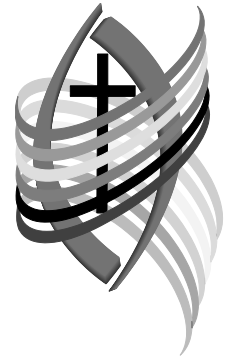




Parkdale United Church



We are an inclusive Christian community with a deep yearning for God and God's vision of equity, justice, and well-being for all.

ANNUAL REPORTS

January – December 2011

Our Mission and Values as articulated in the Spring of 2010

We are an inclusive Christian community with a deep yearning for God and God's vision of equity, justice, and well-being for all.

We are sustained and energized to do God's work through a strong and caring community. We help each other to recognize that, at different times, we each need:

- rest to refresh and rekindle passion
- stillness and reflection to discern our callings
- lifelong learning for personal and spiritual growth
- engagement with others to become stronger individually and collectively
- challenges and opportunities for social action

We are a diverse Christian community who covenants with each other to:

- listen to and for God
- be authentic and align our actions with our God-given gifts and callings
- trust that whatever steps we each take on this journey are the right ones for us
- encourage people to participate through personal invitations, believing that saying "yes" and saying "no" are equally honourable
- practise gratitude generously

Parkdale United Church Annual Reports
January to December, 2011

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MINISTER'S REPORT – MURRAY E. LAVERTY

This has been a good year at Parkdale United and I count it a privilege and pleasure to be in ministry with you. In our ministry team my primary responsibilities fall under the more traditional roles for clergy leadership – worship, congregational/pastoral care, and congregational development. In this report I offer a few observations from this past year, list the congregational committees that I have worked with directly, note some of my denominational work and continuing education experiences. In conclusion, I will identify a few of the emerging priorities I plan to address in the upcoming year.

Council and Committees have worked hard this year enhancing our life, programs, and work. One of the ongoing challenges in being a vital and intentional community of faith is responsibly critiquing our programs, events, systems and structures, vision and mission, and then making appropriate decisions, recommendations and action plans. This is an ongoing process of asking important questions like: What is the purpose of this particular program? What is it we are trying to do or achieve? What does it mean for a program to be successful and worthwhile? Is this congruent with what we feel God is calling us to live, do and be at this point in time? Have we got the capacity and resources to do this work? In 2011 we continued being very intentional in asking these kinds of questions and naming specific actions or objectives. We also cultivated a great deal of new information about our congregation and the community we serve. This never-ending cycle of information gathering, visioning, evaluating, and articulating of specific action plans is time consuming, hard work, and essential. It clarifies our identity and purposes, and provides wisdom and focus to our priorities, decisions, and actions. I applaud our congregational will to do this work. I thank all who continue to lead and participate in these processes.

Our annual operating budget continues to require fund raising activities like the Co-op Cards, Gala, Garage Sale. These events require good leadership and I want to thank the many, many people who gave their time and energy to support these endeavors. In addition to raising funds, these activities help us get better acquainted with each other. Working together, whether at a fund-raiser, a church maintenance project, being part of a planning team or service project, we build relationships of care, friendship and support within our community, and generally have a great deal of fun in the process.

Highlights for me in this last year include: working with the Worship Arts Team, the Communications and Marketing Task Team and the 100th Anniversary Planning Committee. The year felt exceptionally full and included staff transitions, the welcoming of a new church administrator, Tammy's sabbatical leave, and some important pastoral care work. I deeply appreciate this community's openness and willingness to experiment with new ways of being the church and the significant ways care, hope, and support are embodied within the life of this community. I am grateful to the many, many good capable people who so willingly share their energy, gifts, skills, talents, and time in helping make this community live and thrive. And I am grateful for the personal encouragement and support I receive in the work we share. Thank you, it is indeed my great privilege and pleasure to share life with the people of this community.

Our life together this year has been punctuated with moments of wonderful celebration and times of deep despair. As a community we do share life together, our personal lives with their blessings and burdens, and our global circumstances as citizens in a world that is beautiful and broken. Each of us can think back over the year and point to various people and events that have particularly shaped our experience, some with joy, and some with sadness. What I find especially important for my faith living, and what I feel is critical for Christian community is that we participate in both the good and difficult, and we resist separating sacred and secular. Rather, we seek to find the Spirit in it all. Certainly when we are dealing with the difficult in life, personally or globally, to have people who walk with us, and who help us attend to the ways of

Jesus—hope, justice, love, trust—even in those times of disappointment, fear or suffering, we discover we are not alone, we are in the company of God’s grace, mercy and peace.

I offer sincere words of appreciation and respect to Tammy Allan, Antonina Cox, Mike Hudec, and Ruth Jacques for their partnership in ministry and for the significant contributions, they make, often behind the scenes, to the life and work of Parkdale United Church. Thank you!

