

Grace United Church

2015 Annual Report



Intergenerational

Inclusive

Community Partner

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Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 21, 2016
12:15pm in the Sanctuary

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Constitution of the Annual Congregational Meeting
3. Motion to allow adherents to vote on financial and administrative matters
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, February 8, 2015
6. Approval of the 2015 Annual Reports of Council, Committees and Groups, excluding Finance and Nominating Committees
7. Approval of Finance Committee Reports
 - a) Review and approval of the 2015 Financial Report
 - b) Review and approval of the 2016 Budget Proposal
 - c) Report of the Financial Review Committee
8. Nomination Committee Report
 - a) Appointment of the Financial Review Committee for 2016
 - b) Election of Officers
 - c) Election of Governing Body
9. Ministry and Personnel Committee
10. New Business
11. Introduction of Incoming Chair
12. Appreciations
13. Adjournment
14. Closing Prayer

Minutes Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Sunday, February 8, 2015

1. Opening Prayer – Rev. Brad Morrison
2. The meeting was officially opened and duly constituted by George Pfaff at 12:15pm. There was a quorum with approximately 50 people in attendance, including the Ministerial Staff.
Motion: That adherents be allowed to vote on financial and administrative matters (as per Manual B.3.7.3).
Bev Walkling/John Robertson. Carried
3. Approval of the Agenda
The agenda printed in the 2014 Annual Report was amended to include “Vacant Lots” under New Business.
Motion: That the Agenda for the February 8, 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting be approved as amended.
John Cooke/Pauline Henderson-Ferguson. Carried
4. Approval of the Minutes of Congregational Meetings
Motion: That the Minutes of the Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, February 9, 2014 be approved.
Joanna Catterson/Sheila Scott. Carried
5. Review and Approval of 2014 Reports
The 2014 Outreach Report was updated as follows:
 - The givings item *Thanksgiving M and S* was removed. It was a duplicate of the *Ebola Crisis* item.
 - A givings item *World Development Relief*, valued at twenty dollars (\$20.00) was added to the *United Church of Canada Missionary and Service* section of the report.
 - As a result of the above changes, the subtotal for *United Church of Canada Missionary and Service* and the *Total* at the bottom of the report were updated to \$32,776.70 and \$69,124.44 respectively.**Motion: That the reports of Council, Committees & Groups be received, as printed in the 2014 Annual Report (with the above correction).**
John Robertson/Marv Bildfeld. Carried.
Motion: That the reports of Council, Committees & Groups, excluding the reports of the Finance and Nominating Committees, be approved (with the above correction).
John Robertson/John Cooke. Carried
6. Finance Committee Report
 - a) 2014 Financial Report, presented by Paul Cooper
With respect to 2014 actuals, Paul highlighted the following:

- *Total Givings – Unified Budget* were up significantly relative to 2013 actuals and 2014 budget.
- *Committee Expenditure* was reduced significantly relative to 2013 actuals and 2014 budget.
- *Other Income* was less than the 2014 budget.
- *Total Income* essentially met the 2014 budget target.
- *Net Income vs. Expenditure* was positive, resulting in a transfer to the Reserve Fund of \$2,340.72.
- Overall, the 2014 actuals were positive.

Motion: That the 2014 Financial Report be approved as printed in the 2014 Annual Report.

Paul Cooper/John Robertson. Carried

- b) 2015 Budget Proposal, presented by Paul Cooper.
With respect to the 2015 budget proposal, Paul highlighted the following:

- *Total Givings – Unified Budget* is proposed to increase by only one percent (1%).
- *Other Income* has a budget proposal aligned with 2014 actuals. The specific *Other Income* line shows an increase matching expected growth in the FundScrip program.
- *M & S* has a budget proposal calculated using the congregation's formula: 7.5% of (2014 *Total Givings – Unified Budget* plus the 2014 surplus).
- *Net Income vs. Expenditure* is proposed to be a deficit of \$7,508. This challenges committees to meet or come in below their budget proposal. A deficit can be offset by the Reserve Fund.

Clint Sykes asked to know the status of the chapel renovations. Rev. Brad Morrison explained that the new heating and cooling has been installed. The projected cost is now expected to be less than what is held by the Betty Sykes Fund. It should be completed within one-and-a-half months.

It was asked whether the significant decrease in members on the roll would impact the Presbytery assessment. It was explained that the Presbytery assessment is now based on *Total Expenditures*.

It was asked why the Christian Development Committee expenditures show a significant increase in the 2015 budget proposal compared to 2014 actuals. Pat Morrison explained that some programming was cut to help offset the budgeted deficit in 2014, and that a combination of church/segregated funds and personal donations were used to pay for some other items. The 2015 budget proposal includes the programming dropped from 2014, and does not anticipate personal donations.

It was asked why the Worship Committee expenditures show a significant increase in the 2015 budget proposal compared to

2014 actuals. Gord Walkling, Worship Committee, explained that the committee was frugal in 2014. Also, there was one less piano tuning in 2014 than budgeted. The committee continues to make use of church/segregated funds when appropriate. A question was raised regarding what is itemized as *Donations* in the financial report. Bob Newman explained that *Donations* include donations other than the weekly offering, such as for a wedding.

Paul Cooper reviewed the church/segregated fund balances, including the total in and out during the year. He explained that if the transfers from the church/segregated funds to the Sarnia Community Foundation are set aside, the fund balances increased during 2015. The ins and outs are not included in the 2014 Annual Report, but are available in the Council Minutes from February 2015.

A question was asked regarding the purpose of the Betty Sykes Fund and Inspiration Fund. It was explained that the Betty Sykes Fund has been directed towards the chapel renovations, while the Inspiration Fund is used to support Proclamation & Special Events Committee work.

It was asked whether Grace United Church had money invested in the Sarnia Community Foundation outside of the transfers that took place in 2014 (totalling \$13,800). The answer was no.

Motion: That the 2015 Budget [endorsed by Council, as printed in the 2014 Annual Report, with total expenditures of \$433,208] be approved.

Paul Cooper/George Vero. Carried

c) 2014 Financial Review

The 2014 Financial Review was carried out by Laura Black and Gord Walkling. The report summary was as follows:

It is the opinion of the reviewers that the bookkeeping and other financial procedures carried out by the Financial Team at Grace United Church in 2014 were appropriate and were being complied with. It is our opinion that there are reasonable safeguards in place in order to minimize the risk of error or fraud. Those involved, particularly the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Admin support are commended for their excellent work.

7. Nominating Committee Report – Joanna Catterson

Motion: That Laura Black and Gord Walkling be appointed as the 2015 Financial Review Committee.

Joanna Catterson/John Cooke. Carried.

Joanna Catterson listed the slate of officers for 2015: Chair, Lisa Valade; Vice Chair, Bruce Davies; Past Chair, George Pfaff; Secretary, Christopher Cooke; Treasurer, Paul Cooper; Presbytery Representative, Madeline McCaw; Trustee, Bill Palmer. Joanna

noted that a second Presbytery Representative position is to be filled.

Motion: That nominations be closed.

Clint Sykes/David Motherwell. Carried

Motion: That the slate of officers [as listed by Joanna Catterson] be approved.

John Robertson/Nadyne Dell. Carried

Motion: That the elected 2015 Council and Committee members be those names printed in the 2014 Annual Report as listed with each report.

John Cooke/Pauline Henderson-Ferguson. Carried

8. Ministry & Personnel Committee – presented by John Cooke

Motion: That Grace United Church requests that London Conference extend the appointment of Pat Morrison for the pastoral year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

John Cooke/Marion Shaw. Carried

Staff salaries were displayed for information according to the Salary Disclosure Policy.

It was asked whether the upcoming changes to the ministers' housing allowance would have tax implications for the ministers. It was explained that Ministry & Personnel Committee does not anticipate significant tax implications for the ministers. However, the change is "in transition", with implementation expected in 2016. Thus, the church does not yet know all the details.

The committee was asked to clarify how staff are supervised. It was explained that the ministers are accountable to Lambton Presbytery or London Conference. However, Ministry & Personnel Committee has direct oversight of all ministers and staff. The ministers and staff meet regularly with Ministry & Personnel representatives.

Additionally, as ex officio members of most committees, the ministers work closely with these committees. Further, Communications Committee and Property Committee assist in the oversight of the Office Administrator and Custodian, respectively. Among other things, this includes completion of an annual performance review.

Concern was raised regarding the cleanliness of the church (ex. large kitchen/gym for use during a special event). It was stated that Property Committee had been contacted, but the problem had persisted. David Smith, Property Committee, asked members of the congregation to ensure any concerns raised are received by a Property Committee representative.

9. New Business

Vacant Lots – presented by John Robertson

John requested that in the absence of a planned use for the vacant lots, the lots be made available to anyone who wants to use them. For example, if someone in Sarnia wanted to plant a small market garden, they be permitted to do so.

10. Introduction of the Chair
Lisa Valade introduced herself to the congregation. She stressed her endorsement of a church that is an inclusive, intergenerational, community partner.
11. Appreciations – George Pfaff
Appreciations were offered to:
The Ministry and Staff for their tremendous service and all that they do.
Paul Cooper, Treasurer and Bob Newman, Assistant Treasurer for managing the financial issues.
Chris Cooke, Council Secretary, for his support to the Chair.
Bob Newman, Envelope Secretary. Lori Armstrong and Doreen Lacourse, Envelope Recorders.
George Pfaff, Chair (offered by Sue Browning).
12. Adjournment – 1:15pm
Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.
David Motherwell/Christopher Cooke. Carried
13. Closing Prayer – Sue Browning

George Pfaff, Chair

Christopher Cooke, Secretary

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Message from Brad...

Welcome to the 2015 Annual Report. I dare you to read this booklet with excitement. I encourage you to look inside these pages for clues to how our congregation is an inclusive, intergenerational, community partner.

Your generosity needs to be celebrated every year. This year I also want to celebrate the fact that—for a second year in a row—your generosity and your diligent committee leadership have achieved a positive financial situation.

The most challenging stage of strategic planning comes after a planning document is completed. That's usually when they land on a shelf and collect dust. The challenge in 2015 was to remain focused on the mission objectives identified by the Planning Committee in the previous year's congregational assessment:

- continue setting a tone for a positive, progressive culture at Grace
- further grow our children and youth ministry
- train and motivate existing parishioners to exercise welcome to newcomers
- develop a culture of care and hospitality for groups with unique needs
- experiment with changes to the Sunday morning worship service to enhance intergenerational outcomes
- experiment with ways to engage people inter-generationally at our special events
- experiment with ways to engage younger and older generations
- continue to sponsor requests by community groups to use Grace's facilities
- continue partnerships that lead to care for people in the community

We've taken important steps with these goals, and the challenge remains keeping an eye on these growth areas to translate them into concrete action. With significant changes in pastoral leadership, a capital campaign, and a 60th Anniversary, we need to remember to keep our eye on the future health of our ministry and mission.

