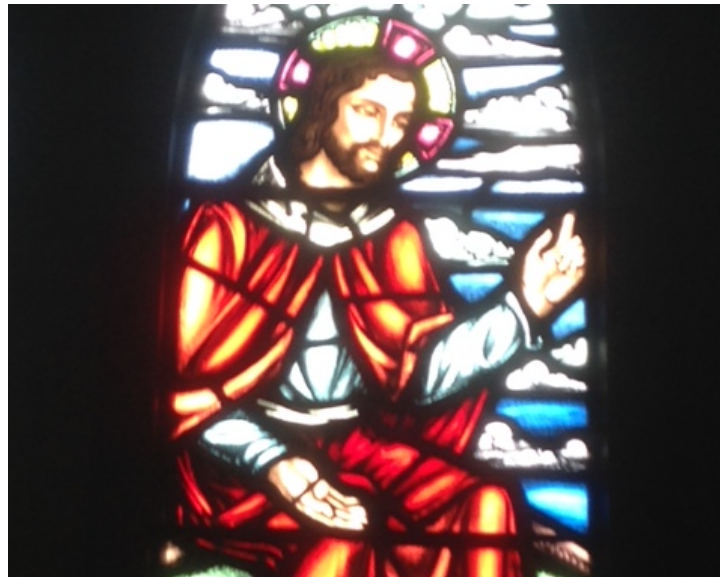


Annual Report 2017



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

Runnymede United Church

432 Runnymede Road
Toronto, ON M6S 2Y8
416-767-6729 office@runnymedeunited.org
www.runnymedeunited.org

Our Team

STAFF

Ministers: Rev. Katherine Brittain,
Rev. Don Gibson

Music Director: David Ambrose
Organist: Carl Steinhauser
Soprano Soloist: Pat Ainslie
Alto Soloist: Sabina Santelli-Perez
Tenor Soloist: Nathan Smith
Bass Soloist: Don Tripe

**Nursery
Coordinator:** Quincy Yee

Custodians: Santiago Duque
Spencer Tripe

**Office
Administrator:** Alison Gadsby

BOARD MEMBERS

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

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

EX OFFICIO

Clergy The Rev. Katherine Brittain
The Rev. Don Gibson
Chair of Trustees Roy Fischer
Chair of Ministry & Personnel Judy Hauserman
Presbytery Representative Robin Pilkey

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AGENDA

- ❖ Opening Prayer and Motions
- ❖ A Year in Review
- ❖ Nominations and Elections
- ❖ 2017 Financial Reports and 2018 Budget
- ❖ Mission and Service
- ❖ It *is* the Year of Invitation
- ❖ Adjournment
- ❖ Motion
 - Other Business
 - Approve the 2018 Agenda and 2017 Minutes



BAPTISMS

January 22

Joshua, Jeffrey and Dad, Ian McLean

Elizabeth Martin

Kyra McLaughlin and Mom, Brenda McLaughlin

February 12

Sebastian Key, son of Susan and Randy Key

Addison Burke, daughter of Natasha and Adam Burke

May 14

Luke Nagy, son of Crista and Peter Brooks/Nagy

Ben Ostler, son of Mark and Maggie Ostler

July 9

Lucy Rutherford, daughter of Laura and James Rutherford

October 29

Isaac Bakht, son of Heather and Sacha Brady/Bakht

We are happy to welcome through confirmation and transfer the following

NEW MEMBERS

Hilary McLean

Ian McLean

Beth Martin

Vincent Charbonneau

Erica Nielsen

Brenda McLaughlin

Deborah Milne

Gloria Milne

Andrew Reszczyński

Don Reynolds

Patricia Reeves

Caitlin Reynolds





WEDDINGS

June 10 – Matthew Breau and Christine Kelly

July 1 – Michael Downey and Kimberly Ainslie

September 8 – Christopher Martin and Natalee Angelica

October 28 – Christopher Stewart and Hilary Clarke



Alexander Bain
Rose Seli
Thomas Sheridan
Bob Pinkney

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

February 26, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 11.55 a.m. by Jeff Horbal. The meeting opened with prayer led by Rev. Katherine Brittain.

1. Election of Chair and Secretary

Moved (Brian Traquair / Stuart MacDonald) that Jeff Horbal be Chair and Neil Mather Secretary of the Annual General Meeting. Motion carried.

2. Agenda

Jeff showed the proposed agenda on the screen. Moved (Annette Frigault / Stuart MacDonald) that the agenda be adopted. Motion carried.

3. In Memoriam

Jeff read the names of nine members and adherents of the congregation who had died during 2016.

4. Voting

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

5. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

Moved (Derrick Hempel / Joan Howard) that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held March 8, 2016 be approved. The minutes were distributed in the Annual Report at pp. 7-11. Motion carried.

6. Minutes of Congregational Meeting May 29, 2016

Moved (Deborah Hogan / Brenda McLaughlin) that the minutes of the special congregational meeting held May 29, 2016 concerning the kitchen capital project be approved, as distributed in the Annual Report at pp. 12-15. Motion carried.

7. 2016 Annual Report

Moved (Brian Traquair / Stuart MacDonald) that the 2016 Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried.

8. Year in Review: Reflections on 2016

Jeff presented his report as Chair of the Board, found at pp. 20-22 of the Annual Report.

In his presentation Jeff noted the contributions of the many volunteers and staff listed in the printed report. He also thanked June Pinkney and Dorothy Dunbar to coordinating the lunch prior to the meeting, and Spencer Tripe, Jim Lien and Brian Traquair for setting up the meeting room. In addition to those in the printed report he mentioned Stuart MacDonald's leadership in the Capital Campaign, Robyn Salter's continuing leadership for the AIDS Orphans, and Karren Phair-Harvey's leadership of the Pastoral Care team. There was frequent applause during the report, and a standing ovation as Jeff called forward the Kitchen Construction Committee: Judy Whitfield, Chris Henderson, Janet Williams, Bart Leung, Anna MacDonald. Jeff noted that the congregation had benefitted greatly from the long hours devoted to the task by each member of the committee, as well as their donations of professional knowledge and skills.

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

Jeff presented a slide with nominations for Board Officers: Derrick Hempel (Chair), Lynne Salt (Secretary) and Brian Traquair (Treasurer). He explained that a nomination for Vice-chair would be forthcoming later in Derrick's term. Moved (Julie Lee / Barb Titherington) that the nominees be elected to the respective positions. Motion carried.

Jeff presented a slide with nominations for Members-at-Large: Paul Stewart, Monica McGlynn-Stewart, Rick Reed, and Alison Dekker. Moved (Bart Leung / Tom Axworthy) that the nominees be elected as Members-at-Large. Motion carried.

Jeff presented a slide with nominations for Committee Chairs: Suzanne Gordon (Faith Formation and Christian Education), Don Dewees (Finance and Property), Paul Stenton (Stewardship). Moved (Derrick Hempel / Gill Horbal) that the nominees be elected to these positions. Motion carried.

Jeff presented a slide for information showing the continuing Board members not included in the preceding motions: Jeff Horbal (Past Chair); Members-at-Large Vince Charbonneau, Brenda McLaughlin, Cathy Boyd-Withers, and Hilary McLean; and ex officio members Rev. Don Gibson, Rev. Katherine Brittain, Roy Fischer, Judy Hauserman, and Robin Pilkey. He thanked members who are leaving the Board for their service to the congregation and described the contributions made by each: Jim Lien, Don Dewees, Cheryl Farrow, and Julie Lee.

In response to a question about nominations, Jeff explained that he and Julie Lee (Past Chair) had served as a nominating committee, and that renewal is a major factor that they considered in the process along with succession planning.

10. Treasurer's Report

Brian Traquair noted that the Auditor's Report is prepared on a two-year cycle. As a result, Stuart MacDonald will report on his audit of 2016 records at the next Annual General Meeting.

Brian presented the Treasurer's Report for 2016 Operations, found at p. 23 of the Annual Report. Details of the Operating Statement and the congregation's other funds are at pp. 24 – 32 of the Annual Report.

Moved (Brian Traquair / Don Tripe) that \$557 be transferred to the Operations Fund from the General Improvement and Contingency Fund to eliminate the deficit. Motion carried.

Moved (Brian Traquair / Don Dewees) that the 2016 Operating Statement be adopted. Motion carried.

11. Trustees' Report

Roy Fischer introduced the Trustees' Report, printed at p. 39. The Trustees have appreciated the numerous projects undertaken by the Property Committee to maintain the building and grounds. He also reported that the Trustees recommend that Brian Traquair be elected to the Board of Trustees.

Moved (Roy Fischer / Ted Withers) that Brian Traquair be elected to the Board of Trustees. Motion carried.

Bob Cossitt, Trustees' treasurer, presented the details of the Manse and Estates Trust Funds, printed at pp. 40-45 of the Annual Report.

Moved (Bob Cossitt / Roy Fischer) that the Trustees Financial Report be approved. Motion carried.

12. 2017 Budget (next page)

Brian Traquair presented the Board's proposal for a balanced budget in 2017, at \$472,000. He explained that, in light of the recent budget increases and capital fund-raising, the proposal is for slightly lower fund-raising from special events than the 2016 actual amount, and an increase in giving of 1.7% which is a lower percentage increase than in recent years. Proposed expenditures would be similar to 2016 actual amounts. It was noted that there are Toronto Conference grants to cover the costs of upcoming sabbaticals for the ministers. The proposed budget and a two-year plan are found at pp. 33-38 of the Annual Report.

Moved (Brian Traquair / Rick Reed) that the 2017 budget be adopted. Motion carried.

13. Mission and Service Fund

Steve Gard reported that the contribution in 2016 was \$63,086, consisting of \$58,086 in congregational giving and \$5000 from the Craft Show. For comparison, the goal was \$62,000.

Moved (Steve Gard / Brian Traquair) that the 2017 target be set at \$64,000. Motion carried.

14. Capital Campaign and Projects

Judy Whitfield presented a colourful report from the Kitchen Construction Committee. The details are printed in the Annual Report at pp. 46-51, including many photographs and the names of those who have served on the succeeding iterations of the committee since 2013. Judy's report to the meeting included additional photos and an update to the present, including experience with two successful Community Meals. She provided a list of the few tasks still outstanding, including a final city inspection. Jeff repeated his appreciation of the committee's contributions, and added that the spouses of the committee members have also made many sacrifices for the project.

Don Dewees presented a similarly colourful report on capital projects undertaken by the Property Committee, described in the Annual Report at pp. 68-71. The projects include repairs to the external masonry of Jewitt Hall, steps near the Jewitt Hall entrance, new windows upstairs in Jewitt Hall, air conditioning installed in the offices and some rooms, upgrades to the choir and nursery rooms, and audio/visual system upgrades in the sanctuary. The kitchen project entailed major upgrades to the building's original drainage and electrical systems.

Brian Traquair presented a status report on the Capital Campaign. He indicated that the kitchen project is coming in at approximately \$40,000 under its (revised) budget and he made particular mention of Janet Williams' excellent attention to the financial aspects of that project. He described briefly a number of less major aspects of the capital project, notably sponsorship of the more recent refugee family. A complete reconciliation of revenue and expenditures of the campaign will be forthcoming next year.

15. Rental Revenue and Space Requirements

David Whitfield had requested time to make a presentation to the effect that Runnymede's space has been over-committed to external rent-paying groups to the detriment of Runnymede's own requirements. He made the following motion:

- I. That the Board be directed to immediately strike a special committee to study the issue of all rentals of church facilities;
- II. In carrying out its study the Committee is directed to specifically study the following areas:
 - a) Create an inventory of all our facilities that are currently being rented, including the square footage, and the annual income being derived from these facilities;
 - b) Conduct a comprehensive study of what other churches in the west end of Toronto are charging for similar space;

- c) Examine what facilities we have that could be rented but currently are under-utilized to determine if their rental might have less impact on church programs;
- d) Examine what impact these rentals have on our current and potential programming

III. That there be an immediate moratorium on any new weekly rentals, or renewal of any current rentals until the Board has brought back its report on rentals to a Special Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of receiving the report,

IV. Moratorium on additional weekly rentals until the Board has done the following:

- Conducted an in-depth study of other churches in the west end to determine their current rental structure;
- Evaluated what is the proper balance between external renters and internal uses for RUC.

The motion was seconded by Deborah Hogan. Rev. Don Gibson requested that the motion be considered in two stages, being parts I and II as the first motion, and parts III and IV as the second motion. All agreed with this suggestion.

Discussion of the first motion included questions on whether the Board already has enough information when it considers rental requests, how frequently internal uses are actually forestalled by prior rental commitments, and whether the terms of reference of the study should distinguish between purely commercial uses versus those that have some social or religious purpose though not Runnymede's own program.

The motion carried, with 27 in favour, 2 against, and 7 abstentions.

Discussion of the second motion centered on how long the study might take, i.e. when the special meeting could be expected to occur, together with uncertainty over what renewals or new revenue opportunities might be foregone in the interim.

The motion failed, with a clear majority against, four in favour, and one abstention.

16. Adjournment

The agenda having been covered and no other items of business being raised, Jeff called for a motion to adjourn. Moved (Derrick Hempel / July Lee) that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

MINISTERS' REPORTS

Rev Don Gibson

I am writing this report on the second day of the New Year. It is always hard to measure the passing of a year. At RUC in 2017 we experienced many joys and blessings which I will mention but first I want to recognize some concerns.

This last year has witnessed the illness and transition of a number of our members. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with them and their families. We are fortunate to have a good team of Pastoral Visitors who are so faithful in connecting with seniors and others in times of illness and loss.

As a congregation 2017 presented us with financial challenges. Thankfully after much effort and support we were able to end the year in a positive situation. However; combined with 2016 our donations have flattened. This situation will require much reflection and action this year to reverse this trend.

We are also aware that our attendance numbers at worship and in Sunday School are down. This too will need attention but the most important thing can be done immediately...invite and include people. This does not need a campaign or even a plan. We believe Runnymede is a good place to be and we need to be more intentional about inviting people into the life of RUC. Churches always grow best by word of mouth.

Now to our joys and blessings. Great music on so many occasions, active and committed outreach that is local, national and international. Not only is there outreach action at RUC we raise thousands of dollars for others. We have had wonderful times together as a congregation...Pancake Dinner, Welcome Back BBQ, Deficit Dinner... we have so many volunteers who drive on Sundays, make coffee, usher, greet, read, sing...we could not do Worship without them. So many people are involved on committees and projects...without them the building might fall down and the mission we do as a church would be limited.

RUC is a lively and spirit filled place we have much to be thankful for. As Jacob said at Bethel; 'surely the Lord is in this place'. Challenges lie ahead of us but God as always goes with and ahead of us. May God continue to bless and challenge us as followers of Jesus so that we and others may come more fully to life.

I also want to extend my thanks to our Board and M&P for their support of me in this past year it is deeply appreciated. As well my thanks to our staff Katherine, David, Carl, Alison, Santiago and Spencer.

Rev. Don

Rev Katherine Brittain

2017 was a year of travel, renewal and research for me. I was blessed to take part in the Sabbatical program of the United Church and chose to focus my time on exploring what makes a vibrant community of faith in the 21st century.

A specific area I focused on was Messy Church – a concept started in England in 2004 as a way of creating a church for families (especially those not formally part of a traditional, physical church), and something we experimented with at Runnymede in 2014. I received a generous amount from the Rowntree Scholarship for Reimagining the United Church of Canada to look into what “successful” Messy Churches have in common. Happily, this investigation was a family affair as we travelled through the United Kingdom, southern Ontario and British Columbia, attending Messy Churches along the way. Clare and Rachel are now experts and can give anyone who’s interested a full recounting of our experience and findings!