Worship

- Plan, create, produce weekly and seasonal worship services
- Study, prepare, deliver weekly sermons (worship reflections)
- Special services funerals, weddings, interments

Congregational/Pastoral Care

- Pastoral care and visitation in homes and hospitals
- Pastoral support in times of crisis, celebration, confusion
- Pastoral leadership in committees, task groups and ministry teams

Congregational Development

- Leadership in congregational visioning, values and mission
- Leadership in congregational administration and organization
- Program planning, creating and implementing

Pastoral Services: January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011

- Baptisms – two
- Funerals – six
- Interments - five
- Weddings – one

Committee/Congregational Leadership

- Council
- Council Executive
- Communications and Marketing Task Team
- Operations Committee
- Parkdale Gala: A Night on the Town – planning task team
- Parkdale United – 100th Anniversary Planning Committee
- Parkdale United – Building Use Task Team
- Pastoral Care Committee
- Picturing Parkdale – interior decorating, design, furnishings, policies
- Staff – development and program coordination/facilitation
- Stewardship Committee
- Worship Arts Team – enhancing our worship life

Presbytery/Conference Service

- Presbytery Meetings

Continuing Education

- Festival of Homiletics – one week preaching conference
- First Testament – a three day VST seminar

Next Year – concerns, objectives, plans

- Work with the Worship Arts team in enhancing our worship life
- Work with Communications and Marketing Task Team updating our Web page, improving internal and external communications
- Work with congregational partners in creating, sponsoring and welcoming community focused educational workshops or courses – ie. Living with the End of Life
- Strengthen our congregational capacity; welcoming, leadership, care
- Explore community connections, relationships, outreach programs
- Respond to new priorities and action plans as they are developed and agreed upon in our ongoing intentional planning processes

The focus of my ministry with you is in the area of Faith Development for all ages. Areas of work that are included in my 'portfolio' are:

Resource and support for:

- KAYAC Children and Youth Advisory Committee
- Oversight of the work of our children and youth ministry staff, including participation in the hiring processes
- Oversight and support of the nursery care staff
- Small Group Ministry and facilitation of groups
- Faith and Justice Committee
- Discovering Our Neighbours (AFFIRMING) Steering Group
- Worship leadership (once every 6 weeks approximately)

Other areas of leadership include:

- Council
- Council Executive
- Staff team meetings
- Nominations Committee
- Facilitation of regular prayer chain gatherings
- Pastoral Services including
- 2 weddings (Jan – Dec. 2011) plus 2 weddings outside Parkdale UC (friend and family)
- 1 funeral (Jan.2011)
- 3 baptisms (Jan – Dec. 2011)
- hospital and shut in visitations
- Ploughshares Peace Concert; Pancake supper and Ash Wednesday worship; Lenten worship services; All Ages Friday nights;
- oversight of production of Newsletters

Presbytery and Conference Work:

(this is part of my responsibility as a member of Calgary Presbytery, and a minister of the United Church of Canada)

- regular attendance and engagement in monthly presbytery meetings
- member of the Presbytery Commission of Ministry Support, on the Education and Students working group (meets monthly)
- Member of the planning and facilitation team for the Ministry of Supervision Training Program (to be held in St. Albert Feb. 2012).

National Church Work:

- I continue as mentor for a student from the Centre for Christian Studies. She completes her program of studies spring of 2012, and that formal relationship will end.

Continuing Education Experiences:

- In the spring of 2011, I enjoyed 4 months sabbatical and vacation time. – the study portion of that time focused on engaging all ages / stages in the life of the church and will include reading / resource study, as well as visits to other church communities. Some of my sabbatical time was spent in rest, renewal, and personal spiritual development. I attended a fabulous Conference in San Francisco, "The Alchemy of Our Spiritual Lives: Women Redefining Power". I continue to network with other participants from that event, particularly those who are also from Canada. I also attended a gathering of the Diaconal of the United Church (DUCC) in Winnipeg. That was a time of focused learning on the theme Courageous Engagement: Forging New Relationships, Exploring ways to build bridges with Aboriginal brothers and sisters in community. We also spent

time tending to the business of DUCC, the association that connects and supports diaconal ministers in the United Church.

Vision for the coming year:

- To continue to live into the learning's and discoveries of my sabbatical time, particularly in the area of revitalization Parkdale's ministries for of children and youth and their families, and the area of nurturing my own spirituality.
- To explore, with the congregation, ways of enriching and building our ministries of justice seeking, particularly broadening the opportunities for education of the congregation.

Blessings,
Tammy

COUNCIL

Council Members:

Sidney Craig Courtice – Chair
Mary Sheridan – Past Chair
(Vacant) – Chair elect
Murray Laverty, Tammy Allan – Ministers
Sue Brodrick – Secretary
Gordon Thomson – Envelope Secretary
Sherry Anderson-Kepke – Bookkeeper

Committee Representatives:

Jean Tollefson – Faith & Justice
Kathy Dion – KAYAC
Sheila Navrady – Ministry & Personnel
Sherry Anderson-Kepke – Operations
Jan Collins – Pastoral Care
Jeff Unruh – Stewardship
Mike Kirby – Trustees
Sheila Smith – United Church Women
Noemi Flores – Presbytery Representative

Retired from Council in 2011:

Ken Coburn, Sherri Fraser, Barbara Giles, Sandy Navrady, Jim Thompson-Goodchild

As we move into our 100th year, we have so much to celebrate as a congregation and, as your Church Council, we have been honoured to continue in our role of “implementing the wishes and identifying the needs of the congregation” (*Parkdale United Church Constitution*, February 4, 2001). We believe that we have listened to you carefully and are committed to hearing your wishes and meeting your needs in the months ahead.

