, and active, dedicated volunteers ensure Runnymede United Church is a strong, faithful, active, and caring community of believers.

Contact Us

Each member of M&P is open and eager for feedback from the congregation on issues of importance to you. Feel free to speak to us in confidence at the church or to contact us by e-mail: Tara Yelle: tly317@gmail.com; Jocelyn McLean-Tharp: Jocelyn.mclean-tharp@sympatico.ca; John Hogarth: 2jhogarth@rogers.com; Gillian Horbal: horbal@sympatico.ca; Julie Lee: julie.lee007@sympatico.ca; Brian Traquair:brian.traquair@gmail.com

EVENTS AND PROJECTS

ADVENT OUTREACH PROJECTS 2018

Both prayerful and financial support of our Runnymede congregation continued to assure successful Advent outreach projects during the fall season of 2018. Our commitment to the Angel Tree Christmas gift giving, a program of Prison Fellowship Canada, was well supported and we were able to purchase Christmas gifts for 4 children from 2 families living in the west end of Toronto as well as for 1 child living in Saskatchewan where there was a need for more donor participation. A gift card was mailed to this child.

The program provides an opportunity for those currently incarcerated to apply through their local prison chaplain to the Angel Tree program for their children under the age of 18 to be recipients of Christmas gifts that they are able to suggest. Churches, individuals and communities offer to do the surrogate gift buying and be the delivery people for those families. Children and their caregivers are very happy to receive these sponsored gifts, thus making their Christmas a little brighter. Thank you to those who contributed financially to this meaningful project this year.

In 2018, our Christmas Shoebox project continued as well. RUC collaborated again with Unison Health and Community Services, located on Keele Street near Rogers Road. Over 150 Christmas Shoeboxes were filled and brought to the church on the first Sunday of Advent (December 2nd) along with other white gifts of food for those less fortunate in our community. The food was given to the Community Meal organizers for distribution to their participants. An opportunity to promote this Advent project during the Children's time in church as well as in the Sunday School was much appreciated. We seem to have plateaued in terms of our numbers of donated shoeboxes, and we encourage more families and RUC members to participate in this worthwhile outreach during the Advent season.



At the time of delivery, a member of the Unison Health staff, Erin Shaw, expressed her thanks on behalf of the Unison Health team for these shoeboxes. She was delighted to meet the volunteers who delivered the boxes to the community office on Keele Street.

Thanks to the Sunday school children as well as congregational members who provide empty shoeboxes, wrap boxes and fill their own boxes so lovingly. Thanks also to the "packers and checkers" and those who provided the "muscle" and car-power to deliver these boxes to their venue on December 3rd, 2018.

Our Advent season was full of opportunities to reach out to help those in need. Our response was generous and offered hope and love to those in need. Thank you everyone.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Whitfield

BLOOR WEST VILLAGE ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW 37th ANNUAL EVENT

In our 37th year, this show advertised for crafters in mid-May 2018 and was sold out in 4 days! We managed a lengthy waitlist throughout the summer months. Those crafters on the waitlist were able to fill a few spots as a result of cancellations, but many could not be accommodated this year! We have certainly become a premium venue for craft shows in the Toronto area! We even had one crafter brave the cold and set up outside on the front lawn this year! (see images previous page)

Our show model includes eight rooms around the church with over 80 crafters who offer a variety of art, crafts and food for sale. Admission fee remained at \$3.00 in 2018, but that did not deter those shoppers intent on a great Christmas find or unique purchase at our show. Shoppers attended throughout the day and, including vendors and volunteers, we hosted over 1000 people in our building throughout the day. New vendors enhanced the show, as did returning vendors who continue to be crowd pleasers. Over 50 volunteers signed up and helped set up and staffed the entire event, and many RUC members donated delicious sandwiches that allowed us to run our snack bar from the renovated kitchen. The walk-in fridge proved its worth in keeping the food fresh and chilled.

Thanks to our caretaker Jim Lien and all those RUC volunteers who helped set up tables, chairs and moved furniture to prepare the rooms for crafters and then to return the rooms to their original state ready for Sunday morning after the show. Through the excellent advance social media campaign by Alison Gadsby, our church secretary, and our Facebook page Bloor West Arts and Crafts Show, people came from far and wide to participate in and shop at this show.

Thanks also to Janet Mather who once again coordinated the pie-making evening in our church kitchen on October 29, 2018. The kitchen was packed to overflowing with men, women and teens and our combined efforts ensured that we had about 75 apple pies to sell at our always scrumptious Bake and Deli table this year. Special thanks to the youth who joined Cayley to help make pies! Thanks to the faithful pastry makers! All our apple pies were sold out by 11:00am on November 8th, as well as all the donated baking and deli items on our Bake/Deli table by the end of the show. Thanks to all who contributed both time and talent to support this component of the sale.

Many crafter "names" on our current waitlist as well as ongoing enquiries throughout the year regarding participation will ensure that upcoming shows will be successful in future years. Profits from this 2018 show surpassed \$11,000 and were distributed to the RUC Current Fund and the Mission and Service Fund.

A special thank you to Ann Ogiltriee for her longstanding commitment to being our treasurer every year since the inaugural craft show way back in the 1980s. Thanks also to Joan and Tom Howard who accepted the assignment this year and to helper Enid Grindall, for their detailed work to manage our finances for the day.

Mark your calendars for Saturday November 9, 2019 for our 38th annual craft show. We look forward to your support, encouragement and help! In particular, it would be great for volunteers to coordinate the Snack Bar/Lunch Room, to help us elevate our sales from this location. Is this the year to host a spring craft show? If you are interested, please talk to Judy Whitfield.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Whitfield, Show Convenor

MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEAL

Runnymede has been a church community who have prepared meals for the needy for many years. But, when we started the Community Meal “at home” in 2007, we were responding to a Kairos initiative to build grass roots programs that nurture communities, integrated across all social levels. So, we decided on a meal that treated our guests like friends coming to dinner. A place where we could connect one on one with our neighbours. It has grown well beyond our expectations. Besides serving a great meal every month for 140 guests, many who have become our friends, the surprise spin-off has been the amazing growth of our volunteer pool, both in quantity and quality. We now have a list of over 200 volunteers that continues to grow both internally from Runnymede members to just as many folks who have heard about our program and also want to be a part of it. Being involved in coordinating the program I have been honoured to get know many of these wonderful volunteers, their backgrounds, and their truly selfless commitment to helping our guests at the very basic levels of human kindness and self-sacrifice. Let me tell you about a few:

A soup master who works evenings and weekends but shops and comes in early (before the meal prep crew arrives at noon) to make a much appreciated, delicious and healthy soup. At the Christmas, the prep crew started at 8:00am .When they arrived at 8:00am. the soup was on the stove
A lovely warm and kind lady, who has only missed one meal since we started 12 years ago, despite many personal trials and tribulations. She serves up coffee, tea, hot chocolate, friendly conversation and prayer.

A group of volunteers who come in early every month to sort out all the many donations to the Community Store, and then stay to serve the guests and pack everything away again.

A busy wife, mother, and public official, who gives up some of that valuable time to buss tables and scrape plates

An amazing piano player who entertains one and all with everything from carols to jazz and is always ready to help wherever needed

A school teacher who marks shops and cooks the meat, while marking papers while the meat is in the ovens

The college student who supervises dishwashing between school demands

The girl who grew from caring for baby dolls to caring for our guests. She bought a new pair of boots for a guest whose boots literally fell to pieces.

A Santa and his missus, who spoke to each and every guest, took pictures with them, and hugged everyone in the room, despite personally dealing with illness

Choir members who come in to mash potatoes and fill plates, and are delighted when asked to lead carol singing, despite an extremely taxing Christmas schedule

A volunteer chef who works a double shift because we were short staffed and humbly asks if it alright if he takes a break to get off his feet for a few minutes. He is disabled with MS and is legally blind.

Afterwards, he writes a letter of thanks for us giving him the opportunity to join us (the letter is attached below)

A group of employees from an insurance company comes in the day before the meal to make desserts, set up tables and fill holiday gift bags. Their company also paid for the desserts and the employees, so they could donate their time.

These are only a very small portion of the amazing people who volunteer time, money and store goods that keep our program vital and operational month after month, year after year.

Runnymede is truly blessed to have such an exceptional group of volunteers that enriches and expands the neighbourhood we hoped to build.

Gail Hutton, Community Meal Coordinator

A THANK YOU LETTER (to Gail) AND PHOTOS FROM OUR CHEF

Everything was a huge success - from Gail's coworkers and friends making the desserts and to the generous donations of turkeys from members of the RUC congregation to Greg's amazing organization.

