

# 2018 Annual Report

**Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church**

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*"One in Christ, reaching out to many"*

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## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

*Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of activities but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.*

*(from I Corinthians 12)*

Together as Christ's body it is with gratitude that we look over the year just past. In these pages you will read about a variety of activities and you will find evidence of many talents and spiritual gifts. You will find a record of what we have done, but you will also see evidence of the activity of God who moves in and among us. So this report is really a testimony of God's faithfulness and continuing presence as well as a record of our faith response.

Financially we began the year with a significantly reduced budget, bringing expenses in line with what we anticipated to be a realistic projection of income. The fact that we ended the year with our budget balanced speaks to the conscientiousness and commitment of many people. We are grateful for the Board of Managers, and especially its Finance Team (Howard Backus and Len Gale) who planned and monitored our budget. We are also grateful for the Facilities Team, who manage user groups of our facilities. And we are grateful to you, the people of Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church, not only for your

financial support but also for your enthusiasm in the life of our faith community. We are indeed blessed. As Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, God indeed has activated all in us all.

With enthusiasm, special guests and faith we have worshiped together, on Sunday mornings and at special services. In faith and hope we have celebrated the lives of those who have gone on from this life and welcomed newcomers to our community. With faithful leadership within the congregation, undergirded by much prayer and in love we have made new decisions, cared for the building, grounds, visited homes, met challenges and sought God's continuing direction.

In God's strength, in 2019 we will continue to build on foundations laid in 2018. Together as members of one body, in faith, in hope, we look forward to what God has yet to do in us, around us and through us.



Rev. Peter Coutts  
Minister

## STAFF

Rev. Peter Coutts  
Minister

Rev. Rod Ferguson  
Pastoral Associate

Wayne Hubbard  
Music Director

Michael Peace  
Child & Youth Ministries  
Coordinator

Claire Huene  
Side-by-Side Co-ordinator

Kelly Evers  
Church Secretary

Herve Chartier  
Custodian

## SESSION

VAPC's fifty-first year — the anniversary celebrations were over and the future was our responsibility! This was a year for Session to look forward, learn about making changes, and lay the groundwork for what was to come.

Direction was given at two events in February. Dr. Darrell Guder and Dr. Preston Prouteaux delivered both theological and practical inspiration for the *Missional Church* at a Presbytery workshop held in VAPC. The congregation's input through table discussions at the annual meeting provided themes which were later developed in focus groups and guided our thinking through the year. Changes began:

Staff responsibilities were realigned; the Christian Education Director's role and hours were reduced. By mid-year, John Egger had accepted a new position in Korea.

The committee structure was revised in an effort to improve efficiency and respect volunteers' time.

It was recognized all remaining funds from the Peggy Saunders Estate had been committed, so no further applications to the fund would be received pending completion of those projects.

A Music Ministry Fund was established by Board and Session.

Within Session, Nathan Bannerman returned from a leave of absence but it was with

sincere regret we received Hamish Kerfoot's resignation.

In the coming year, the work begun will continue. Peggy Saunders' tremendous gift to us will be celebrated and all it has accomplished will be recognized. Some elders' terms will be completed and elections held.

Although changes can be listed, they are not made without deep gratitude for all the work and commitment that has gone before. Thank you volunteers for all those years of service. As ever thank you to the staff for your too seldom recognized contributions.

And to our Moderator, Rev. Coutts - thank you for guidance and patience with us in our frequent reluctance to tackle the hard stuff!

We remain yours in Christ's service,

The VAPC Session

*Ferdinand Adu-Darko*

*Cathy Gale*

*Sonia Shephard*

*Nathan Bannerman*

*John Hunter*

*Joan Stellmach*

*Sandi Churchill*

*Lorraine Kaufman*

*Gord Wytsma*

*Lisbeth Duncan*

*Martha Nystrom*

*Geoff Zakaib*

## 2018 STATISTICS

The total number of communicant members on January 1, 2018 was **290** as per our 2017 Annual Report.

During 2018:

- 11 members died
  - 3 members transferred out
- Total number of communicant members as of December 31, 2018 was **276**.

## 2018 Communion & Rolls

We remember with love and thankfulness the members and friends of VAPC who died in 2018:

- Jim Allen
- Shirley Burrill
- Lillian Currie
- Alice Dodd
- Milton Fuglem
- Jean Hamilton
- Ted Heller
- Alexander(Sandy)McIntosh
- Jack Pullen
- Charles Stewart
- Loretta Trevors
- Andy Verag
- Joan Wall
- Joyce Wytsma

**Baptisms:**

- Alice Colgan

**Communion**

In 2018, VAPC held 6 celebrations of Holy Communion and 666 people received Holy Communion.