More broadly, we also spent a lot of time simply *going* to church – attending big ones, small ones; long-established churches and new church “plants”. Some were United Churches, while many were not. Throughout, I searched for thriving, vibrant church communities that embraced and attracted a wide range of people, and were welcoming to our family. I’d like to tell you there is a magic bullet for building a vibrant faith-based community today, but that would do an injustice to the many, highly innovative ways the churches we visited are engaging their respective communities.

There were churches in BC that were tearing down or renovating their buildings in order to build affordable housing – badly needed in an extremely expensive housing market. We found a downtown Toronto church plant that is standing-room-only for three services on a Sunday. This was filled with 20-somethings who raised enough money in a few months to not only buy a home that they donated to Matthew House - an agency that works with refugees - but also pay the utilities for a year! In Victoria, we participated with a neo-monastic community that combines contemporary popular music, traditional hymns, edgy preaching and high-Anglican liturgy. In Toronto, we attended a large, established United Church with a new, young staff is “turning around the cruise ship” slowly, by combining beloved traditions with new styles of ministry. And an Anglican church right in our neighbourhood that was ready to close its doors, instead created such a radically-welcoming ethos and practice that it’s now thriving. (An example is a new youth program that attracts 70+ teens for an after-school drop-in every week to “just chill”. When I asked the priest how they advertise this with the youth, she replied “We don’t. They just tell each other and show up”.)

Despite the differences in approaches to community engagement, I found three qualities that were shared by all these churches:

A passion for reaching out into the world or the neighbourhood;

A clear understanding of the context – the neighbourhoods in which they occupied; and

An awareness of the importance of creating exciting, new ministries and worship experiences that people could invite their friends and neighbours to share, that was “church”, not just entertainment.

Without exception, all had a ministry they as a congregation were passionate about and it was that passion and joy that made what they were doing so magnetic. They understood which of the valued, historic traditions to preserve and what to let go of, within the context of introducing inspiring and exciting changes.

Isn’t that what the transformational love of God through Jesus truly represents? Something familiar and comforting, yet at the same time exciting and challenging. The pastor of C3, the large church full of millennials in downtown Toronto, preached that we need to thank God for where we’ve come from, but then take action for what God is calling us to next. He urged his congregation to “give thanks for

the prayers that God has already answered in our lives, but not to get stuck there, not let the comfortableness of answered prayer keep us from new prayers, new actions, new ministries”.

This is a lesson that was not lost on me and should not be lost on us. Runnymede United Church has a rich history deeply rooted in Bloor West Village and our connection with this community. We are truly a neighbourhood church and I enjoy standing at the doors on Sunday morning and watching the people of this neighbourhood walk here each week. We have strong representation of many different generations in our pews and in our leadership. We have been blessed with good stewardship of financial and human resources. And our lovely building – so well taken care of always – stands as the physical manifestation of our faith and symbol of our commitment to the community.

These are rich blessings that form the foundation of the vibrant, bustling, passionate community of faith we must continue to build to inspire both our current congregation and others to join us. Now is the time to discern what we value of our historic traditions and answered prayers and determine our new vision – the exciting ministry, the passionate project God is calling us to now. Let us give thanks for the comfort and richness of our lives and for our answered prayers. But let us also recognize that God is always opening doors and inviting us into new opportunities to be embraced.

Let 2018 be the year that we embrace the life the God of Creation, through Jesus the Christ and infused with what the Holy Spirit offers to us – and through us to this neighbourhood and beyond.

Rev. Katherine

MUSIC AT RUNNYMEDE

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

The Chancel Choir is the backbone of our music program, made up of tireless volunteers who attend weekly rehearsals and share the leadership Sunday mornings with the ministerial and music staff. They even show up to lead singing in the summer! Their hard work has contributed so much to the worship at Runnymede, it is impossible to express enough gratitude for their gift of music. They are ably led by soloists/section leads Pat Ainslie, Sabrina-Santelli-Perez, Trevor Peverley and Don Tripe. Trevor joined us full-time last fall after Nathan Smith had to leave because of scheduling issues. We are grateful to both of them for their multi-instrument offerings!

The year was marked by some special services and events:

- We marked the 275th anniversary of the premiere of Handel's Messiah by performing choruses and solos throughout the Lenten season
- Our Good Friday service featured Canadian composer Eleanor Daley's stunning Requiem
- We celebrated Canada's 150th birthday by singing anthems by Canadian composers for the 3 months leading up to July 1st.
- We welcomed the fantastic bluegrass group The Barrel Boys (featuring Nathan Smith) for a service of great old-time gospel music in the spring.
- Our summer services were filled with diverse solo offerings from choir and congregation members.
- We celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with guest speaker Rev. Dr. John Ambrose in a father-son service of history, theology and music.
- A children's choir started up to augment the pageant and another 4-week session will start in late February
- The Chancel Choir joined forces with the Royal York Road United Church choir for a massed choir for this year's reading of Dickens' A Christmas Carol
- ESA's Strad string ensemble once again provided accompaniment for the Carols By Candlelight, which featured the baroque masterpiece Gloria by Antonio Vivaldi

Thanks again to Katherine and Don for their support of the music program and our activities. Thanks as well to the Ministry and Personnel Committee for allowing me the opportunity to take sabbatical time in 2017, which included attending the World Choral Symposium in Barcelona in July. And special thanks to our phenomenal organist Carl, who led the music program during my absences!

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

Musically yours,

David Ambrose, Director of Music

OFFICE REPORT

Once again, I have so many people to thank for another positive year! Great thanks go to Rev Katherine and Rev Don, David Ambrose, Carl Steinhauser, Don Dewees, Santiago Duque; Brenda and Jim Lien, Derrick Hempel, Brian Traquair, David Wilcox, Gary Norris, Judy Whitfield, Ann Gibson, Linda Marentette; our new Youth leader, Cayley Pimentel; Spencer Tripe and Laurie Tripe; the M and P committee, and everyone who volunteered in support of worship and all the other great events this past year! This list would truly be endless!

I have been working on updating the Policies and Procedures Manual, which was last updated in 2013. This includes many aspects of church function, from the Constitution of the church, to job descriptions and property policies. The manual will be made available to the Board and to the Ministry and Personnel Committee before April 1, 2018.

Use of Space, and the revenue it generates, has continued to grow. Although we are sad to see Northern Karate move on to their own space, we have not lost any other regular users this year. We have become a popular and useful community resource. The Beavers cut one of their evenings, which freed up the hall for an evening, allowing us more flexibility in booking. The City of Toronto has increased its use of our hall and we have 4 community events scheduled in February and March. We are also looking forward to working with an organization that support young adults with special needs as they develop a new program. We increased rental to a music organization who now rent the underused West Room, three days a week to teach lessons. MumNet increased their use and added an additional mother's group on Tuesdays. I look forward to working with more community organizations, which not only enhance our position in the Bloor West community, but it benefits the bottom line! Don Dewees worked hard on developing a rate schedule so that we are compliant with Canada Revenue rules and so that we continue to provide fair and consistent use of space guidelines. If you have any questions about how this works, do not hesitate to contact the office.

We hosted only one on-site wedding this year, so my focus for 2018 will be to market our beautiful church, so that we might become a go-to wedding venue in the community. We have 2 weddings booked so far.

I assumed the role of 'envelope secretary' in June. Although my Excel skills are limited, I look forward to supporting Brian and the finance committee in this new role. As you will read in David Wilcox's database report, we are moving toward an online system to issue statements and receipts, which will bring us in line with how many charities function in Canada, and help us save money (and a few trees) used on postage. Please send your consent and confirm your email address to the office today.

Our Social Media presence continues to grow. I created an Instagram account, which is a wonderful platform for sharing news and photos of the church and all of our events. Our followers on all platforms, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram continues to grow. Find us and follow us today! Our newsletter continues to be published 4 times per year. Look out for our Spring, Summer and Fall newsletters. We are always looking for news from our families, so send your family news and photos to me at any time!

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

RUNNYMEDE UNITED – DATABASE REPORT 2017

The database Servant Keeper was implemented in 2016 and RUC has now had two years of using it. Last year we sent out e-mails asking to families with members or adherents in the household (asking them) to confirm or update the data we hold about them. Sadly, the response to this request was somewhat lower than we had hoped. This was partly due to the fact that many of the e-mail addresses we had on file were out of date. We followed this e-mail with a letter which we sent out with the first statement of the year in April. Some further responses were received however the overall level of response is unfortunately still only at around 25%.

During the course of 2017 we were able to produce several analyses of contribution data to help the treasurer and stewardship committee with their understanding of how contributions change over time. We have also been working on producing a procedures manual for using Servant Keeper at Runnymede. This is to ensure that we have a consistent method of handling the information we keep in our system.

One feature of Servant Keeper we are intending to use in 2018 is the ability to send periodic statements and also tax receipts by e-mail. (We have) Several families (who) have agreed to us sending this information by this mechanism and it will be used for the first time for the 2017 statements and tax receipts. For those of you who have agreed to receive your data in this way, was ask your indulgence if we don't get it quite right first time.

By using e-mail to send out statements and receipts we are saving money for Runnymede as we no longer use paper or printing ink to produce them and we no longer need an envelope or have to pay the postage to send it to you. However, we would like to make it clear that this is an option. We will only send your statements and receipts by e-mail when you have given us clear confirmation that you wish it. If we have not had that clear confirmation we will still send you a paper copy.

If you are reading this and have not yet signed up for e-mail delivery and are happy for us to use this mechanism then please call or email the office office@runnymedeunited.org

Submitted by David Wilcox, Database Administrator, dbadmin@runnymedeunited.org

BOARD CHAIR

Reflections on 2017

Faith without work is dead. This is found in James 2:14, and it has amazed me how much faith is found in action at Runnymede. Our motto is “Come to Life at Runnymede” and I am constantly witnessing acts of faith by the members of this community. The past year saw many examples of this.

Official Launch of the New Kitchen

The new kitchen was officially launched with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 23, 2017. Heartfelt gratitude to the entire Kitchen Construction team led by Judy Whitfield.

Deficit Dinner

We were rounded up for a rootin', tootin' good time at the Western-themed Deficit Dinner in November. Chili and corn, singing cowboys, rhinestone cowboys, and jailtime for everyone – it was a great time put on by a great crew!

Craft Show

Judy Whitfield and her team ran yet another very successful Arts & Crafts Show. Not only was a significant amount of money raised for Mission and Service, but it gave people an opportunity to “buy local” and support local artisans.

Community Meal

Gail Hutton and the community meal team have hosted numerous meals, all well attended. They've been making good use of our new kitchen, and the dishwashers in particular have noticed the difference!

Alpha

The Alpha team spent the Fall of 2017 preparing for the January launch of the Alpha program, which invites people to learn about the Christian faith and to ask questions in a safe, supportive group environment. We plan to continue holding Alpha sessions at RUC on a regular basis.

A Year in Canada – Our Syrian Refugee family

Our official sponsorship of the Saadeh family has ended, we celebrated their one year anniversary in October 2017. Time flies. I had the opportunity to be at the reception marking the end of the year, and I was impressed with the depth of the relationships that had been formed with the family and between all the members of the committee.

And we continue to battle on and support the refugee claim of the Ridha Family, who suffer terribly in Iraq and desire nothing less than to reunite with their aunt, Amal Radha, here in Canada.

Christmas Pageant

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

Dickens Night

This evening continues to be the highlight of the Christmas season, and it is, for many, the kick-off for Advent. All the proceeds go to The Stop, a charity in Parkdale, and is a great example of the many ways in which RUC reaches out to the community. We were blessed to have great performers such as Jayne Eastwood, Eric Peterson, Robin Duke, Gill Deacon, Lisa Horner, Annie Kidder and Jeff Douglas.

New Ways to Give

Tithe.ly, Debit and Credit payments have all simplified donations. In addition to PAR, these alternative collection methods have been well received by our members and visitors.

Thank you

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

The Administrative Team

Alison Gadsby, our church administrator, is so much more than that. She looks after our needs by running an efficient office and supporting all the various demands of the church, including the use of social media to help spread the good news.

Santiago Duque is our dedicated full-time caretaker who, together with Spencer Tripe, ensures that our spiritual home is well cared for. Their passion for their work is obvious.

The Worship Team

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

Reverend Don Gibson and Reverend Katherine Brittain each completed their sabbaticals in 2017 and have returned with new vigour and ideas for our church community. During the time they were off, we had a number of people step in to help with various church duties, including Emily Mather, who oversaw our Sunday School. Many, many thanks to all.

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

The RUC Board

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

Runnymeders

To all of you, the members of Runnymede United Church, a hearty thank you for your faith, your actions, and your support. We continue to come together to build our community in Christ's name, to spread the Good News, and to fight for justice. I look forward to seeing what we can do together to worship God in 2018!

Derrick Hempel, Chair of the Runnymede Board

Runnymede United Church

To: Finance Committee & Distribution List
From: Brian Traquair
Date: January 6, 2018

Subject Treasurer Report
Year-End 2017

FINANCIAL RESULTS

- For the year 2017, we had a year-end surplus of +\$6,925.
- This surplus is after a \$20,000 transfer of Special Appeal fund raising from 2017 to 2018.
- Total receipts were \$50,221 more than last year, with current lower (-\$2,109), loose giving lower (-\$533), rent higher (+\$14,530) and fund raising higher (+\$4,151). Also, the Deficit Special Appeal raised \$34,182 this year, versus no appeal in 2016.
- Total expenses were \$22,739 more than last year, with staff higher (+\$6,144), office lower (-\$2,860), property higher (+\$20,871), presbytery dues lower (-\$1,065), HST refund lower (-\$3,912) and programs lower (-\$4,263).

FUNDS AND FUND RAISING

- The Trustee Investments negative balance is money provided to the Trustees to invest.
- All funds were in positive territory including GI&C at \$88,300, the Capital Campaign Fund at \$56,967 and the Refugee Fund at \$28,596.
- Our Deficit Special Appeal was an incredible success, raising \$34,182, which was more than twice our need and goal for 2017. We are transferring an excess \$20,000 of these funds into 2018 to cover required fund raising next year.

BUDGET

- Overall, we had a surplus of \$26,925 for 2017 (before the Special Appeal transfer to 2018).
- Income was over budget with envelopes under (-\$7,831), loose under (-\$482), rent over (+\$16,287) and fund raising over (+\$6,498). The Deficit Special Appeal yielded \$34,182, with a budget of \$0. Total income was +\$48,654 over budget.
- Expenses were under budget in staff (-\$1,001), under in office (-\$2,402), over in property (+\$19,535), under in HST refund (-\$10,161) and under in programs (-\$4,494). Total expenses were \$21,729 over budget.
- Mission and Service donations were \$65,528 year-to-date, above 2016 at \$63,086. Our M&S contributions exceeded our target for 2017 by \$1,528.
- General Improvement & Contingency donations were \$24,370, below 2016 at \$25,557.

FINANCIAL STATUS

- The bank balance at the end of the month was \$70,944.