Gail, you are such a truly amazing person and over the past year I have come to love you as a friend - you are a very special person! The volunteers were lovely and it was so nice to be a part of the serving team, such clockwork precision. I honestly wish, when I was working in restaurants, that half of the kitchen staff were as cooperative and as professional as the great team of volunteers that we have.

Gail, your speech to the volunteers moved me to tears!!! I always feel so welcome and blessed every time that I get the wonderful opportunity to volunteer with you all. Whilst I was raised as a Jew, now lean more towards Buddhism, the religion in and unto itself becomes to a large degree irrelevant. It is about people coming together for an amazing cause.

For myself, being a person who has recently become disabled with MS and low-vision, I remember spending Christmas/Holidays at Sunnybrook, where I was for 3 months. It truly can be a very lonely time and I thought that your comments regarding many of the guests was truly appropriate and that yes, often, many of us who are in a difficult situation due to disability, finances, being elderly or whatever the case may be are truly appreciative to be able to attend such wonderful events such as the Community Meal.

It was truly my pleasure and honour to have had the opportunity to contribute and to do my small part in making so many people happy. We had so many of the guests coming to the window and saying how wonderful everything was.

No matter what your religion - this is a very special group of dedicated and caring people. I am truly blessed to be a part of it.

I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

All my best,

Julian



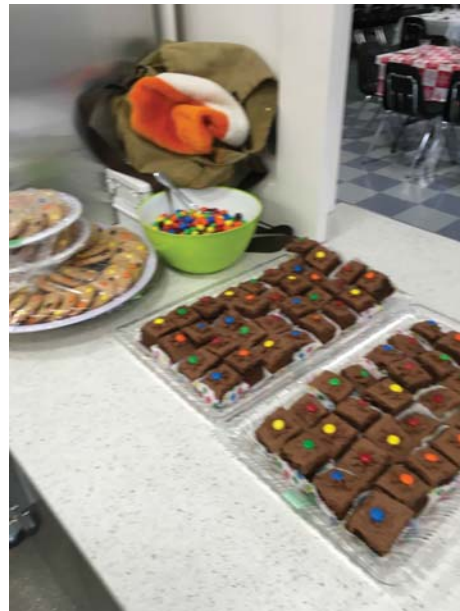
Mr. and Mrs. Claus



Above:
Our Insurance Group

Gravy Making

Below:
Soup, Treats and the busy oven



DICKENS' CHRISTMAS CAROL - 2018

December 2, 2018 marked the 12th reading of Dickens' Christmas Carol at Runnymede United Church. A stellar lineup of readers included local stage, screen and media personalities who made the night special. First timers Anwar Knight, the CTV 'weather guy' and William Webster from Soulpepper Theatre joined Jeff Douglas, Mary Lou Fallis, Barbara Gordon and Nancy Palk. We were also fortunate to welcome to the stage a talented up and coming drama student from Etobicoke School of the Arts, Emma d'Agrosa.

Under the direction of David Ambrose, assisted by Carl Steinhauser on organ and piano, the music, as always, added a special dimension to the evening. Mary Lou Fallis accompanied by Janie Kim on violin sang Gesu Bambino and John McMurphy on saxophone offered up a beautiful rendition of O Holy Night. The Runnymede Chancel Choir was joined with the Royal York United Church Choir for several pieces that filled the sanctuary with beautiful seasonal song. And of course, a rousing version of the Twelve Days of Christmas was once again enjoyed by all.

Behind the scenes a number of Runnymeders worked tirelessly to make such a special evening - decorators Laurie Tripe and Sandi Dunn, sound Ted Withers, lighting Don Dewees, greeter Wes Leewis, Jim Lien with numerous ushers and ticket takers. Gary Norris stepped up as our understudy and was prepared for any eventuality! Alison Gadsby and Pat Campbell efficiently handled the queries from the public and Richard Leggatt designed the print materials. Ruth Caspell, with help from Marilyn Nairn, prepared a fabulous meal for the readers. Dorothy Dunbar and her merry band of helpers organized a delicious post event reception enjoyed by all. Rev Don Gibson and Derrick Hempel handled the introductions and thank yous. So many wonderful people to thank!

All proceeds from the evening go to The Stop Community Food Centre. From its origins as one of Canada's first food banks The Stop has blossomed into a thriving community hub where neighbours participate in a broad range of programs that provide healthy food, as well as foster social connections, build food skills and promote engagement in civic issues. Among the busy initiatives are community kitchens and gardens, cooking classes, drop-in meals, peri-natal support, a food bank, outdoor bake ovens, food markets and community advocacy. Rachel Gray, Executive Director of The Stop eloquently thanked Runnymede for our support and in due time accepted our donation of just over \$10,000.

Thanks to all who made the evening such a success!
Report submitted by the planning group –
David Ambrose (music director), Pat Campbell,
Ruth Caspell, Roy Fischer, Lynn Johnston, Jim Lien,
June Pinkney (chair).



COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

ACTS GROUP REPORT

The ACTS Group has been active for more than 15 years at Runnymede as a small group providing a supportive place for discussion and learning from a Christian perspective on environmental and social justice issues.

Here are some of the group's key focus areas from 2018:

Aboriginal People's Issues: the group has continued to share information and look for ways as individuals and as a Church to address the issues facing Canada's Aboriginal peoples.

Climate Change: we have continued to share information to help us better understand the political issues that need to be resolved for action on climate change to move ahead as well as ideas on how to reduce our individual carbon footprints.

Kenyan AIDS Orphans project: ACTS meetings are used for discussion of the KAO project which several ACTS members are actively involved with.

The ACTS group will continue to work on raising awareness and identifying opportunities for individual and collective action on environmental and social justice issues in 2019. Newcomers are very welcome at ACTS, as the group thrives on a diversity of interests and life experiences. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month.

Submitted by John Rossall, coordinator ACTS.

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

In 2018, there were a number of studies for adults.

Last winter and early spring, there was an ALPHA program (see next page). There was also a Lenten Study and a Book Study.

In the Fall, 16-18 people participated in a study about the origins and meaning of Christmas that concluded with a potluck dinner and some Carol singing.

Once per month, Rev. Gibson had a 'talk-back' session after church service about the readings and the sermon. And one Sunday night per month, he met with the Sunday Night group for discussion and prayer.

In 2019, we are trying different forms of study and varying days and times to help us more effectively plan adult study in the future.

ALPHA AT RUNNYMEDE UNITED

(Alpha session January to April 2018)

Alpha Team

Members: Julie Lee, Maureen Donovan, Karren Phair, Brenda Lien, Jim Lien, Andrea Tavchar, Pat Campbell

Introduction and Overview

Runnymede United Church hosted the first Alpha session in over 12 years, from January to April 2018. The team of seven hosted up to 20 participants over the course of 12 weeks, with dinner, videos, lively discussion and prayer.

The Alpha series was developed by Alpha Ministries and accessed at www.alphacanada.org free of charge. Each week the leadership team provided a full meal, including an opportunity for community building, followed by music worship and then a 20-25 minute video. The guests were then divided into two smaller group, and a thoughtful guided discussion took place for approximately 50 minutes, ending in a group prayer. A typical evening ran from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Overall, the Alpha team was pleased with the turnout for the first effort in so many years.

Recruitment was conducted from the Activities Fair in September, including a fairly regular Coffee Hour presence and a couple of 'minutes' prior to the January start.

Feedback from guests was solicited through a questionnaire provided on the last day of the session and sent to guests through email. A total of responded.

Runnymede United funded the Alpha sessions, with weekly donations from guests partially offsetting costs.

The purpose of this report is to provide the Runnymede United Church Board and other interested congregants insight into the Alpha sessions, together with feedback from both leaders and guests, to garner continued support for this initiative.

Leadership Team

Five leaders were responsible for facilitating the Alpha discussions each week and were divided between two guest groups.

Feedback from the guests was that the sessions offered them the opportunity to gain new perspectives through discussion. Their feedback on the leadership team was that they were welcoming and thoughtful and seemed to "want to be there." Guests articulated that the discussion leaders were key to the success of the small group. It was suggested that the leadership role involved knowing when to allow discussion to 'ramble' and when to draw people back to main topic and to set a tone of acceptance of differing opinions. Overall feedback suggested that our leadership team was able to successfully fulfill this role.

Groups

The group discussion was highly rated and valued, with several guests proposing that there be less time spent on dinner (scheduled 60 minutes) and more time in small groups for discussion (scheduled 50 minutes). While the smaller groups did not exceed 10 members, one guest suggested that groups not exceed eight people. A couple of guests commented on the decision to divide guests into age groups, requesting that groups be formed arbitrarily, allowing for a greater demographic mix.

Meals

Leaders and guest agreed that dinners were an essential component of the Alpha experience. However, some guests remarked that while the dinners were excellent, the meals needn't be as extravagant and could be simplified for future sessions. Meals typically consisted of a hot main course, salad and dessert.