## SIDE-BY-SIDE

Late in 2014, VAPC was invited to consider starting a programme where persons living with dementia could come to the church one day a week in order to give their caregivers a few hours of respite. The programme had been running successfully at St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Calgary for two years and they had been given a grant to spin off a satellite group in another Presbyterian church in Calgary. It did not take much to persuade a number of elders in VAPC, along with the minister at the time, Rev Bob Smith to become excited at the project. Very shortly thereafter, a co-ordinator, the Rev Ena van Zoeren, began to work with the St Andrews people to devise a plan, and in January 2015, the much anticipated programme began.

The Side by Side programme was first created in response to the growing number of families impacted by dementia and the profound need for support and informal care options within the community. It runs most Thursdays between 9.45 am and 2.15 pm

Snacks and a nutritious lunch are provided and although there is no official charge, participants are happy to contribute towards the food and craft supplies. Each participant is paired with a volunteer for the day in order to receive one-on-one attention and care. This is what sets this programme apart from any other dementia care programme

Each week there is a different theme, with activities designed to provide mental and physical stimulation and meaningful social interaction. As participants and volunteers

connect through music, exercise, games, crafts, and stories, a warm sense of trust, acceptance and belonging develops within the group. Spiritual nurture is intentionally integrated throughout the day. Seven of the original volunteers have been involved with the programme since its inception, volunteering every Thursday (except for vacations) until this Summer when it was decided to take both a summer break and a Christmas break. Various other wonderful volunteers have been involved and moved on to other ventures, but we do have some incredibly creative and dedicated people who continue to enrich the entire venture

Rev Ena accepted a call to minister in Salmon Arm in British Columbia in the Spring of this year, and the programme has been extremely fortunate to engage the services of Claire Huene who has fitted into the project so capably and offers a great deal of ingenuity and other things to this amazing concept.

Funding until the end of 2019 is secure and plans are under way to invite the local community and the Alzheimer's community to assist with a fundraising venture for the programme to continue into 2020.



## INN FROM THE COLD



*"Family homelessness is on the rise in Canada. Our city is no exception."*

Those words introduced end-of-year statistics from Inn from the Cold's Emergency Family Shelter:

*"We provided 40,119 bed stays, a 20% increase over 2017.*

*We were at or over capacity 319 days (89%), a 45% increase from last year.*

*Our overflow shelter was activated 137 times, an increase of 621% from 2017."*

VAPC has been on the monthly roster of meal service teams since Inn from the Cold first opened its Emergency Family Shelter ten years ago. Again, in 2018, lunch was served on the second Monday and dinner on the second Tuesday of the month by inter-generational, multi-lingual teams from the VAPC family. The number of volunteers participating was reduced late in the year, however, by two decisions from the Inn:

Food which is not produced in a commercial kitchen can no longer be served at the shelter. That meant no more excitement about the dessert we provided - no muffins from the Wardle kitchen; none of Sharon Caswell's special occasion cupcakes. Margaret's muffin count for this year had to end just short of 500!



The next day's lunches are now packed under the cook's supervision during office hours. Where six to eight people had worked the hectic sandwich-making / dinner set-up time, four individuals now manage the dinner team's responsibilities.

New volunteers are always welcome whether you come once a year or every month. It will give you a new appreciation of having 'a place to call home'.

## ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLUB

Did you know you are welcome to drop into the church for conversation and coffee any Saturday morning throughout the year?

At 10:00 am, you'll find us in the Vestry but, by 10:10, you may just have to follow the sound of chatter and laughter to find where we have fitted in. VAPC can be a busy place on Saturday mornings! By 11:45, you can be sure the action is near a kitchen and food.

What can you expect? There will be four to seven familiar VAPC faces and from two to fifteen folk you may not recognize. This is a totally unstructured opportunity for those with another first language to practice conversing in English. But it is more ...

Undoubtedly you will learn something. It may be about Nepal or Libya; about this week's inflation rate in Venezuela or living with earthquakes in Chile; about cultural celebrations and free events in Calgary; or that one of the girls from Korea could be mistaken for a Chinese movie star. You may be asked for

advice on pronunciation or camping or driving. You may hear of children's activities, of long-awaited success with exams or finding work, of difficulties with landlords, employers, or school, of new delights in nature. You will make new friends.

Most of all, you will come to understand how important it is to reach out, to say 'hello' and 'welcome'.