In addition to organizational activity, this report is also my opportunity for accountability. The year's highlights include:

- supporting Geoff Clarke's completion of the chapel renovations
- supporting the team dedicated to accessibility improvements and training
- supporting the Inn of the Good Shepherd's first multifaith service for hunger awareness at Grace United Church
- developing an EDGE webinar on congregational development using the "already missional" model
- achieving registration in the newly established College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (under the Regulated Health Professions Act)
- organizing Rev. Doug Greenough's 70th Anniversary in ministry gathering

- organizing the Community Living open house to recognize the long-term lease with Grace
- organizing slam poetry training and Sunday delivery at Grace
- organizing the regional Comprehensive Review Task Group report consultation at Grace
- delivering the 2015 Holy Cross Lecture at Huron University College on clergy workplace harassment research
- a feature “verbatim” interview on my research in the June issue of the United Church Observer, plus an interview on clergy burnout (March) and an article on “Entrepreneurial Community Outreach” (summer insert)
- completing the manuscript on my forthcoming book *Already Missional: Congregations as Community Partners*

Thank you for your ongoing support for Grace’s ministries in our community and beyond. Thank you to Curtis, Glenn, Lori, Pat, and SueB, for support and encouragement in this ministry. SueB, we offer our blessings to you in the next chapter of your ministry—thank you for a great decade!

Brad Morrison

Message from Pat

Community is that word that gives us all a warm, fuzzy feeling. People speak of their desire to ‘be in community’ or of the benefits of ‘having community’. The word, when spoken, brings to mind images of warmth and acceptance, protected from the dangers of the world-out-there. The stories of community seem to promise pleasure, fulfillment, and meaningfulness.

Yet the quest for community can be challenging. Community seems elusive. We think, “Let’s plug in and find meaning, fulfillment, and belonging” only to meet with frustration. People get in the way. Personalities are taxing. When birthing an initiative that serves the community, things don’t move at the pace we envisioned. It takes time to consult broadly and consider multiple perspectives and preferences. Sharing space is difficult. It’s easy to not feel supported. Sometimes, at the end of the day, we don’t feel known or appreciated by the very community we belong to and serve.

The truth is that community, as we dream it in our minds, is a lost paradise. We catch the occasional glimpse of it, but it is fleeting. Further, even the fleeting glimpse of community comes at a cost. If the gift of community is security, fulfillment, and meaning, the cost is always freedom. Community costs the luxury of autonomy. The day-to-day struggle of community is a tug-of-war between security and freedom.

Bonhoeffer said, “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.” There is a cost to those who give themselves to building the Kingdom of God. This community will cost you freedom and autonomy. And we will never fully achieve it, nor will we ever cease hoping.

It may only be retrospectively that we are able to recognize and appreciate moments of warmth and belonging, fleeting as they are. Perhaps it is only in hindsight that we realize the forfeit of freedom actually birthed a moment of belonging, fulfillment, and meaningfulness for self and another.

Let this annual report serve as the reflective moment that both recognizes the cost of community and celebrates the moments of community found. Offer thanks to those whose names appear in this report book, for the many freedoms forfeited. And offer thanks to God who calls us to keep the hope of the Kingdom community alive.

It is a privilege to serve among you. I am deeply grateful to be part of a gifted and committed team. I am thankful for the past nine years of shared ministry with my beloved friend Sue, and wish her blessings on her next chapter.

Message from Sue...

As all of you have heard by now I will be finishing my ministry with Grace in March. This decision has led to much intentional reflection on the many gifts I have received in my ministry at Grace. As part of your process of moving forward I thought it may be helpful for me to share some of these reflections in the form of a “top ten” list. Unlike David Letterman’s lists, these reflections are not in order of importance but are simply a compilation of the things that I believe have been of critical importance for Grace’s growth and vibrancy.

- 1) Commitment to Ministry with Children and Youth – Grace has a long history of putting money and resources into this ministry including hiring a full time staff person to oversee this vital work. I believe that this is central to Grace’s wellbeing both now and into the future.
- 2) Strong Lay Leadership - Grace has demonstrated strong lay leadership since its inception. This leadership has facilitated vital mission and ministry both within the congregation and in the wider community. The strongest testimony to the power of the lay leadership during my tenure at Grace happened after the 333 Congregational Review. Very few congregations that I know have lived through such a review without experience congregational devastation. I believe that Grace’s strong lay leadership was critical in rebuilding after this event.
- 3) Commitment to Team Ministry – One of the leading problems with clergy burnout in research across denominations is isolation. Grace provides immunity to this problem by supporting team ministry and facilitating strong connections with the entire staff compliment. I have been very blessed to work with an amazing staff team and two ministry colleagues that I am proud to also call my friends.
- 4) Expanding Musical Capacity – When I first arrived at Grace I was blown away by the capacity of its lead musician, Glenn Parsons. But I felt that

he hadn't been "set free" to bring to worship the depth and breadth and height of his musical talents. Over the years that has been changing. Glenn now has a wonderful band (that would be good to hear more often ☺) and has integrated amazing musicians into our weekly musical repertoire. I am amazed at the musical talent in this congregation and I pray that Grace will continue to tap into this strength into the future.

- 5) Strong Administrative Support - I have given this category a title but we all know that it is better known by the name Lori Armstrong. Brad and Pat and I joke about how Lori is the one who is really in charge. It's not really a joke, it is true. Lori doesn't just do her job with incredible skill and efficiency, she also brings to the table incredible compassion, remarkable patience and a profound commitment to the success of this congregation. Do not take her for granted!!
- 6) Courage to Take Risks - I think that any congregation that is going to be sustainable in this time of unprecedented church decline is going to resist the temptation to be risk adverse. Churches that aren't willing to change are dying all around us. Some of the risks that Grace has taken include things that happen in worship and programming but also include policies such as the same gender inclusive marriage policy.
- 7) Expressions of Gratitude – I think that regularly expressing gratitude and praise to others is essential to any organization's viability. Over the many years that I have worked here, so many of you have written e-mails, cards, letters and phone calls to express gratitude and appreciation for my ministry and I know that you do that for one another as well. This is gold!!
- 8) Living into Generosity - Theologians often compare our world's culture of scarcity to the Christian vision of abundance. This has been a growing edge for Grace but is something that keeps surfacing year after year. Every fall, since I have been here, there has been panic about whether we can make our budget. Miraculously, year after year we reach our targets and often move beyond. I pray that you will keep giving generously to this church and think about how you might secure its future through bequests and estate planning.
- 9) Reaching Beyond – Grace has always been committed to being a congregation that doesn't just take care of its own but constantly reaches beyond. This manifests in many vibrant outreach ministries and a commitment to empowering its members who are already on mission both within this congregation and in their life beyond this church.
- 10) Clarity of Values – Much work has been done in this area of ministry including the creation of our "inclusive, intergenerational, strong community partner" value statement but I hope that this will be even further expanded. I believe that most of us know what Grace stands for and how we are unique but I am not sure that this is as well known in the wider community. I pray that this congregation continues to find

ways to “spread the word” about their identity and how it differs from many other Christian churches in this community and world.

Thank you again for being the kind of church that I have been proud to be a part of and have been privileged to serve over the last 9 years of ministry. It is my hope that, with God’s help, Grace will continue to move forward as a vibrant, relevant and inclusive spiritual community.

*In Christ’s Love and Grace,
Reverend Sue Browning*

Message from the Outgoing Chair of Council...

The end of any term is typically a time for reflection and planning. As in many households, my family celebrates New Years by discussing highlights of the past year – a Top 10 as some call it. Vacations, achievements and times of joy are recounted with pride. Around the table, there are individual differences, but commonalities are definitely present. After enjoying our ‘walk down memory lane’, we then turn our attention to the new year, and what we hope it will bring. Health and happiness are certainly underlying themes in our yearly wish lists.

As I reflect on my term as chair of Grace Council, I find myself going through a similar process. At Grace, we all have our favourite accomplishments and events. Perhaps you were moved by a particular message, sermon or musical contribution. You no doubt enjoyed fellowship on Sunday mornings and at one of the numerous special events that took place. You may have volunteered and/or served on a committee that played an important role in our community and throughout the world. Maybe you worked to improve our building and property through your efforts and contributions. Together we’ve welcomed newcomers, baptized babies, confirmed teenagers, and honoured the lives of parishioners. Yes, our church family has a lot of be proud of.

Looking to the year ahead, just like our families, we want health and happiness for our church. We want to continue to make a difference in people’s lives both locally and around the world. 2016 will certainly bring changes at Grace as we say good-bye to Sue and thank her for her numerous contributions. Change is both challenging and exciting. May we embrace new opportunities as we continue to serve God in all we do.

Lisa Valade, Outgoing Chair of Council

Message from the Incoming Chair of Council...

Grace United Church has been an important part of my life since my family first moved to Sarnia in 1972. On the first Sunday we walked over, my parents pointed my brother and me towards the Sunday School, and all of us were quickly immersed in everything a supportive and caring congregation had to

offer. Even then, Grace was an inclusive, intergenerational, community partner, although we weren't using those words to describe ourselves at that time. Fast forward to 2016 (where does the time go?), and I am very honoured and humbled to become Chair of Council.

2016 will be a year of redevelopment at Grace – we recently launched our Growth & Giving Campaign and will be using the proceeds to refurbish the building. We will also be saying farewell to Sue Browning, who has served us so well for almost 10 years, and embarking on the process of determining our ministry needs going forward and then attempting to meet those needs. And 2016 marks our 60th Anniversary as a congregation which will be an occasion for celebration and reflection. Since 1956, we have been worshipping God as a faith community and acting as God's servants in our homes, in the Sarnia community and around the world. That work will continue (as if it could be stopped!) while we are necessarily somewhat self-focussed on the Growth & Giving Campaign and the repercussions of Sue's departure.

When I think of what it means to be an inclusive, intergenerational, community partner, I think the common element can be summarized in one word: **Connection**. Human beings are hardwired to connect with each other. At Grace we strive to be connected to people who, for whatever reason, are different from us (inclusive), connected to people of all ages (intergenerational) and connected to the places we live and work (community partner). I am constantly amazed at the many and multi-faceted ways this congregation reaches out and seeks opportunities to fulfill its mandate. We live out our mission through these connections by the support we give to local organizations and projects such as Habitat for Humanity, Community Living, Lunches for Learning and Inn of the Good Shepherd, as well as more global initiatives including supporting refugees from Syria and being involved in organizations like Rayjon. We are truly blessed in Canada, within the United Church denomination, and specifically at Grace to be able to serve God in so many wonderful and disparate ways.

So – as we celebrate 60 years and embark on the challenges and opportunities that 2016 will bring – let's continually seek ways to enhance and maintain our connections!