The leadership team suggested that food preparation and clean up would benefit from a separate team rather than just one or two people, so as to share the work load.

Music

The Alpha team used recorded music and printed lyrics on a video screen for the music worship component of the Alpha experience. Each week, we limited the music worship to two songs.

Some guests commented that music worship wasn't their priority, while other guests identified music as having a more prominent role in the Alpha experience. Overall, guest and leader feedback suggested that the recorded music worked out fine.

The leaders did feel that the music component should be led by someone who knows music, and is tech-savvy.

Retreat

The retreat was held

One participant commented that the retreat might have been held closer to the end of the session

More time for discussion vs meals

Feedback

Felt that the facilitation could be more structured; relates to fact that Ministers' perspectives on the Alpha lesson would be useful

Would like to know United Church position on some topics

More ministerial leadership, particularly for retreat day and healing/prayer segment

Value of ministerial involvement would be that participants from 'outside' of Runnymede would have opportunity to meet leadership team

Found that the Alpha series was good for non-Christians, but not necessarily for those who are more engrained, enmeshed in United Church

Debrief among leaders after each evening would be preferred

Monday challenging because of the holidays that fall on Mondays (a different day of week might limit the number of interruptions to the weekly flow)

Next Steps

People have expressed desire for a "next step"

Expected that we will continue in Fall 2019 (require new leadership)

Submitted by Andrea Tavchar

BENEVOLENT FUND

The early church adopted the practice of Judaism of having a weekly distribution of food for those in need. The Benevolent Fund is our way to continue this by offering grocery store gift cards and financial assistance to those in need.

We are able to do this thanks to generous donations from church members. Along with monetary donations, we are pleased to receive grocery store gift cards.

Rev. Don Gibson

FAITH AND LIGHT

Our Faith and Light group 'Grace' meets on the 3rd Saturday morning of each month, at 10 am, at High Park's Grenadier restaurant or at the Swan and Firkin pub for brunch. We also meet for various special events occasionally.

The Christian based international movement of Faith and Light was founded by Jean Vanier in 1971 to create loving bonds and supportive relationships for persons with developmental disabilities. There are 1450 communities in 86 countries. We began in 2006. Our group is ecumenical and is the only Faith and Light community in Toronto. We're a group of friends mutually supporting one another in faith, celebrating the joys of life and shining our lights to reflect God's love for the vulnerable ones in our community. We welcome everyone wholeheartedly, with or without disabilities, to experience our friendship group. You'll encounter the most lovely and beautiful people!

Faith and Light Canada www.faithandlight.org

Contact: Joy Sumyi Lee joy.sumyi.lee2@gmail.com



FAITH FORMATION AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Committee meets between 4 – 6 times per year, or more depending on needs, to plan and discuss RUC's Faith Formation and Christian Education (FF) programs. The committee supports the RUC minister/leaders, and explores opportunities to increase and enhance Sunday/youth programming and enrolment, and make the programs meaningful and engaging for all children and youth attending. The committee also discusses and supports Adult programs.

General Report:

Rev. Katherine's departure in July required creative leadership. The Committee, with Rev. Don's guidance, worked to ensure a smooth leadership transition during the period (July – present) in which Rev. Katherine's position was vacated.

In July, Cayley Pimentel took on a part-time combined Sunday School Coordinator/Youth Leader position. Prior to July, she was Youth Leader. In August, Cayley recruited 2 additional Sunday School teachers (for a total of 4 youth teachers), and held a training session with the teachers in September. Sunday school continues to use the "Spark" curriculum which focuses on one biblical story per month and various types of activities like crafts, baking, science and movement.

The committee continues to use a blend of youth Sunday school teachers, a youth leader, and parent volunteers to deliver the Sunday morning program. In the summer, Brenda Lien volunteered to act as a Volunteer Coordinator, to recruit and organize three parent/adult volunteers each week to act in three different roles:

- a newly (re)created host position – this person scans the congregants to help identify new children or youth and explain/lead them to the SS classes. The host aids in assessing any needs of the morning a reader – reads the bible story to the children at the beginning of their class nursery staff - the nursery had previously been staffed by paid staff (Quincy), but upon Quincy's leaving, the committee supported moving this position to adult volunteers Parents are kept apprised of the plans, discussions and learnings in Sunday school through email bulletins from Cayley and/or the office; youth and their parents receive a separate email of upcoming Sunday school plans/events for youth from Cayley.

Sunday morning attendance is low -- about 10-20 children and youth in total attended each week in Fall 2018, going to one of 3 different classes: grades JK-2; grades 3-5 and youth (grades 6-12); plus there are 1-2 babies/toddlers in the nursery each week. Attendance is down from a reported Sunday school population averaging 35-40 children in the 3 different classes from the 2017 report. The 2017 report also noted a decrease in attendance from an average of 50 children/youth in years prior to 2017. This decline coincides with the lowered use of parent volunteers in the Sunday School.

Activities in 2018:

Winter/Spring: In addition to the regular Sunday morning program, in the winter and spring of 2018, Rev. Katherine and Cayley Pimentel led a Confirmation class, and 11 youth who were confirmed on Mother's Day.

The youth were:

Daniel George Botsko	Kathryn Bess Botsko
Emily Louise McNeill Chamberlain	Jack Emmett Kenny
Tommy Douglas Lane	Joshua William Yu Leung
Claire Alexandra Mackenzie MacDonald	Nikolas Peter Nagy
Adrian Marshall Reszczyński	Michael Lawrence Sheehan
Clare Percy Younder	

Cayley led a winter retreat to Ottawa with 4 youth in February. They rode the bus and stayed in a host church for the Worshiplude event, and also skated the canal, ate treats, etc.

Summer: During the summer months, there was no programming for children and youth.

Fall: In the Fall, Cayley, Rev. Don, and the Faith Formation Committee worked to ensure a smooth start to Sunday School and Youth group during the transition period marked by the absence of a second minister whose role it had been to develop & lead Christian Education. With a dedicated & reliable Youth Leader/SS coordinator and Sunday school teachers, as well as a new volunteer coordinator (volunteer position), a steady and strong Sunday program for children and youth was maintained.

In September 2018, a youth retreat with about 8 youth was held at a retreat site near Lake Erie south of Hamilton. Planning for a youth trip to Kenya, under the guidance of David Ambrose, Cayley and Allison also began. The 11 youth (grades 9 -12) met monthly on Sunday evenings during the Fall (and will continue through June, with a July 2019 departure date).

In the fall, there were also youth events outside of Sunday morning, including pie baking for the Craft Fair, selling goods at the Craft Fair in November, and a movie night.

On the Adult programming front, based on the findings of the Come to Life committee, Rev. Don took the initiative to offer a number of different adult education opportunities for the Fall 2018 through Spring 2019 period. Two evening series were held in the fall and 2-3 more are to be held in winter/spring of 2019, along with monthly 'Talk Back' sessions following the morning service.

In addition, a highly successful, laity-led Alpha program, including a weekly dinner, was held in winter 2018 under Andrea Tavchar's capable leadership. A total of 8 lay leaders, 2 food/kitchen support volunteers and 20 participants both from RUC and the wider community attended the 10 sessions and Saturday retreat. The vast majority expressed an interest in participating in additional future adult study groups and felt that the dinner had been a good way to solidify friendships among the church community.

Future planning:

Planning for the 2019-20 year is underway, with work to:

identify both programs and activities that have worked in the past, or are currently working, and should be continue as well as ideas to be implemented or re-started for each group (children, youth and adults, potentially paying separate attention to young adults)

provide input into the new positions to be filled, to replace/enhance roles that were filled in the past by a second minister.

A confirmation class (generally grades 7-12, but open to adults too) is planned for Winter/Spring 2020.

2018-2019 Committee members are: Melissa Milkie & Brenda Lien (co-chairs); Roberta Axworthy, Karen McCallum-Ryan, Hilary McLean, Brenda McLaughlin. Emily Mather was co-chair for summer 2018 – Sept. 30, when she stepped down due to family obligations. Rev. Don Gibson and Cayley Pimentel also participate.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT 2018

The Finance Committee meets on the second Monday of each month except July and August. Members are Don Dewees, Chair, Brian Traquair, Treasurer, Judy MacPherson, Secretary, David Kenny, Dwayne Benjamin, and ministers Don Gibson and Katherine Brittain, ex officio. We review revenues and expenses, approve expenditures, oversee the integrity of the financial affairs of the church and report our financial situation to the Church Board.