Thank you to the team that arranges that welcome 52 weeks a year: Ernie and Betty Trosch, Heather Swaney, Jerry Crowdis, Sharon Caswell, Marilyn Brown, Joan Stellmach



## REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

Even though it wasn't evident around VAPC, 2018 was a busy and complicated year for our refugee sponsorships. Each case could be a lengthy story but a year-end status overview will have to suffice. Rob Shropshire, PWS&D's Refugee Coordinator, and his staff were repeatedly invaluable supports.

Our Somali refugees arrive with the attitude they want to be independent as soon as possible so after a month or so with their aunt co-sponsor, they find work and move to live with another relative:

- Sahra and her son, Mohamed (2014 application) arrived in November 2017. She had difficulty finding work here so moved to Toronto early in 2018. Mohamed joined her there in late summer but he has announced he is returning to Calgary as soon as he is 18. VAPC's year of sponsorship obligation for them is completed with no financial support required.
  - Abdirahman (2015 application) There was a question about a document he brought to his interview in the fall of 2017. No decision has been made by Canadian officers about his case.
  - Ridwan (2015 application) arrived in March, 2018. She is living with a cousin in Brooks and working at the meat processing plant. No VAPC financial support has been required.
  - Hawo (2017 application) was four days from her scheduled departure from Kenya in June when they found she had registered for Kenyan ID in 2016. Her refugee claim has been rejected although relatives are still trying to prove she is not a Kenyan citizen.
  - Isse Sulub (2018 application). His application has just been received by the Nairobi visa office.
- We had a long list of Syrian siblings and their families who were to be gradually co-sponsored by their brother Zyad, a baker in Calgary.
- Basel, Amineh and their two children (2016 application) arrived in Canada on June 5.

Unfortunately, just the week before, Zyad confirmed he was no longer in Calgary and did not have the house we understood was being prepared for them. On the eve of their travel, we were told they wanted to go to Montreal to be with another brother and plans had been made to take them from the Toronto airport. While they were airborne, Rob Shropshire made all necessary arrangements with Border Services and Immigration to make that happen. Quebec does not allow out-of-province refugee sponsorships and, with summer approaching, no churches were found to pick up our responsibility. Action Réfugiés Montréal (a recipient of Presbyterians Sharing funds) took them through the settlement procedures. Rob successfully applied for a “no-fault breakdown” in sponsorship and they were eligible for Quebec welfare support.

- Munir, his wife and four children (2018 application) had a similar co-sponsorship plan with Zyad. This application was withdrawn and the spaces reallocated to others waiting in the PWS&D queue for private sponsorship.

For 2019, we have sponsorship requests from Iraqi relatives of Jaber and Salwa (our first privately sponsored refugees who arrived in 2006), from a Somali mother in a Kenyan refugee camp and another young Somali man in Uganda. Their cases will be submitted to PWS&D to determine if they will be awarded application spaces

among the number the government has allotted to the PCC for 2019.

## DIRECT FAIR TRADE COFFEE

That cup of coffee you enjoy after worship at VAPC does more than give you a boost - it makes you part of the fair trade movement. Thus, it empowers small-scale coffee farmers to maintain their traditional, environmentally friendly growing practices knowing they will receive a dependable, above market value for their crop. Additional Fair Trade premiums to their community provide educational opportunities, health care or business development.

Each month, when our coffee order is sent to Level Ground Trading ([www.levelground.com](http://www.levelground.com)), there is the opportunity for individual purchases of coffee, tea, dried fruit, rice, spices, sugar, and coconut oil. The small profit from these sales (\$314.46 in 2018) goes to VAPC's Youth Mission Fund which assists young people taking part in mission activities outside the city of Calgary.

Won't you have a second cup?



## CALGARY INTERFAITH FOODBANK



From January 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 to the end of October 2018, the congregation of Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church have once again shown their support to Calgary's less fortunate with 802.5 pounds of food to the Calgary Food Bank, the months of November and December food was given to the Veterans Food Bank and wasn't weighed, so I don't know how much they received.

The donations ranged from many cases of soup, large boxes of cereal, juice, pasta and sauce, tea, coffee, sugar, rice, canned fish, peanut butter, jams. Many different kinds of crackers, baby food (which is always needed), and even diapers. Dental Hygiene, tooth brushes, tooth paste, floss etc, and cases of bottled water. Fresh vegetables were also donated , zucchini, carrots etc.

The Calgary Food Bank appreciates our donations and sends out “Thank You” letters monthly. They are posted on the bulletin board across from the office.