Bruce Davies, Incoming Chair

COUNCIL STRUCTURES - 2015

***Chairperson *Representative to Council**

Chair	Lisa Valade	519-542-6763
Vice-Chair	Bruce Davies	519-541-1159
Secretary	Chris Cooke	519-491-6801
Treasurer	Paul Cooper	519-542-9237
Assistant Treasurer	Bob Newman	519-542-9890
Past Chair	George Pfaff	519-541-0360
Christian Development	C Shirley Willis	519-332-5729
	R Colette McGarvey	519-542-1542
Communications	C Chris Cooke	519-491-6801
	R Chris Cooke	519-491-6801
Congregational Care & Growth	C Iris Murtha	519-344-7809
	R Iris Murtha	519-344-7809
Finance	C	
	R Alternating	
Lay Presbytery	R Madeline McCaw	519-542-2790
Ministry & Personnel	C Alternating	
	R Nadyne Dell	519-542-3935
Outreach	C Paul Cooper	519-542-9237
	R Earle Kilner	519-542-4759
Planning	C Leanne Kember	519-918-0224
	R Bruce Davies	519-541-1159
Property	C Alternating	
	R	
Special Events	C	
	R Brad Morrison	519-541-1336
Trustees	C Pete Melanson	519-332-4914
	R	
Worship	C Bryce McGarvey	519-542-1542
	R Val Adamson	519-542-5808
Nominating Cttee	Always Past Chair of Council	
A.O.T.S.	C Paul Cooper	519-542-9237
	John Cooke	519-869-2908
	R Bill Palmer	519-541-0267
U.C.W.	C Marilyn Hamilton	519-542-8143
	R	
Ministers	Rev. Dr. Brad Morrison	519-541-1336
	Rev. Sue Browning	519-681-3521
	Pat Morrison	519-542-0475

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The committee is responsible for working with the ministerial team to organize and coordinate the weekly worship services, as well as special services, as required. We review and approve requests for use of the sanctuary and chapel for non-routine worship and non-worship events that serve our congregation and/or our community.

Communion is an important event in the Worship calendar. In 2015, communion was offered using both seated and intinction options. Minor changes were made for the delivery of communion by intinction which simplified and streamlined the process. The Worship Committee acknowledges the efforts of all those who serve communion during our services and to Joyce Rawson and her team for preparing the elements.

In 2015, a continuing effort was made to maintain the involvement of children and youth in our worship services. Each week during Lent, youth in our congregation led the congregation in Lenten practices. Throughout the season of Advent, families with children and youth from the congregation led the opening section of the service with questions to the congregation regarding hope, joy, peace and love, followed by Advent candle lighting. On average, worship services included a Junior Leader twice monthly. Through coordination with the Christian Development Committee and Youth Program leaders, high school members of the congregation contributed to soup luncheon invitations. A worship version of poetry slam was introduced by teens to the congregation.

Children from the congregation participated in the Advent 3 “Joy” service that was integrated into the regular worship service. Thanks to Cecily Chiles and Glenn Parsons for their efforts in choreographing and arranging the music, and leading the children in this service.

Music is an important element of Sunday morning worship services at Grace and continues to be offered through several diverse avenues. The Grace Choir, Celebration Singers and the Pipers’ Pen were the primary providers of the musical diversity. The committee would like to extend its thanks to Marsha Vero and the Celebration Singers for the inspirational music that they have contributed over the years. Additional singers and instrumentalists from inside and outside of Grace also contributed to worship leadership. Thank you to Pat Morrison for arranging singers from the Victoria Playhouse, and to Valerie Schmidt and Rick Armstrong for arranging members of the Nightingale chorus for our worship services. These are examples of how worship services benefit from the broad involvement that members of the Grace congregation have in a wide range of organizations in the Sarnia-Lambton community.

Pat Morrison along with his family (Alison, Anna and Lauren) led the family-oriented Christmas Eve service.

Members of the Sanctuary Guild and Memorial Fund continued to support the activities of the Worship Committee through their decoration of the sanctuary to reflect changing liturgical seasons and funding of sanctuary-related activities. The Guild is always looking for additional help with choosing thematic decorations for the sanctuary and for placing the items in the various spaces we pass through the various liturgical seasons. New volunteers are always welcome to share their talents.

As a result of a generous donation from a member of the congregation, significant upgrades were made to the chapel to make it a more useful space for Grace United and community groups. Brad led a team with Becky and Geoff Clarke to complete the renovations, and their efforts have resulted in a much more functional space.

The ministers received several requests for pulpit exchanges and to provide assistance at other churches. Sue presided over a service at Avondale United Church and Brad presided at Camlachie United Church during the year. In October, Grace United hosted the three-day visit by Reverend John Pentland from Hillhurst United Church in Calgary. John presented an informative and inspiring sermon that focused on positive change and possibilities for United Church communities.

A major upgrade was made this year with the purchase of a digital soundboard to replace the failing analog board. Thanks are extended to George Vero and Pat Morrison for the seamless transition to the updated technology. In the area of video technology, Greg West has led an effort to post Grace United Church sermons on the internet so that they can be viewed by congregation members and other interested viewers alike.

Innumerable individuals contribute to our weekly worship services throughout the year: these include greeters, communion preparation and servers, members of the Sanctuary Guild, sound operators, videographers, lay readers, liturgists, dramatists and dancers, those who prepare the sanctuary for worship, the indoor “gardeners” who look after flowers, those who clean up the sanctuary afterwards and maintain it week after week, and those who help to coordinate all this work. It is through the effort of this large and committed group that our weekly worship experiences continue to be so inspiring. Thanks to all for your efforts.

If you are interested in helping out with any of these activities on a regular or casual basis, please let one of the committee members know.

The 2016 Committee Members will be: Val Adamson, John Baxter, Bryce McGarvey, Glenn Parsons, Sheila Scott, Marsha Vero, Gord Walkling, and the Ministerial Team (*ex officio*).

Bryce McGarvey, Chair

MEMORIAL FUND

The members of the Memorial Committee are Karen Cooke, Joan Guthrie and Dorothy Plumley.

During the past year, we purchased a folding machine for the office. Lori reports that it makes the job of folding bulletins for church services much quicker and easier.

We participated in the dedication of all memorial gifts on All Saint's Sunday.

Our sincere thanks goes to Lori Armstrong for recording all memorial gifts and to Madeline McCaw for updating the Memorial Book.

Joan Guthrie

SANCTUARY GUILD

The Guild decorates and appoints the sanctuary to enhance the visual and aesthetic experience of worship. We mark each of the liturgical seasons with a change in décor, colour, flowers and/or theme. Every year the Sanctuary Guild observes these seasons: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Creation, and Ordinary Time. We access the Guild's repertoire of table clothes, wall hangings, swags, ribbons, antependia, and floral arrangements.

The 2016 Sanctuary Guild members will be: Becky Clarke, Karen Cooke, Diana Fisher, Sharon Melanson, and Ellen Robertson. We welcome new members to bring talents or gifts to its work. If you are interested in joining, please contact one of our members or the church office.

Sharon Melanson

GRACE CHOIR

The Grace Choir is a group of dedicated individuals who love to sing. They meet every Thursday evening and rehearse from 7:00 to 9:00pm.

During rehearsals, the choir prepares music for upcoming worship services. This music consists of hymns, responsive psalms, service music and anthems. Music is generally presented in the form of a score for reading but many times the music is also given in an mp3 file format for further practice at home. Grace Choir welcomes those who enjoy singing, to join with them in a fun evening of fellowship and learning music.

Grace Choir members are: Ian Adamson, Barbara Bell-Leaver, Laura Black, Ron Buxton, Cecily Chiles, Vernon Chiles, Brian Eagleson, Anne Eastman, Donna Elie, Avelina Estoesta, Diana Fisher, Joan Guthrie, Jan Leckie-Fraser,

Lorne Longley, Sharon Melanson, Ian McGuiness, Lois McKay, Marian McLean, Al McLean, Eleanor Ritchie, Sheila Scott and Lindsay Smith.

Glenn Parsons, Director of Musical Ministries

PIPER'S PEN

Piper's Pen is a band that strives to put a contemporary spin on music which can be incorporated into the worship service. This year, the band has been exploring a wide range of musical genres and styles including rock, punk, jazz, gospel, reggae and pop. They enjoy the challenges of developing new repertoire within these various genres. Piper's Pen look forward to contributing to the worship service, be it on gathering hymns, accompanying the choir, preludes, postludes, or anthems. The members of Piper's Pen are: Dave Ashdown, Stefan Jackson, Nick Laird, Pat Morrison, Glenn Parsons and Paul Smith.

Glenn Parsons, Director of Musical Ministries

CELEBRATION SINGERS

In 2015 the Celebration Singers sang four times before their summer recess. In the fall the decision was made to take a leave from our group activity, ending a 20-year run of providing alternative music for the Worship services. The Worship Committee and the Celebration Singers' members are all very grateful for the leadership and direction that Marsha Vero brought to the group and the positive contribution that this made to the music ministry at Grace. As individuals, whether part of a formal group or not, our motto remains, "We cannot keep from singing!"

Gord Walking

INREACH MINISTRIES

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND GROWTH COMMITTEE

The Congregational Care and Growth Committee met eight times in 2015, promoting spiritual growth and Christian care and fellowship within the congregation.

The committee oversaw the approval for persons requesting baptism, confirmation, profession of faith, transfer of membership and weddings, as well as maintaining an up to date membership roll.

Donna Tanton and Bob Newman monitored the Communion Fund that was used to help several people in need as well as to send flowers and cards to

shut-ins and those members celebrating special occasions. As well, Easter flowers were delivered to members who had experienced bereavement in the past year. The knitting and distribution of prayer shawls was supported.

Diane Werezak coordinated the District Visitors who are responsible for delivering Grace Notes and overseeing the well being of people in their districts. We continued to email Grace Notes to those who requested it.

Supported events included Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, WidowCare, Mom's Morning Out, and Beer and Carols at Two Amigos.

Alice Minty scheduled volunteers who provided refreshments after worship. A cake celebrated Rev. Doug Greenough's 70th year in the ministry.

Assisted by the Gracious Quilters and the Adult Fellowship groups, we had enough to purchase a defibrillator for our church. Two training sessions were arranged and more than 20 persons have been trained for its use.

One hundred and seventy stamped envelopes were given to the chaplain at the Sarnia Jail for him to assist the inmates to each write 2 Christmas letters to family members.

Committee members for 2016 will be: Margaret Cameron, Madeline McCaw, Alice Minty, Iris Murtha, Bob Newman, Bev Walkling, and Diane Werezak, and the Pastoral Team (*ex-officio*). New members are always welcome.

The committee thanks Rev. Dr. Brad Morrison, Rev. Susan Browning and Lori Armstrong for providing a pastoral care report for each meeting and for being resource persons to the committee.