Brian has again devoted enormous time and skill to his management of the books, payment of expenses and presentation of our financial position in thorough, clear and understandable reports. He is both Treasurer and Bookkeeper in addition to his many other duties for the Church. We are very grateful to Brian for the dedication of his enormous talents and lots of time to this church. Alison Gadsby has been envelope secretary, reconciling the money and records for every count and deposit and working with David Wilcox to enhance the analysis and reports that ServantKeeper, our member database, can provide us. Judy has served diligently as secretary to the Committee. Dwayne and David have made major contributions to the work of the Committee including serving as Acting Secretary as needed. Brian, Don Dewees, Pat Campbell and Judy count the Sunday collection.

David Wilcox has worked through 2018 to develop and polish a Manual of Servant Keeper policies so it meets our church needs. The manual records how we use SK and what has to be done to keep it functioning as our basic data repository. SK has our donation records, our congregational records, contact information and other data. It can send emails, prepare thrice-yearly donation reports for donors and much more. David automated the production of the January PAR changes so that SK produces the spreadsheet that we send to the United Church, eliminating the need for extensive manual data entry and checking by Don and others in early January. Many thanks, David for this contribution to the operations of the church.

Our 2018 budget assumed a 2.3% increase in envelope donations to the operating fund compared to actual 2017 donations. However during the year, congregational donations did not increase. Instead they were 4.4% (\$15,548) below budget, and 2.2% (\$7,717) below 2017 donations. This is the first time in many years that donations to current operations actually declined and the fourth year in a row that donations have fallen short of the amount budgeted. We did not make a special appeal in the fall because Reverend Katherine's resignation reduced our staff expenses and rental income exceeded our budget, so we end the year with a surplus. Rental income was over \$124,000, a record high, and \$29,000 more than budgeted. For 2019 we do not anticipate filling staff positions to replace Katherine until mid-year, so staff expenses will be low again and we should be able to balance the 2019 budget. However, we are concerned that when we are back up to full staff, we will have a structural deficit unless we can grow the number of donors and increase givings in future years.

We recommend transferring the surplus from 2018 into the GI&C fund where it will help carry us through until we can establish a donation profile that meets our expenses. The Craft Show brought in record revenues of close to \$12,000 and contributed \$5,000 to current operations and \$7,000 to M&S. See the financial statements for details.

Our 2019 budget proposal includes a reduced target of \$340,000 for congregational donations, less than the \$350,000 target that we have not met for four years. The 2019 budget proposal includes a special fund-raising dinner, despite our expectation that the budget will be balanced, because we anticipate needing the money to meet the 2020 budget. See the 2019 budget for details.

In years through 2018, a portion of our Mission and Service donations has helped to fund the United Church head office operations. Starting in 2019, the United Church head office will impose a levy on congregations to fund its operations so that M&S donations will go entirely to missions and service. Our budgets for 2019 and future years will include a line item expense for this head office levy.

At year-end the GI&C fund held \$123,209. The Memorial Fund held \$6,486. We still have almost \$78,000 in the Capital Campaign fund. The Trustees have invested \$223,835 in cash from various funds, since the Trustees can earn interest on this money. We will draw down these funds and the Trustee investment to some degree in 2019 as we undertake various repairs and improvements including a new sign out front, repairing leaks in the slate roof, refinishing the gym floor and refinishing or replacing exterior doors. See the Property report for more details.

The congregation has generously supported Runnymede programs enabling us to make a real difference in the lives of many people. We sent \$35,764 for AIDS orphan relief in Africa and dedicated about \$11,500 to local outreach programs and assistance including the Community Meal. \$68,870 was donated to the Mission and Service Fund including \$7,000 from the craft Show. In addition, we raised over \$10,000 for non-Runnymede charities in 2018 including the Stop 103 Food Bank.

The members of our congregation have been generous in supporting the work of our church, financially and through their time and talents. As a church, we have much to be thankful for.

Submitted by Don Dewees on behalf of the Finance Committee, January 2019.

HEART TO HEART REPORT FOR 2018

Our Church group called Heart to Heart, meets for lunch at Swiss Chalet at 590 Keele Street from Noon until 3:00 pm., Usually the First Saturday every second month, (February, April, June, August, October and December). The purpose of the meeting is to socialize and enjoy time and a meal together.

At each meal we have a theme, like Halloween, Christmas, Valentines, etc. and decorate the table with small gifts for each of the participants. The center piece is usually given to our server, which is usually the same person, when he is available.

We look forward to these gatherings and would love to welcome more participants to enjoy time together. Please RSVP Annette the week before if you are coming

This Year the February one will be on the second Saturday February 9 and the April one will be moving to the third Saturday of March 16 due to the fact that Annette is having surgery on April 1st. She hopes to be out of recovery before the June Luncheon.

Annette Frigault (annette.heart2heart@gmail.com) or 647-717-4698

Facebook: Heart 2 Heart

KENYA AIDS ORPHANS PROJECT Annual Report 2018

Working Together: KENYA AIDS ORPHANS PROJECT

2018 has been another active and inspiring year of faith in action with Andrew and Leonora Obara and Runnymede United Church! We've been working together since 2005.

In May, the RUC Board reviewed and re-approved the Kenya AIDS Orphans Project to 2019. The goals are:

To provide partial funding to the Obara family for the children still dependent on their family. Other funding to the family comes from Leonora's work and her sewing and cereal businesses. RUC provides our contribution from monthly donations (through PAR) and other donations. (See financial report.) This funding also allows Andrew and Leonora to contribute their skills to the Village of Love Program in Kibera, Kenya, www.villageoflovecanada.org, which impacts about 600 children adopted by loving families and pays school fees for 150 of these children. Andrew works as full-time volunteer program administrator, Leonora as part-time volunteer consultant, in addition to her work as a social worker/program administrator at Women Fighting AIDS in Kenya (WOFAK).

To provide education funding for Obara children still in high school.

To seek external funding (from donors not connected with RUC) for post-secondary education costs for the students in the family.

Obara children: The 10 oldest children; Alex, Paul, Patrice, Patricia, Patrick, Sabina, Collins, Nicholas, Emiliana and Isabella are now independent and actively contributing to their society. The five youngest children are:

Deborah, in 2nd year nursing training in a 4-year course

"I plan and pray that at the end of rotation (in hospitals this term) I will be able to manage cases of various medical conditions. I want to be reliable, rational and reasonable in how I handle my patients."

Patricia, just completed her last practicum of teacher's training and is now looking for a teaching position

"My heart is full of gratitude. Every day I get to wake up and do what I love most. Thank you. The future is bright and I know God will guide me to be the best teacher. I want to be a blessing to every student who goes through my classes not only education wise but in all aspects of life. I am thankful to every donor who made this dream come true, they are touching other lives through me, isn't this amazing?"

Reginalda, has completed her 3rd year of law school in the 6.5 years of training she needs. In Jan. 2019:

"I will be taking internship (INT 403), which we refer to as "clinicals".... I will be attending sessions at the court that I will be attached to. I shall be trained on the practical aspects of what I have learnt in my criminal and civil law classes."

Zachary started first year of Medical Engineering training in a 5 year program.

"I feel like I am getting the hang of things and is a nice feeling. I am planning to join the Christian Union this coming semester, I am very ready to do my best."

Lauryne finished high school in 2018 in good standing and is now searching for career options and post-secondary education funding. She is the last of the Obara children to complete high school. In August 2018, Laura Rossall, from Runnymede United Church, visited Kenya and worked as a volunteer art teacher in the Village of Love Program, Kibera, Nairobi. It was heart-warming and inspiring to hear from Laura when she returned home. She brought first-hand knowledge and enthusiasm for Leonora and Andrew's work and how they manage so diligently to care for their family and the Village of Love Program, despite very difficult circumstances. They work long hours, commute a long distance and spend 3 evenings a week tending to their small businesses.

From Laura:

"While I was in Kenya, I was blessed to stay with Andrew and Leonora in their home for two weekends. I enjoyed talking and having fun with six of their children and three grandchildren. Each of them had their stories to tell. In particular, Isabella was excited about being called to the bar soon and her position as a lawyer. Zak shared his excitement about venturing away to become an engineering student at university.

That Andrew and Leonora are great parents was apparent to me, especially when their children shared glowing stories of the encouragement and support that they have received. While I was teaching there, I could see how Andrew and Leonora's love for children and desire for more orphan children to be with families instead of living in orphanages, has spread to the Village of Love project. As Project Administrator, Andrew takes interest in knowing the children. Leonora gives emotional support to the mothers of these children.

Kenya was home for me during the month that I was there. I was grateful to receive love and blessings from Andrew, Leonora, their family, and the women, children and staff of Kijij Cha Upendo (Village of Love)."

Isabella Obara:

Since August 2017, Isabella has been practicing law in the firm where she articulated earlier in 2017. Isabella has begun contributing to the education costs of her younger siblings and has taken on some of the communication with us about the progress of her siblings. This is a great help to us and to her parents.