At our May 2010 AGM, we unveiled a new Statement of Mission, Community Values, and the 4 Priorities that we will focus on until at least June 2012. The 4 Priorities encompass an action plan, broadly categorized as Communications & Marketing, Leadership, Children's, Youth, and Young Families' Ministry, and Service & Mission. We know that committees and groups have focused on these Priorities and Council has set direction with these learning events:

Council Retreat, January 15, 2011

Even though we had a new focus for our work with the 4 Priorities, we still needed to decide on a clear purpose and achievable goals over the next 18 months, which we did at this retreat. Over 20 people from Council and Committees/Groups met in small groups to draft purpose statements, goals, actions, and champions for each Priority.

Environics Report and Workshop, October 25, 2011

The Environics Report on the demographics of our Parkdale United Church people and people in the surrounding community provided us with valuable information. To help us make sense of this data, Joel Den Haan of the United Church Conference office met with about 25 of us to help us understand the report and its meaning for our church. We will use this information to guide us in achieving our Priorities as well as to help us set new directions for our work together.

Leading with Courage Values & Trust Workshop, November 19, 2011

We are grateful that Dr. Pam Bishop helped us to better understand and carry out our roles as Leaders. We learned how we can develop greater leadership capacities that stimulate each of us to:

- Model the way
- Inspire a shared vision
- Challenge the process
- Enable others to act
- Encourage the heart

Stewardship Luncheons Nov 13 & 20, 2011

Progress on the Priorities was presented at the Stewardship meeting on November 13 and 20, 2011. New directions for each priority were proposed by over 120 people who graciously gave their time and insight on how we were doing on meeting our priorities and what is especially important to move forward with in the next year.

UCC Identity Survey 2011

Sixty-eight (68) Parkdale people responded to the United Church of Canada Identity Survey. Information gathered that is specific to Parkdale UC includes items such as Significance of Church, Importance of Church Involvement, Perceptions of Membership, Commitment to Church in the Future, Attributes of Our Church, Comfort Level at Church, Attitudes Toward Ministers, Perceptions of the Wider Church, and Awareness of Mission & Service Fund. The pages on **“Attributes of a Church You Would Like to Be Part Of”** are appended at the end of this Report. We encourage you to read these two pages and to consider how we are different when you compare our church responses to national averages. Let us know what you think! The full report is available if you are interested.

Review Team January 2012

Beginning on January 21, 2012, a group has gathered to help to discern our next direction through a review of our engagement with the Environics material, our new knowledge on Leading With Courage, Values & Trust, our progress on carrying out our 4 Priorities, and our Identity Survey. We look forward to reporting to you in March what we have heard that you want us to focus on in 2012 and beyond.

Our Council members devote their time and express their passion for our church which is growing daily in its mission as a **Centre for Spiritual Growth and Social Justice**. We are blessed with each of you, our congregation of people, who faithfully embody their **“deep yearning for God’s vision of equity, justice, and well-being for all”**. We welcome the voices of everyone in our congregation with this covenant that we enter into with each other.

We are a diverse Christian community who covenants with each other to:

- listen to and for God
- be authentic and align our actions with our God-given gifts and callings
- trust that whatever steps we each take on this journey are the right ones for us
- encourage people to participate through personal invitations, believing that saying “yes” and saying “no” are equally honourable
- practice gratitude generously

Sidney Craig Courtice

NOMINATIONS

1. A series of conversations have taken place since September 2011 in search of a Chair Elect for Council for 2012-2013. No one has yet been able to say to this important task but conversations will continue until a congregant has been nominated.
2. As well, a series of conversations have taken place since September in search of members for the Ministry & Personnel Committee. Susan Rafaat has very kindly accepted the nomination to be a member of this committee.
3. Conversations have also taken place concerning representation at Presbytery. Noemi Flores has accepted the nomination to be one of these representatives. Conversations will continue to ensure a second person is nominated as a Presbytery representative.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is the legal body that holds the title to all the real and personal property of Parkdale United Church. It does this in the name of the United Church of Canada for the use and benefit of the Parkdale congregation. It is the liaison between the congregation and Calgary presbytery in all property matters.

The current members of the Board of Trustees (no change from last year) are:

Mike Kirby	Chair & Council Representative
Russ Purdy	Secretary
Doug de Wolff	Resource Person (Ex-Officio)
Rev. Murray Laverty	Order of Ministry (Ex-Officio)

Kay Loeb, Florence Robertson, Lionel Singleton, Gordon Thomson, Jim Thompson-Goodchild, Jean Tollefson.

Respectfully submitted:
Mike Kirby

CALGARY PRESBYTERY REPORT

Presbytery is a “court” of The United Church of Canada. It is a support circle for Parkdale United, and for our ministry staff. In fact, Tammy and Murray’s membership in The United Church is with Calgary Presbytery, not Parkdale United, and they are accountable to presbytery through the Personnel Support Commission. Participation in presbytery is a responsibility of membership.

In addition to all called and appointed ministry personnel from each of the Calgary congregations, membership of Presbytery includes lay delegates (Parkdale is entitled to have 2); Designated Lay Ministers (formerly known as staff associates); and representatives from United Church Women and United Church Men, and a few members at large.

Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday evening of each month (September to June). They open with worship, then plenary time, addressing business or educational presentations of interest to all presbyters, then we move into 4 Ministry Commissions: Planning and Administration (finances, Mission Support Grants, etc); Congregational Support (youth and children’s ministries, UCW, Campus ministry, Pastoral Care, etc); Local and Global Outreach (justice

related), and Personnel Support (Education and Students, support of ministry personnel, oversight of congregations, etc).