Brian

Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Payments

December 2017

() means worse

2017 Budget		Last Year
Annual	Adjusted	To Date
350,000	350,000	344,278
7,000	7,000	7,051
85,000	85,000	86,757
15,000	15,000	15,000
5,000	5,000	5,907
10,000	10,000	11,440
0	0	0
472,000	472,000	470,433
91,000	91,000	89,500
78,250	78,250	77,000
750	750	900
38,250	38,250	37,135
38,600	38,600	40,552
10,560	10,560	12,028
0	0	0
7,200	7,200	6,268
49,650	49,650	47,117
52,990	52,990	49,605
367,250	367,250	360,105
22,750	22,750	23,208
66,500	66,500	65,164
14,500	14,500	15,495
-15,000	-15,000	-8,751
16,000	16,000	15,769
472,000	472,000	470,990
0	0	-557

CURRENT OPERATING ACCOUNT		vs. Budget	17 vs. 16	Adj	Final
RECEIPTS					
Envelopes (Current)	342,169	-7,831	-2,109		
Loose	6,518	-482	-533		
Rent	101,287	16,287	14,530		
Trustee Manse	15,000	0	0		
Fund Raising (Craft Show et al)	6,227	1,227	320		
Fund Raising (Events/13th Mon)	15,271	5,271	3,831		
Special Deficit Reduction	34,182	34,182	34,182	-20,000	14,182
Total Receipts	\$520,654	48,654	50,221	-20,000	30,221
PAYMENTS					
Salaries & Benefits					
Minister (Don)	91,000	0	-1,500		
Minister (Katherine)	78,250	0	-1,250		
Subs (& sabbatical grants)	-2,373	3,123	3,273		
Office (Alison, Jim [sec])	37,956	294	-821		
Property (Santiago, Spencer)	44,225	-5,625	-3,673		
Youth (Kaitlin, Cayley)	9,900	660	2,128		
Community Meal (team)	0	0	0		
Sunday School (team)	6,335	865	-67		
Music (team)	49,777	-127	-2,660		
Benefits (All)	51,179	1,811	-1,574		
Total	366,249	1,001	-6,144		
Office Expenses	20,348	2,402	2,860		
Property Expense	86,035	-19,535	-20,871		
Presbytery Dues	14,430	70	1,065		
HST Refund	-4,839	-10,161	-3,912		
Program Expense	11,506	4,494	4,263		
Total Payments	\$493,729	-21,729	-22,739	To 2018	
CURRENT OPERATING POSITION					
	\$26,925	26,925	27,482	-20,000	6,925
	Revised Op Position		6,925	-6,925	0
				To GI&C	

Last YTD
41
62,005
0
-44,957
10,500
10,300
1,788
17,176
9,345
11,672
15,466
3,576
710
3,796
536
2,301
-71,403
3,162
1,902
37,875

OTHER FUNDS	Jan 1/17	Receipts	Payments	Balance	Adj	Final
Coins Held	41	780	739	0		0
G I & C Fund	62,005	24,370	5,000	81,375	6,925	88,300
Mission & Service Fund	0	65,528	65,528	0		0
Capital Campaign	-44,957	268,467	166,543	56,967		56,967
Choir Fund	10,500	250	250	10,500		10,500
Music and Musicians Fund	10,300	79	0	10,379		10,379
Pastoral Care Fund	1,788	760	900	1,648		1,648
Memorial Fund	17,176	0	11,440	5,736		5,736
Kenyan AIDS Orphans Fund	9,345	28,387	27,560	10,172		10,172
Outreach Fund	11,672	790	2,945	9,517		9,517
Community Meal Fund	15,466	2,267	10,334	7,399		7,399
Refugee Fund	3,576	29,340	4,320	28,596		28,596
Craft Show Fund Raising	710	13,448	13,283	875		875
Youth Mission (Kenya)	3,796	0	0	3,796		3,796
Youth Fund	536	5,446	0	5,982		5,982
Owed Other Organizations	2,301	11,204	11,269	2,236		2,236
Trustee Investments	-71,403	-309,820	-175,000	-206,223		-206,223
Pay Liabilities	3,162	14,885	4,885	13,162		13,162
Retained Earnings	1,902	0	0	1,902		1,902
Total Other Funds	37,875	155,401	149,257	44,019	6,925	50,944
BANK BALANCE				\$70,944		

RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Payments

December 2017

() means worse

2017 Budget		Last Year	PROGRAMS	Receipts	Payments	Net	17 vs. 16
Annual	Adjusted	To Date					
500	500	208	Adult Growth	364	650	286	-78
3,250	3,250	4,890	Clergy Continuing Education	0	2,847	2,847	2,043
1,500	1,500	2,214	Ministry & Personnel	0	280	280	1,934
3,500	3,500	3,136	Music & Arts	344	2,977	2,633	503
2,000	2,000	1,752	Stewardship & Communications	0	1,485	1,485	267
1,250	1,250	832	Sunday School	59	286	227	605
750	750	-100	Welcoming & Membership	608	733	125	-225
1,750	1,750	1,497	Worship	0	2,245	2,245	-748
1,500	1,500	1,340	Youth	920	2,298	1,378	-38
16,000	16,000	15,769	Total Programs	2,295	13,801	11,506	4,263

2017 Budget		Last Year	OFFICE	Receipts	Payments	Net	17 vs. 16
Annual	Adjusted	To Date					
1,500	1,500	1,657	Copying and Paper	0	731	731	926
3,000	3,000	3,669	Envelopes & PAR	337	3,717	3,380	289
6,000	6,000	5,686	Photocopier	800	6,222	5,422	264
1,250	1,250	1,138	Postage	0	1,337	1,337	-199
5,250	5,250	6,479	Sundry & Software	0	4,732	4,732	1,747
750	750	162	Supplies	5	1,344	1,339	-1,177
5,000	5,000	4,417	Telephone	1,661	5,068	3,407	1,010
22,750	22,750	23,208	Total Office	2,803	23,151	20,348	2,860

2017 Budget		Last Year	PROPERTY	Receipts	Payments	Net	17 vs. 16
Annual	Adjusted	To Date					
7,500	7,500	8,023	Building and Repairs	269	17,706	17,437	-9,414
3,000	3,000	4,912	Elevator Expenses	0	2,437	2,437	2,475
4,000	4,000	3,335	Equipment and Organ Repairs	0	15,638	15,638	-12,303
10,000	10,000	10,090	Insurance	0	10,245	10,245	-155
3,000	3,000	2,506	Maintenance	0	3,057	3,057	-551
8,000	8,000	7,266	Supplies	0	5,072	5,072	2,194
8,000	8,000	8,784	Hydro	0	10,020	10,020	-1,236
17,500	17,500	15,272	Gas	0	17,389	17,389	-2,117
3,000	3,000	2,939	Water	0	2,660	2,660	279
2,500	2,500	2,037	Workers' Compensation	0	2,080	2,080	-43
66,500	66,500	65,164	Total Property	269	86,304	86,035	-20,871

**RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
FINANCIAL HISTORY**

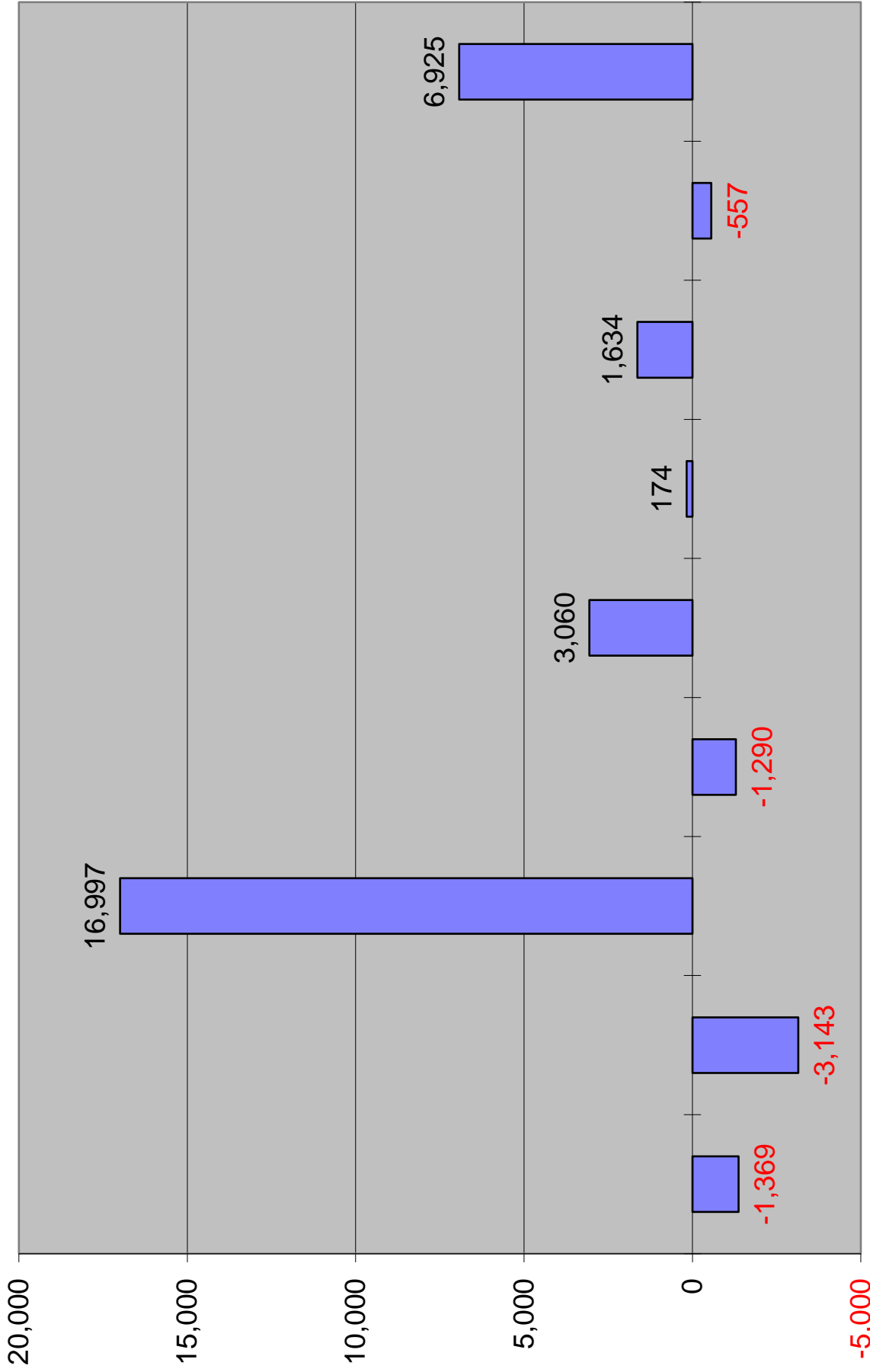
Runnymede United Church Financial History	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual
Receipts							
Envelopes (Current)	300,970	294,053	296,566	296,393	315,061	327,465	335,658
Loose	8,610	9,219	10,314	10,065	9,815	9,214	10,562
Rents	42,313	41,179	55,302	59,705	72,642	70,486	77,231
Trustee Manse Funds	16,500	16,500	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Craft Show and Fund Raising	3,824	7,612	10,574	4,500	5,423	5,554	6,218
Fund Raising Events	6,500	4,824	4,109	1,425	14,610	26,267	13,243
Special/Trustee Fund Raising	0	0	0	12,000	12,000	6,000	0
Total Receipts	378,717	373,387	391,865	399,088	444,551	459,986	457,912
Payments							
Salaries & Benefits							
Minister (first)	65,100	66,900	34,350	54,000	83,500	85,600	87,750
Minister (second)	48,008	66,900	68,700	46,000	71,700	73,720	75,750
Minister (third)	22,675			29,225	0		
Minister (substitute)	1,000	550	1,725	715	-113	2,511	462
Office	32,820	33,420	33,720	34,270	34,920	34,920	28,101
Property	35,109	35,925	36,350	37,665	40,998	39,010	37,100
Youth	5,200	6,600	8,000	5,880	5,600	11,868	10,080
Community Meal (staff)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,400
Sunday School	0	3,900	7,200	4,560	5,765	5,580	7,864
Music	38,280	37,920	39,780	40,500	41,250	42,300	42,663
Benefits (All)	36,924	37,854	35,928	37,327	48,178	52,894	46,029
Total	285,116	289,969	265,753	290,142	331,798	348,403	338,199
Office Expenses	10,753	11,796	11,574	13,411	14,956	17,828	27,347
Property Expenses	64,528	54,419	75,457	76,063	70,723	70,923	68,096
Presbytery Dues	8,726	12,600	12,750	11,550	12,702	13,357	14,625
GST/HST Refund	-2,464	-4,351	-4,542	-9,772	-10,338	-8,075	-9,762
Program Expense	13,427	12,097	13,876	18,984	21,650	17,376	17,773
Total Payments	380,086	376,530	374,868	400,378	441,491	459,812	456,278
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-1,369	-3,143	16,997	-1,290	3,060	174	1,634

**RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
FINANCIAL HISTORY**

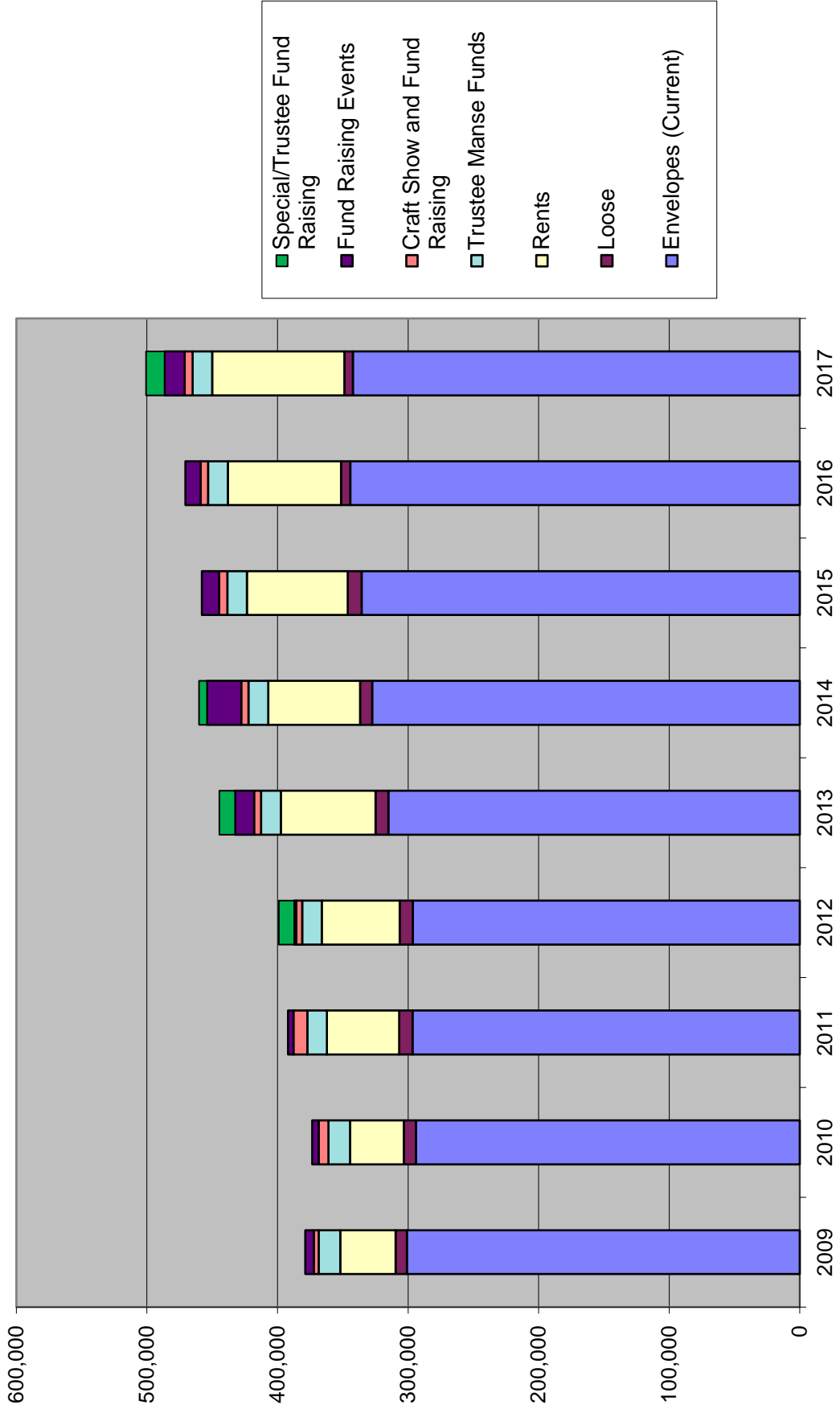
DETAILED BREAKDOWN		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
PROGRAMS								
Adult Growth		120	969	-362	608	301	1,049	194
Clergy Continuing Education		1,906	1,098	962	200	4,150	2,311	3,446
Ministry & Personnel		2,254	499	2,185	2,742	4,553	1,484	872
Music & Arts		2,231	2,055	2,812	2,594	2,382	1,372	4,291
Stewardship & Communications		1,083	1,795	971	1,391	1,596	2,299	2,438
Sunday School		724	685	114	1,807	1,944	2,803	1,795
Welcoming & Membership		432	136	548	1,460	1,086	910	1,232
Worship		3,265	2,394	2,274	3,573	2,266	1,819	2,229
Youth		1,239	2,316	1,764	2,000	972	929	1,276
Total Programs		13,427	11,947	13,876	18,984	21,650	17,376	17,773
OFFICE								
Copying and Paper		959	1,633	1,512	1,032	1,618	762	1,240
Envelopes & PAR		1,768	1,497	1,607	1,432	1,716	2,090	2,309
Machine Contracts		344	2,163	2,066	2,542	2,755	6,472	9,995
Postage		1,306	615	1,527	1,039	587	1,457	1,630
Sundry & Software		2,007	1,550	1,697	2,533	3,299	2,862	6,284
Supplies		1,000	1,215	279	1,712	1,180	190	1,232
Telephone		3,369	3,123	2,886	3,121	3,801	3,995	4,657
Total Office		10,753	11,796	11,574	13,411	14,956	17,828	27,347
PROPERTY								
Building and Repairs		8,399	9,726	24,672	14,681	13,248	10,843	3,125
Elevator Expenses		1,131	804	3,273	4,172	3,239	2,829	2,710
Equipment and Repairs		4,988	7,384	5,486	13,315	5,845	3,211	6,557
Insurance		6,374	7,310	7,619	8,741	9,030	9,933	9,933
Maintenance		2,786	3,374	3,370	6,112	3,410	3,480	3,147
Supplies		4,518	4,105	5,101	5,323	8,112	8,063	7,703
Hydro		5,823	6,261	7,429	6,442	7,552	8,467	8,009
Gas		27,852	12,828	15,694	13,879	15,627	20,002	22,351
Water		1,297	1,586	1,626	1,755	2,542	2,084	2,348
Workers' Compensation		1,360	1,041	1,187	1,643	2,118	2,011	2,213
Total Property		64,528	54,419	75,457	76,063	70,723	70,923	68,096

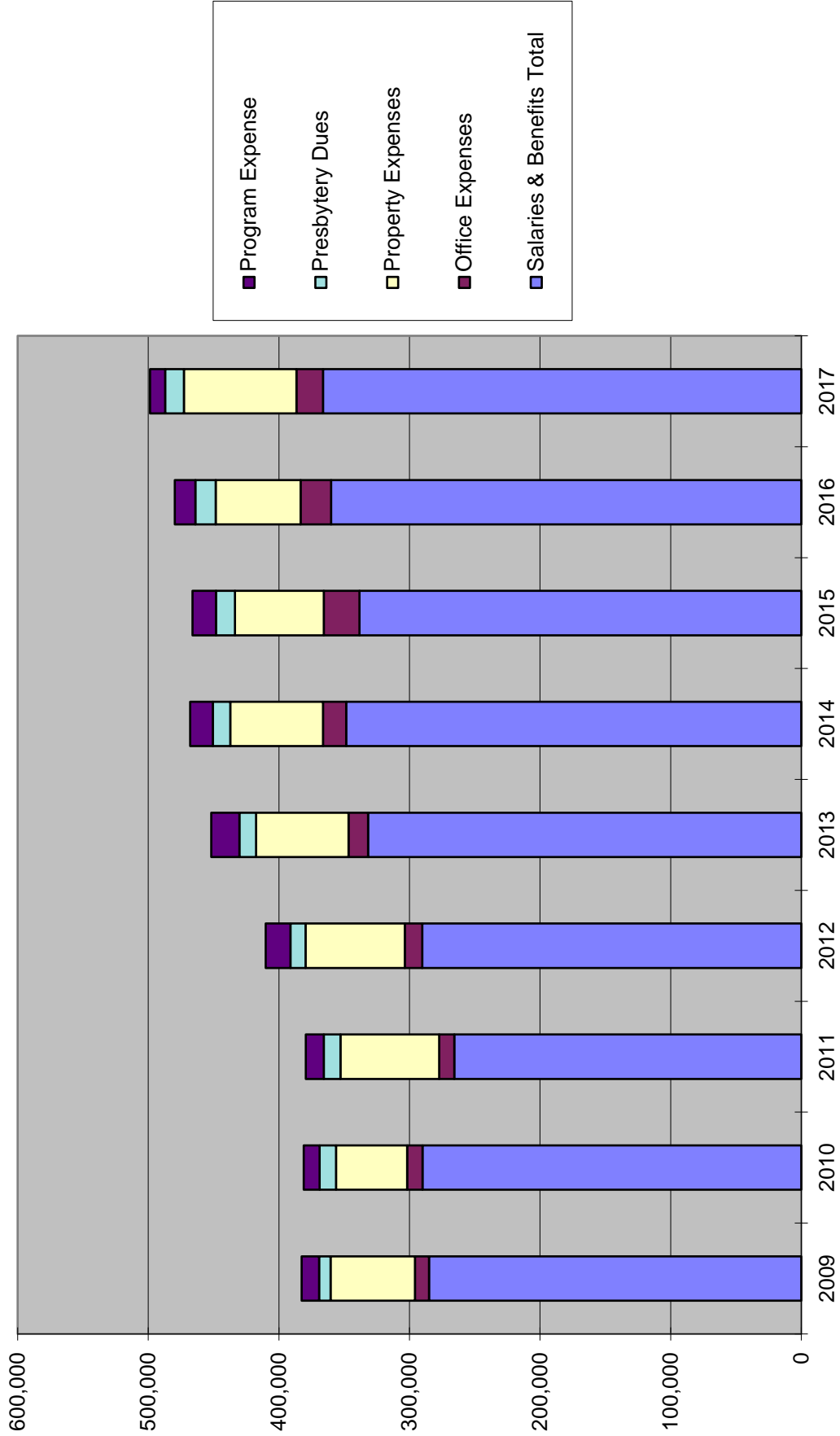
ANNUAL DEFICIT OR SURPLUS

2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017



Income by Type



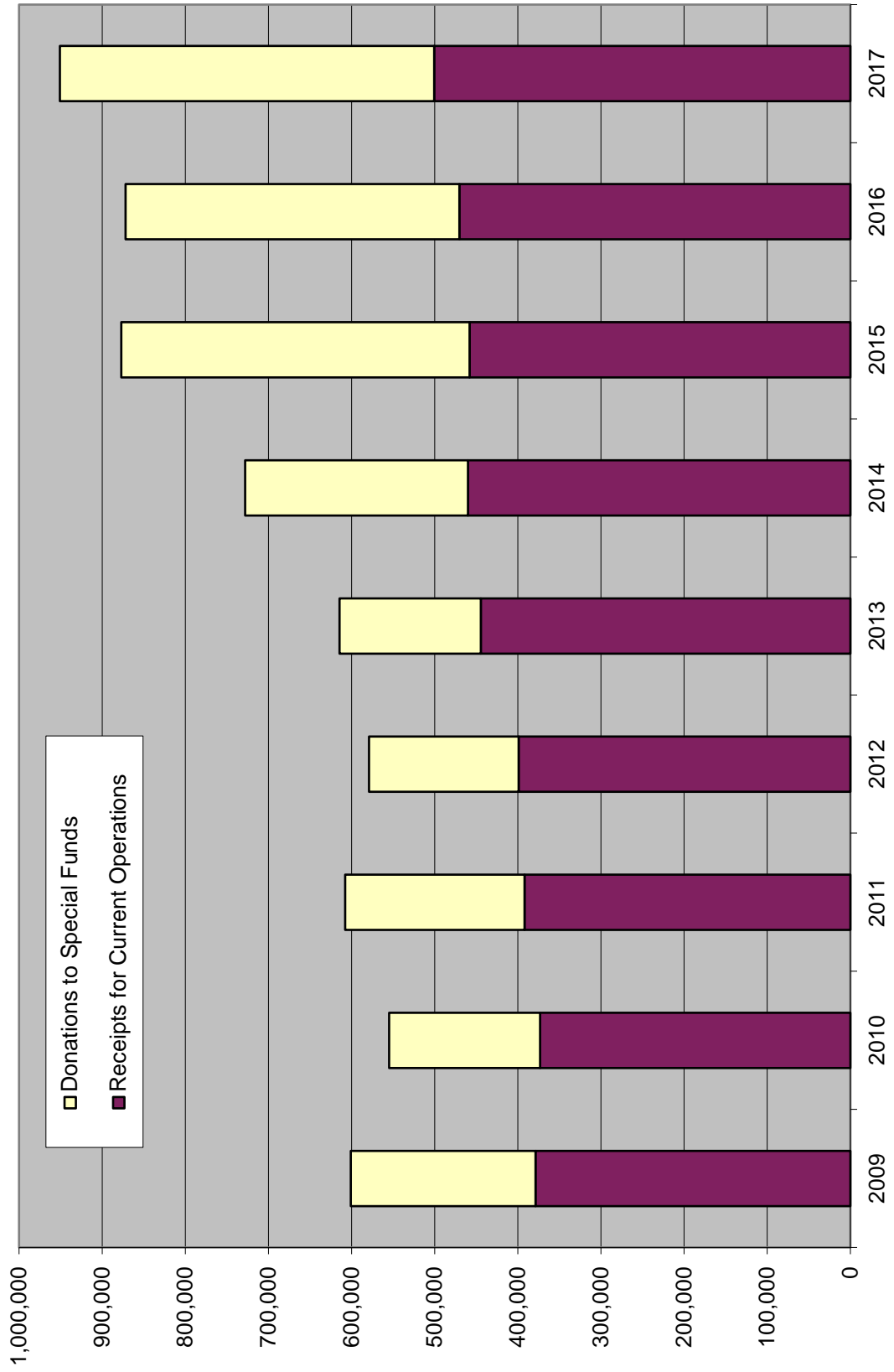


**RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
GIVING HISTORY**

Runnymede United Church Giving History	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual
Receipts									
Envelopes (Current)	300,970	294,053	296,566	296,393	315,061	327,465	335,658	344,278	342,169
Loose	8,610	9,219	10,314	10,065	9,815	9,214	10,562	7,051	6,518
Rents	42,313	41,179	55,302	59,705	72,642	70,486	77,231	86,757	101,287
Trustee Manse Funds	16,500	16,500	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Special Fund Raising	6,500	7,612	10,574	0	14,610	26,267	13,243	5,907	6,227
Craft Show / Flea Market	3,824	4,824	4,109	5,925	5,423	5,554	6,218	11,440	15,271
Trustee Deficit Coverage	0	0	0	12,000	12,000	6,000	0	0	14,182
Receipts for Current Operations	378,717	373,387	391,865	399,088	444,551	459,986	457,912	470,433	500,654
Funds									
Capital Campaign Fund						78,200	186,360	192,472	268,467
Flower/Pastoral Care Fund	1,491	905	830	1,094	1,344	536	1,050	1,230	760
GI & C Fund	86,150	27,532	30,467	52,350	41,946	24,250	27,962	33,670	24,370
Memorial Fund	170	1,775	605	1,360	100		3,355	716	
Mission & Service Fund	58,528	60,256	55,545	56,375	59,308	57,638	67,241	63,086	65,528
Music and Musicians Fund								10,300	79
Kenyan AIDS Orphans Fund	26,300	20,305	37,159	31,245	30,493	30,384	23,598	36,334	28,387
Out of the Cold/Com Meal Fund	7,702	6,999	6,130	6,657	8,367	13,519	8,098	8,036	2,267
Outreach Fund	11,212	13,880	9,636	6,068	2,654	4,358	948	10,696	790
Owed Other Organisations	21,031	22,820	17,051	6,425	11,283	28,813	13,378	11,791	11,204
Refugee Fund				6,660	1,100	2,000	4,573	20,380	29,340
UCW/Craft Show	9,023	10,541	10,722	11,446	12,475	12,143	12,107	12,510	13,448
Youth Mission Trip (Kenya)		6,480	44,608			14,020	67,307		
Youth Fund	358	9,907	3,222	144	995	2,050	3,255	50	5,446
Donations to Special Funds	222,289	181,400	215,975	179,824	170,065	267,911	419,232	401,271	450,086
Total Donations	601,006	554,787	607,840	578,912	614,616	727,897	877,144	871,704	950,740

Projects	washrooms pew cushions	washrooms office chimney	outside doors	office reno electrical kitchen gran	phone sys sewer fix kitchen gran	asbestos drains capital	carpet rads choir switch	kitchen audio nursery	gym roof
Operating Receipts year-over-year	0.8%	(1.4%)	4.9%	1.8%	11.4%	3.5%	(0.5%)	2.7%	6.4%
Total Donations year-over-year	18.8%	(7.7%)	9.6%	(4.8%)	6.2%	18.4%	20.5%	(0.6%)	9.1%

**Comparison over Time
Receipts for Current Operations versus Donations to Special Funds**



Runnymede United Church

To: RUC Church Board
From: Brian Traquair
Date: January 14, 2018

Subject 2018 Budget and 3-Year Plan

OVERVIEW

The attached spreadsheet summarizes the Runnymede 2018 budget and 3-Year plan. This memo provides an explanation by budget area and overall context for consideration of this plan.

2018 BUDGET SUMMARY

Income

On the income side for 2018, here are the important assumptions:

1. The 2018 Current Operations (envelopes) target is based on a +2.3% increase over 2017.

We have not hit our envelope giving budget in 2015, 2016 or 2017 – and all were set at the same dollar figure of \$350,000! In 2015, we achieved a 2.5% increase but fell short; in 2016, we achieved 2.6%, and again fell short; in 2017 we dropped by 0.6% and missed the Current Operations budget. We are now expending considerable effort to understand and increase congregational giving and have once again set our budget for 2018 at \$350,000. This means an increase in Current giving of +2.3% or \$7,800.