From Isabella: "On 11th of December 2018 I received my Post Graduate Diploma from the Kenya School of Law. On this day, I lived my dream. God has really done this for us. I am entirely grateful to God for my health, for my lecturers, for my parents and the entire Runnymede Church Family. The undying support you have rendered my family and I is being put to good use.

I am currently looking forward to my admission to the Bar. We are still not certain of the dates but I am sure it is soon.... I am still soaking in the fact that I did receive my academic award. This is not an award accessible for everyone who wants to undergo the Advocates Training programme at the Kenya School of Law. This is because the school fees for self-sponsored are a bulky amount for students, hence making the Post graduate Diploma almost inaccessible to many. Through your committed financial support, I received my award.

I am living my dream. Thank you Lord, thank you, and many thanks to Runnymede Church. My heart is full. Yours, Isabella"

From the Kenya AIDS Orphans Project committee: We pray that all Kenyans will have stability in their political situation and the difficult economic conditions there. We also pray that Andrew, Leonora

and many RUC members can continue to work together through our faith and common goal to support the family as they care for children orphaned by AIDS, helping them to become happy, healthy, contributing adults. Thank you to those who contribute in many ways and are making such a difference to the Obara family and the Village of Love program.

The Kenya AIDS Orphans Project is managed by Runnymede United Church as a charitable organization. All donations go to the Obara family and an annual grant goes to the Village of Love Program. The only overhead costs to administer the project are the postal transfer fees. The project is administered by John Rossall, Tom Axworthy, Lynne, Salt and Robyn Salter, with much assistance from Brian Traquair, Alison Gadsby, Don Gibson and many others.



Left: Laura Rossall, Andrew and Leonora Obara.

Bottom Left: Zachary, starting his Medical Engineering Training.

Bottom Right: Isabella, after receiving her post-graduate diploma in Law.



MISSION AND SERVICE

The Chair position for Mission and Service at Runnymede United Church is currently vacant. If you'd like to engage the congregation of Runnymede United Church and further support of The United Church of Canada's dedication to global programmes, please contact Derrick Hempel, our Board Chair.

From the United Church of Canada:

“The United Church of Canada supports Mission & Service programs and ministries through meaningful generous gifts. Your contribution will help support ministries and programs in Canada and around the world, such as:

- Global and Canadian justice initiatives
- Aboriginal ministries and right relations
- Community ministries
- Theological education
- Faith formation – youth, camping, intercultural engagement
- Support to remote ministries
- Innovation in communities of Faith”

2018 Runnymede Contribution was \$68,870

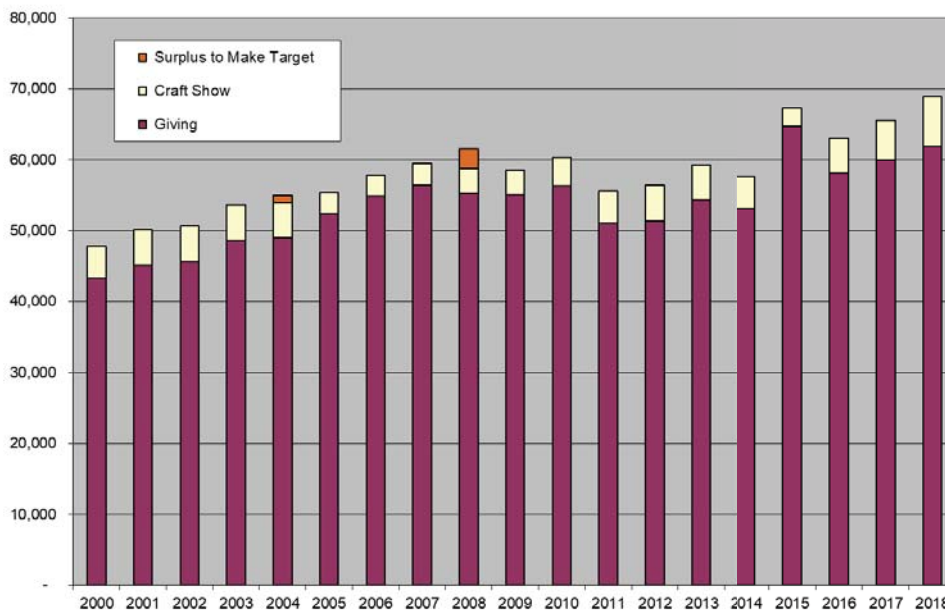
2018 Goal was \$66,000 – we exceeded our goal by \$2,870!

- ◇ Congregation giving was \$61,870 and the Craft Show contribution was \$7,000 for a total of \$68,870
- ◇ There were 94 contributing individuals and families, down from 106 in the prior year

2019 Proposed Target: \$67,500

- ◇ Congregation \$62,500 (increase of \$1,500 in goal)
- ◇ Craft Show \$5,000 (same as 2018 goal)

Mission and Service Fund Donations



NATIVE PLANT GARDEN COMMITTEE REPORT

The RUC Native Plant Garden, located on the north side of the church, by the driveway, was started 7 years ago to demonstrate the complex benefits and beauty of a water-wise ecosystem of plants, bushes, grasses and small trees which are native to the High Park area.

The members are Roberta Axworthy, Lorrie McIntrye (community member) and me. Special thanks to Brenda Lien for her ongoing assistance. New members are welcomed and needed.

The highlights for 2018 include:

Involvement of RUCY youth on several occasions to learn about the benefits of native plants and share knowledge about individual ones, to discover some wonders of the soil, plus to do some much-needed weeding and transplanting.

Consultation from Kelly Mullan, an expert in native plant gardening, to provide ideas and guidance for developing the garden.

Removal of some overgrown grey dogwood trees by the Property Committee's mighty workgroup. Ongoing sessions for maintaining the garden.

Look to the church bulletin in 2019 for more information on native plant gardening and come speak with us about its amazing benefits.

Submitted by Barbara Titherington

PASTORAL CARE REPORT

PASTORAL CARE: Pastoral Care is an important ministry, as it reaches out to our elderly and sick, treating each encounter with dignity and respect, offering compassionate care and encouraging a sense of belonging and connection to our Church. Through visits and phone calls, our Pastoral Care team help others by bringing hope and spiritual reflection, sharing burdens and prayers. Oftentimes, visits are enjoyed by sharing Runnymede news and providing updates on church activities. But most importantly, Pastoral Care is about being present, listening to and journey alongside our Seniors and shut-ins. At Runnymede United Church, we are blessed to have a wonderful Pastoral Care team who selflessly spend special time with these parishioners, helping them feel connected to our church and our faith.

These dedicated members are:

Rev. Don Gibson, Sandi Dunn, Gary Norris, Jan Killey, Neil Mather and Ann Mowat

We thank our Pastoral Care team who purchase and deliver Christmas Poinsettias and Easter Tulips that grace our church during services, and we thank those who donate towards the purchase, in memory of their loved ones. We are grateful to Janis Traquair, who, over the course of the year, will send flowers and cards to people who celebrated special birthdays or anniversaries along with get-well cards and sympathy cards. Her service is greatly appreciated. A special thank you to all our drivers who provide transportation to Sunday Service, to those who are in need.

Please contact Reverend Don Gibson or Alison in the church office if you know of:

- Someone who is ill, suffering, lonely or dealing with a loss or other personal crisis, or just hasn't sat in their usual pew for the last couple of weeks.
- Someone who should be on our birthday card list or someone who would welcome a get-well card or sympathy card
- Someone who would like to receive a home communion because they cannot get to church
- Someone in hospital or who needs a special visit.

Submitted by Karren Phair

PROPERTY REPORT 2018

The Property Committee met on the second Monday of each month except July and August. Members were Don Dewees (chair), Dwayne Benjamin, David Kenny, Judy MacPherson, Brian Traquair, Katherine Brittain and Don Gibson. The PropCom group met with the Property Chair one morning a week for most of the year and did prodigious work, including maintenance, improvement, yard work, and assisting the custodian, Jim Lien. We appreciate the dedication of Gary Norris, David Wilcox, David Whitfield, Bob Cossitt, Tony Saadeh. Jim was appointed custodian in the spring and has done superb work, bringing energy, experience, initiative and remarkable ingenuity to the job. He has gone beyond the call of duty many times, responding to sudden problems, false alarms, requests for help that have sometimes led him to return to the church at odd hours. On occasion I have said, 'Could you look into this problem?' and he replied 'Oh, I already fixed it.' We appreciate his dedication to our church and its members.