Iris Murtha, Chair

2015 Records

Membership as of December 31, 2014

Resident Members	373
Non-Resident Members	71
	<hr/>
Total Membership	444

	Received	Removed
Members received through profession of faith	2	
Members received by certificate of transfer	4	
Members added by returning to resident status	0	
	<hr/>	
Total received	6	
Members removed by death		13
Members removed by transfer		1
Members removed by other		0
		<hr/>
Total removed		14

Membership as of December 31, 2015

Resident Members	366
Non-Resident Members	70
	<hr/>
Total Membership	436

Number of baptisms	7
Number of marriages	3
Number of funerals	16

Jim Wicks, Roll Clerk

ADULT FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Due to the excellent leadership given by past chairpersons we have developed a format that works well - and our membership has increased again this past year. Each of four groups hosts an in-house meeting and one meeting beyond the bounds of the church.

Our in-church meetings in January, February and March - are held at noon. Everyone brings a sandwich to share and the group in charge provides veggies, pickles and delicious desserts. This year we enjoyed a games afternoon, an excellent speaker on scams that we should all be aware of, and an afternoon of Irish music with the Strangway Ukelele group.

The out-of-church meetings consisted first of a delicious beef dinner and a movie in Forest - the movie this year was the much loved "Second Best Marigold Hotel". We enjoyed another bus trip to Stratford in May - organized by Chris McGuinness - with a stop in St. Mary's for shopping/sight-seeing and a delicious buffet luncheon at Damens, before going on to see a great performance of "Carousel". In June, our annual BBQ held at the Smiths' is always a favourite, with everyone bringing delicious salads and desserts to augment the BBQ. The final out-of-house meeting was our Christmas Dinner at the Sarnia Golf and Curling Club, where the Bluewater Chordsmen entertained us with familiar carols and Christmas songs.

We do not meet in the summer but start the fall season with a pot luck supper and an organizational meeting, when we divide into our new groups and decide what programs we would like to have for the coming year. The dues for the year are \$10 - collected at this meeting. As you can tell, this group likes to eat.

Sadly we mourned the loss of two of our members, Jack Cleave and Marg Anderson, during this past year.

Our primary fundraiser is 'Oktoberfest', and this year's event was again successful, enjoyed by the congregation and our community neighbours. As a result, we were pleased to be able to support our Grace church again, with a donation of \$500 towards the cost of the new dishwasher in the large kitchen, \$200 towards the defibrillator, and the purchase of 12 dozen fine china mugs, for use in the church at large gatherings – dinners, funerals, etc. Additional donations to local community organizations, totaling \$750, are listed in the Grace Outreach report, at the end of this Annual Report.

We would love to have you come and join us. Just contact any of the executive members below:

President: Iris Murtha Vice-Presidents: Madeline McCaw and Alice Minty

Past-Presidents: Don and Anne Eastman

Treasurer: Ian McGuinness Secretary: John Robertson

Communications gurus: David and Lindsay Smith

John Robertson, Secretary

A.O.T.S. (As One That Serves) Men's Club

A.O.T.S Men's Club is dedicated to fellowship, spiritual growth and service. We are fortunate to have 25 active members who share their many gifts in service projects and enjoy the club programs. Our focus is slanting towards fellowship, reflecting the club's demographics.

We appreciate the financial contribution that the congregation makes to our fundraising activities. We dedicate these monies to support youth camping, youth/young adult development and projects within Grace. Our 2015 outreach/inreach included:

- support to the operating budget
- sponsorship of "Tim's in the Gym" on Sunday mornings

Our 2015 fundraising activities included:

- fertilizer sale in March
- hamburg/hot dog sales at the Spring Fair & Plant Sale, the Flea Market & Trunk Sale, and the Fall Fair
- chili sales at the Last Chance Christmas Sale

Our members also enjoyed opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth, including:

- Sunday morning breakfasts. The guest speakers were Brian White (St. Clair Child & Youth), Dave Butler (Habitat for Humanity), Bob Sutton (Democracy Talks), Mike Hurry (Big Brothers Big Sisters), Rev. Sue Browning (42nd General Council review), Daphne Murray (Refugee Committee), and Jack Poirier (Rebound)
- Ladies Night in February – Entertainment by Seaway Sounds
- the May breakfast was highlighted by members from Windsor Roseland UC AOTS Club who presented the Regional AOTS Travelling Cross
- golf outing & barbecue in June

AOTS administers and contributes to the Ken Plumley Award that is presented to qualified graduating secondary school students. The 2015 recipients were Heather Baxter, Andris Evans and Thomas Valade.

A few men from Grace attended the Ontario Spring Round-up at Jackson's Point Salvation Army Conference Centre for a time of spiritual renewal, fellowship and relaxation.

Grace AOTS is associated with the National United Church A.O.T.S. Men's Clubs. John Cooke is the President-Elect and Paul Cooper is the Central Region VP of the National Executive. The National AOTS Camp Improvement Project awarded four grants totaling \$14,500 to United Church camps in Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia.

The AOTS Men's Club is open to all men of the church and is a rare opportunity to participate in fellowship, spiritual growth and men's ministry. We would

welcome your participation, new ideas, or suggestions. Please feel comfortable to join us for a breakfast meeting or one of our special events.

AOTS Executive members are Paul Cooper, Marv Bildfell, John Cooke, John Goodwin, and Bill Palmer.

John Cooke

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

In 2015 about a dozen members of the group showed up early on a cool morning in October and assisted at Clean Harbours with the Household Hazardous Waste collection day. It was the 25th time in 23 years that a crew from Grace has helped out with this program of reducing the amount of hazardous material that gets included with regular municipal waste - and it was the busiest day that we and the Clean Harbours staff had witnessed in many years. Proceeds from these events are donated to various causes that are supported by Grace, however we are still awaiting payment for our last work day.

An annual highlight is our Christmas dinner - a cooperative and itinerant feast that takes place during a period of the year when we are reminded time after time of the many blessings that we enjoy: our families, friends, fantastic food, and the fellowship of our faith community.

Gord Walking

U.C.W. (United Church Women)

There are nineteen active members of U.C.W. participating in two units – The Helen McKay Unit, and Unit C – at Grace church. Monthly meetings were held by each unit. During the year, the U.C.W. Executive held three meetings.

On March 6, 2015, Grace U.C.W. members took part in the World Day of Prayer service held at St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church.

The 53rd Annual Gathering of London Conference U.C.W. was held in Sault Ste. Marie in April, and Dorothy Plumley, from the Helen McKay Unit, was able to attend.

Our annual potluck luncheon was held in June. The guest speaker was Leslie Palamika from the Student Nutrition Advisory Committee.

During the year, we supported the Lambton United Church Centre, the Student Nutrition Program, and the Salvation Army Christmas Hamper Program (mitten tree). Within our church, we supported the Mission and Service Fund, and the General Fund.

Ruth Kreibich, Secretary

GRACIOUS QUILTERS

The Gracious Quilters meet at the church on Monday and Wednesday mornings from September to June. During the past year, we have quilted three large quilts. We also assembled and quilted eight baby quilts which were sold to church members. Our donations to the church this past year included over \$1,000 to purchase a new computer for Sue Browning, and a donation of \$1,000 to the Defibrillator Fund. We also gave \$150 in memorial gifts.

Sadly, two members of our group, Norma Waun and Mary Nelson passed away during the latter part of the year. Norma had been a true leader of our group for many years and for several years had donated the use of a room in her home for use by the quilters. Mary Nelson had been a member of our group for many years and enjoyed the fellowship and loved to quilt.

Donna Longley, Secretary

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee has a mandate to engage the Grace United congregation in;

- a) local outreach activities (usually in sponsorship with a local organization)
- b) providing a focal point for the United Church Mission and Service Fund
- c) communicating other international initiatives (including urgent disaster relief response requests)
- d) sponsoring other community groups who wish to use the Grace church facilities

In 2015, in addition to the ongoing activities listed in this report, members of the Outreach Committee attended a presentation of the Truth and Reconciliation report held at the Aamjiwnaang Community Center.

New Initiatives

In 2015, a new project, the **Lunches for Lansdowne** (L4L) Hot Lunch Program, started up. Below is a report from Pauline Henderson-Ferguson, the L4L Coordinator.

Lunches for Lansdowne, now Lunches for Learning, started with the idea from Melissa Dent-Watson in June 2014. Over 25 people came out to hear about the need and to offer their support. From there, Leo Spence, the new principal at Lansdowne introduced the concept to the school. A test run for 50 students was held in December 2014 with the assistance of Carrie Brescia and Maggie Rochon. It was determined that the number of students could be increased to 75.

The program started in February 2015 and continues, now with the addition of Queen Elizabeth School. It provides a hot lunch to 75 students every week. Older students help prepare fresh fruits and vegetables. They assist the younger students to get their meal. Everyone sits down to share the meal - students, staff and volunteers. The program is inclusive, intergenerational and making a community within the school.

Over 30 people volunteer their time and resources to the program. These dedicated, hardworking and fun loving volunteers assist in the preparation of the food, serving and clean up at the schools, fundraising dinners and catered events, selling tickets, reviewing and approving grant applications and seeking new sources of revenue. 155 hours is the amount of time volunteered over the school year to the program, plus more than 110 hours at catered events. This does not include the time to make all the wonderful desserts that are served at each dinner/catered event.

The program served 725 hot lunches to students at Lansdowne Public School from February to June 2015. 525 hot lunches were served at Lansdowne from September to December 2015. It has also catered 7 funeral receptions, 1 AGM, 1 wedding, 1 retirement party and various Grace events.

Donations have been received from Imperial Oil (\$1000) and Bluewater Power (\$250), thanks to Collette McGarvey and Ingrid McFarlane. Grant applications made to the Sarnia Awesome foundation resulted in a donation from the Sarnia Community Foundation to Queen Elizabeth School. Fourteen volunteers attended the pitch presentation and gave their valuable insights to the foundation trustees. The money from the Sarnia Community Foundation will be sent directly to Queen Elizabeth School to pay for tables needed for the lunch program. The Imperial Oil donation was sent directly to Lansdowne in an account that L4L can submit receipts to. The United Church Foundation of Canada requested L4L submit a grant proposal. It was not approved but has been forwarded to next spring's funding round.

The fundraising dinners were sold out or nearly sold out from February to May. Fifty percent of those attending were from outside of the Grace community. The June, September to December dinner attendance numbers continue to drop. Dinners may be reduced to once every other month.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to be the L4L Coordinator. I have been able to provide meaningful job training to 4 adults who have difficulty securing employment. I have met volunteers and staff - all who are so supportive and committed to the success of the program. I now have students who recognize me and welcome me to Lansdowne first with a hug or high five, then ask what's for lunch and is it my turn today?

Thank you for your continued support and expansion ideas!

*Pauline Henderson-Ferguson
L4L Coordinator*

Also new, the **Lambton Presbytery Refugee Committee** increased the level of activity following the launch in 2014. Grace has been very active in this committee. Daphne Murray is the treasurer. At year-end, fund raising had exceeded the minimum required and a number of partnerships had been formed with other community and faith groups.

Ongoing Activities

Community Living continues to occupy and maintain the Grace United Church Manse as a residence and respite location for their clients. The Grace Youth Group continue to sponsor regular dance events in the gymnasium.