Sue Brodrick is a member at large, and is the current Past Chair of our Presbytery. Noemi Flores is our new presbytery delegate. We are entitled to have one more representative. Thanks go to both Sue and Noemi for their commitment to the wider church. We are looking for one more person who can give of his /her time, primarily one Tuesday evening each month, plus share with Noemi in attending Parkdale's monthly Council meetings.

Submitted by Tammy Allen

DISCOVERING OUR NEIGHBOURS

In 2011, our focus was on completing the process of becoming an affirming ministry of the United Church of Canada. We drafted an Affirming Ministry Statement of Faith, which was circulated to the congregation for input. The final version was approved at our February congregational meeting. We also created an Affirming Action Plan, which broadly summarizes how we plan to live out our commitment to being an affirming ministry. And on Sunday March 20, we completed the process with a celebration. We were joined during worship and at the lunch that followed by members of other Calgary affirming congregations, and received a certificate presented by Betsy Young on behalf of Affirm United, the national affirming ministry arm of the United Church.

Doreen Kot and Lynn Sloane attended a citywide gathering on January 31 at Wild Rose United, to share information and ideas with other affirming congregations in Calgary.

In 2012, our plans include providing an opportunity to learn more about transgender issues. We welcome new members, and will continue to explore what it means to live faithfully as an affirming community.

Sheila Navrady, Sheila Smith, Doreen Kot, Claire Evans, Lynn Sloane, Doug Hanington, Mary Sheridan

FAITH AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Members: Jean Tollefson, Doreen Kot, Bev DeLong, Mary Ellis, Noemi Flores, Sheila Smith, Sheila Navrady and Tammy Allen.

3 goals for education, advocacy, and action for 2012

- Poverty
- Nuclear abolition
- Aboriginal issues (following KAIROS initiatives)

Parkdale United Church Activities

- 100 Mile Lunch
- Sunday night movies most with a social justice flavor
- Noemi Flores is Presbytery representative for Global and Local Outreach

Local Social Justice Activities

- 2 members attended the KAIROS Provincial Workshop
- Band Aid supported permanent and sustainable housing for 42 families, 44 single individuals, and a total of 194 people with 75 of them children. 20 families required repeated visits. Approximately two thirds of the families are native.
- Computer Program: PUC placed 12 computers in supported housing and Acadia Place projects. Ben DeLaet coordinates this initiative.
- Supported Project Ploughshares Singing For Peace fund raiser

- Discovering our Neighbours (Affirming Cong.) meetings, workshops and others
- Supporting the Women in Poverty group in a new spring event
- World Council of Churches visit from the Poverty and Economics group
- Tammy was part of the team that coordinated the worship services.
- We hosted the group's visit to agencies in Calgary supporting homelessness, medical help, addictions etc.
- Acadia Place KAIROS Affordable Housing Group 58 unit apartment Parkdale has a team of four on the Kairos Affordable Housing Group. Parkdale also attends quarterly meeting with KAIROS and the Calgary Homeless Foundation.
- Parkdale paid one month of rent (\$850) for the Resource centre. Other churches paid the remainder of the rent. We paid \$200, twice for the Resource Centre expenses and other churches paid the remainder. Parkdale also supported housing for three families at Acadia Place, and placed most of the necessary computers, equipment and furniture for the Resource Centre.

Other activities related to Acadia Place were:

- Attended the Symon's Valley fundraiser concert
- Planned and participated in the Spring Clean up (600 hours volunteer labour)
- Planned and participated in the Fall Clean up (350 hours labour)
- Coordinated the Christmas party
- Parkdale children, youth, and the congregation adopted two families for Christmas and did fund raising for the Karate project. Donations of \$988, were received for the Karate project for the year.
- Parkdale UCW and other church members provided the baking for the 58 door Caroling Party.
- The Alex Home Base Christmas community building dinner and party was held at Parkdale. The UCW provided the baking.

Social Justice Activities Global

- Add Your Light
- Nuclear abolition (Letter writing and petitions)
- Promoted Fair Trade Coffee (coordinated by Margaret De Laet)
The M and S Video was shown about Canadian Food Grains activities on Thanksgiving. We continue to look for ways in which more information and education regarding the Mission and Service Fund, can be presented to the congregation. Time for this during the church services has not been a priority.
- Greening Our Sacred Spaces
We continue to review solar panels and apply green practices for PUC.

New Outreach Partnerships

- Inn from the Cold (ad hoc committee)
- This year Parkdale provided rent free space for KAIROS Affordable Housing Group once a month, the Alex Home Base, and soon for MINKKA and 10 Thousand Villages for Fair Trade sales.

Faith and Justice are grateful for the support from everyone at Parkdale United church. Some members who are not on the committee are very generous with their time.

We also appreciate the support of the following community groups and individuals:

- Through BAND AID Banff Trailers Square Dance Club donated \$1500 to CUPS, and 4 large boxes of educational toys.
- The University Women's Club and the YWCA Swim group have provided toiletries for CUPS, the AlexHome Base, and Acadia Place.
- Bootlegger and Ricky's have provided all the store write offs, and other new inventory.

- Country Hills Storage has reduced rental fees to BAND AID and supported with storage discards.
- Eleanor Halton has generously let us use her garage for storage.
- Support has come from other United, Baptist, and Anglican churches.
- Mary Ellis coordinated adopting a family for Christmas and raising funds for Karate with Velvet Energy for Acadia Place.