PropCom's work is too extensive to catalog here but a few projects indicate the range of our work. We repaired the green wall on the north side of the chancel where the grand piano had gouged it while being moved around, installing a wood 'rub rail' that has avoided further damage. See Photo. At the Fire Marshall's request we removed some wedges that are used to prop inside doors open and installed magnetic door holds that make the doors easier to close in an emergency. We installed three window blinds in the small Jewitt 2nd floor rooms to keep summer heat out. We replaced a rotted floorboard with concrete at the entrance to the Community Meal closet. When Angelgate reported a mysterious water drip from the ceiling in the basement Toddler room we diagnosed the problem as condensation dripping from a cold-water pipe and insulated 16 feet of pipe through two small holes in the ceiling that were easily patched. We graded the soil around the building to drain water away from the basement.

The new gym roof installed in July 2017 seems to have reduced summer heat and winter heat loss. The new roof insulation and the heating air diverters make the gym more comfortable than in past years; it uses less heat and it heats up faster.

The three EcoBees thermostats (Jewitt 2nd floor, Gym, Memorial Hall) provide much better temperature control than we have ever had, with temperatures scheduled according to the user groups: warmer for Second Mile and Revealed Word, cooler for Guides and MumNet, etc. They also let us set back the temperature several degrees at night while ensuring that the rooms are comfortable when the first user group arrives the next day. This programming saves several percent of our heating bill: several hundred dollars each year. Accessing the thermostats over the Internet lets us know if the boiler or its accessories have failed after hours, which may happen a few times each winter. Your Property Chair or the custodian can run over to the building to fix it or call maintenance.

Speaking of boiler failures, this year's boiler and steam system problems included: Sanctuary steam valve failure (stuck ON) at the beginning of the year (actuator replaced February); condensate sump pump failed to start mid-March (manually restarted, no repair); condensate sump float valve leak starting March (new float valve at Oct. startup); feedwater pump failed to stop, filling the boiler, basement steam lines, and boiler room floor with water mid-July (boiler water level controller replaced at startup); burner ignition failures after startup in October (replaced burner ignitor, adjusted flame sensor voltage), pressure relief valve failed filling boiler room with steam mid-October (valve replaced); condensate sump pump failed to start mid-November (manually restarted, no repair).

Some of these outages resulted in a few hours to a few days of no heat, but not in the depth of winter. The total cost of repairs was \$7,172.

The 'refreshment' of Memorial Hall in 2017 continued to receive praise in 2018 from groups using the room. The cleaner look, the option of dimmer lighting, the hooks for decorative lights and bunting have made it easier for users to achieve the desired atmosphere for their activity. Kitchen users, especially the Community Meal, continue to celebrate how much easier the preparation and cleanup is for large meals in the renovated kitchen.

During the middle of the year we had a few instances of taps left running overnight, but they ceased during the fall. We found one toilet that occasionally ran after flushing and adjusted it. While we had a couple of high-water-use quarters, the usage was low in December and we hope that these problems are now under control.

For years we have lamented the puddles, mud and mess in the parking lot. We have worried about hitting our mirrors on the fence along the driveway. Recently, the driveway fence has been falling apart. In October and November, we had the old fence taken down, the driveway and parking lot paved (Wilson Paving) and a new fence installed (TotalFence.com). No more mud! We even added a drop-off area by the northwest door to make it easier for someone with a walker to get out of a car. This was our largest property project of the year. See photos.

The pipe insulation in the Toddler room and Bloor West Nursery School tested positive for asbestos. At the end of June qualified contractors removed the old insulation on the radiator drops and replaced it with fiberglass so there is no asbestos that anyone can reach. The air tested clear afterwards. The wall plaster in Bloor West Nursery School was found to contain a small percentage of asbestos in the skim coat. Out of an abundance of caution we requested air testing which confirmed that the room is safe. We will assume that all the plaster in Jewitt Hall is similar and henceforth will treat it as if it has small concentrations of asbestos. Ontario regulations suggest that this sort of material be encapsulated (our many layers of paint qualify) and not be disturbed without taking appropriate precautions. PropCom and the caretaking staff have been informed and asked to take appropriate precautions if the plaster will be drilled or cut. We prepared a formal asbestos management plan and distributed it as appropriate.

Total maintenance and repair expenditures for the year were \$26,062, somewhat higher than recent years. Property-related expenses charged to current operations totaled \$100,784.

Our electricity use through the 220-volt meter at the end of November 2018 was 35.7 MWh, 2% above 2017 at that time. (Year-end usage was not available at time of writing.) While we saved some electricity by replacing five outdoor floodlights with LED fixtures, increased activity offset these savings. Gas use was 2.08 million cubic feet, about average, while our usage per degree-day was about 4% below the average of the last 10 years, due in part to the gym roof insulation and the EcoBee thermostats. Water use was 2.39 cubic metres/day, almost 10% above the average for the previous 3 years and the last decade, for reasons discussed above.

Submitted on behalf of the Property Committee, January 2019.
Don Dewees, Chairman

Fence and Driveway Project



Left: boards falling off the fence alongside the driveway in



Above: the new fence and driveway pavement in November.

Below: Ann, admiring the paved parking lot with painted lines in November.





Left: How steady are your hands? Could you aim a 15-foot pole at a light socket in a chandelier that sways and turns if you poke it? Here Tony and Gary engage in the delicate ballet with a 150-Watt bulb and a chancel chandelier. We do this half a dozen times a year.

Below: the new 'rub rail' to protect the drywall from the careening grand piano.



Bottom: David Whitfield, Tony Saadeh and David Wilcox rest after improving water drainage away from Memorial Hall.



REPORT ON REFUGEE FAMILY SPONSORSHIPS – 2018

RUC continues to be actively involved in three refugee sponsorships in widely different stages.

A small group of RUC volunteers continue to offer social support to our Ethiopian family of Tayiba Hebo and her 5 children who came to Canada in 2005. Everyone in the family has now attained Canadian citizenship. The children are all in high school or university.

Our Syrian family has been here since October 2016 and appear to have settled well. Parents Tony and Warda continue to work at improving their English. Tony volunteers at a Food Bank and with RUC PropCom and has part-time employment as evening custodian at Royal York Road United Church. Daughter Majdolin has been working for nearly 2 years for a legal firm and hopes to take Business Studies at university. Son George is in his first year of Computer Science at Ryerson. Volunteers from Runnymede, Kingsway-Lambton and Royal York churches continue to see the family socially and offer assistance when needed.

The Iraqi refugee family who we agreed to sponsor over 4 years ago is still languishing in Baghdad. Due to circumstances beyond their control their application to come to Canada has been refused twice. Each time RUC has successfully appealed the decision and at this time we are waiting for yet another assessment of the family's file. We pray that this family's terrifying ordeal may soon end with their safe reunification with their Aunt Amal in Toronto.

Lynne Salt
lynne.salt@cloverbeen.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Stewardship Committee worked to raise awareness in the congregation about financial stewardship and the opportunities for stewardship in our lives. The Committee implemented stewardship initiatives to address the needs of the congregation and how we can serve God with gifts of time, talent and money. During 2018, we published a new Stewardship Corner article in the Bulletin and also in the weekly e-mail distribution. This increase in communications will help in raising awareness for the importance of Stewardship in the life of RUC.

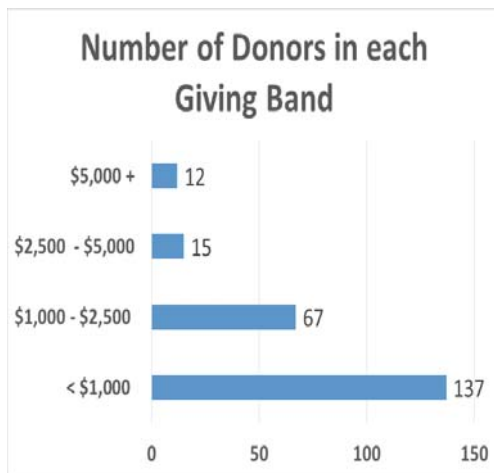
In the Fall, the Committee conducted its annual stewardship campaign where people were encouraged to pledge their financial giving for 2019.

In the Contemporary English Version of the Bible 1 Peter 4:10 reads:

“each of us has been blessed with God’s many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of other - - so use your gifts well”.

Our 2019 Stewardship Campaign gives us the opportunity to give thanks for God’s gifts in our lives. It is also a time to consider how we can offer our gifts through Runnymede United to serve God and others.

Our Campaign outlined the concentration of donors accounting for a large percentage of our givings: 12 donors generated 36%, and 27 donors generated 53% of all givings. Furthermore, these donors have remained relatively static. We asked the congregation to prayerfully consider increasing givings within their current band or perhaps even step up a higher band to help Runnymede United continue to grow.



The campaign was conducted in October and November. The committee distributed letters and other materials informing people about the stewardship campaign, the church's finances and the congregation's planning for the future. We also had several guest Minute speakers (Cathy Boyd-Withers, Bart Egnal & Emily Mather) who did a great job in personalizing their Stewardship experience. A special thanks to David Wilcox for being able to provide personalized Pledge Cards with prior year donation amounts, and to Alison & Pat in the office for coordinating the production of materials.