2. Loose giving dropped in both 2016 and 2017. We have therefore budgeted to stay at just above that level in 2018 and beyond.
3. Rental income has grown substantially in recent years and substantially exceeded budget again in 2017. This helped offset our congregational giving shortfall. We learned in December that one of our major renters – Northern Karate – is moving elsewhere in January, which will reduce our rent by over \$10,000 per year. We also believe that we are close to capacity. We have set the rent for 2018 to be at the record levels of 2017 minus most of the Northern Karate rent, as our best estimate.
4. Trustee manse fund income in 2018 is budgeted to remain level with last year, in order not to draw more than the interest income on the funds available to the Trustees.
5. The budget assumes that the Craft Show will continue to be successful and enable a donation of \$5,000 for Current and \$5,000 to M&S. The budget line also includes an additional \$500 that historically has come in from the Pancake Supper and other events which are not focused at fund raising but do have proceeds.
6. We now generally have a structural need fund raising each year. Because of the incredibly positive results of the Deficit Special Appeal in 2017, we were able to transfer \$20,000 of this income into 2018. This means we do not require the events based fund raising line in 2018. For 2019 and 2020 however, we will return to a necessity of fund raising through Deficit Dinners, MacGregors Meats and other fund raising events. We have a Rummage Sale planned for May 2018, and any proceeds from that event will be a contingency against shortfalls in other areas and hopefully a future contributor.

Expense

On the expense side for 2018, here are the important assumptions:

1. We have our ministry team of the Rev. Don Gibson and the Rev. Katherine Brittain, both in full-time ministry [Category F with housing allowance].
2. We have Alison Gatsby as our full-time church administrator and Jim Lien is responsible for security.
3. Santiago Duque our full-time caretaker and Spencer Tripe as our part-time Sunday caretaker. In order to address needed hours in our custodian function, we have increased the weekly hours and consequent compensation to Santiago Duque.
4. In the Music program, we have David Ambrose as our part-time music director, Carl Steinhäuser as our part-time organist and four part-time soloists (Pat Ainslie, Sabrina Perez, Trevor Peverley and Don Tripe).
5. In the Sunday School, we have five part-time Sunday School teachers. The cost is the same as budgeted for 2017.
6. In Youth, we have Cayley Pimental as our part-time Youth Leader.
7. Gail Hutton and Greg Philip share the part-time Community Meal Coordinator role. The budget shows \$0 cost for 2018 for these roles because the costs are drawn from the Community Meal Fund, as are food costs. We did this in 2017 as well.
8. We have included a Contingency provision in the staff area for unexpected costs.
9. Presbytery dues to Toronto Conference are set in accordance with their assessment.
10. The budgets for Office, Property and Programs are based on last year's expenditures and take into account expected changes for 2018 as understood by Finance and Property. The net impact is \$8,250 more in expenditures in 2018 compared to 2017 budget, but \$4,000 less than 2017 actuals.
11. The net expenses include an assumed HST refund that more than 2017 actuals. We expected an increase due to our capital projects, but these refunds were delayed due to changes in the government application and review process.

Commentary

The overall result is that the 2018 budget is a balanced budget, at a \$20,000 per year higher income and expenditure level than last year's budget. It is also \$2,000 below last year's actuals.

The budget for 2018 will require the Board and Congregation to:

- a) build attendance and giving that will result in a +2.3% increase in giving for core Current Operations from the congregation, and +2% per year in 2019 and 2020
- b) build a continuing annual fund-raising program to raise \$20,000 from events and other sources beginning in 2019

2018 THREE YEAR PLAN SUMMARY

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

We need 2.0% increases in Current Operations giving in each of 2019 and 2020 for us to support our staffing levels in Ministry, Sunday School, Music and Youth, plus annual salary and inflation increases. In 2017, giving shrank -0.6%. Our budget for 2018 is +2.3%.

The plan assumes continued and increased annual fund raising. We have a skip year in 2018 due to the generosity of the congregation in the 2017 Deficit Special Appeal, which enabled \$20,000 to be transferred into 2018 funds. For 2019 and 2020, and beyond, we need to build an annual fund raising capability to yield \$20,000 per year.

Action

The Treasurer and the Finance Committee recommend this 2018 Budget and 3-Year Financial Plan to the Board and to the Congregation for approval at the Annual General Meeting.



Brian Traquair, Treasurer, Runnymede United Church

**RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
2018 BUDGET**

SUMMARY Budget	2016		2017		2018		Better (Worse)		Notes on Budget
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Vs. Bud	Vs. Actual			
Receipts									
Current Operations (Envelopes)	344,278	350,000	342,169	350,000	-0.6%	350,000	0	2.3%	Percent increase for envelope giving
Loose	7,051	7,000	6,518	6,500		6,500	-500	7,831	Once again budget set to \$350K or 2.3% growth
Rent	86,757	85,000	101,287	95,000		95,000	10,000	-18	Set close to 2017 actuals
Trustee Manse Funds	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000		15,000	0	-6,287	Between 2017 budget & actual; lost one renter
Fund raising (craft show)	5,907	5,000	6,227	5,500		5,500	500	0	Unchanged Trustee interest income
Fund raising (events)	11,440	10,000	15,271	0		0	-10,000	-727	Craft show annual goal & misc fund raising
Fund raising (special)	0	0	14,182	20,000		20,000	20,000	-15,271	No fund raising due to 2017 Special transfer
Total Receipts	470,433	472,000	500,654	492,000		492,000	20,000	5,818	Transferred \$20K from 2017 \$34K in Special
Payments									
Salaries & Benefits									
Minister (Don)	89,500	91,000	91,000	92,200		92,200	-1,200	-1,200	2018 compensation
Minister (Katherine)	77,000	78,250	78,250	79,300		79,300	-1,050	-1,050	2018 compensation
Substitutes	900	750	-2,373	1,000		1,000	-250	-3,373	Included sabbaticals in 2017; now normal
Office (Alison, Jim [sec])	37,135	38,250	37,956	39,120		39,120	-870	-1,164	2018 compensation
Property (Santiago, Spencer)	40,552	38,600	44,225	41,900		41,900	-3,300	2,325	2018 compensation
Youth (Cayley)	12,028	10,560	9,900	10,550		10,550	10	-650	2018 compensation
Community Meal (team)	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	2018 compensation unchanged (from CM Fund)
Sunday School (team)	6,268	7,200	6,335	6,000		6,000	1,200	335	2018 comp (five part-time teachers)
Music staff (David, Carl, soloists)	47,117	49,650	49,777	50,450		50,450	-800	-673	2018 comp (director, organist + 4 soloists)
Contingency & Increases	0	0	0	2,000		2,000	-2,000	-2,000	Contingency
Benefits (All)	49,605	52,990	51,179	52,917		52,917	73	-1,738	Benefits indexed to staff and salaries
Staff Expenses	360,105	367,250	366,249	375,437		375,437	-8,187	-9,188	
Office Expenses	23,208	22,750	20,348	22,500		22,500	250	-2,152	See detail on next page
Property Expenses	65,164	66,500	86,035	76,000		76,000	-9,500	10,035	See detail on next page
Presbytery Dues	15,495	14,500	14,430	15,563		15,563	-1,063	-1,133	Assessment from Toronto Conference
HST Refund	-8,751	-15,000	-4,839	-12,500		-12,500	-2,500	7,661	HST refund now expected in 2018
Program Expenses	15,769	16,000	11,506	15,000		15,000	1,000	-3,494	See detail on next page
Total Payments	470,990	472,000	493,729	492,000		492,000	-20,000	1,729	
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-557	0	6,925	0		0	0	6,925	

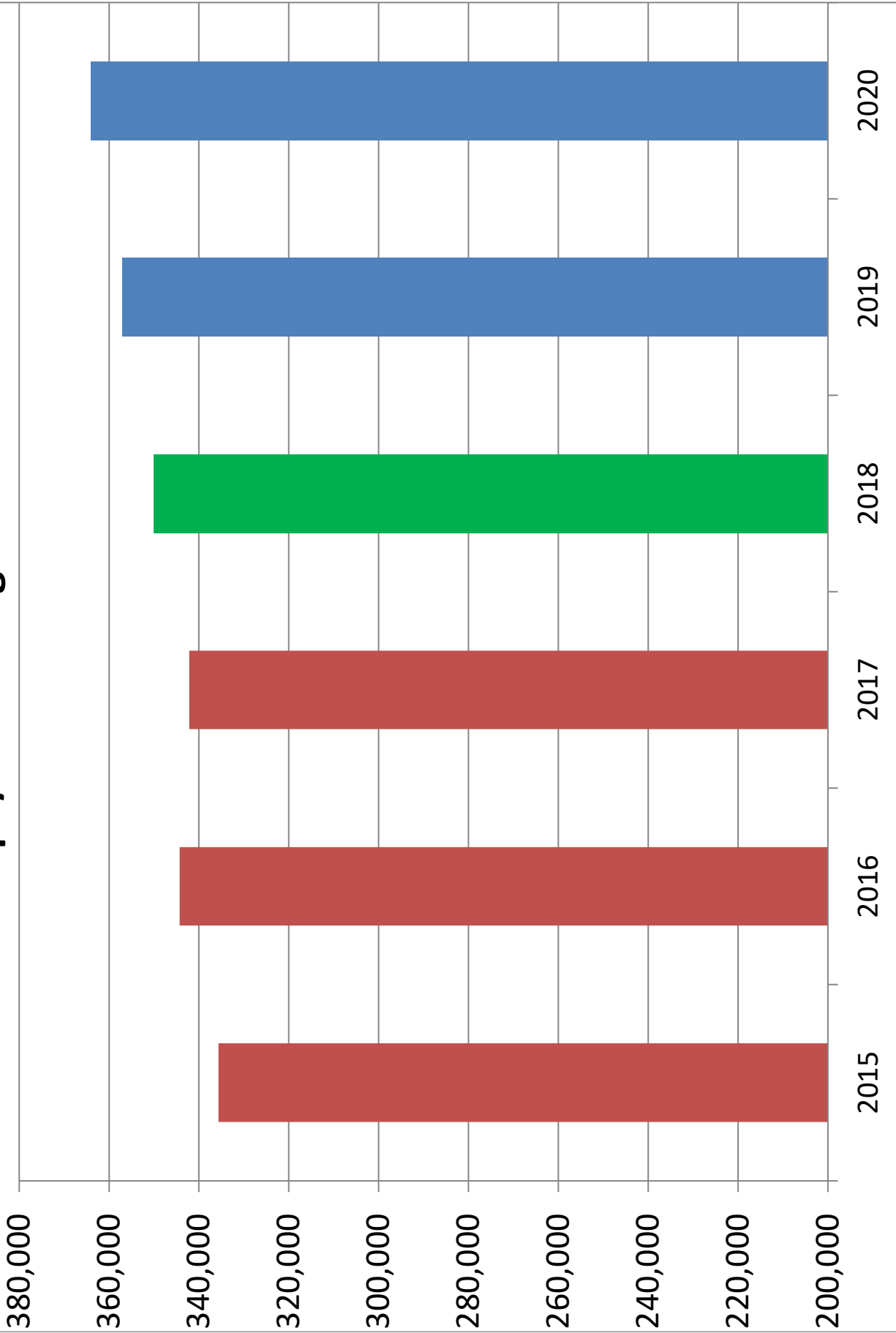
**RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
2018 BUDGET**

DETAILED BREAKDOWN	2016		2017		2018		Better (Worse)		Notes on Budget
	Actual	Budget	Budget	Actual	Budget	Vs. Bud	Vs. Actual		
PROGRAMS									
Adult Growth	208	500		286	750	-250	-464	Prior year budget plus Alpha	
Clergy Continuing Education	4,890	3,250		2,847	3,250	0	-403	Per policy and minister agreements	
Ministry & Personnel	2,214	1,500		280	1,000	500	-720	Between last year budget & actuals	
Music & Arts	3,136	3,500		2,633	3,000	500	-367	Between last year budget & actuals	
Stewardship & Communications	1,752	2,000		1,485	1,750	250	-265	Between last year budget & actuals	
Sunday School	832	1,250		227	750	500	-523	Between last year budget & actuals	
Welcoming & Membership	-100	750		125	500	250	-375	Between last year budget & actuals	
Worship	1,497	1,750		2,245	2,500	-750	-255	Increase from prior year budget	
Youth	1,340	1,500		1,378	1,500	0	-122	Prior year budget	
Total Programs	15,769	16,000		11,506	15,000	1,000	-3,494		
OFFICE									
Copying and Paper	1,657	1,500		731	1,000	500	-269	Between last year budget & actuals	
Envelopes & PAR	3,669	3,000		3,380	3,500	-500	-120	Increase from prior year budget	
Photocopier	5,686	6,000		5,422	6,000	0	-578	Prior year budget	
Postage	1,138	1,250		1,337	1,500	-250	-163	Increase from prior year budget	
Sundry & Software	6,479	5,250		4,732	5,250	0	-518	Prior year budget	
Supplies	162	750		1,339	1,250	-500	89	Increase from prior year budget	
Telephone	4,417	5,000		3,407	4,000	1,000	-593	Between last year budget & actuals	
Total Office	23,208	22,750		20,348	22,500	250	-2,152		
PROPERTY									
Building and Repairs	8,023	7,500		17,437	12,000	-4,500	5,437	Increase from prior year budget	
Elevator Expenses	4,912	3,000		2,437	3,000	0	-563	Prior year budget	
Equipment and Repairs	3,336	4,000		15,638	8,000	-4,000	7,638	Increase from prior year budget	
Insurance	10,089	10,000		10,245	10,250	-250	-5	Increase from prior year budget	
Maintenance	2,506	3,000		3,057	3,000	0	57	Prior year budget	
Supplies	7,266	8,000		5,072	7,000	1,000	-1,928	Between last year budget & actuals	
Hydro	8,784	8,000		10,020	10,000	-2,000	20	Increase from prior year budget	
Gas	15,272	17,500		17,389	17,500	0	-111	Prior year budget	
Water	2,939	3,000		2,660	3,000	0	-340	Prior year budget	
Workers' Compensation	2,037	2,500		2,080	2,250	250	-170	Between last year budget & actuals	
Total Property	65,164	66,500		86,035	76,000	-9,500	10,035		