In 2015, Grace continued to support the **Circles (Bridges Out of Poverty)** program. This unique undertaking has the ultimate goal of breaking the cycle of continuing poverty in our community. David Motherwell, who was a 'Circle Ally', has unfortunately moved out-of-town so we are looking for another Grace UC contact for this program. As a committee, and with participation from other members of the congregation, Grace hosted a supper meal at the regular 'Circle' meetings to demonstrate our support. As additional Circles are established, we hope that members of the congregation will decide to get involved in this significant outreach activity and add to the amazing support being provided from all sectors of Sarnia-Lambton.

In 2015, Grace continued our partnership with Brigden United on a **Canadian Foodgrains Bank "Grow"** project. Our soup luncheon donations assisted with 'seed' funding for the project. The soybeans were harvested in the fall and, when matched 4:1 by CIDA, over \$25,000 was raised by this project – a wonderful contribution to world food aid. Colleen Witt, a local teacher, travelled to Ethiopia to see first hand the progress being made. Her presentation in November was well received by the wider community. Plans are already in-place for another project in 2016.

In early 2015, the **Habitat-for Humanity** Faith build (sponsored by a number of local churches of all denominations) was completed. The Grace congregation was very generous in providing funding to assist with this build.

The Grace congregation was very generous in 2015 increasing our support for the **United Church Mission and Service Fund**. In addition to the support provided through our operating budget, generous other donations were received. Grace also supported the response to the Nepal earthquake and Cyclone Pam disaster relief.

The congregation very generously supported the **Soup Luncheons** held in 2015 – seven were held during the year. The following organizations benefited from our soup luncheons:

- Lambton Refugee Committee

- Canadian Foodgrains Bank with Brigden (donations matched 4:1 by CIDA)

- Lunches for Landsdowne (L4L)

RayJon
Grace Scouting – Delmar Ellis Cabin upgrades
Habitat for Humanity
Rebound

Many people in the congregation support this activity by supplying the excellent soups that everyone enjoys on these designated Sundays. We also appreciate those who assist in other ways – setup, serving and cleanup. A listing of the soup providers has been included in this report as the Outreach Committee's way of saying thank you. We also appreciate Sue Wicks calling everyone to coordinate the soup donations. We are always interested in gaining additional volunteer soup makers; given that at least 12 different soups are provided for each soup luncheon. With a lengthy list we hope to only call upon you once or twice per year.

Very Important People – Our valued soup makers!

Edna Dent	Joanna Catterson	Betty Simpson
Lisa Cattran	Alice Minty	Val Adamson
Jackie Kilner	Joyce Rawson	Estelle Bennett
Madeline McCaw	Barb Kilburn	Jan Jordan
Lynn DiMuzio	Ruth Kreibich	Danielle Mackey
Margaret Billings	Carol Shelton	Gail & Earl Kilner
Carrie Brescia	Dick Hagle	Betty Carson
Donna Elie	Bernice Sykes	Maureen & Al Grimwood
Chris McGuiness	Jan Leckie	Alison Morrison
Karen Cooke	Cecily Chiles	Pam & Joel Eagleson
Pat Holloway	Joan Guthrie	Lorna Cooper
Christine Murphy	Jane Redmond	Pauline Henderson-Ferguson
Marian McLean	Ruth Mitchell	Donna Moore
Debbie Kafford	Marnie Kearns	Maggie Rochon
Sarah Morrison	Gloria MacLeod	Doreen LaCourse
Lynda Ruston	Bev Walkling	Karen Rutledge
Sue Wicks	Peggy Hall	Susan Mallard
Julie Drope	Ellen Robertson	Colette McGarvey
Lisa Valade	Jane Janes	Trish White
Carol Guthrie	Diana McClure	Carol Burkhart
Sharon Melanson	Barb Baxter	Eleanore Sich
Carolyn Callaghan	Valerie Schmidt	Shelley & Stefan Jackson
Nicola & George Pfaff	Susan Shaw	Brian White
Yvonne Vanderbeld & Bill Yates		

Inn of the Good Shepherd (IOGS)

Volunteers from Grace serve one meal each month at the Inn to an average of 110 people each month.

Edna Dent coordinates the serving of the meals with the assistance of Betty Simpson. Maggie Rochon coordinates the meal preparation. Pauline Henderson-Ferguson, with the assistance of a client, sorts the food brought to the church on the first Sunday of each month. Food suitable for preparing meals

for the Inn is kept at the church while the remainder is delivered to the Inn. Also, David Motherwell, prior to his relocation to Hamilton, worked in the Food Bank.

We are grateful to the many people who help with these activities as well as those who make monetary donations to help pay for the food used in meal preparation.

Meal Preparation		
Ann & Don Eastman	Barb Kilburn	Pauline Henderson-Ferguson
Ruth Kreibich	Joan Guthrie	Maggie Rochon
Paul & Lorna Cooper		

Salad Preparation		
Lori Armstrong	Karen Cooke	Alice Minty

Desserts		
Karen Cooke	Gloria McLeod	Carol Guthrie
Ruth Kreibich	Peter Litt	Edna Dent

Serving meals and cleaning up		
Stacey Smith	Betty & Bill Carson	Daphne Clarke
Paul Cooper	Nadyne Dell	Pauline Henderson-Ferguson
Paige Ferguson	Ruth Kreibich	Jeff Sharpe
David Motherwell	Debbie Kafford	Maggie Rochon
Iris Murtha	Jackie Sands	Carol Shelton
Betty Simpson	Lindsay Wilde	Sylvia Rose
Gord Walkng	Julie Henry	
Lisa, Noah and Hannah Cattran		

We welcome new volunteers. It is a great way to get to know others in the congregation. If you wish to help prepare meals, call Maggie Rochon; or to make desserts, call Edna Dent. The sign-up sheet to help serve is on the bulletin board next to the gym window. We serve one meal each month on the fourth Wednesday from 1 – 2:30pm.

There are many members of the congregation involved with Outreach activities. The risk of an Annual Report is that some will be missed (just a few recent examples include ‘Samaritan’s Purse and the St. Clair Child and Youth Adopt-a Family 2015 project). We regret any omissions from this report and continue to be awed and humbled by the generosity of the Grace congregation. Please keep us informed, if possible, about these initiatives.

Members of the Outreach Committee in 2016 will be: Karen Rutledge, Pat Holloway, Lynda Ruston, Alice Minty, Ruth Kreibich, Edna Dent, Sue Wicks, Earle Kilner, Deb Kafford, Carol Shelton, Paul Cooper, Maggie Rochon, Pauline Henderson-Ferguson, and the Pastoral Team (*ex officio*).

In Memoriam

Sadly, in 2014, we lost one of our long-standing and dedicated Outreach Committee members, Jack Cleave. Jack made many significant contributions to

local, national and international Outreach initiatives that will be long remembered.

Also, Tom Moore, who faithfully transported to the Inn of the Good Shepherd the food donations brought to the church on the first Sunday of each month, will be missed.

The Outreach Committee welcomes new members who may feel called to participate in this rewarding activity at Grace. We meet, as a committee, at 7:00pm on the first Monday of the month in the Friendship Room. You are welcome to attend as a way of getting to know the Outreach Committee, to participate in one or more of the many activities underway or to initiate a new Outreach activity to energize the congregation. Please approach any member of the committee at any time for more information.

Paul Cooper, Chair

TEACHING MINISTRIES

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Christian Development Committee works with Pat to generate ideas and plan for Grace ministries that nurture the congregation. It is our focus to equip our children and youth as leaders so that they might serve as a gift to the greater church. We are continuously visioning and dreaming to come up with creative ways to meet our mandate.

- The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was a huge success in terms of volunteers and number of attendees. We would especially like to thank Ken Ferguson for facilitating it this year. The money raised went toward funding the summer student placement position. The pancake dinner has been a tradition for Grace that gives young and old at Grace a way to connect.
- We applied for and received a Summer Jobs Grant Program that funded the second summer student placement responsible for the campfire program.
- Summer Campfires are a popular program sponsored by the CD Committee. It offers opportunities for our young leaders to hone their skills and deliver an exciting program for children and their families. This year the program saw the biggest attendance in the history of the program. Thomas Valade and Jessica Buscema lead an enthusiast and talented group of young people to produce original plays and games.
- The Youth Group continues to meet and contribute actively to Grace and are good representatives of our Grace community. They deliver highly active recreational programming for kids who attend JOLT (kids in grades 4-8). They sponsor a child through World Vision and run the Sarnia District Community Living Dances once a month.
- Gord Walkling and Collette McGarvey gift us with their leadership of the High School students Sunday morning program. They find youth relevant

topics to engage the youth each week.

- KinderWorship, Children's Worship, and Splat continue to run successfully every Sunday.
- The Lay Leadership Development Fund helped fund the John Pentland event.
- Under the leadership of Pat, Brad and Sue, Grace offered two Swell services in London, incorporating over forty volunteers from across the Conference. This service continues to get overwhelming support from London Conference. It is a service like no other and stands out as an important youth event.
- Pat led SuRF weekend retreats that was attended by the youth of London Conference; with a focus on creating content for upcoming Swell services.
- We continue to offer a deep spiritual two year confirmation program that includes retreats, mentors, and shared discussion and experiences.
- The parent focus afternoon seminars are a new initiative of CD that have been well attended and appreciated by the young parents who attend.
- Continuing to try to come up with new current ideas, the CD Committee sponsored a games night at the Riding Club. It was a great success and attended by a multi-generational crowd. All who attended want to see this event continued.

The CD Committee extends a deep thanks to the many volunteers. We are grateful for the hands and hearts that worked to share God's love in the congregation and beyond.

The 2016 committee members will be: Shirley Willis (chair), Collette McGarvey, and Pastoral Team (*ex officio*)

Shirley Willis, Chair

YOUTH WORSHIP FINANCIAL

Opening Balance Dec. 31, 2014	\$2,355.26
TOTAL amount received from all sources	<u>\$1,107.37</u> \$3,462.63
Local Expenses -supplies	238.68
Mission & Service	157.70
Closing Balance December 31, 2015	\$3,066.25

Susan Mallard
Youth Worship Treasurer

GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA

The 2015-2016 **9th Sparks** year has been a great one so far. We have 20 girls enrolled and this year we are fortunate to have 6 leaders. Some extra moms and church members (Pam Eagleson, Lynda Ruston) volunteered this year which is greatly appreciated! Our youngest Girl Guides are enjoying their introduction to the Guiding world. We usually meet at the church on Monday nights but have also learned about our community by meeting at other places like Lakeroad School, Mallroad Library and Camp Saradaca. The second half of our year will be filled with earning new crests and finishing up the work to get our badges. The girls will be learning about giving back to those less fortunate in the community by collecting used books and clothing for donation. We'll also be having a sleepover at the end of April which is always a popular event with the Sparks! Thanks very much to the members and leadership of Grace United Church for allowing us to use your facilities.