We were pleased with the return of 66 pledge cards (last year 53 were returned), of which 35 donors have indicated an increase over the prior year’s giving. As well, we had 6 new PAR donors during 2018 which makes for a predictable stream of monthly donations. At the AGM we will be able to better itemize the financial impact of this year’s campaign.

Thank you for your continued support and know your gifts serve God.

The Stewardship Committee: Roy Fischer, Steven Hill, Jeff Horbal, Paul Stenton, Deborah Trepanier

SUNDAY NIGHT SERVICE

The Sunday Night community has been meeting once a month on a Sunday evening for worship and bible study led by Rev. Don. The studies were meaningful, engaging and nourishing. We enjoyed insightful discussions and sharing our faith in community.

In December, Rev. Don led a wonderful Advent Service along with musicians, Jeff Douglas, Janie Kim, Jaccee Dallyn, Brian Withnell and Joy Sumyi Lee.

The Advent Service was held in the Kingsbury Room with sermon, scripture readings, songs, communion and a quiet, candlelit meditation in the Sanctuary. It was very well attended with a couple of new seekers.

The Sunday Night Service continues to meet monthly for worship and bible study with Rev. Don. The community is extremely grateful and appreciative of Rev. Don's inspiration, care and guidance.

Respectfully submitted by Joy Sumyi Lee.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 2018

Women's Fellowship has hosted a variety of enjoyable and informative evenings at Runnymede United Church in 2018. We welcome all women who have an interest in meeting other women, enjoying fellowship, learning new things and having fun. In particular, it has been great to welcome new members this year! We average between 20-35 participants each meeting. While our programs run during the church calendar year from September to April, this report will highlight the activities from February to December 2018. Due to the possibility of inclement weather, we choose not to meet in the month of January. Therefore, our first event in 2018 was February 14, when we held an afternoon Valentine's Tea in the Kingsbury Room. Card tables were set up and decorated with china teacups and tiered serving platters filled with sandwiches and sweets. Many thanks to Emma Gunn for her contribution of homemade scones! Those in attendance pronounced the event just perfect! On February 27, we hosted a regular evening meeting with a speaker from the Alzheimer's Association in Memorial Hall. Some folks brought their friends and we had a good presentation followed by questions from the audience. A donation on behalf of the group was made to the Alzheimer's Association.

With two events in February and with the fast approaching events of Easter, our March meeting was cancelled. We regrouped in April for our spring Potluck dinner. Our guest speaker was Susan Baker, who entertained us with her slides and stories of her time in Africa, especially of her time volunteering with a nursery school in the neighbourhood where she was staying. It is our pleasure to include our own RUC members as part of our informative programs.

After the summer, we met again on October 16 for a potluck dinner and the evening's theme was once again "Gratitude and Thankfulness". We met in Memorial Hall and this fall our buffet was filled with both mains and salads that reflected the excellent cooking skills of our members. In addition, rather than just one dessert, as had happened in a previous potluck dinner, we had many choices of desserts to sweeten our palates. We gathered to reconnect after the long summer, had a short worship time and discussed plans for future meetings.

On November 20, we welcomed RUC member Steve Gard to share his personal experiences along with Robyn of travelling to the far north of Quebec to meet relatives that he really didn't know existed. Steve's presentation was entitled "An Old Arctic Love" and as he showed slides of the north, the snow, the people they met, Steve told the story of how these connections all came to be. Everyone enjoyed his presentation.

The "Period Purse Project" was again the activity of our December 2018 meeting. Danielle Kaftarian, a volunteer with this outreach program, gave us an update on the past year of activity for The Period Purse organization. She then helped us organize a second "packing party" where we filled donated purses with feminine hygiene products, personal hygiene items as well as warm clothing articles such as hats, mittens and scarves. Our Women's Fellowship filled 67 purses for women in local shelters or living on the streets and prepared 27 hygiene packs and 30 period packs for distribution in the New Year. The donations were collected at the church in the weeks leading up to our meeting on December 11, 2018 in Memorial Hall. Thanks to everyone who attended the "party" as well as all those who contributed their donations to this outreach project.

A special thank you to Janis Traquair who continues to send out notices and reminders of all our activities. Our good attendance is due to her diligence in keeping people informed. Also, we wish to

thank our technical support expert, David Whitfield who graciously assists us in meetings where technical setups are required. Thanks to Jim Lien for assistance with room set-up. Thanks to the women who contribute refreshments on meeting nights and to Pat Ainslie, Debra Hogan, and Judy Whitfield who offered leadership in planning the meetings this year. The planning committee welcomes any suggestions for meeting program topics that we might pursue for the coming year.

We hope to see you out to a future meeting in 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Whitfield (for the Women's Fellowship Planning Committee)



Left: Our Women gather for their first meeting of the year: the very important and delicious Pot Luck Dinner!

Below and Right : Our Women fill and proudly display the bags ready to go to the Period Purse Project and women in need.



SPONSORED GROUPS

BLOOR WEST NURSERY SCHOOL

2018 Annual Report

Overall, the Bloor West Nursery School (BWNS) had another good year in 2018. We continued to be blessed by the dedication of the school's outstanding teachers. Their dedication to BWNS and its children explains why the school has remained one of the neighbourhood's most sought-after places for parents to enrol their preschool children. As well, BWNS could not run without the support of its volunteer Board of Directors, who continue to provide direction for the school and support of the teachers. All of their efforts are greatly appreciated.

New Board Members

Alexandra Manthorpe
Joanna Dziewaltowska-Gintowt
Lindsay Knox

Board Re-Elections

Stephanie Martin as President
Sarah Armstrong as Vice President
Laura Sheppard as Secretary
Mike Coulter as Financial Officer/Treasurer

Board Resignations

Sue Elliot

Teacher Additions and Resignations

In June 2018, Mary resigned to pursue a full-time position and Joy retired. The board is grateful for the years both teachers have dedicated to the school.

July and August 2018 were busy months for the board as we engaged in a rigorous recruiting effort. The board was pleased to hire two new teachers in August 2018 and a message was sent out to all parents introducing our new teachers. Below is a short excerpt from that message.

Laura Grimaldi - Head Teacher

Laura Grimaldi will lead the Bloor West Nursery School as Head Teacher starting this September. Laura brings more than 28 years of experience as a RECE teaching professional. She was most recently Assistant School Director and RECE Teacher at Thornhill Nursery School & Kindergarten. During her tenure, Laura was nominated for the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Anne-Marie McArthur - Associate Teacher

Anne-Marie McArthur is a Registered Early Childhood Educator, having graduated with Honours from Algonquin College. She has more than four years experience working with children of various ages as a live in nanny, and as an RECE in nursery schools and childcare centres. During the 2017-2018 school year, Anne-Marie worked alongside Joy Chow and Mary Tellett at BWNS as a support staff,

assisting the program and children with diverse needs. This experience provided her with first-hand knowledge of the BWNS program and well-established foundations. It is with great enthusiasm that Anne-Marie looks to join the BWNS team in a more permanent capacity.

Water/Allergies

Water testing was conducted in December 2018 and regulatory thresholds were met. Water testing is required again in December 2019.

The anaphylactic policy remains strict. All parents who have a child with an allergy must provide training to the teachers on the EpiPen at the beginning of the school year.

Licensing

In January, the Ministry completed its licensing inspection. Compliance was met after four actions were taken by the school within the week provided by the ministry to comply with requirements.

Volunteer Policy

All volunteers in the classroom and on field trips continue to require police reference checks. The process takes approximately 12-16 weeks and costs \$20. A good number of parents submitted their application along with school registration. In addition, the teachers must complete a form for each volunteer at each visit to ensure compliance.

Safe House

The school renewed its agreement with Runnymede PS to serve as a safe house for children at BWNS in case of an emergency requiring evacuation of the school.

Special Needs

Special Needs Consultant Denise Palermo from the Etobicoke Children's Centre Consultation Group spent time and consulted with a number of children during the 2017/2018 school year. Going forward, Sandy Matadin is our new resource

Capital improvements N/A

Events During the Year

In May, Bright Pics came to take a class photo and individual photos of the children. On June 6th, Officer Janet came to speak to the class about safety. As well, in the spring the class planted flowers in our anniversary garden.

In September we started the school year with a full class of 16 students. Each family donated a Kleenex box for the classroom and some families donated store bought play dough. New school canvas bags were purchased with the BWNS logo for each child to carry their art/work home at the end of each week.

On October 24, the teachers and parent volunteers took the children on a neighbourhood walk to see the Halloween Decorations. Halloween was celebrated with special treats and activities and the children came to school dressed in their costumes.