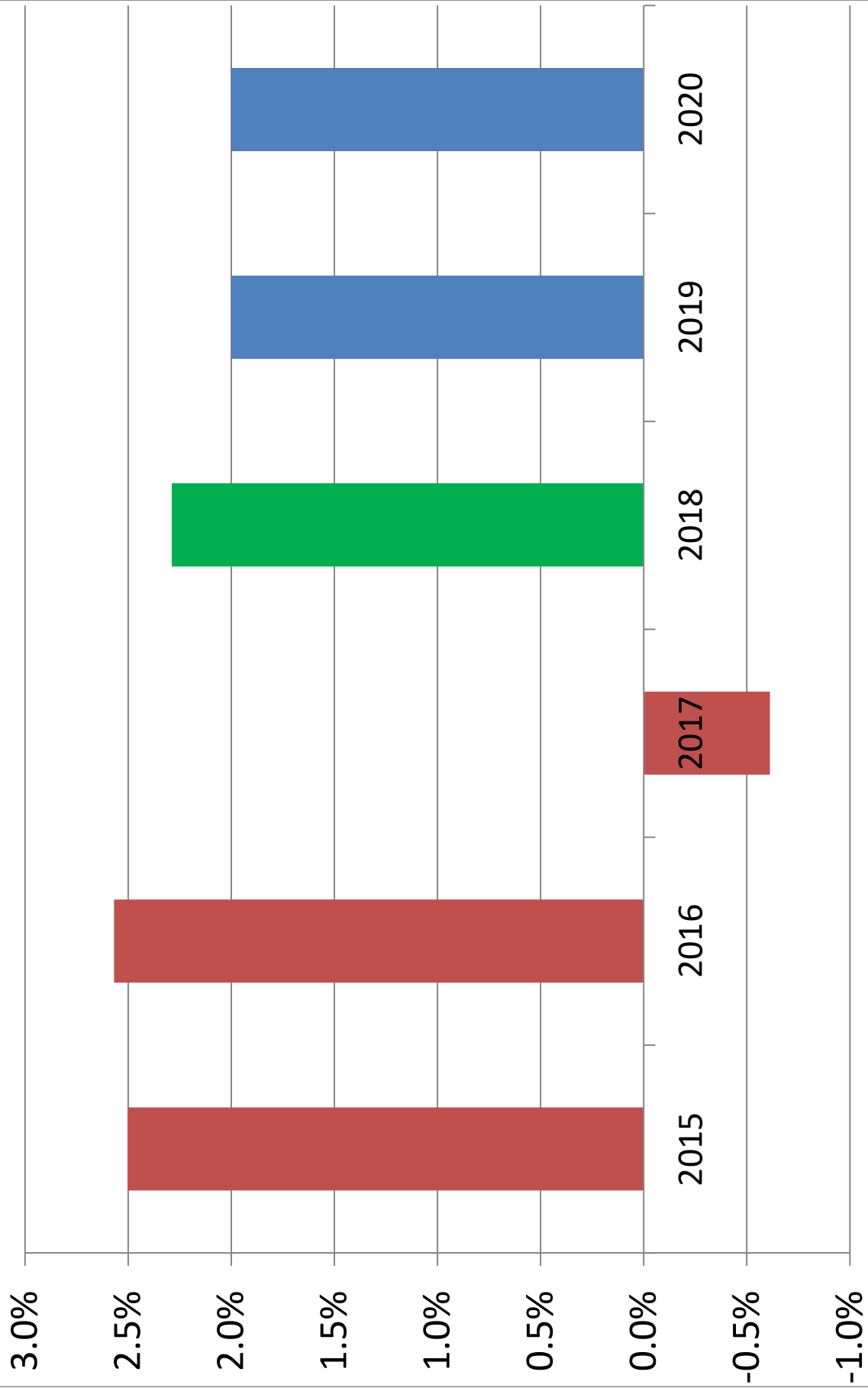
Runnymede 2018 Budget 3-Year Financial Plan

SUMMARY	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Budget	2019 Plan	2020 Plan	Notes
Receipts							
Current Operations (Envelopes)	335,658	344,278	342,169	350,000	357,000	364,100	Percent increase in total receipts
Loose	10,562	7,051	6,518	6,500	6,500	6,500	Percent increase in envelope givings
Rent	77,231	86,757	101,287	95,000	99,000	103,000	Need about 2% increase per year in Current
Trustee Manse Funds	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	Assumed flat over the planning period
Fund raising (craft show & misc)	6,218	5,907	6,227	5,500	6,000	6,000	Drop in 2018, then small growth annually
Fund raising (deficit dinner et al)	13,243	11,440	15,271	0	20,000	20,000	Unchanged; limited Trustee interest income
Fund raising (special or Trustees)	0	0	14,182	20,000	0	0	Craft show annual goal & misc fund raising
Total Receipts	457,912	470,433	500,654	492,000	503,500	514,600	Need fund raising or more current in '19 & '20 Special fund raising done in 2017
Payments							
Salaries & Benefits							
Minister (Don)	87,750	89,500	91,000	92,200	92,200	92,200	Percent increase in total expenditures
Minister (Katherine)	75,750	77,000	78,250	79,300	79,300	79,300	Full time minister
Staff substitutes	462	900	-2,373	1,000	1,500	1,500	Full time minister
Office (Alison, Jim)	28,101	37,135	37,956	39,120	39,120	39,120	Occasional substitutes
Property (Santiago, Spencer)	37,100	40,552	44,225	41,900	41,900	41,900	Church administrator and security
Youth (Cayley)	10,080	12,028	9,900	10,550	10,550	10,550	Daily & Sunday caretaking
Community Meal (Gail, Phillip)	2,400	0	0	0	0	0	Youth leader
Sunday School (team)	7,864	6,268	6,335	6,000	6,000	6,000	Two part-time co-ord's paid out of CM fund
Music staff (David, Carl, soloists)	42,663	47,117	49,777	50,450	50,450	50,450	Sunday school teachers and babyfold
Contingency & Increases	0	0	0	2,000	6,000	10,000	Music director, organist, soloists
Benefits (All)	46,029	49,605	51,179	52,917	54,980	56,080	Salary increases [cumulative] (about 2%)
Staff Expenses	338,199	360,105	366,249	375,437	382,000	387,100	Employer benefits & taxes
Office Expenses	27,347	23,208	20,348	22,500	23,500	24,000	Gradual increase in costs
Property Expenses	68,096	65,164	86,035	76,000	76,000	78,000	Gradual increase in costs
Presbytery Dues	14,625	15,495	14,430	15,563	16,000	16,500	Gradual increase in Tor Conf assessments
HST Refund	-9,762	-8,751	-4,839	-12,500	-10,000	-7,500	Rebates decline after capital projects done
Program Expenses	17,773	15,769	11,506	15,000	16,000	16,500	Gradual increase in costs
Total Payments	456,278	470,990	493,729	492,000	503,500	514,600	
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	1,634	-557	6,925	0	0	0	Balanced budgets
Envelope Increase History	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Change over prior year	1.9%	-2.3%	0.9%	-0.1%	6.3%	3.9%	
Envelope Change Year-over-Year	5,486	(6,917)	2,513	(173)	18,668	12,404	

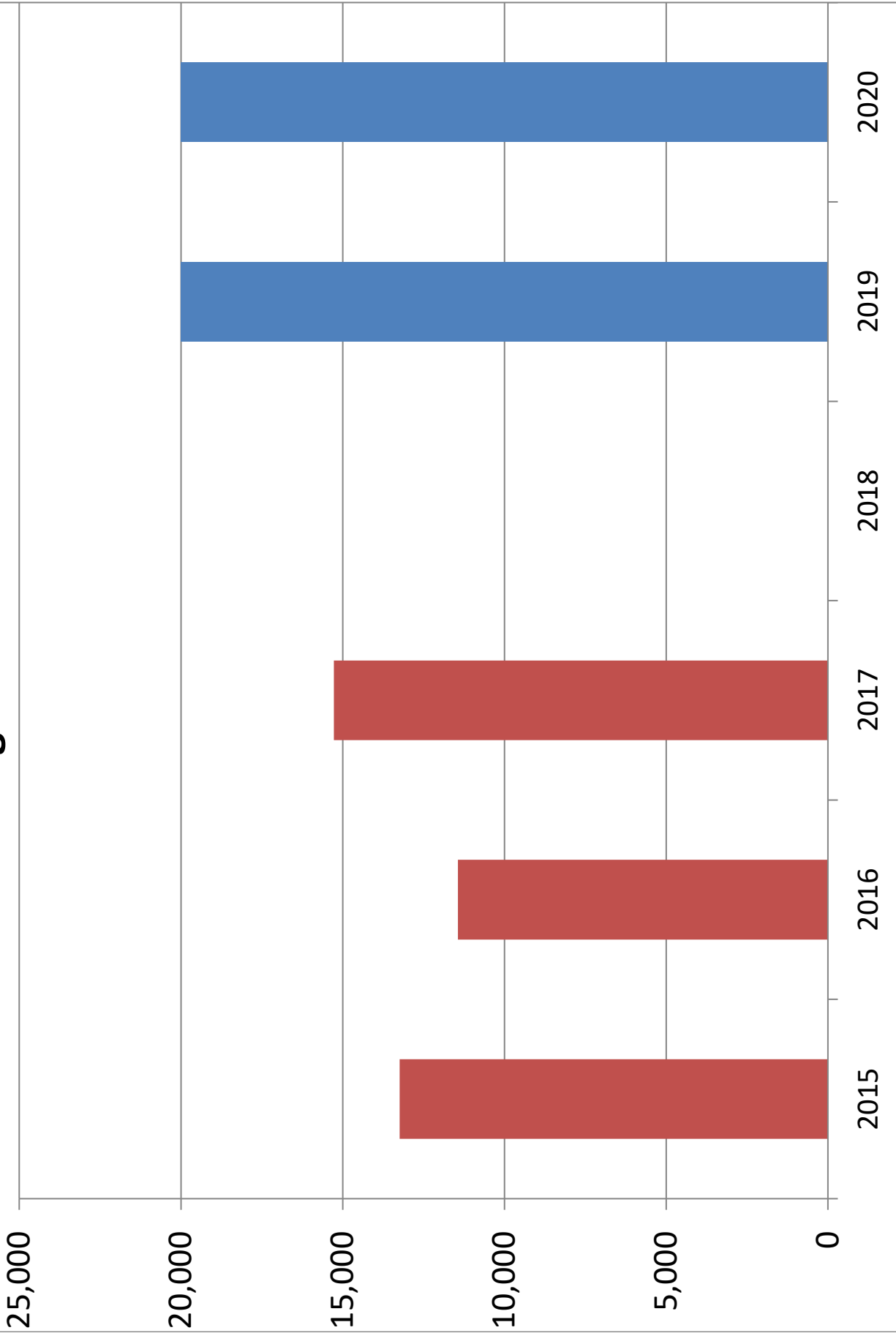
Envelope/PAR Giving - Past and Needed



Envelope / PAR Percent Growth by Year



Fund Raising - Past and Needed



AUDITOR'S REPORT

**To the Congregation of
RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH:**

I have examined the Financial Statements for Runnymede United Church for the year ending December 31, 2015 as prepared by the Treasurer.

In my opinion, the Financial Statements represent fairly the financial transactions of the church during 2015 in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices for non-profit organizations and applied on a basis consistent with the previous year.

My examination included such tests and other procedures, as I considered necessary in the circumstances.



Stuart MacDonald

5 FEB 2018

Date

AUDITOR'S REPORT

**To the Congregation of
RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH:**

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My examination included such tests and other procedures, as I considered necessary in the circumstances.



Stuart MacDonald

5 FEB 2018

Date

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Manse Trust Fund

The Manse Trust fund was established when the church manse was sold in 1981. With the approval of Toronto West Presbytery, the income from the proceeds of the sale provides the basis for monthly grants paid to the Operating Fund of the church, as a contribution to the housing allowances paid to our ministers. The 2017 contribution has been maintained at the 2016 level of \$15,000.

Investment income from the fund was \$24,586 compared to \$24,537 in 2016. Investment income reflects an increase in market values of \$2,363 in the securities held in 2017 compared to an increase in market values of \$16,132 in 2016. Investment income received in cash increased in 2017 to \$22,223 from \$13,935 in 2016, this increase was a result of realized gains. The excess of revenue over expenditures was \$9,586 in 2017 versus a excess of \$9,537 in 2016. The balance of Manse Funds at year end was \$333,930 compared to \$324,344 in 2016.

The Estates Trust Fund

In 2017 no gifts or bequests were received by the Trustees, compared to \$30,000 received in 2016.

Income from investments was \$10,149 compared to \$14,103 in 2016. Investment income includes a decline in market values of the securities held of (\$3,891) in 2017 compared to a decrease in market values of (\$6,725) in 2016. The market values of bonds continued to decline as interest rates rose in 2017. Investment income received in cash decreased in 2017 to \$17,708 from \$24,537 in 2016. The decrease reflects bond maturities and sales reinvested in money market funds and some small realized losses. Investment income should rebound in 2018 depending on interest rate and market moves.

As of December 31, 2017, the Trustees held \$206,223 from the Church Operating Account compared to \$71,403 in 2016. This increase reflects the fact that the Trustee funds designated for the Capital Campaign (\$150,000) and previously received securities in kind for the Capital Campaign (\$99,452) have been moved to this account in 2017.

The Estates Fund balance at the end of the year was \$338,602 versus \$483,045 in 2016. These amounts do not include the balance due to the Church Operating Account. At December 31, 2017 year-end, the sum of \$42,554 is restricted to the use of income only, compared to \$43,484 in 2016. There are no funds restricted to use for a specific purpose at year-end compared to \$150,000 (Capital Campaign) in 2016. The Unrestricted funds at year-end are \$296,048 compared to \$289,561 for 2016.

In 2017, the Trustees initiated a 3rd party appraisal of the value of the Runnymede property – specifically the building and contents, including the new commercial kitchen. This resulted in an increased insurable value, which has been reflected in our insurance renewal.

At the suggestion of the Finance Committee and as approved by the Board, the Trustees have assumed responsibility for the Memorial Fund. This is a fund that received contributions in memory of individuals who have passed away and are remembered to the church by virtue of a contribution. The funds still reside in the operating accounts at this time but are administered by the Trustees.

The Investment Policy was revised by the Trustees and the new policy was approved by the Board. The new policy provides for ranges in asset allocation for trustee assets, as invested with and by RBC Dominion Securities. The new policy provides for a greater equity (common and preferred stock) percentage in our investments, to provide for a greater return. The equities need to conform to a quality standard (generally blue chip, medium to large cap) and are individually listed on RBC

Dominion Securities recommended list of securities. Any exceptions to this would have to be approved by the investment committee of the Trustees.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Trustees of Runnymede United Church

Bob Cossitt (Treasurer), Roy Fischer (Chair), Joan Howard, Julie Lee, June Pinkney, Brian Traquair,
Rev. Don Gibson, Rev. Katherine Brittain

**TRUSTEES OF RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

ESTATES TRUST FUND

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year ended December 31

		2017	2016
REVENUE	Gifts and bequests received	\$-	\$30,000
	Income from Investments	10,149	14,103
	Total revenue	<u>10,149</u>	<u>44,103</u>
EXPENSES	Contribution for cost of building appraisal	2,542	4,364
	Contribution of income on restricted funds	2,050	1,748
	Contribution of funds to Capital Campaign	150,000	79,000
	Total expenses	<u>154,592</u>	<u>85,112</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses		<u>(144,443)</u>	<u>(41,009)</u>
Net assets beginning of year		483,045	524,054
Net assets, end of year		<u>338,602</u>	<u>483,045</u>

BALANCE SHEET

As at December 31

		2017	2016
ASSETS	Investments at book value (see Schedule B attached)	529,827	632,948
	Mark to market adjustment	11,908	15,799
	Investments at market value	541,735	648,747
	Accrued Interest on bonds	2,072	3,400
	Funds on Deposit with Banks	1,018	1,753
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>544,825</u>	<u>653,900</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
LIABILITIES	Funds due to church operating account	206,223	71,403
	Securities received In kind for the Capital Campaign	-	99,452
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>206,223</u>	<u>170,855</u>
NET ASSETS	Restricted to use of income only	42,554	43,484
	Restricted to use for a specific purpose	-	150,000
	Unrestricted funds	296,048	289,561
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>338,602</u>	<u>483,045</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		<u>\$544,825</u>	<u>\$653,900</u>