33rd Sarnia Brownies have focused this year on program activities to ensure our second years get all their keys and as many interest badges as possible but here are a few highlights:

- Katie joined us as a new leader
- Hailey joined us as a unit helper
- We consistently have 28 girls participating
- Sold 65 cases of cookies this spring as a unit
- Had a "Magic of Brownies" themed camp at the Kah-Ne-Do chalet this fall complete with a woodland fairy themed dinner
- Helped at the Grace Fall Fair selling delicious brownies baked by Brownies!
- Looking forward to our Hollywood Sleepover later this month where some girls will sleep in a tent for the very first time (indoors of course - setting them up in the gym).

32nd Sarnia Guides

This year we have four leaders and 23 girls registered. We participated in the Grace Fall Fair running the Tea & Muffin Room, had a sleepover and did a cookie drive thru blitz, sold cookies at Sunripe, sold cookies at Walmart for Cookie Day (we had 125 cases of cookies to sell in total!), went for a walk through Canatara and to the bridge for fries and ice cream, participated in the group Sing Ontario Sing campfire at Grace, purchased gifts for those less fortunate (to the tune of \$300), walked in the Santa Claus parade and had an awesome Christmas party. We will be camping at Kah-Ne-Do in February and we're planning a big year end trip. Many thanks for the use of the facilities at Grace.

Thank you also to Grace for being so open to providing space for Guiding for cookie delivery for the area, trainings and sleep-overs to other units. The accessibility of this building is wonderful and we really appreciate all the support.

*Bev Walkling
Community Guider*

Membership

This year our group has 23 Beavers/8 Beaver leaders, 12 Cubs/4 Cub leaders, 9 Scouts/4 Scout leaders, for a total of 45 youth members & 16 leaders.

Glenn Kilner continues as our Group Committee Chair and leads our Scout section. The remainder of our executive includes: Dave Aldrey, Treasurer; Julie Drope, Secretary; Glenn Kilner, Scouts; Meghan Fraser, Beavers and Fundraising; Rob Tower, Cubs; Jeff English, Popcorn Co-ordinator.

Scouting at Grace continues to be popular, especially with the younger children. We encourage boys and girls to participate in our activity-based programs, particularly camping and outdoor activities at Camp Attawandaron.

Activities

- Our annual Baden-Powell potluck dinner in February was held as part of Baden-Powell week activities. Each section prepared skits for parents and siblings.
- The annual Hike for Hunger for the Inn of the Good Shepherd was held in mid-February. Cubs and Scouts collected canned goods and delivered them to the Inn.
- All three groups attended various camps at Camp Attawandaron throughout the year, including the winter Klondyke Camp and spring Can-Am camp. The Scout group went to Paris, ON where all the participants received ORCKA Canoe Certification courses over a two-day period. Depending on the individual scouts, they earned either level 1, 2 or 3.
- The 32nd hosted the Regional Kub Kar Rally at the end of February, hosting over 85 youth and their parents in Grace's gym. Our new race track was the highlight of the event with its electronic scores and video replay. The Beaver Buggy Races were also held at Grace, hosted by the 23rd Scouts. Hosting the race day required many volunteers from the 32nd. We plan to host this again in 2016.
- An end-of-year all section barbeque was held at Canatara Park for children, siblings and parents. We rented an inflatable bouncy castle and gladiator pit for everyone's enjoyment.
- The area Service team (including group commissioners) has been using Grace United Church's facilities to hold monthly meetings.
- In October the Scouts and leaders assisted with the clean-up of the annual Oktoberfest dinner held in the gym at Grace United.
- Also in October, the Cubs and Scouts helped out at Grace United's monthly soup luncheon, with the funds (\$1250 raised) going to the Delmar Ellis cabin located at Camp Attawandaron.
- All three sections participated in the annual "post card for peace program" for Remembrance Day. Each member of our Scouting group wrote a note on a post card for a veteran.

- Our group participated in the Annual Kinsmen Christmas Parade in December. This year's theme was "Our Christmas family". The Scouts decided they would build a fireplace complete with stockings as part of our float decoration. This is the 9th year in a row the 32nd Sarnia Scouts have entered a float in the parade; we are the only scouting group to participate in the Christmas Parade during this time.
- The Beavers did extra chores during the month of December to buy Christmas presents for children. Myles Vanni, Executive Director of the Inn of the Good Shepherd, came to pick up the presents and explain to the Beavers the importance of these presents and what they mean to local children living in poverty.
- In late January 2016, 32nd Sarnia Scouts will be hosting an information session on the new Scout Canada programs which will be rolled out in the fall of 2016. We've also asked members of Grace United Church to attend this event to see if there are volunteering opportunities that they might be interested in. One of these vacant spots will be in the Group Secretary Role. We have been so fortunate to have Julie Drope for 6 years as our group secretary but at the end of this scouting year Julie is resigning from this position.

Fundraising

- All sections participated in October's city-wide Apple Day fundraiser. Beavers each had one 2-hour shift and Cubs and Scouts contributed 4 hours to this important fundraiser. All of the money raised is used by the sections for activities and camps.
- The annual spring flower and poinsettia sales were once again successful. The Group Committee is very appreciative of the continuing relationship with Praill's Greenhouses. Mr. Praill continues to be a strong supporter of the 32nd Sarnia Group. As well, we appreciate the support of the Grace community for our various fundraisers.
- Our group has received grants from RBC and corporate employee volunteer programs. These funds will be used to obtain equipment and provide leader support. For this year's Santa Claus Parade, the truck and float were donated by Tim McGee. Pat Morrison donated his time to set up his sound system for Christmas music on the float.

Cabin

All sections continue to enjoy the Delmar Ellis Cabin at Camp Attawandaron, just south of The Pinery. This year we received a donation from the soup luncheon towards upgrades at the cabin. The donation will be used to repair front door landing and add a handicap-accessible ramp which is rotting out at the start of the existing ramp. We were hoping to start installing a solar system on the cabin but due to the issues listed above we will be postponing this to the following year.

*Glenn Kilner, Group Commissioner
32nd Sarnia Group Committee*

PROCLAMATION MINISTRIES

PROCLAMATION & SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE (P&SE)

Spring Fair

This year the art sale was not a part of the event; another coordinator was not found. Plant sales were moved into Room 1, which made drop off and pick up very easy. Hanging baskets were made and sold. Thanks to Carrie Brescia and Karen Cooke for assisting with the arranging. All baskets made were sold but will not be done again. The sale price was set at \$12 to cover costs and raise some funds. However, with garden centers selling similar baskets at \$9.99, there is no reason to continue. Vendors were in the gym and the silent auction in the tea room. Heaven's Nature Wildlife Rescue came and shared some of their animals with everyone. Special thanks to John and Ellen Robertson and Chris and Ian McGuinness for organizing and selling the plants. Thanks to AOTS for the BBQ.

For 2016, new plant coordinators are needed. Extended children's activities are being examined to bring more families to the event. If you are interested in being involved, please contact P & SE.

Flea Market and Trunk Sale

Now in its third year, this event continues to expand. Again, Carrie Brescia took over the indoor part of the sale. Flea market items and books donated to Grace were sold indoors. Outdoors there were more parking spaces sold to vendors and anyone wishing to sell garage sale items. The BBQ was provided by AOTS. This event has the potential to grow with more vendors and the adding of fair type of activities in the parking lot-games, rides, etc.

For 2016, a new indoor coordinator is needed. If you are interested, please contact P & SE.

Fair Fall

This event continues to run smoothly thanks to all those involved: Trish White - book sales, Lorna Cooper - silent auction, Maggie and Bob Rochon - horse and wagon rides, Bev Walkling - advertising and the Guiding groups, AOTS - BBQ, Adult Fellowship - bake table, and Edna Dent, Diane Werezak, and Alice Minty – freezer foods.

Admissions collected at the door showed that more people attended the Fall Fair this year over last year. An admission fee was added three years ago to increase revenue. At each entrance there is a sign posted explaining the event is a fundraiser and allows Grace to open its doors to over 17 organizations and agencies. The Girl Guides charge for the tea room as a means for donating to the church. Increasing the admission fee to include the tea room is a possibility that needs to be investigated.

In discussion with many of those involved, the 2016 prices will need to be raised on the frozen foods and possibly the bake table as food costs rise.

Quarter Auction

The first quarter auction was held in November. The scheduled fall fashion show did not happen as there was no clothing company available. The auction was held in its place. Twelve vendors participated and many said it was the best organized auction they'd been involved in. Over 80 people attended; only 8 of those from the Grace community. The event was MC'd by Peter Frangis, who does voice over work for Blackburn Radio. The auction and food sales raised over \$1400.

In 2016, 2 auctions are planned, one in April and the other in the fall. This is an excellent fundraiser tapping into funds outside of the Grace community.

Last Chance Christmas Sale

Many of the over 40 vendors who return to this event every year tell me this is their favorite sale. The hot-from-the-oven scones and gingerbread made by Ken Ferguson are thoroughly enjoyed. The muffins and drinks from the tea room delivered to vendors are truly appreciated. The friendly and helpful volunteers make this sale the great event it is. Thanks to AOTS for the chili, soup and chili dogs.

Recommendations include rental of a large outdoor sign to ensure fundraising events are prominently promoted to the community. A sound system to play music and make announcements throughout the building would make activities in the various rooms feel more connected and allow information to be shared with everyone in the building.

Through these events I have gotten to know a fun loving, dedicated and supportive group of people. To all my volunteers, you're the reason I do this. You are tireless in your support, ideas and involvement. I can't do any of these events without you. As Paige would say, you rock!

The 2016 committee members will be: Pauline Henderson-Ferguson, Yvonne Vanderbeld, Bev Walkling, Bill Yates, and Pastoral Team (*ex officio*).

Submitted by Pauline Henderson-Ferguson

GOVERNANCE & SUPPORT MINISTRIES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees for 2015 consisted of Peter Melanson (chair), Rick Armstrong, Alexia Gladdy, Lorne Longley, Neil Holloway (secretary), Madeline McCaw, Bill Palmer, Ray Phillips, and Pastoral Team (*ex officio*)

	Present Insurance <u>Dec. 1, 2014/2015</u>	Proposed Renewal <u>Dec. 1, 2015/216</u> (showing updates only)	
PROPERTY INSURANCE			
Property of Every Description (Church Building and Contents)	\$4,735,821	\$4,925,254	
Broad Form/ Replacement Cost Basis \$2,500. Basic Deductible			
On Premises Extensions	\$1,000,000		
Off Premises Extensions	\$ 500,000		
Extra Expense/Church Income	\$ 500,000		
CRIME INSURANCE			
Employee Dishonesty	\$ 100,000.		
Basic Loss of Money	\$ 25,000.		
Nil Deductible			
BOILER AND MACHINERY COVERAGE			
Sudden and Accidental Break Down	\$4,735,821	\$4,925,254	
On Boiler, Pressure Vessels, Electrical and Mechanical Equipment \$1000. Deductible			
COMPREHENSIVE GENERAL LIABILITY			
Bodily Injury/ Property Damage Including Umbrella Liability \$1000 Deductible	\$7,000,000.		
Abuse Cover	\$2,000,000.		
Counselling, Errors & Omissions Cover	\$2,000,000.		
Non-Owned Automobile Liability	\$2,000,000		
Directors & Officers Liability	\$2,000,000.		
\$1000. Deductible			
COST			
2014– 2015 Term		2015-2016 Renewal Term	
One Year Cost	\$5,634.00	One Year Cost	\$5,786.00
ON Sales Tax	<u>\$ 450.72</u>	ON Sales Tax	<u>\$ 462.88</u>
	\$6,084.72		\$6,248.88

Peter Melanson, Trustees

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The committee membership for 2016 will be: Christopher Cooke (Chair), Julie Drope, Greg West, and Pastoral Team (*ex officio*).