In November, Laura purchased two new plasma cars for the children to ride during gym period.

On November 14, Bright Pics came to take a class photo and individual photos of the children.

On December 12, the teachers and parent volunteers took the children on a neighbourhood walk to see the Christmas Decorations. BWNS hosted a toy and food drive from December 3-14th. It was a great success and the local Fire Department came on December 17th to collect our donations and the children had the opportunity to meet them and see the firetruck.

On December 2, we had a Christmas celebration and a parent donated nut free cupcakes and muffins for our party.

Professional Development

On October 22, Laura attended a Toronto Public Health seminar where she was updated on the new compliances and obtained the new 2019 Toronto Public Health Manual and posters required for the classroom.

On December 17, Laura and Anne-Marie attended a training workshop in the afternoon on Collaborative Problem Solving hosted by Denise Palermo & Sandy Matadin.

Website and Social Media

Board member Sue Elliot continued to update and improve the school's website and social media presence. BWNS has an attractive website and Facebook profile, and RUC maintains a link to the school on its website.

Enrolment

There are currently 23 families on the list for the 2019/2020 school year which includes four returning families.

Advertising

Board members and teachers continued to distribute our newly designed flyers and postcards throughout the neighbourhood.

Finances

The school's financial situation continues to depend on student enrolment. We were at full enrolment for the 2017-18 year, resulting in a surplus of \$4,055. This has helped offset several years of deficits encountered 2 and 3 years ago.

Fundraising continued via Mabel's Labels, providing a modest amount (\$220). Donations totalled \$415.

In October, the board voted to increase fees to \$370 per month (September to June) for the 2018-19 school year (up from \$352 in 2017-18).

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Martin, President
Bloor West Nursery School

85TH OLD MILL SCOUT GROUP - REPORT ON ACTIVITIES DURING 2018

Scouts Canada Mission: To help develop well rounded youth, better prepared for success in the world. Scouts Canada Vision: Canadian youth making a meaningful contribution to creating a better world.

Under the continued sponsorship of Runnymede United Church, the 85th Old Mill (Toronto) Scout Group's 26 adult volunteers ('Scouters') in youth sections and Group Committee, continued to provide training for life to 85 registered youth, aged 5-26.

The 85th's Group Committee, comprised of volunteers, Group Commissioner Scouter Mark Smith, a representative from Runnymede United Church (Jim Lien) and representatives of each section (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Rovers) of the Scouting group, meets the first Monday of each month, and is responsible for the delivery of the Scouts Canada programme and numerous administrative matters, including interview screening (with Police Record Check) prospective adult volunteers, registration of adults and youth, and fundraising events. Group Committee is also responsible for ensuring the quality of programme provided to the youth and during the year, encouraging new volunteers to complete required Scout web-based training (including Child and Youth Safety program through 'Respect in Sports'), as well as in-person Standard First Aid training.

The 85th Group continues to be one of the largest and a vibrant part of Scouting in the Old Mill Area (and Greater Toronto Council), participating actively at the Area level in yearly camps and one day events. The 85th group continues to use the Scouts Canada national Canadian Path program to provide experiential learning for youth in our community. Over the last couple of years the Group Committee has recruited a new generation of younger leaders, many of whom are alumni of the 85th. We also continue to draw upon the parents of our youth for leadership.

Beavers in Action

Once again, we have a full complement of 32 Beavers, with a waiting list of another 10. There Beavers are the youngest section in scouts, consisting of boy and girls aged 5 to 7.

The colony meets in the gym on Wednesday nights, from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. The Beavers this year are a very energetic and enthusiastic group, who take their fun very seriously. That fun each week can include crafts, active games, stories, outings to enjoy nature and so much more. You may have seen of our young guys and gals out and about for Apple Day or helping you pick out the perfect Christmas tree.

In December, our Beavers decorated and filled shoeboxes as Holiday gifts for the residents of John Gibson House who provides housing to vulnerable and at-risk older adults and seniors. Often the gift they gave was the only one the residents received this year, which was quite a revelation to many of our kids. As well one of our Beaver Scouter organized a toiletry drive for the RUC Community Meal.

This January our Beavers enjoyed a sleepover at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton. There they had the chance to camp out under the wing of a historic plane and learned a little about the role that Scouts played during the second world war. We also look forward to upcoming meetings where we will be snowshoeing in High Park, skating, campfires, swimming and building Beaver Buggies.

It will be all topped off with our spring 85th All-Sections Camp in May. It's where our Beavers will get to have fun with their friends on obstacle courses, nature hikes, games, skits and singing around the campfire, and staying up much, much too late.

Cubs in Action

The Cub Pack this year (Thurs. 7:00 p.m.) has 31 youth (aged 8-10). There are five active Scouters for 2018-19. The Cubs and their Scouters have been putting the "OUT" in SCOUTING - that is, experiencing the outdoors on a regular basis: canoeing the Humber, weekend camping, etc.

The Pack leadership, including the Howler's Council, has also been revisiting much of Baden-Powell's core programming, with the Jungle Opening, along with increased attention to the new "Canadian Path" programme and group pursuit of the cub outdoor adventure pursuit badges. As usual, in March 2018, the Pack participated in the Old Mill Area Kub Kar Rally, a perennial favourite, has provided service to our sponsor: Runnymede United Church, supported a local food bank and once again the Cubs delivered gift boxes to disadvantaged families in our local area as part of the Toronto Star Christmas Box programme.

Mindful of the Cub Motto - "Do Your Best" - the Cub programme encourages each Cub to participate in a range of activities and opportunities to further his/her growth in Social, Physical, Intellectual, Character, Emotional and Spiritual dimensions, all while having fun. The 85th cubs has been very successful in fostering inclusion of girls in their program and have nine female cubs, some of whom specifically joined the 85th cubs because there were already many other young girls involved.

Scouts in Action

Our 16 Scouts and six Scouters have continued to follow the Canadian Path over the last year with an emphasis on youth leadership. Each camp and weekly meeting offers the opportunity for youth to take on important roles in planning and running their own activities. A key forum for Troop decision-making is the monthly gathering of our Court of Honour, where Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol leaders make plans for the Troop and receive coaching on how to run a meeting and how to work effectively in a leadership role with other youth.

Highlights of this year's weekly meetings included Skit night, Nerf night, Camp cooking night around the fire pit at Etienne Brule Park and several opportunities to build team work and learn new skills. The Troop also participated in making Santa box deliveries to families in our community in early December. They enjoyed Scout Day at Medieval Times as well as attended an all-night LaserQuest lock-in with other Area troops before Christmas. The CN Tower was scaled twice this year – for WWF in the spring and United Way in the Fall.

The Troop this year have & are planning on three or 4 camps. The youth are the catalyst for the theme of the camps and the organization behind them. They will have had two weekend camps at the RASC CARR Observatory on top of Blue Mountain (Collingwood). They will also return to the Dorchester International Brotherhood Camp (DIBC) where they will join with thousands of scouts from both sides of the border.

Venturers in Action

The Venturer Company (Wed. 8:00 p.m.) is made up of 7 High School aged youth aged 15 to 17 and four Scouters. The Venturers' section motto is 'challenge', which is particularly apt for high school aged youth since they have many conflicting activities including part time jobs and school. It is encouraging that so many manage to participate in regular activities despite competing demands on their time. Venturer company activities are selected and planned by the youth members of the

company with the guidance of the Scouters who take the role of advisor as opposed to decision maker.

In the last 12 months, the Venturer company has planned and executed two camps: an October hiking camp at McCrae Lake in preparation for the Adirondacks trip and our annual trip to the Adirondacks in November. Adirondacks was particularly challenging this year due to last minute advisor changes, but was once again a successful trip enjoyed by all. The Venturers have recently started planning for a Winter camp in February as well as a hiking trip in the spring and a possible canoe trip in late summer. In addition to the camps, the group has been busy with a number of other activities including helping with Apple Day and Christmas tree sales. Our Venturers enjoy a wide variety of activities at weekly meetings including everything from Iron Chef style cooking competitions, to games night, finger painting and even some crafts like weaving. The Venturers also enjoy frequent excursions away from the church, for example to the AGO, High Park and canoeing on the Humber. Rovers in Action

Our Rover Crew (meets with Venturers) is comprised of 3 young adults aged 18-26. As in the past, the Crew has a fluid schedule since many members are away at university or college. This year some have completed their post-secondary schooling are back in the neighbourhood and now helping with younger sections as Scouters. They remain united by their interest in outdoor activity and in the Scouting movement. All sections benefit from their enthusiasm and experience.

Respectively Submitted by:

Scouter Jim Lien, Sponsor's Representative with Runnymede United Church
85th Old Mill (Toronto) Group, Scouts Canada