Submitted by Faith and Justice

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The M&P Committee meets monthly from September to June, and follows the guidelines laid out in the United Church of Canada's *Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee Guidelines* (January 2010 version). Our role is to "oversee relationships within the pastoral charge ministry, particularly the roles and function of paid leaders and employees..."

Current Committee members are Sheila Navrady (Chair), Helen Heacock, Mary Mackenzie, Sharon Cronin, Nick Finn, and Susan Rafaat. Committee members acting as liaisons with ministers and staff are Mary Mackenzie (Tammy Allan), Sharon Cronin (Murray Lavery), Nick Finn (Antonina Cox) and Sheila Navrady (Ruth Jacques).

In late 2010, M&P selected a team effectiveness program for the ministry team (ministers, music director and office administrator) facilitated by Gottfried Mittenegger from the Constructive Living Learning Centre. Five 3-hour workshop sessions were completed between November 2010 and March 2011. M&P continues to provide support and opportunities that will help to strengthen the effectiveness of our ministry team.

Prior to Tammy Allan's three-month sabbatical, which began on May 1, 2011, the M&P Committee worked with her to develop a sabbatical plan, and we supported her during her absence. During 2011, we also conducted annual reviews for the ministers and music director. We made arrangements for pulpit supply for the Sundays during the summer months when both ministers were absent.

In April, the difficult decision was made to terminate the employment of the office administrator. The M&P Committee assisted with arranging temporary staff for the office during the following months, and participated in the hiring process for a new Church Administrator, who began work in October.

Representatives from M&P, Operations Committee, and Council and ministry staff completed a review of the building rental process in April.

Last fall M&P prepared and submitted a detailed budget for 2012 staffing costs, including salaries, benefits, continuing education, and other expenses.

Cliff Courtice resigned as Committee Chair in August 2011. Cliff brought much wisdom and sensitivity to the challenges and tasks of the Committee. We thank him for his generous gifts of his time and talents during four years of involvement with the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Navrady on behalf of the Ministry and Personnel Committee

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Operations Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) and is responsible for caring for the physical and financial assets of the Congregation. Continuously, the committee reviews and executes building and equipment maintenance, reviews and approves building use by outside groups, reviews financial

statements, receives income and pays expenses, supervises the caretaker and counts and deposits the weekly offering. Other special projects are undertaken as necessary.

Members of the Operations Committee are Sherry Anderson-Kepke (who is the church's bookkeeper), Ken Coburn, Jan Collins, Wayne Flood, Chris Gadsby, Rev. Dr. Murray Laverty, Ted Moon, and George Norton. Please consider joining the Operations Committee as we are looking for additional members. We are fun-loving and friendly bunch!!

Counting offerings has become easier over the years but we really need helpers who need not be members of the Operations Committee. On-the-job training, free coffee, and VIP parking are offered!! Please consider helping us out.

Mike Hudec, our caretaker, "owns" the building, is truly a "caregiver", and we need to continue to express our thanksgiving for his ministry. Connor Edwards had been working with Mike several days per week, early in the year, as one of his volunteer activities, and we are thankful for his contribution.

The building is being well used by community and other outside groups. Building use income in 2011 amounted to about \$65,000. This level of use, and income, would not be realized without the hard work of the Church staff, most notably the office administrator (Judy Sagers, Kathy Dion, Eva Biederman and Ruth Jacques, at various times this past year) who is usually the first point of contact with outside users, and Mike Hudec, who tirelessly sets up rooms and keeps the building clean and comfortable. We continue significant relationships with Early Discoveries Nursery School and several staff groups from the Foothills Hospital (Alberta Health Services). (Approximately a dozen organizations make up about 80% of our building use income and numerous others make up the remainder.)

During the past year, the Operations Committee undertook the following specific projects:

- Spring parking lot and grounds clean-up
- Acquired cordless lapel microphone for portable sound system
- Upgraded a non-compliant component of the security system
- Repaired the commercial dishwasher
- Replaced three glass table tops (communion table, two candle tables)
- Continued to "green" the caretaking supplies with more environmentally friendly products
- Replace weatherstripping on five Sanctuary exterior doors
- Managed the replacement of the interior sanctuary doors, made possible by Mary Mjolsness' gift
- Installed several whiteboards and bulletin boards in the lower boardroom and the pumpkin room downstairs
- Installed "commercial" grade wireless internet capability as "residential" grade system became unreliable
- Considered and rejected acquiring a credit card machine to facilitate payments, etc.
- Added thermostatically controlled heating valves in the blue and green rooms downstairs
- Re-stained the garden benches and bridge
- Purchased a second portable projection screen (identical to the existing)
- In partnership with Early Discoveries Nursery School (a long term building user), installed a short partition wall downstairs (PUC contributed half the material cost, and the painting, EDNS covered the construction labour and half the material cost)
- Engaged in the "Faith and the Common Good" Eco Audit program through ANW Conference
- Making drywall repairs and painting as needed

The Operations Committee's goals for the coming months include:

- Maintaining appropriate building use income
- Replace three computers
- Erect the outdoor 100th anniversary banner
- Erect the Affirm rainbow flag

- Evaluate and consider additional choir microphones
- Evaluate and consider “commercial” coffee makers

We thank the congregation for its generosity and for its continuing support for the ministries of Parkdale United Church.

Respectfully submitted by Ken Coburn, chair, on behalf of the Operations Committee.