Ad-hoc committee activities in 2015 included the following:

- The committee worked with Ministry & Personnel to develop a Technology Allowance for 2016. It provides ministers additional compensation to purchase laptops and other personal technology (ex. cell phones, tablets, etc.). With the introduction of this allowance, the ownership and responsibility for ministers' personal technology largely shifts from the church to the ministers. The new allowance greatly reduces the committee's responsibilities, while providing ministers the flexibility to purchase technology that meets both their ministry and personal needs.
- Greg West restarted efforts to post sermons on YouTube, and the church is now building a library of weekly sermons. Greg continues to experiment with various intro and outro options.
- A new projector was installed in the Friendship Room by Larry Harris, with "supervision" from Pat Morrison and Christopher Cooke.
- Following the theft of her laptop in the fall of 2014, a new laptop was purchased for Sue Browning in the spring. Thank you to the Gracious Quilters for funding the purchase, and to Margaret Billings for providing a loaner laptop to Sue in the meantime.
- Vance Curry generously donated a lightly used laptop as a replacement for the office volunteer computer.
- A new MacBook Pro was purchased for Pat in the fall.
- All church computers running Windows are now on version 10. Thank you to Brad Morrison and Sue Browning who performed the upgrade without assistance from the committee.
- A new folding machine was purchased at a significant discount to replace the faulty folding machine that came with the new Xerox lease. The new machine ensures bulletins and other materials can be folded quickly without requiring significant volunteer time every week.
- A new paper trimmer was purchased to replace the damaged trimmer.
- The committee developed an awards/plaques policy to clarify when and where achievement or service awards can be posted in the church.

The committee has many people to thank for their support in 2015:

- Thank you to Bev Walkling for maintaining the Grace United Church Facebook account. It takes serious dedication and creativity to provide weekly, if not daily, updates to Facebook on behalf of the church. Bev's efforts are greatly appreciated.
- Thank you to Bev Walkling and Yvonne Vanderbeld for photo taking at special events, and for baptism/confirmation.
- Thank you to Carrie Brescia for providing summer coverage for the office administrator. The church office is quite busy, and effective coverage is much appreciated.

- Thank you to the office volunteers for all of their work throughout the year. The church office simply would not keep up with all the phone calls, requests and tasks without their assistance.
- Thank you to Al McLean and Curtis Dixon for their efforts in maintaining the outdoor sign. The outdoor sign is the best advertising this church has available.
- Thank you to Claude Valade for assisting the staff with computer and technology issues. It can be a busy role!
- Thank you to Julie Drope for her continued efforts producing Grace Notes.
- Thank you to Christopher Cooke for managing the website and other on-line services.
- And a big thank you to Lori Armstrong for all the work she does on behalf of the committee. Having a competent and reliable office administrator is a very real blessing for the church.

While the committee's operating budget pays for many recurring expenses, such as the phone bill and copier maintenance, the committee also makes use of various special funds. In 2015, special fund use was as follows:

- Sue's laptop: \$1,232.55 from Office Equipment Fund (primarily Gracious Quilters donation)
- Pat's laptop: \$1,151.42 from Audio Visual Fund, \$500 from Youth Worship Fund
- Friendship Room Projector cable: \$41.57 from Audio Visual Fund
- Folding Machine: \$1,955.53 from Memorial Fund
- Paper Trimmer: \$362.35 from Office Equipment Fund

Christopher Cooke

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (M & P)

The Ministry & Personnel Committee convened for ten meetings in 2015. Activities and business of interest included:

- The committee was gratified by the vacation relief provided by Carrie Brescia (for Lori) and Ethan Simmons (for Curtis).
- Recognition luncheons for staff and the volunteer group were held at year end.
- A Technology Allowance for Ministers was approved by Council for implementation in 2016. The Technology Allowance gives ministers flexibility in choosing technology tools that will enable their effective ministry. The allowance also simplifies the process for managing office equipment, and will be cost neutral to the congregation and the ministers.
- A recognition lunch was held for Vance Curry to celebrate his contributions to the committee for several years.

- The committee conducted a review of ministers' office facilities and an ergonomic consultant was engaged to review all office facilities. Some improvements were identified for future implementation.
- The United Church of Canada implemented a new compensation model for ministry personnel in 2015. The salary will be a single amount with the housing allowance no longer a separate allowance. Grace will transition to the new model when a new minister is hired. The new model will have minimal impact on the operating budget.

The 2016 M&P Committee members will be: Laura Black, Carolyn Callaghan, Joanna Catterson, John Cooke, Nadyne Dell and John Scott.

John Cooke

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The chair position was shared on a rotating basis in 2015 and will continue in this manner for 2016. The chair roles for 2016 will be:

Jan/Feb	Dave Smith
March/April	Glenn Kilner
May/June	Steve Siklosi
July/Aug/Sept/Oct	Jim Kearns
Nov/Dec	Michael Bertleff

The committee welcomed Steve Siklosi to our team.

Some of the work delivered during 2015 is as follows:

- repaired loose tile areas in the gym
- replaced shingles over the south side of the narthex
- purchased and installed a CO detector for ministers' office hallway
- replaced windows in the library and Rm. 6
- replaced cracked large window in sanctuary
- replaced water fountain in hallway outside Friendship Room
- replaced the main hot water tank
- purchased new upright vacuum for the nursery
- removed various dead trees and large limbs encroaching on neighbour's fence and property
- purchased leaf blower to aid in grounds maintenance
- replaced the Hobart dishwasher in the large kitchen
- repaired pews in the sanctuary
- purchased (donation) and installed bicycle rack by Cathcart entrance
- formulated a sanctuary light replacement proposal
- installed new shelves and helped clean up storage cupboard which accesses the HVAC system for the Ministers' offices
- arranged for demonstration of a floor washing machine for the tile areas. A Project Proposal Form to be issued in January

- received, with regrets, the resignation of Don Eastman as a member of the Property Committee. We thank him for his years of service on the Property Committee.

The Property Committee continues in dire need for new members. New members are always welcome as we strive to maintain our large, aging building that needs ongoing attention and repairs.

The 2016 Property Committee members will be: Michael Bertleff, Jim Kearns, Glenn Kilner, Steve Siklosi, Dave Smith and the Pastoral Team (*ex officio*)

Michael Bertleff

KITCHEN COMMITTEE (Ad-hoc committee to the Property Committee)

Members: Diane Werezak, Chris McGuiness, Alice Minty, Ellen Robertson, and Lindsay Smith.

The Kitchen Committee met on a quarterly basis to clean and organize the kitchens. Refrigerators were cleaned, and out-dated food containers were discarded. 'Orphaned' containers have been placed periodically in the narthex to be picked up by owners.

It is greatly appreciated that people are taking home their leftovers from events as it helps to keep the refrigerators free of out-dated items. It helps to have items labeled left after an event, indicating when they have been used, and if they are available for use by other groups. It has been found that such things as salad dressings, ice cream sauces, or pickles are not readily used by other groups following events, and should be taken home rather than being left in the refrigerator at that church.

A project was taken on this past year to replace the assortment of mugs in the main kitchen, with the purchase of new white mugs. The mugs, purchased through anonymous donations as well as a donation from Adult Fellowship, are now in place, and will be a lovely asset to serving dinners and receptions. It is hoped the mugs in the small kitchen will remain in those cupboards for use on Sunday mornings and other events in that area.

*Submitted on behalf of the Kitchen Committee
Lindsay Smith*

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The 2015 Planning Committee members were Barb Baxter, Bruce Davies (Council Vice Chair), Joel Eagleson, Leanne Kember (Chair), Kirk Wilson (Council Rep), and Pastoral Team (*ex officio*).

The Planning Committee's purpose is to: *Keep aware of, and challenge Grace United Church to respond to changes in direction occurring in the church at large. The committee will also accept studies and/or other assignments from Council, or initiate same, which serve the on-going development of our faith community.*

This year, the Planning Committee gathered top proposals from committees with regards to continuing Grace's focus of being intergenerational, inclusive and a community partner. Each committee then prioritized the list (with comments and recommendations) and submitted nominations for a Capital Campaign Committee. Through this process the Grace Growth and Giving Campaign was created. Fund-raising efforts have already begun.

In the fall we arranged for Reverend John Pentland, the minister at Hillhurst United Church and author of "Fishing Tips", to come and lead a clergy event and a workshop for the Presbytery and Grace's leadership. In the afternoon of this weekend event we were able to have John to ourselves giving inspiration, ideas and asking provocative questions to get us imagining what God might be inviting Grace to move towards. The Planning Committee continues to explore possibilities for following up with the Pentland event.

The 2016 committee members will be: Barb Baxter, Joel Eagleson, Leanne Kember (Chair), Incoming Vice Chair, Kirk Wilson, and Pastoral Team (*ex officio*)

Submitted by Leanne Kember

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee is responsible to effectively manage the church finances, to regularly provide updates to the congregation and to communicate issues and proposed resolutions to Council.

2015 was a good year financially for Grace. The Operating Budget had a year-end surplus of \$5190. The surplus was due to a number of factors; most significantly expenses were significantly below budget as all committees achieved savings in response to the challenge of a deficit budget for 2015.

Some members chose to make their contributions early in the year which enabled the Finance Committee to avoid using the line of credit or Reserve Fund in 2015.

Special events (e.g. spring sale and fall fair) make a significant contribution to church revenues. We appreciate the many volunteers who support these events and, of course, Pauline Henderson-Ferguson for providing the essential element of leadership.

Financially, the congregation also made significant contributions to a number of Outreach initiatives as well as to funds that exist to support specific ministries at Grace (see the summaries in the Annual Report).

In 2015, there were significant donations directed to the Sarnia Community Foundation (SCF). Total funds invested now exceed \$40,000 with the following approximate investments;

- funds to support youth initiatives [Tom Murray (\$8,000), Gwen Hopper bequest (\$25,000)]
- Ken Plumley Youth Scholarship (\$6,000)
- General Grace Fund (\$800)

2016 will again be a challenging year with the Growth and Givings Capital Campaign scheduled to be rolled out in January. There are a number of key initiatives that will result in financial success;

1. Committees will again be challenged to achieve costs at or below budget numbers to eliminate a proposed budget deficit.
2. The congregation is encouraged to support and participate in the special events to ensure these are successful.
3. We have budgeted for an increase in revenue from FUNDSCRIP. There are a number of ways to participate in this initiative and it is hoped that more members of the congregation will find this a great way of financially supporting the church.