## KNIT KNEWS

The 'sereKNITy dot calm' group is a group of knitters who have been getting together for a year now. This began as a 2-meeting group, Monday morning and Monday evening once each month, but has now dropped to the second Monday morning of each month. We congregated in a bright upstairs room where we are able to store supplies for our craft.

At each meeting we hear a verse of scripture and are given time to meditate over the words (without talking which is hard to do !!) then each lady is offered the opportunity to say what jumped out at them and/or if the words reminded them of a time when such words had a special connotation. Any conversation always leads to stories from past days about knitting.... how they got started, who introduced them to the craft, some hilarious 'yarns' and often some emotional memories triggered by the stories.

The needles clack as time seems to fly past, with silent music in the background, and a carefully placed cup of tea to enjoy.

All are encouraged to bring their current knitting project, but we also have been busy knitting with generously donated wool, warm scarves for the Safeworks programme, tiny bonnets for the premature babies, and always a steady stream of prayer shawls available in the cabinet outside the kitchen. The knitting is done prayerfully with the benefactors very much in mind, and we have a collection of appropriate prayers to bless the finished items.

Donated wool is always welcome in the basket outside the kitchen, and others outside the knitting circle have been donating knitted articles into the blue bin above the coat racks next to the mailboxes.

You don't have to be able to knit, but if you would like to join this compassionate, conversational group, we would love to have you join us at 10 am on the second Monday of each month.



## PASTORAL CARE

In 2018 the Pastoral Care Group was comprised of four members.

The mandate of the Pastoral Care Group is to provide spiritual, emotional, social and physical support to the VAPC family. This Group is the "umbrella" under which you find the driving roster for church services; stocking food in the freezer for distribution in times of need (Sonia Shephard); sending cards and calling congregation members (Donna Cimino) and Prayer Chain (Heather Swaney). Many have received peace, comfort, strength, guidance, and healing as a result of the many prayers by the Prayer Chain. Prayer Chain sends out prayer requests via the phone and e-mail to people who have requested to be on the Prayer Chain. All

requests are treated with strict confidence.

The Pastoral Care Group works closely with our Pastoral Associate, Rev. Rod Ferguson.

The Group held its semi-annual *Seniors' and Friends' Communion* on Wednesday April 18 and Wednesday November 14, 2018. Both services were well attended and provided a wonderful opportunity for fellowship. Thanks to the many people who contributed to the success of these events with food, rides, music, greeting and serving etc.

The Pastoral Care Group hosted its annual Alzheimer's Coffee Break on Wednesday, September 19, 2018. Attendees heard a presentation by Angie Catenacci of the City of Calgary about various the "Age-Friendly Calgary" Programs. Cash raised at this event was donated to Alzheimer Society of Alberta and NWT. The group and the Alzheimer's Society thank you for your support!

Pastoral Care Group supplies Care Note brochures. They are located in a display case beside the mail slots. These brochures are intended to be a support for members, adherents and friends of the congregation who are in a time of spiritual or emotional struggle.

The group would welcome anyone who wishes to join our Pastoral Care Group as a member, just as a volunteer for one of our events or as driver for people who want to attend VAPC on Sunday morning.



## STEPHEN MINISTRY

### Christ Caring for People Through People

*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2, NRSV).*

VAPC is a one of more than 13,000 congregations that have a Stephen Ministry program. Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage and provide confidential emotional and spiritual support to people going through a challenging time.

#### Highlights from 2018:

- In the spring of 2018, three Stephen Ministers were commissioned after completing 50 hours of training at VAPC over the previous seven months. These Stephen Ministers included Jo Ferguson from VAPC as well as one person from Grace Presbyterian and one from Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian.
- Jo Ferguson joined Arden Berg, Dilys Adu-Darko, Marjorie MacQueen, Bob McGuire and Donna Murray to bring VAPC's complement of Stephen Ministers to six. Throughout 2018, these six Stephen Ministers provided a link between the VAPC community and care receivers, who were experiencing life challenges and may not have been able to come to VAPC.
- Our Stephen Ministers report that their relationships have "enriched their lives" while care receivers and their families have expressed gratitude for the support provided through this ministry.

- In addition to providing weekly support to care receivers, Stephen Ministers also attended meetings once a month or more frequently to receive support and continue with Stephen Ministry education. The two Stephen Ministers from other congregations who trained at VAPC are supporting people in their own congregations but attend check-in meetings at VAPC.