KAYAC

Eva Biederman started in January 2011 as our Children’s Ministry Facilitator. In the spring of 2011, we said farewell to Nicole Moon, as she moved to Ontario. For the first few weeks of this fall, the youth were lead by Jim Latimer and Kathy Dion. In late October, we welcomed Sarah Wright as our new Youth Ministry Facilitator. Natasha Dion continues to serve as our nursery care provider. It’s wonderful to have these young women serving Parkdale United. The continuity and consistency of leadership is so important in giving the children a sense of safety and routine.

The KAYAC Committee itself saw changes as well, as Ethan Lavery, Katherine Kepke, Ashley Dion, and Kathy Dion left the committee. Currently, the committee consists of the staff, Doreen Kot and Roanna Moon. We would welcome more members!

We welcomed new families into our program – primarily those with younger children.

This year we have developed our programming for both children and youth around theme based sessions, with curriculum being created by Tammy, Eva and Jim and Kathy, and Sarah. We draw from many resources, as well as the creativity of the group, to create curriculum that caters to the needs of the groups of children and youth that we serve, and offers a variety of learning opportunities. We have average attendance in the children’s program of 7-8 and an average attendance in the youth program of 2-3. The nursery averages 2 children a Sunday.

We opted to forgo the traditional Christmas pageant this year, as our numbers are small, and attendance, although steady in numbers varies from week to week in the faces we see. Instead, we went with an idea drawn from a combination of sources that focused on learning around life in Jesus’ day. The learning culminated in a “Journey to Bethlehem” congregational lunch that was very well supported by the congregation. The greatest advantage of this special program was that the children could all participate as their attendance allowed, and the wider congregation could experience some of their learning.

KAYAC has also coordinated the planning of the 3rd Friday monthly All Ages Fun Nights. Those are events designed to offer informal opportunities for community building among the generations. They are relatively well attended, and families appreciate the opportunity to relax over a provided dinner. It is quite wonderful to watch the generations mix over a game of Monopoly or Crokinole.

Submitted by Tammy Allan

WOMEN RISING UP TOGETHER: TAKING ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

April 20 & 21, 2012

This group has developed as a large collaborative group involving The Women’s Centre, the YWCA, Women Together Ending Poverty, the Calgary Immigrant Women’s Association, Learning Renewal, the Child Well-being Initiative, and the UCW.

We are grateful for the funding provided by:

- Parkdale United Church with a gift-in-kind of the use of church space without cost; The Parkdale United Church Foundation (\$3000);

- The Watkins/Wesley C. Smith Fund for The United Church of Canada Foundation of Canada addressing Poverty and Children at Risk (\$2100) and,
- The Calgary Foundation (\$3400).

With this generous financial support of \$8500, the Friday April 20, 2012 events and the full day of events following on Saturday April 21 are free of charge to all participants.

Jazz musician, Barb Myers, will be providing ways to engage our spirits in music throughout the event. On Friday evening Elder Audrey Weasel Traveller will offer a blessing and Aboriginal Strategist with the City of Calgary, Lorna Crowshoe, will speak about aboriginal women and wellness. On Saturday, The United Way is providing a facilitator, Sheryl Hayes, free of charge to engage participants in a poverty simulation. A group of story-tellers (truth-tellers) will offer narratives of their lived experience of poverty. June Churchill will facilitate a Wise Woman's Ceremony. Sidney Craig Courtice will facilitate an Open Space Conversation to arrive at actions we can take to reduce and eliminate poverty. Food service will be provided by the Robert McClure UCW.

Submitted by Mary Sheridan

PUC HEALING MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

The Healing Ministry provides healing sessions to members of the congregation, their family, and friends. Team members have taken courses from the Healing Pathway Program through Naramata Centre or from the Healing Touch Program.

Jan Collins is the team coordinator and members include Beverly Anderson, Jo Anne Atkins, Bev Dickson, Mary Ellis, Carol Hunter, Lee Morris, Lynn Nugent, Evelyn Peterson, Cyndi Thompson-Goodchild, and Peggy Williams. New members are always welcome

In September, we started to offer healing sessions after church service on Sundays and the fourth Tuesday afternoon of each month. We are also available to visit homes or the Foothills Medical Centre. Our brochure was revised with these changes.

In October, several of us attended a Phase 2 Healing Pathway course at Woodcliff United. For some of us it was a refresher and others took the course for the first time. We also enjoyed connecting with friends we have made at past courses. We appreciated funding from the Eva Lauderdale fund to offset our expenses.

At our monthly meetings, we are taking turns reviewing techniques and sharing new things we have learned.

Respectfully, submitted by Jan Collins

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Stewardship Committee consisted of Heather Eddy, Jim Nield, Jan Tollefson, Murray Laverty, and Jeff Unruh.

The Stewardship Committee has three main tasks. They are responsible for:

- 1) Conducting the Annual Operating Fundraising Campaign
- 2) Preparing and submitting the Annual Budget
- 3) Undertaking the reviews of the financial statements for both the Church and the Foundation.

This year, the Stewardship Committee hosted a lunch on two consecutive Sundays in November to kick off the 2012 campaign. The lunch included a presentation designed to provide the congregation with a deeper understanding of the financial trends at Parkdale and what was required to alleviate perceived deficiencies in the 2011 operating results.

The response from the congregation was gratifying. The congregation provided a one-time gift of over \$25,000 to address what had been projected to be a significant shortfall for 2011. For 2012, the average donation increased by nearly 10%, which offset the continuing decline in the number of pledge cards, received.