**TRUSTEES OF RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Schedule of securities held at December 31, 2017

Schedule B

ESTATE FUNDS

	Par Value	Book Value	Market Value
Bonds			
FAIRFAX FINANCIAL HOLDINGS LTD 7.25% due June 22, 2020	41,000	45,134	45,292
BROOKFIELD ASSET MANAGEMENT INC 5.30% due March 1, 2021	75,000	76,641	80,873
MUNICIPAL FINANCE AUTH OF BRITISH COL.UMBIA 4.60% due Apr 2, 2026	60,000	59,657	68,351
Total Bonds		<u>\$181,432</u>	<u>\$194,516</u>
Common shares			
ALTUS GROUP LIMITED	900	33,488	33,237
BROOKFIELD ASSET MANAGEMENT	500	27,295	27,360
DOLLARAMA INC	200	31,682	31,410
INTACT FINANCIAL CORP	300	31,636	31,497
QUEBECOR INC CL - B	1,400	33,543	33,180
RESTAURANT BRANDS INTERNATIONAL INC	400	31,526	30,908
SUNCOR ENERGY INC	700	31,683	32,305
THOMSON REUTERS CORPORATION	500	27,615	27,395
Total common shares		<u>\$248,468</u>	<u>\$247,292</u>
Mutual Funds			
	No. of fund units		
RBC INVESTMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT Mutual Fund	9,993	<u>\$99,927</u>	<u>\$99,927</u>
Total Estate Fund Assets		<u>\$529,827</u>	<u>\$541,735</u>

**TRUSTEES OF RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

MANSE TRUST FUND

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year ended December 31		<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
REVENUE	Income from investments	\$24,586	\$24,537
	Total Expenditures		
EXPENSES	Transfer to church operating (Housing Allowance)	15,000	15,000
		<u>15,000</u>	<u>15,000</u>
	Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	<u>9,586</u>	<u>9,537</u>
	Net assets beginning of year	324,344	314,807
	Net assets, end of year	<u>333,930</u>	<u>324,344</u>

BALANCE SHEET

As at December 31		<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
ASSETS	Investments at book value (see Schedule A attached)	275,360	268,272
	Mark to market adjustment	58,435	56,072
	Investments at market value	<u>333,795</u>	<u>324,344</u>
	Accrued Interest on bonds	-	-
	Funds on Deposit with Banks	135	-
		<u>333,930</u>	<u>324,344</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
	Liabilities	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>333,930</u>	<u>324,344</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		<u>\$333,930</u>	<u>\$324,344</u>

**TRUSTEES OF RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Schedule of securities held at December 31, 10149

Schedule A

MANSE FUND

		Book Value	Market Value
Common Shares	No. of shares		
ALLIED PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE TRUST	1,000	\$22,225	\$42,080
BANK OF MONTREAL	500	33,419	50,295
BCE INC	500	17,870	30,190
BIRD CONSTRUCTION INC	1,500	15,160	15,210
BROOKFIELD PROPERTY PARTNERS L P	1,100	30,755	30,635
ENBRIDGE INCOME FUND HOLDINGS	475	16,920	14,160
NATIONAL BANK OF CANADA	500	31,490	31,360
PEMBINA PIPELINE CORP	650	29,635	29,581
ROYAL BANK OF CANADA	200	14,822	20,530
SMART REAL ESTATE TRUST	1,000	24,220	30,910
TORONTO DOMINION BANK	500	36,825	36,825
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total common shares		\$273,341	\$331,776
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Mutual Funds	No. of fund units		
RBC INVESTMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT Mutual Fund	201.9	\$2,019	\$2,019
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL		\$275,360	\$333,795
		<hr/>	<hr/>

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

The Ministry & Personnel Committee (M&P) is a confidential, consultative committee that is responsible for the clergy and lay staff of the church. The committee supports the Church Board, the church community, and church staff on personnel matters. The committee also serves as a confidential forum for the church community to provide input from the congregation on staff related issues. Members of M&P are Judy Hauserman, John Hogarth, Gillian Horbal, Janet Killey, Julie Lee, Jocelyn McLean-Tharp, Brian Traquair, and Tara Yelle. Pat Ainslie left M&P in 2017 after over 15 years of service to the committee and we want to thank her for her excellent contribution. We also welcome Julie Lee who replaces Pat in 2018. As well Jocelyn McLean-Tharp and Tara Yelle are the new M&P co-chairs beginning in 2018, replacing Judy Hauserman in that role.

Staff Reviews

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

Staff at Runnymede

2017 saw a decrease in overall staff turnover relative to prior years and we are pleased to see everyone doing well in their roles. We did see some change in several part-time roles. Kaitlin Murray, our Youth Leader, moved on and we were joined in that role by Cayley Pimentel. Nathan Smith who had been with us as a soloist on a part-time basis left and was replaced by Trevor Peverley. And our Sunday School teachers Sabrina Hempel, Maddie Henderson, Thomas Lien, and Jonathan Bugeya Miller left to pursue their respective educational goals. Replacing them are Emily Chamberlain, Kathryn Botsko, and Lauren MacDonald. Together with Quincy Yee and Eamonn Stewart, they have kept our Sunday School running well. We thank those who have left us for the service they gave and welcome our new staff members. We want to thank, especially, Emily Mather who stepped in to look after the Sunday School during Katherine's sabbatical and kept things humming throughout the fall of 2017.

We also want to thank our many staff who continue to give of their time and talent. Alison Gadsby in the office; Jim Lien who helps with security; Santiago Duque and Spencer Tripe who manage our custodial needs; Gail Hutton and Greg Philip as Community Meal Co-ordinators; our music Director, David Ambrose, Organist Carl Steinhauser, and soloists Pat Ainslie, Sabrina Perez, and Don Tripe.

2017 also saw a year of sabbatical leaves for each of our ministers. First Rev. Don Gibson and then Rev. Katherine Brittain took leaves from Runnymede to undertake study, prayer, and renewal. Both are now back at Runnymede refreshed from their travels and time away.

Our ministers and staff are joined by a core of some 40 volunteers. The combined efforts of ministers, full and part-time staff, and active, dedicated volunteers ensure Runnymede United Church is a strong, faithful, active, and caring community of believers.

Contact Us

Each member of M&P is open and eager for feedback from the congregation on issues of importance to you. Feel free to speak to us in confidence at the church or to contact us by e-mail: Judy Hauserman: Hauser14@sympatico.ca; John Hogarth: 2jhogarth@rogers.com; Gillian Horbal: horbal@sympatico.ca; Janet Killey: almey@sympatico.ca; Julie Lee: julie.lee007@sympatico.ca; Jocelyn-McLean-Tharp: jocelyn.mclean-tharp@sympatico.ca; Brian Traquair: brian.traquair@gmail.com; Tara Yelle: tly317@gmail.com

LIFE AT THE CHURCH



EVENTS AND PROJECTS

ADVENT OUTREACH PROJECTS 2017

Both prayerful and financial support of the Runnymede congregation continued to assure successful Advent outreach projects during the fall season of 2017. Our commitment to the Angel Tree Christmas gift giving, a program of *Prison Fellowship Canada*, was well supported and we were able to purchase Christmas gifts for 5 children from 3 families living in the west end of Toronto. The program provides an opportunity for those currently incarcerated to apply through their local prison chaplain to the *Angel Tree* program for their families to be recipients of gift-giving. Churches, individuals and communities offer to be the surrogate gift-buying and delivery people for those families. Children and their caregivers are very happy to receive these sponsored gifts, thus making their Christmas a little brighter. Thank you to those who contributed financially to this meaningful project this year.

In 2017, RUC continued to partner with Unison Health and Community Services, located on Keele Street near Rogers Road. Over 150 Christmas Shoeboxes were filled and brought to the church on the first Sunday of Advent (December 3rd) along with other white gifts of food for those less fortunate in our community. The food was given to the Community Meal organizers for distribution to their participants. An opportunity to promote this Advent project during the Children's time as well as in the Sunday School was much appreciated.

After delivery, a member of the Unison Health staff, Elizabeth Lartey, wrote to say: *Thank you so much for bringing the shoeboxes. It was very much appreciated. It was a pleasure meeting the group of volunteers [who delivered the boxes].*

Thanks to the Sunday school children as well as congregational members who provide empty shoeboxes, wrap boxes and fill their own boxes so lovingly. This was a meaningful first response of our many RUC traditions in Advent to celebrate and reach out to others in our community. Thanks also to the "packers and checkers" and those who provided the "muscle" and car-power to deliver these boxes to their venue on December 4th, 2017.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Whitfield

BLOOR WEST VILLAGE ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW 36TH ANNUAL EVENT

Kitchen construction had been completed and we were able to plan and run the 36th Annual Bloor West Village Arts and Crafts Show without the space challenges of 2016. We continue to set up 8 rooms around the church with over 80 crafters who offer a variety of art, crafts and food for sale. Crafters responded quickly to the e-application process in May 2017 and this show was sold out in two weeks, proving its value as a popular, high-level craft show in our city. Admission fee remained at \$3.00, but that did not deter those shoppers intent on a great Christmas find or unique purchase at our show. Shoppers attended throughout the day and, including vendors and volunteers, we were very close to having 1000 people in our building. We paused at 11:00 a.m. for a Moment of Silence in remembrance of those who had lost their lives in the world wars, a tribute that many crafters and shoppers commented on with approval. Some new vendors enhanced the show as did returning vendors who continue to be crowd pleasers. Volunteers staffed the entire event, and many RUC members donated delicious sandwiches that allowed us to run our snack bar from the new kitchen. The walk-in fridge proved its worth in keeping the food fresh and chilled.

Thanks to our caretaker Santiago Duque and all those RUC volunteers who helped set up tables, chairs and moved furniture to ready the rooms for crafters and then to return the rooms to their original state ready for Sunday morning after the show. Through the excellent advance social media campaign by Alison Gadsby, our church secretary, people came from far and wide to participate in this show.

Thanks also to Janet Mather who once again co-ordinated the pie-making evening in our new church kitchen at the beginning of November. This allowed us to have about 75 apple pies to sell at our always overflowing Bake and Deli table this year. All our apple pies were sold as well as all the donated baking and deli items on our Bake/Deli table.

Many crafter “names” on our current waitlist as well as ongoing enquiries regarding future participation will ensure that upcoming shows will be successful in upcoming years. Profits from this 2017 show were distributed to the RUC Current fund and the Mission and Service Fund.

Mark your calendars for Saturday November 10, 2018 for our 37th annual craft show. We look forward to your help!

Respectfully submitted, Judy Whitfield, Show Convenor



DEFICIT DINNER 2017

On Saturday November 4, 2017, 135 people ambled into the Memorial Hall corral wearing their best bibs and tuckers, and we all had a hog-killin' time!

We brought in the big guns and put on a real show with the amazing and talented Jaccee Dallyn, Brian Withnell on the fiddle and guitar, and their 3 screamin' and hollarin' cowboys, Eric, Bart and Stuart. There was a special visit from the Rhinestone Cowboy himself, Don Tripe and his trusty old hoss, Foaley!

James Cockhill, our bean master for the night, put out some delicious grub and there were libations for all at the saloon.

So many had fun with the Silent Auction, Raffle Jars, the Cactus Card Game, the live auctions and the hilarious Jail Game, with notable criminals Jeff Douglas and Bill Tharp!

This year, we raised \$13,520 for the church and we couldn't have done this without the hard work of our committee members: Gill & Jeff Horbal; Kelly & Dave Kenny, Anna & Stuart MacDonald, Jaccee Dallyn & Brian Withnell, Laura Baker & Eric Apps, Janet Williams & Bart Leung, James Cockhill & Andrea Baldwin and Colleen & Michael Younder.

DICKENS' CHRISTMAS CAROL - 2017

The 11th presentation of Dickens' Christmas Carol took place on December 3, 2017. Staring this year was a group of well-known personalities from stage, screen and radio - Gill Deacon, Jeff Douglas, Robin Duke, Jayne Eastwood, Lisa Horner, Annie Kidder and Eric Peterson. Lisa Horner joined David Ambrose for a "special" musical contribution that was enthusiastically received. Music was also provided by our own chancel choir and our guests from Royal York UC.

Proceeds from this program went to the Stop Community Food Centre - an organization that strives to increase access to healthy food in a manner that maintains dignity, builds health and community and challenges inequality. For over 30 years the Stop has been at the forefront of dignified, innovative programs. We are pleased to contribute to these worthwhile programs with a cheque of over \$10,200.00

In the background was a small group of quietly efficient people - decorations (Laurie Tripe), lights (Don Dewees) and sound (Ted Withers). We appreciate Jim Hendry taking on the "back of house" duties this year for Roy Fischer who was ill. Again, Mary Young agreed to be the understudy for all the staves and although she was not called upon, she was ready. The poster was designed by Richard Leggatt assisted by Alison Gadsby. The introductions and thanks were handled ably and with humour by Rev Don Gibson and Derrick Hempel. Dorothy Dunbar and her merry band of helpers organized the delicious baking donations for the reception following the program. It was well-received and most welcome. Thanks to all the bakers!

A big thank you to the many Runnymeders who contributed to the success of this event was expressed by Rachel Gray, Executive Director of the Stop.

Report submitted by the Planning Group: David Ambrose (Music Director), Pat Campbell, Roy Fischer, Lynn Johnston, Beth Martin, June Pinkney (Chai

COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

ACTS GROUP REPORT

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

Here are some of the group's key focus areas from 2017:

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

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

The ACTS group will continue to work on raising awareness and identifying opportunities for individual and collective action on environmental and social justice issues in 2018. Newcomers are very welcome at ACTS, as the group thrives on a diversity of interests and life experiences. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month.

Submitted by John Rossall, coordinator ACTS.

BENEVOLENT FUND

The early church adopted the practice of Judaism of having a weekly collection of food and money for the poor. During Communion, Christians offered their gifts in thanksgiving for God's gift of Jesus. At Runnymede, we continue this practice with a special offering on some Communion Sundays which is used to purchase food vouchers, sub-way tokens and other helpful things for those in need. Your Communion gift is an expression of thanksgiving to God and helps make a difference in the lives of others.

Rev. Don Gibson

FAITH FORMATION AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee continues to explore opportunities to increase Sunday/youth programming enrolment, and make the programs meaningful and engaging for all children and youth attending. The Committee meets between four and five times a year to plan and discuss the programs.

The Committee has worked to ensure a smooth leadership transition in the Sunday/Youth program as many of our strong leaders have moved on to postsecondary education. The committee has now recruited and is transitioning the 'next generation' to ensure a smooth continuation of a vibrant children and youth program. We have hired a new Youth Group leader who has led an active curriculum for youth, combining regular Sunday meetings, with weekend and other special outings and activities. The committee continues to use a blend of student Sunday school teachers and parent volunteers to lead the program. Parent volunteering is significantly down from previous years, making the (paid) Sunday School teacher role vital to the program. The committee conducted an informal "pulse check" to check in with parents to ensure (and confirm) that families continue to support this staffing approach.

The Sunday school population is averaging 35-40 children in the 3 different classes, which is a decrease in attendance from an average of 50. Sunday school continues to use the "Spark" curriculum which focuses on one biblical story per month. The congregation is kept apprised of the discussions and learnings in Sunday school through a leaflet in the order of service. The leaflet includes questions for families to use to continue the discussion. The committee notes that there is a larger number of children in grade two than in other years at present, and will adjust classes accordingly.

The Committee worked to ensure a smooth start to Sunday School and Youth group during Reverend Katherine's sabbatical. With dedicated Sunday school teachers and a strong and reliable youth Leader, we were able to maintain a steady and vibrant Sunday program for children and youth.

On the Adult programming front, the committee is supporting programming and initiatives to welcome and engage young adult/young families who have recently joined Runnymede and are looking for faith formation opportunities. In Spring 2017, Reverend Katherine Brittain led the Lenten Study Series, in which she used the Lecto Divina approach.

Planning for the 2018-19 year is underway.