#### Stephen Leaders in 2018:

Rev. Rod Ferguson (referrals)  
Greta LeBlanc  
Donna Murray  
Lisa Casselman

#### Stephen Ministers in 2018:

Dilys Adu-Darko  
Arden Berg  
Jo Ferguson  
Marjorie MacQueen  
Bob McGuire  
Donna Murray

For more information about Stephen Ministry:  
<https://www.stephenministries.org>



## FAITH FORMATION

The purpose of the Faith Formation Group (formerly known as the Christian Education Committee) is to:

- provide programs that encourage, sustain, and enrich a Christ-centered, life-long journey of faith for each and every person associated with

Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church, and to

- provide programs that will help our children and youth to come to know the grace and love of God through the teachings of Jesus, to discover God's plan for each of them, and to encourage them to live out their faith journey through action

The FFG supports and works with the minister, Rev. Dr. Peter Coutts, and the Director of Christian Education in offering programs to nurture faith formation at VAPC. For the first six months of the year, the Director of Christian Education was John Egger, and we give thanks for his commitment with the Sunday school program and with the youth group. With his departure overseas during the summer, he left a vacancy for the fall, in which the FFG members and a core group of volunteers kept the Sunday school program running, and the youth group continuing, until a new Child and Youth Ministries Co-ordinator could be found, for 2019.

The Faith Formation group focussed on the nurturing of faith in these three areas:

### INTERGENERATIONAL

#### Connections:

The FFG organized fun intergenerational events in our faith community, such as the Advent craft event and an informal Christmas pageant. The FFG also supported events such as the youth group-hosted games night.

### FAITH & MULTI-FAITH

#### Connections:

The FFG supported the nurturing of faith

by providing a Sunday school program for nursery-aged children up to youth. With more young children in attendance, the nursery room was freshened up with a welcoming mural of animals and nature, painted by Sheri Coutts, and with the addition of some new toys. The youth followed the curriculum "Ancestors" by exploring some of the major characters in the Old Testament. Youth group events were offered once or twice a month, and fun activities included bowling, glow-in-the-dark capture the flag, murder mystery, baking, movie nights and game nights. To encourage faith formation in adults, Rev. Coutts offered adult bible studies throughout the year, with the most recent study titled the Letter of James. As well, Rev. Coutts organized film nights, with meaningful discussion that followed a movie viewing. Multi-faith connections were made, when Imam Fayaz Tilly was invited to speak at VAPC during Interfaith Harmony Week, and when the FFG organized a synagogue visit to the Temple B'nai Tikvah. Canada Youth 2018 took place July 2-7. This year's theme was "Stirred, Not Shaken." VAPC sent a contingent of eight participants, plus John Egger, who went as an A.B.L.E. advisor.

**COMMUNITY & OUTREACH Connections:** The Young Adults' Group met a few times, and the Peer Partnership program continued as a link to the U of C Campus Ministry during the first half of the year. There were numerous fundraisers leading up to the Canada Youth 2018 event at Brock University in July. Some of these included a Dessert Night and Silent Auction

Fundraiser, grocery gift card sales, an ongoing bottle drive, a used book sale, and a bake sale. Many thanks go to those who led the fundraisers, to those who helped out, and to those who supported them. The Sunday school mission project raised money for the Winnipeg Inner City Missions. Some of the youth group activities involved making gift packs for the Drop-In Centre and stuffing socks for the Warm Feet for the Street program.

**Looking ahead to 2019, there are exciting events planned... including numerous youth group events with our new Child and Youth Ministries Co-ordinator, a Highland tea fundraiser, and more outreach events.**



## INFORMATION COMMITTEE

- New website developer selection and transition support
- Support to transfer to new email service
- VAPC Update continued with excellence
- Manually updating of VAPC outside sign (now a thing of the past)

The highlight of the year and one with long term advantages was involvement as part of the team that selected a new website developer, design components of the new website and transition from the old website to the new website.

The new website is much easier to use and update and is "modern".

- An effective website is how new people find us as their church home.
- An easy to use way for people to subscribe for church news and events (or unsubscribe)
- A simple way for the church administrators to communicate key events and news

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

We are blessed at Varsity with dedicated singers who make up the Sanctuary Choir. The choir meets weekly for rehearsals, preparing music for Sunday services as well as extra services when needed.

The help of Ivan Freeborn with the anthem preparation is much appreciated.

The handbell choir is made up of eleven individuals who also meet weekly for rehearsals. The group plays in worship as often as possible. They also provide music for the Afternoon Communion services.

In memory of our friend and fellow bell ringer, Shirley Burrill, her son John Burrill and his family very kindly donated a set of handchimes to the church. The handbell group is very appreciative of this gift.