The 2011 Congregational Budget was developed in careful consultation with the Congregational Committees and Church Council. Council had budgeted for a shortfall of \$30k in 2011. Thankfully, Parkdale enjoyed far greater income than had been anticipated from regular donations, rental income and via the faith component, as mentioned at the outset of the previous paragraph.

The review of the financial records of both the Church and the Foundation were undertaken in 2011. The review acts as an important "double check" on the records and ensures that all financial transactions have been recorded properly. Parkdale United Church is fortunate to have both a conscientious Treasurer and the financial acumen of various leaders at Parkdale United Church.

The Council would like to join me in thanking the fine work of each and every member of the Committee. This also includes the assistance that Heather Eddy provided in filling the position of Church Secretary.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jeff UnRuh
Stewardship Lead

PASTORAL CARE

The Committee Members are: Barb Giles, Murray Laverty, Sally Coburn, Joan Johnston, Evelyn Peterson, Joyce Poniecki, Florence Robertson, Sue Singleton, Peggy Williams, Jan Collins (Council Rep) and Kay Loeb (Prayer Chain Leader).

I offer my sincere thanks to all for your contributions in many different ways. Also thanks to those who assist us with Pastoral Care and are not on the Committee.

The following is a review of 2011:

- RINGING THE DOORBELL has 9 visitors seeing 16 Homebound Parkdale folk
- LADIES LUNCH BUNCH meets the last Sun. of the month, now at The Village Park Inn. Four to nine women attend each time.
- WOMEN`S BREAKFAST meets the second Monday each month at Cora`s in Northland Village Mall. Three to nine women attend.
- THE LABYRINTH is under our ``umbrella``. It is being underused, and we have had some discussion and suggestions concerning this.
- A ROSE is placed on the Pulpit when a new baby of the Congregation is born.
- CARESTONES, NOTES AND CANDLES are well received. We supply these items.
- BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY CARDS are sent for 3 consecutive birthdays following their Baptism.
- CARENOTES are available outside the Church Office.
- JAMS are delivered to Newcomers.
- WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CARDS are sent on the first Anniversary following a Parkdale Wedding.
- KNITTING MINISTRY...One hundred forty seven shawls have been knitted since we began this ministry. We also have three Baby Shawls on hand. Presently we are in the process of knitting some Prayer Squares to add to our ministry.
- PARKDALE PRAYS meets regularly with Tammy. Please speak to one of this committee if you wish to be prayed for. They do need your consent.
- PERSONAL NOTES are sent by all when there is a need.
- HOMEBOUND LETTERS are written and sent four times per year (30 sent).
- CHRISTMAS HOMEBOUND PLATES were prepared and delivered (30).

Barb Giles Chair (Healing Touch will be a separate report)

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Parkdale U.C.W. has approximately 20 active members. In October, we were very pleased to welcome three new members: Isabel Flemons, Marg De Laet and Jeanette Edge. Our meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

Highlights of the year:

- The Friendship Dessert Party was fun and well attended. We recognized and honored Doug DeWolff for his commitment and many contributions to Parkdale Church.
- Thanks to all who participated in our cook book project. It would not have been a success without your recipes. Thanks to Isobel Parrish for collecting, organizing, and mailing this information to the publishers. There are still a few books for sale.
- Bake sale: Thank you to all who contributed with baked goods or money donations.
- Our Christmas party was also fun and well attended. Thank you to Tammy, Murray, Antonina, and Mike, for helping us with this event.
- Programs: A. Home safe documentary (DVD) followed by discussion B. Short discussion on the meaning of fasting C. Knowing our Muslim neighbours
- Agencies we support: Exit, Kasota, Ploughshares, Sherif King Home, Band Aid, Naramat, M&S, St. Andrew's College, Men's Hostel (drop-in-center), Child well-being initiative, and CARZ.
- Helen Grassick continues to deliver your used stamps and soup labels to their respective agencies.
- We are looking forward to our Friendship Party on May 10, 2011, featuring fun fashions
- In memory, we miss Betty Callow, Eunice Milne, and Helen Moorey
- Looking forward to our June picnic and a great summer.

Respectfully submitted, Shiela Smith

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH (CALGARY) FOUNDATION

Chairperson's Report to the Seventeenth Annual General Meeting February 5, 2012

Since the last Annual General Meeting, the Board of Directors has held four scheduled meetings and Board members have further corresponded amongst themselves by telephone and e-mail.

For 2011, the Directors were Gordon Atkins, Jim Balshaw, Ken Coburn, Sharon Cronin, Mary Ellis, Lawrie Fisher, Geoff Fraser, Russ Purdy, and Gordon Thomson. The Church Council chair is also an ex-officio director.

During 2011, gifts were made to the Foundation, in the aggregate amount of \$1,045, in memory of the following individuals, whose names will be recorded on the memorial plaque of the church: Jim McRae, Eunice Milne, Helen Moorey, Jack Caswell, Rod Brodrick, Roy Peterson, and Ron Nicholls.

Pursuant to a request by a donor, the Foundation administered funds for a family to attend a summer program at Naramata. This has been a recurring, annual donation. The names of the donor and the recipient individual remain anonymous.

Charitable expenditures totaled \$2,790 for four purposes:

- Roanna Moon's attendance at the United Church of Canada's "GO Project" in Vancouver
- the Project Ploughshares spring workshop "Moving from Fear to Trust",
- a family sponsorship to attend a summer program at Naramata
- Eva Biederman's attendance at "Rendez-vous – A national gathering of United Church of Canada youth, young adults, and their leaders".