Proposed members of the Finance Committee for 2016 are: Neil Pole, Ian McGuinness, Marv Bildfell, Bob Newman, Paul Cooper and the Pastoral Team (*ex officio*).

We would welcome new members. It's a great way to learn more about church finances and to get to know other members of the congregation.

Finally, thank you to all members of the congregation who have contributed financially to the unified budget, various funds, and outreach causes throughout 2015. Without your generosity, Grace could not exist.

Paul Cooper, Treasurer

	2014	2015 Budget	2015	2016 Budget
Givings for Operating Budget	\$ 389,925.86	\$ 394,000.00	\$ 388,306.84	\$ 388,300.00
Designated M & S Givings	\$ 6,234.73	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,659.92	\$ 5,700.00
Total Givings - Unified Budget	\$ 396,160.59	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 393,966.76	\$ 394,000.00
Other Income				
Rental	\$ 7,394.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 13,888.81	\$ 13,900.00
Donations	\$ 1,565.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,940.00	\$ 1,940.00
Interest	\$ 192.80	\$ 100.00	\$ 106.28	\$ 100.00
Special Events	\$ 14,078.68	\$ 14,100.00	\$ 11,183.47	\$ 11,200.00
Grace Ministries	\$ 200.00		\$ 289.19	
Other Income	\$ 1,301.84	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,022.49	\$ 2,000.00
	\$ 420,892.91	\$ 425,700.00	\$ 422,397.00	\$ 423,140.00

Committee Expenditure							
Congregational Care and Growth	\$	232.81	\$	500.00	\$	245.69	\$ 1,000.00
Outreach (M & S)	\$	13.89			\$	36.51	
Christian Development	\$	778.67	\$	2,550.00	\$	1,565.74	\$ 1,420.00
Worship	\$	700.80	\$	1,625.00	\$	1,215.58	\$ 1,625.00
Communications	\$	8,258.06	\$	10,000.00	\$	7,506.48	\$ 8,300.00
Ministry and Personnel	\$	318,639.96	\$	324,000.00	\$	321,950.08	\$ 319,000.00
Trustees	\$	5,525.54	\$	6,000.00	\$	1,054.51	\$ 6,300.00
Property	\$	40,510.01	\$	41,500.00	\$	36,985.34	\$ 43,500.00
Finance	\$	3,698.52	\$	3,500.00	\$	3,359.63	\$ 3,500.00
Lay Presbytery	\$	13,157.48	\$	13,633.00	\$	13,454.87	\$ 13,200.00
Council	\$	31.91	\$	100.00	\$	31.91	\$ 100.00
Debt Servicing							
M & S	\$	27,000.00	\$	29,800.00	\$	29,800.00	\$ 29,550.00
Line of Credit Interest	\$	4.54	\$	-			
Total Expenditure	\$	418,552.19	\$	433,208.00	\$	417,206.34	\$ 427,495.00
Net Income vs. Expenditure	\$	2,340.72	-\$	7,508.00	\$	5,190.66	-\$ 4,355.00
Transfer to Reserve Fund	\$	2,340.72			\$	5,190.66	
Transfer from Reserve Fund			\$	7,508.00			\$ 4,355.00
	\$	0.00	\$	-	-\$	0.00	\$ -

Grace United Church - Operating Account

Assets	2014	2015
Royal Bank Chequing	\$ 5,650.73	\$ 41,262.77
Royal Bank Savings Investment Account #001603885	\$ 500.09	\$ 500.12
Petty Cash	\$ 27,897.48	\$ 58,003.59
Southwest Credit Union Shares	\$ 234.76	\$ 185.96
Southwest Credit Union Ass'n account	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Accounts Receivable	\$ 94.51	\$ 113.25
	\$ 6,946.74	\$ 5,678.44
Total Assets	\$ 41,349.31	\$ 105,769.13
Liabilities and Equity		
Accounts Payable	\$ 262.12	\$ 20,180.64
Church Funds		
Reserve	\$ 12,465.31	\$ 30,537.31
Audio-Visual Equipment	\$ 4,662.51	\$ 2,347.53
Youth Initiatives	\$ 6,507.45	\$ 5,120.69
Office Equipment Fund	\$ 540.95	\$ 552.05
Lunches for Learning		\$ 7,332.14
Inn of the Good Shepherd	\$ 606.91	\$ 807.78
Youth Worship	\$ 2,355.26	\$ 2,819.70
Betty Sykes Fund		\$ 4,718.03
Capital Replacement Fund		\$ 19,745.68 *
	\$ 27,400.51	\$ 73,980.91
General Fund	\$ 13,686.68	\$ 11,607.58
Total Funds	\$ 41,087.19	\$ 85,588.49
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 41,349.31	\$ 105,769.13
* Note: Includes \$18,051.86 for Growth & Giving Campaign		

Schedule of Accounts Payable	2014	2015
Church Key Deposits	\$ 255.00	\$ 255.00
VISA	\$ 7.12	\$ 8.14
Refugee Fund		\$ 19,817.50
Memorial Fund		\$ 100.00
	\$ 262.12	\$ 20,180.64
Schedule of Accounts Receivable		
HST	\$ 5,138.18	\$ 5,678.44
Memorial	\$ 1,808.56	
	\$ 6,946.74	\$ 5,678.44

Grace Segregated Funds - December 31, 2014		
Fund	Balance Wed., Dec. 31, 2014	Balance Thurs., Dec. 31, 2015
Memorial	\$ 19,100.13	\$ 18,623.92
Capital Replacement	\$ 7,703.39 *	
Ken Plumley	\$ 3,376.07	\$ 1,886.94 **
Leadership Development	\$ 10,689.33	\$ 9,426.87
Inspiration	\$ 19,095.76	\$ 18,294.01
Betty Sykes	\$ 20,270.81 *	
Total	\$ 80,235.49	\$ 48,231.74
	* moved to Church Funds	
	** See Sarnia Community Foundation Report	
Bank Accounts		
Investment Account 582304325	\$ 31,988.15	\$ 20,410.86
Investment Account 582304333	\$ 50,055.90	\$ 27,720.88
Bank Total	\$ 82,044.05	\$ 48,131.74
Payable to Grace	\$ 1,808.56	
Receivable from Grace		\$ 100.00
Total	\$ 80,235.49	\$ 48,231.74

2015 Outreach Report

United Church of Canada Missionary and Service

Givings from Unified Budget	\$	29,800.00
M and S Memorial	\$	365.00
Thanksgiving M and S	\$	145.00
UCW	\$	2,000.00
Jack Cleave Memorial Donation	\$	25,000.00
Subtotal	\$	57,310.00

United Church of Canada Disaster Relief Appeals

Cyclone Pam	\$	895.00
Nepal	\$	4,030.00
Subtotal	\$	4,925.00

Soup Luncheons

Rayjon	\$	1,423.55
Brigden Food Grains	\$	2,142.25
Habitat for Humanity	\$	3,924.00
Lunches for Learning	\$	1,566.00
Delmar Ellis Cabin	\$	1,346.00
Rebound	\$	1,720.00
Refugee Committee	\$	19,817.00
Subtotal	\$	31,938.80

Other Donations

Habitat for Humanity	\$	100.00
Delmar Ellis Cabin	\$	50.00
Rayjon	\$	100.00
St. Clair Child and Youth	\$	100.00
Brigden Food Grains	\$	235.00
Lunches for Learning	\$	4,759.35
Subtotal	\$	5,344.35

Other Grace Groups		
Youth Group	World Vision	
UCW	Lambton UC Centre	\$ 480.00
UCW	Lambton Student Nutrition	\$ 600.00
Adult Fellowship	Huron House Boys' Home	\$ 355.00
Adult Fellowship	Women's Interval Home	\$ 100.00
Adult Fellowship	Kids on the Block	\$ 100.00
Adult Fellowship	Salvation Army	\$ 100.00
Adult Fellowship	Harmonize for Speech	\$ 100.00
Adult Fellowship	Inn of the Good Shepherd	\$ 100.00
Adult Fellowship	Lambton UC Centre	\$ 100.00
Adult Fellowship	Victims Services	\$ 50.00
Communion Fund	Needy Family Assistance	\$ 350.00
Communion Fund	Lambton UC Centre	\$ 200.00
Communion Fund	Stamps - Jail	\$ 182.50
AOTS	St. Clair Child and Youth	\$ 100.00
AOTS	Seaway Sounds	\$ 100.00
AOTS	Habitat for Humanity	\$ 100.00
AOTS	Sarnia Community Foundation	\$ 100.00
AOTS	Big Brothers	\$ 100.00
AOTS	Refugee Committee	\$ 100.00
AOTS	Rebound	\$ 100.00
Subtotal		\$ 3,617.50
		\$ 103,135.65
Fair value manse rental		\$ 16,800.00
Total		\$ 119,935.65

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee had two positions to fill this year. These were a Vice-Chair and Presbytery Representative. At the time of printing, the position of Presbytery Representative and Vice-Chair is still open. The following are the people who have volunteered to give their time to serve on Council:

Chair	Bruce Davies
Vice-Chair	Vacant
Past Chair	Lisa Valade
Secretary	Chris Cooke
Treasurer	Paul Cooper
Presbytery Rep:	1) Vacant
	2) Vacant
Financial Reviewer	Gord Walkling
	Laura Black

Members of the Nominating Committee were George Pfaff (Past Chair), Bruce Davies (Vice Chair), Jim Wicks (Roll Clerk), Peter Melanson (Trustee), Bill Palmer.

George Pfaff Past Chair of Council

CHURCH STAFF

PASTORAL TEAM:	Rev. Dr. Brad Morrison, B.A., M.Div., M.T.S., M.Th., D.Min.
	Rev. Susan Browning, BASc, M.Div.
	Patrick Morrison, B.Math, DLM.
MINISTERS EMERITI:	Rev Doug Greenough
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:	Glenn Parsons, B. Mus. A.
CUSTODIAN:	Curtis Dixon
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:	Lori Armstrong
OFFICE VOLUNTEERS:	Marilyn Hamilton, Doreen Lacourse, Debbie Mills, Ellen Robertson,

In Memoriam (2015)

John Dent	January 15
Bruce Leckie	January 16
Joyce Allen	January 19
Gwenyth Fisher	February 17
Jack Cleave	February 23
Bob Tinney	March 17
Mona Heath	April 17
Lois Barclay	May 18
Marg Anderson	June 28
Bill Cox	July 23
John Basham	September 22
Harley Moore	September 29
Marion Marlow	October 15
Liz Ludanyi	October 19
Judy Hagle	November 5
Norma Waun	November 12
Tom Moore	December 3
Cheryl Parry-Fogel	December 6
Roy Dowding	December 7
Mary Marshall	December 8