## BOARD OF MANAGERS

The Board of Managers completed several significant tasks in 2018 and has welcomed the help of some new members. We appreciate the time and effort that has been put forward by our members, the volunteers and staff supporting the Board and its Committee work.

Key highlights from the Board's 2018 activities are:

- The board moved ahead with its simplified structure for committees with representatives on the board. The IT Committee operated as a working group of the Property Committee, and the board. Property, Finance(2) and Stewardship had direct board members. Personnel and Facilities were represented by verbal or written summaries. The board operated effectively with 9 members:

Chair

Secretary

Stewardship Rep

Property Rep

Finance Rep(2)

Members at Large (3)

Treasurer (ex Officio)

Session (ex Officio)

- With the Treasurers leadership we switched accounting systems from PowerChurch to Quickbooks which is online rather than purchased software. We also simplified some accounts and the reporting preparation task.
- Treasurer researched alternatives to banking arrangements and opened a new account at First Calgary Financial (commencing February 2019). The new

account with allow for online banking (receipts, payments and statements) at a lower cost than similar services from our existing bank.

- Finance revised the Financial Delegation of Authority document and updated some authority levels to reflect appropriate spending in committees with Board approval only for major items.
- Established a dedicated fund for the Music Ministry.
- Wifi was upgraded across the facility to ensure better response. The email system was revised to include dedicated Gmail accounts for all committees and committee chairs. The transition from personal email accounts to church based Gmail is still ongoing for most committees
- The Board worked with Facilities/IT on proposed AV system in Scott Hall. A portable LED screen system was purchased to meet needs of tenants and reduce the set up time and effort for the projector and screen. This also allowed the screen to be left in place in the sanctuary for use by the Minister on Sundays
- The Board continued its effort to communicate the financial situation through bulletin inserts and announcements at Sunday service. The challenge from losing a key rental tenant (Little Blossoms) was overcome by focused effort of Facility group on finding new tenants. This was accomplished by September.
- Conversion of the financial plan to have facility rental revenue cover the building

loan interest and apply the remainder against the loan principle took place starting October 1 as planned.

- The general givings level was ahead of budget most of the year and VAPC was able to complete 2018 with a small budget surplus. Many Committees were able to keep their spending at or below budget, the exception being Property which experienced one time costs for an elevator repair and new Sanctuary roof on the south side.
- Significant work and time was spent between Property and the Board on the outside sign concept. A cost effective solution using the old base and new LED sign was found. This was installed in early January 2019 and received very positive feedback from the congregation.
- A rigorous review of insurance provision was conducted by the Finance reps and a new policy developed with the PCC based insurer. This will be effective in 2019 at a 40% savings of (~\$7000) per year in insurance costs.

Key goals moving forward include:

- Ensuring financial sustainability for VAPC by balancing the program needs and wants with the general givings level. Help to provide funds for the new mission centered approach being developed by Session and Stewardship.
- Continue to effectively manage the transition to the new model with facility rental revenues covering loan interest and reducing loan



principle, and general offerings funding all program and operating expenses.

- Ensure the longer term plan for loan repayment can be accomplished by continuing to increase facility rental revenues in coming years.

**Acknowledgements:** I will be stepping down as Board Chair in 2019. I am pleased that four current Board members are continuing and look forward to assisting to building our talent through the addition of several new members in 2019. I would also like to express special thanks to Howard Backus, Marilyn Brown, Cathy Smith, and Dilys Adu-Darko for their effort as they are leaving the Board as of 2019.

2018 Board Members (\*indicates new members for 2018)

Stephen Kaufman, Chair

Cathy Smith, Secretary

Howard Backus

Steve Colgan

Dilys Adu-Darko

Marilyn Brown

Len Gale

Laura Parker

Elizabeth Milner\*

**Ex officio members:**

Geoff Zakaib – Session Liaison

Heather Anderson – Church Treasurer

Peter Coutts – Minister

## FINANCE

### Key Activities in 2017:

- The 2017 operational budget was updated and reviewed with Board and Session in June 2017 to support the call for a Minister. Specific activities included:
  - Trending actual costs vs budget

- Analyzing various cost scenarios to ensure financial stability
- Preparing various reports and communication materials to explain the financial position of VAPC to Board & Session.
- Preparing financial data to support the Call.
- Brief report to the Congregation at the June congregational meeting.
- Developed the 2018 budget, which required analysis and reporting on several scenarios for presentation to Board and Session for their review and comment.
- Prepared a preliminary position paper on a major update to the Financial Delegation of Authority policy. The old policy was a collection of several process and ideas developed over a period of time, which had become stale and no longer provided clear guidance on financial processes. The position paper shared with the Board describes an overarching process showing how funds are received, managed and spent, and will provide specific guidance on approvals required for spending.