The Foundation invests and administers, on behalf of the Congregation, the Mjolsness Family Fund, a gift made to the church in late 2010. During the year, expenditures from the Fund totaled \$9,139 for the installation of the glass sanctuary doors, and \$1,700 for Parkdale's "Living with the End of Life" workshop.

At the end of 2011, the church repaid \$8,000 of the \$40,000 loan made by the Foundation in support of the 2005 Building Renewal Program. As a result, the Foundation's support of the church renovation amounts to a \$100,000 donation and an outstanding loan of \$32,000.

The Foundation contains a fund named the "Tara Devine Library Fund" which was originally set up to fund acquisitions for the children's library of Parkdale United Church in memory of Tara Devine. There have been no donations made to this fund for over ten years. Sharon Cronin is retiring as a director at this Annual General Meeting, and we thank her for her service to the Foundation. One new director will be nominated at this Annual General Meeting.

The Foundation hosted a "Legacy Giving" information session on April 10, 2011 featuring Kathryn Hofley, Financial Development Officer with the United Church of Canada. On behalf of the Foundation members, I thank the Directors, Church Council and the Church staff for their service to the Parkdale United Church (Calgary) Foundation.

Respectfully submitted by Ken Coburn, P. Eng., Chairperson

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH CHOIRS

President: Janice Carruthers

Past President: Anne McFaul

Director: Antonina Cox

Members: Sheila Campbell, Janice Carruthers, Ben De Laet, Nick Finn, Lawrie Fisher, Barbara Giles, Tim Hall, Ann McFaul, Lawrence Parrish, Florence Robertson, Bob Robson, Teeya Scholten, Heidi Schroter, Sheila Smith, Peggy Williams, Ian Winchester

THE ADULT CHOIR OF PARKDALE has continued to contribute to church services in 2011 under the direction of Antonina Cox. The choir consists of 15 regular members who meet twice a week – on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings. We recently welcomed our new member, Tim Hall, to the bass section. We are still in need of more singers, especially in soprano section. We have heard many good comments about choir performances, and this is a result of the hard work and musical gifts that every member brings.

During the last year, we had many memorable services:

- The Twelfth Night service at St. David's United
- a service dedicated to Robert Burns (in January)
- the Epiphany service with a gospel version of "This little light of mine" with a guest soloist Jessica Dixon (in February),
- Lent –Easter services in Spring,
- Beautiful Advent and Christmas services in December.

We are thankful to musicians, who provided special music in a last year – Bob Robson, Janice Carruthers, Anne McFaul (vocal solo), Verna Ahner on the clarinet, piano and as a conductor, Beth Balshaw on a piano and preparing text for the screen, Jim Thompson-Goodchild on a drum, Peter Merry on a trumpet, Eva Aronian on violin, Ana Angelovska on flute.

In a past year we also carried on our tradition of forming Men's and Women's Choruses once in two month, to add to a musical variety and provide a break for regular choir singers. For those occasions, Antonina has arranged anthems for male or female voices. Each performance of these groups was a truly memorable experience as much for the participants as for the congregations. Our thanks to everyone who participated in those choruses!

If you wish to join us for a short or long term, please do not hesitate to talk to Antonina or to our choir president, Janice Carruthers. Our choir practices usually are on Thursdays at 7:30p.m. and on Sundays at 9:40 a.m.

Submitted by Antonina Cox, Director

PARKDALE BOOKCLUB

Lynn Sloane – Coordinator

Members: Beth Balshaw, Joan Cameron, Barbara Clark, Margaret De Laet, Claire Evans, Margaret Gould, Dorothy Hall, Doreen Kot, Sharon Cronin, Lee Morris, Sheila Navrady, Joyce Poniecki, Sheila Smith, Sue Singleton, Karen Strong, Isobel Parrish, Lisa Cameron McBain, Jean Tollefson, Ida Wyllie

We meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month except for July and August, from 10 am to about 11:30 am. Books are nominated by bookclub members; there is a vote, and the books with most votes are chosen for the next year's reading. Each book is presented by the person who nominated the book. The book presenter usually brings a snack, and coffee and tea are provided. Books may be of any genre – our only parameter is availability, preferably not too expensive, so books that are available only in hardback are not chosen. About 12 to 14 people attend each meeting and the discussions range widely.

Submitted by Lynn Sloane

PARKDALE JOURNALING GROUP – NO WAY TO DO IT WRONG

Currently, the active members are Lynn Sloane, Ida Wyllie, Joyce Poniecki, Sandy Navrady, Ann Laverty, Anne McFaul, and Jeff Unruh

Three to six of us meet on a Wednesday or Thursday evening, once a month, to journal together. The journaling groups are oriented to providing a space/time/ structure for each individual's journaling. They are not a course on journaling with a focus on teaching. We create a sacred circle by lighting a candle and by an opening meditation or prayer, and a closing meditation or prayer. For each group meeting the facilitator provides a brief introduction to a journaling technique or idea, and a relevant book for interest. There are two writing sessions of about ½ hour, each preceded by an entrance meditation. How we do this part of the group is responsive to participants' needs and preferences, and so is in evolution. After a period of writing, we discuss our experiences briefly, or not at all. Sharing of writing is not expected. There is no assigned homework; each individual chooses whether to journal between meetings.

Submitted by Lynn Sloane