### Short Term Goals:

- Continue to work on high level financial reporting to enable understand of VAPC's financial position as it changes throughout the year.
- Complete the new Financial Policy and roll it out to the Board, Session and Committee Conveners
- Work with the Treasurer, Book Keepers, Envelope Secretary, Committee

Conveners, the Board and Session to help VAPC financial operations run smoothly.

- Early start on 2019 budget activities, to address potential issues.

### Long Term Goals:

- Collaborate with the Board and Session (and their subcommittees) to plan longer term improvements to VAPC financial structure and systems.

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE



The Property Committee reporting to the Board of Managers has the primary responsibility of upkeep and maintenance of the Church and surrounding property. The required tasks are completed by either hired contractors if required, or members of the committee and volunteers from the congregation whenever possible to keep maintenance costs as low as possible and within budget.

The major accomplishments for 2018 included:

- Shingling the south facing pitch of the sanctuary.
- Elevator repairs
- Electronic sign installation

- Adjusting the old fresh air intakes for our newer furnaces.
- Modifications to the Puddleducks Day Care to meet licensing requirements

Members of the Property Committee for 2018 included: Jim Beaton, Ralph Lundberg, Hugh and Marilyn Brown, John Hunter and Alexander Aldridge.

## FACILITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### Regular “Outside” User Groups 2018

#### Community Service

- Alcoholics Anonymous (weekly)
- Calgary Immigrant Women’s Association New Friends (ESL) (weekly)
- Children’s Link Grandparents Coffee Social (monthly)
- Gamblers Anonymous (weekly)
- Gam-Anon (weekly)
- TOPS (weekly)

#### Non-Profits

- Calgary Association of Lifelong Learners (CALL)
  - . Monthly speaker series:
    - Science and Environment
    - CALL Café
    - Treks and Travels
    - Health and Wellness
  - . Occasional
    - Public Policy Issues Speakers
    - Special events (Kairos Blanket Exercise, Olympics Panel Discussion)

- Chinook Artists (weekly)
- Ebenezer Korean Church (3 times per week)
- Sentimental Journey Big Band (weekly)

#### Education

- PuddleDucks Preschool (5 days per week)
- Literacy Unlocked - Dyslexia tutoring (5 days, 2 evenings per week)

#### Occasional Users

- City of Calgary - development open house -
- Condo meetings - 6 associations
- Piano Recitals (over 350 students)

## LEADING WITH CARE

In 2005, VAPC adopted the Presbyterian Church in Canada’s Leading With Care Policy which is continuously being updated and implemented.

In 2018, our every three year Presbytery mandated Fire Drill took place and went very smoothly. From this arose the concern about the screen in the Sanctuary as possibly being unsafe for exiting and for setup/take down which happens sometimes when other groups are using it.

The AED outside the office was brought up to date.

Looking to 2019, there will be a push to bring Police Information Checks up to date as for many the five-year period for the length of an acceptable PIC will be elapsing or will have elapsed.

A climate of safety to our children, youth and vulnerable adults continues to be our focus.

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Our thanks to all members of the VAPC staff for their continued work and dedication in 2018.

In July, we were sorry to receive John Egger’s resignation as Christian Education Director after nearly two and a half years on staff. John accepted an overseas position with the United Church, in the Republic of Korea. We wish John well in his new position.

During the fall of 2018, the Personnel Committee worked on planning, recruiting and hiring for the new position of Child and Youth Ministries Co-Ordinator. In December, we were happy to announce the hiring of Michael Peace in this position starting January 1, 2019.

Members of the Personnel Committee are Susan Rutherford, Ferdinand Adudarko and John Hunter.

## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Fellowship was a major component of WA meetings this year.

WA provided refreshments after 6 funerals at VAPC and a light lunch for the Annual General Meeting. We appreciated the additional help from the congregation.

Donations were made to Camp Kannawin, Care share and to property for taps.

We continue to oversee the kitchen. A major clean up will be done in February.



# STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

## Work of the Stewardship Group

SHINE Campaign (Phase 2) - Debt Reduction & Presbyterians Sharing

As planned the Stewardship group ran Phase 2 of the SHINE Campaign in January and February of 2018. The goal of this campaign was two fold: reduce the outstanding loan principal to \$350,000; and raise a significant portion of VAPC's Presbyterians Sharing allocation.

- Phase 2 - Start January to Mid February 2018
  - Debt Repayment - **Goal:** \$18,698.13 | **Achieved**
  - Presbyterians Sharing - **Goal:** \$34,400.00 | **Actual:** \$21,915.00 + Pledges of \$3,625.00
    - **Note:** Continued giving toward Presbyterians Sharing until year-end resulted in VAPC surpassing our full allocation target

EXCITE Campaign - New Ways to Get our Message Out

In the spring Stewardship ran the EXCITE Campaign focused on building energy and excitement around the life of our church;

- Start May to Mid June 2018 (though much work was done in advance of the launch)
  - Launched new website based on the Ascend Site platform tailored to churches
  - Launched the weekly newsletter generated

- from website content and site subscriptions
- Shot and premiered the 'VAPC Movie' profiling the life of the church
- Transitioned email, calendar and collaboration tools to Google GSuite for NonProfits
- Procured a mobile projection system for use by the church and partners

## Missional Church Focus

In the late fall of 2018, the Stewardship Group focused its attention on how we could help with our ongoing focus on being a missional church. In our discussions we wondered, whether we simply needed to try new ideas (in a limited way), then study the outcome, then apply lessons learned to some new endeavor. We also discussed the idea of VAPC as a community hub and wondered whether their might be an opportunity to work collectively with other churches, schools, community centres, partners and agencies in support of building a stronger, more resilient community in Varsity and beyond. In this collective, experiential learning model we might come to discern where to invest our time and talents, and where it is better to partner with others. The idea that emerged from this work is under a working name called 'CONNECT' which we will introduce to the congregation for feedback in early 2019.

## 2019 Plan

The following is the broad outline for 2019:

- Jan-Feb: CONNECT Campaign - The goal of this

campaign is two fold: raise a significant portion of VAPC's Presbyterians Sharing allocation; and improve our ability to project (audio/video) in support of the church and community engagement initiatives

- Feb: Introduce the missional church initiative called CONNECT and seek input / feedback from the congregation and community partners
- Winter/Spring/Summer: Launch early CONNECT projects (plan, do, study, adopt/adapt/abandon)
  - Example: Calgary Food Bank - Satellite Depot
- Sep-Oct: Next Year and Long Term Planning

## Beyond 2019

As we breathe life into the 'CONNECT' initiative, a nature product of that effort is a clearer understanding of future ideas and initiatives we as a church can bring to life. The Stewardship Group will support Session and Board in this process of discernment and long range planning to ensure the gifts of energy, enthusiasm, prayer and support are focused effectively on the future of our church.

Thank you to the Stewardship Group.

- Gord Wytsma
- Joan Stelmach
- Len Gale
- Martha Nystrom
- Peter Coutts
- Sarah Backus (transitioned in 2018)

We are blessed.

Glenn Stewart  
Stewardship Group - Chair

## ENVELOPE SECRETARY STATISTICS

### Total Donations (numbers rounded to the nearest \$)

2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
<b>\$378,708</b>	\$408,729	\$487,978	\$464,495	\$507,342	\$569,065	\$487,665	\$555,111	\$584,334

### Received Giving Patterns

#### Number of donors at each level

Annual Donation	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Over \$10,000	<b>6</b>	6	6	6	10	11	9	13	11
\$5,000.01-\$10,000	<b>11</b>	16	12	15	15	15	14	16	20
\$2,500.01-\$5,000	<b>28</b>	25	29	37	33	37	33	32	34
\$1,500.01-\$2,500	<b>18</b>	16	22	19	19	15	24	20	21
\$1,000.01-\$1,500	<b>22</b>	24	19	24	27	25	21	25	21
\$ 750.01-\$1,000	<b>9</b>	15	21	15	10	10	17	9	9
\$ 500.01-\$ 750	<b>11</b>	10	17	18	22	26	20	20	18
\$ 400.01-\$ 500	<b>8</b>	9	8	9	9	8	14	11	13
\$ 300.01-\$ 400	<b>6</b>	11	9	7	9	9	10	14	17
\$ 200.01-\$ 300	<b>12</b>	13	12	8	9	10	12	13	13
\$ 100.01-\$ 200	<b>10</b>	14	14	15	12	15	14	24	14
Under \$100	<b>32</b>	52	37	50	56	65	62	58	75
<b>TOTAL DONORS</b>	<b>173</b>	211	206	223	231	246	250	255	266

# PHOTOS

## Advent Crafts



## Canada Youth July 2018



## Christmas Pageant



## Peer Partnership Program



## Fundraising



## Youth Group