Committee members are: Roberta Axworthy, Rev Katherine Brittan, Suzanne Gordon (Chair), Melissa Milkie, Hilary McLean, Brenda Mclaughlin, Barbara Titherington.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT 2017

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

Brian has again devoted enormous time and skill to his management of the books, payment of expenses and presentation of our financial position in thorough, clear and understandable reports. He is both Treasurer and Bookkeeper. His workload increased this year as we expanded our donation methods to include Tithe.ly, and other methods that require manual input for every donation. We are very grateful to Brian for his dedication to this church; we will have to find another solution to processing the new donation methods. Alison Gadsby has been envelope secretary, reconciling the money and records for every count and deposit and working with David Wilcox to enhance the analysis and reports that ServantKeeper can provide us. Judy has served diligently as secretary to the Committee. Dwayne and David have made major contributions to the work of the Committee including serving as Acting Secretary as needed. Brian, Don Dewees, Pat Campbell and Judy count the Sunday collection.

David Wilcox has worked diligently through 2017 to enhance the functionality of ServantKeeper so it meets our church needs, conferring with the ministers, Alison, Brian and others. He reviewed mountains of detail to ensure that the data in the new system are correct and up-to-date. By year end David produced a manual of Servant Keeper Policies that is in the final editing stages. This manual will record how we use SK and what has to be done to keep it functioning as our basic data repository. SK has our donation records, our congregational records, contact information and other data. It can send emails, prepare thrice-yearly donation reports for donors and much more. He automated the production of the January PAR changes so that SK produces the spreadsheet that we send to the United Church, obviating the need for extensive manual data entry and checking by Don and others in early January. Many thanks, David for an outstanding contribution to the operations of the church.

Our 2017 budget assumed a 1.7% increase in envelope donations to the operating fund compared to actual 2016 donations. Through the year donations ran below budget and below 2016 and by year end we were 0.6% below budget. We made a special appeal in November and the congregation responded generously. We thought we needed \$12,000 to \$15,000 to balance the budget. In fact, contributions to the special appeal were just over \$34,000. This allowed us to balance the budget in 2017. We recommend using the remainder of the special appeal funds to avoid special fund-raising in 2018. Rental income increased to just over \$100,000, 20% of total revenues. The Craft Show brought in a net of \$10,665, contributing \$5,000 to current operations and \$5,500 to M&S. Expenses increased by \$22,739 from 2016, principally because of higher property costs from maintenance and repairs. See the financial statements for details.

During 2017 we spent \$166,543 on capital campaign projects, principally finishing the kitchen and replacing the gym roof. We received almost all of the capital campaign donations and have completed most of the projects. See the property report for details.

Our 2018 budget calls for a 2.4% increase in congregational donations compared to actual donations (apart from the special appeal) in 2017. This is the same envelope donation goal (\$350,000) as the last three budgets. The 2018 budget includes no special fund-raising because of the success of the fall special appeal. See the 2018 budget for details.

At year-end, the GI&C fund held \$88,300. The Memorial Fund held \$5,736 after spending about \$11,440 on the refreshment of Memorial Hall. The Trustees have invested about \$206,000 in cash

from various funds, since the Trustees can earn interest on this money. We will draw down the Trustee investment somewhat as we complete Capital Campaign and other projects in 2018 and apply the carried-over special appeal funds to our operations.

The congregation has generously supported Runnymede programs enabling us to make a real difference in the lives of many people. We sent \$27,560 for AIDS orphan relief in Africa and dedicated about \$13,000 to local outreach programs and assistance including the Community Meal. \$65,528 was donated to the Mission and Service Fund including \$5,500 from the craft Show. In addition, we raised over \$10,000 for non-Runnymede charities in 2017 including the Stop 103 Food Bank.

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

Submitted by Don Dewees on behalf of the Finance Committee, January 2018.

HEART TO HEART REPORT FOR 2017

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

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

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

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

Facebook: HEART 2 HEAR

KENYA AIDS ORPHANS PROJECT

2017 has been an active and inspiring year of faith in action with Andrew and Leonora Obara and Runnymede United Church!

In February 2017, Leonora received a grant from the Ontario Council for International Co-Operation to attend a Toronto conference: "Mobilizing Global Leadership on Sustainable Development Goals". During the 10 days she was here, she added greatly to the conference program and made many contacts with Runnymede Church and Village of Love supporters.

In April, the RUC Board reviewed and re-approved the Kenya AIDS Orphans Project 2-year plan from April 2016 to April 2018. The goals are:

To provide partial funding to the Obara family for the children still dependent on their family. Other funding to the family comes from Leonora's job and her sewing and cereal businesses. RUC provides our contribution from monthly donations (through PAR) and other donations. (See financial report.) This funding also allows Andrew and Leonora to contribute their skills to the Village of Love Program in Kibera, Kenya, www.villageoflovecanada.org, which supports about 500 children adopted by loving families. Andrew works as full-time volunteer program administrator, Leonora as part-time volunteer consultant, in addition to her work as a social worker/program administrator at Women Fighting AIDS in Kenya (WOFAK).

To provide education funding for Obara children still in high school. To seek external funding (from donors not connected with RUC) for post-secondary education costs for a few of the younger children.

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

-Deborah, in nursing training

-Patricia, in teacher's training,

-Regina, has completed her second year of law school. She's on the Dean's list for academic accomplishment,

-Zachary completed high school in November 2017 and

-Lauryne is in Grade 12. She'll graduate in September 2018.

In May, Leonora and Andrew, arranged donated airline tickets in Kenya and visited us for 6 weeks while they worked strenuously on the development and fund-raising for the Village of Love program. They also visited many friends and attended Runnymede United Church. A highlight was the service at RUC led by Rev. Katherine Brittain on "Inspiration". She interviewed Leonora on how she manages her large family while working so diligently in her other jobs. Leonora spoke movingly about her faith and focus on her values, especially her mission of caring for vulnerable children.

From Rev. Don Gibson: "In July Brenda and I had the privilege of visiting Kenya. We spent a number of days with dedicated Village of Love volunteers in Kibera meeting many of the women and children who are recipients of support. It was remarkable to see first hand the impact the project is having. One of the highlights of our visit was spending a day at Andrew and Leonora's home with many of their family members. It was wonderful to be able to meet their children and grandchildren. Also, that day we were able to present Isabella with a picture and congratulations from Runnymede United Church upon her recent graduation from law school. Isabella is a bright and articulate young person who is deeply appreciative of the support she has received for her studies." We're all so proud of Isabella and our part in supporting her to accomplish this!

From Isabella Obara: “The photo of the congregation from Don and Brenda Gibson means so much to me. This made me feel really loved, I am moved to tears to even write this. The smiles on everyone’s face, the joy, the numbers therein mean the whole world to me. I am sincerely blessed to have such a big lovely family. I look at the photo every day as I get ready to face the day and it motivates me. In those faces I see people who believe in me and wish me well. I am thankful to God for granting me the Runnymede Church as my family....

Send my love to everyone, Isabella Obara”

Since August 2017, Isabella has been practicing law in the firm where she articulated earlier in 2017.

In August, Kenya held an election which was deemed unconstitutional and was nullified by brave judges. Another election was held in October which left Kenya in an even more precarious political position. Negotiations are on-going. We pray that all Kenyans will have stability in their political situation and the difficult economic conditions there. We also pray that Andrew, Leonora and many RUC members can continue to work together through our faith and common goal to support the family as they care for children orphaned by AIDS, helping them to become happy, healthy, contributing adults. Thank you to those who contribute in many ways and are making such a difference to the Obara family and the Village of Love program.

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



MISSION AND SERVICE FUND REPORT

Your gift to Mission & Service supports United Church ministry across Canada and across the world.



Photo Credit: The United Church of Canada

M&S - the United Church Mission and Service Fund - manifests the faith and the will of United Church people to heal and to serve, across Canada and across the world. The Mission & Service Fund is the financial lifeblood of our United Church of Canada.

Mission & Service contributors support United Church of Canada outreach to marginal groups, to new and developing congregations, to training for ministers and church personnel, to chaplaincies in hospitals and prisons, to overseas partnerships, to justice advocacy, to environmental advocacy, to ecumenical partnership, and to the administration of the national office.

At our Runnymede United Annual General Meeting (AGM), we vote every year as a congregation to approve a collective goal for M&S. As individual members, each of us decides for ourselves the amount of our individual M&S offerings.

For 2017 we approved a collective goal of \$64,000 for total gifts to M&S.

Our actual gifts received in 2017 reached \$65,628 – 102.4% of our goal - a gratifying overreach. Offerings by individuals totaled \$60,028. A gift of \$5,500 from proceeds of the Annual Bloor West Village Arts & Crafts Show & Sale made up the balance. We are extremely grateful to the many people who work to make the Craft Show an annual success.

The number of individual donors to M&S at Runnymede fell to 106 in 2017. If you were an enthusiastic donor in 2017, please tell a friend about your belief in M&S.

We are sincerely thankful to every donor, and make special welcome to those who made their first donation during 2017. In 2017, total M&S gifts from individuals were the second largest amount ever from our Runnymede congregation.

Thanks are due for leadership to every M&S enthusiast at Runnymede United: Brian Traquair kept us aware every month about the progress of donations; and the Craft Sale committee directed a very generous amount to M&S.

We thank our ministers Rev. Don and Rev. Katherine, and our weekly order of service publisher Alison Gadsby. They give airtime and attention to our United Church of Canada in the world and in our lives, and regularly post M&S Minutes for Mission and other stories in our weekly bulletin.

DYK? Did you know that one of the best ways to affirm your support for the work and message of the United Church of Canada is to donate to M&S?

How can I give to M&S during 2018? It's so easy ☺ – print "M&S" on your cheque or envelope; or add the M&S Fund to your annual pledge.

Year	Goal	M&S Fund - Gifts Received				Annual Total Gifts	Gifts as % of Goal	Individual Donors
		By Individuals	Change from Previous Year	By the Craft Show				
2014	60,000	53,138	-2.2%	4,500	57,638	96.1%	102	
2015	60,000	64,741	+21.8%	2,500	67,241	112.1%	104	
2016	62,000	58,086	-10.3%	5,000	63,086	101.8%	112	
2017	\$64,000	\$60,028	+3.3%	\$5,500	\$65,628	102.4%	106	

Learn more: www.unitedchurch.ca/files/funding/msfund/at-a-glance.pdf

Respectfully submitted by Stephen Gard

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN COMMITTEE REPORT

The RUC Native Plant Garden, located on the north side of the church, by the driveway, was started 6 years ago to demonstrate the complex benefits and beauty of a water-wise ecosystem of plants, bushes, grasses and small trees which are natural to the High Park area.

This year the garden was replenished with new plants purchased at the High Park Stewards annual plant sale in May. Throughout the summer, the group met every few weeks to maintain and further develop the garden into a place of natural beauty and ecological health.

The Youth Group, RUCY, now led by Cayley Pimentel, has dug in to help with the gardening on several occasions. Also, RUCY hosted a "Lemonade in the Garden" event after the 25th June Sunday Service.

An autumn project for the garden was the serious pruning of the large Grey Dogwood tree. This work was done by a local tree care company, in combination with other tree care work done around the church property.

We're grateful for the expert guidance provided by Brenda Lien throughout the season.

New members are needed and welcome.

Report Submitted by Barbara Titherington

PASTORAL CARE REPORT

Pastoral Care: To care, support and impassion. To demonstrate unconditional love, acceptance and encouragement. Bringing hope, biblical truth and practical advice. Being present with, listening to and journeying alongside. Reflecting Jesus, sharing burdens and praying for those in our care.

At Runnymede United Church, we are blessed to have a wonderful Pastoral Care team who selflessly spend countless hours and special time with our Senior parishioners. We give thanks to their dedicated service.

We annually purchase Easter Tulips and Christmas Poinsettias that grace our church during services, followed by delivery to our shut-ins by the team. Congregants can make a donation in memory of their loved ones.

We are blessed for having a wonderful team of drivers who pick up seniors for Sunday Service. With gratitude, the team includes Neil and Janet Mather, Mary Young, Kelly and David Kenny, Jeff and Gillian Horbal and Brenda Gibson. We thank them for their service.

Janis Traquair continues with the card ministry. Over the course of the year, we sent flowers and cards to people who celebrated special birthdays or anniversaries as well as sympathy cards for those who lost loved ones.

Please contact Don, Katherine or Alison in the church office if you know:

- Someone who should be on our birthday card list or someone who would welcome a get well card or sympathy card
- Someone who would like to receive a home communion because they cannot get to church
- Someone in hospital or who needs a special visit.

Please know that we are all members of the pastoral care team and need to look out for one another. Let us know if someone is ill or just hasn't sat in their usual pew for the last couple of weeks.

A special thank you to all our visitors and team members who work so hard to help our shut-ins feel connected to our church.

Submitted by Karren Phair

Current Members: Rev. Don Gibson, Rev. Katherine Brittain, Sandi Dunn, Jan Killey, Neil Mather, Ann Mowat, Gary Norri

PROPERTY REPORT 2017

The Property Committee met on the second Monday of each month except July and August. Members were Don Dewees (chair), Dwayne Benjamin, David Kenny, Judy MacPherson, Brian Traquair, Katherine Brittain and Don Gibson. The PropCom group met one morning most weeks and does lots of maintenance and improvement: Gary Norris, David Wilcox, Bob Cossitt, David Whitfield and Don Dewees.

With our old buildings, we have to work at keeping the heating systems operating well. The gym is heated by air blown in at ceiling level so the floor level was slow to warm up, while the hot air at the ceiling increased our heat losses. In January we built two diverters to direct the hot air down towards the floor. Results were disappointing until we installed less restrictive air filters in September. With better air flow we now have very little temperature difference between floor and ceiling, much faster warmup and less heat loss.

In January the boiler failed to start several times, cooling the buildings until we pushed a manual reset button each time. Nor-Line attended twice and finally replaced the burner ignition probe, solving the problem. The condensate sump pump failed to start numerous times from January to April, wasting heat and water but not affecting temperatures. Nor-Line replaced the float switch in April which solved the problem. We adjusted the float so this pump runs longer and starts less often.

We installed an EcoBee thermostat in the gym early in the year and in Memorial Hall in the fall. In both cases we have more accurate temperature control and we can set a schedule of temperatures that suit various users: Angelgate likes the gym at 20.5, Scouts and sports groups like it at 18.5; MumNet likes Mem Hall at 18.5, Second Mile and Revealed Word like it at 21. We set all three EcoBee thermostats down a degree or two at night. The EcoBees can be accessed remotely so I can check heating system operation without visiting the church. The data reports from EcoBee show us how quickly rooms warm up and cool down and whether the heating system has the capacity to supply heat on the coldest days. In the Gym, Mem Hall and Jewitt 2nd floor, users have praised the increased room comfort that EcoBee has achieved. The Jewitt 2nd floor EcoBee lost its mind in January and was restored by a lengthy reset process. When the problem recurred in November EcoBee sent us a replacement that works flawlessly.

The gym roof leaks became too great for our stopgap buckets and in July, W Roofing replaced the old tar and gravel roof with a new membrane system. The old roof had no insulation, just two layers of fibreboard; the new roof has 2 inches of foam insulation which should save energy and increase comfort. Indeed, we find that the gym heater runs much less than previously, a result of the roof insulation and the air flow diverters. The roof cost about \$55,000 and was funded by the Capital Campaign deferred maintenance fund.

During the summer and fall we undertook the refreshment of Memorial Hall. PropCom installed 50 hooks in rows across the ceiling so that decorative lights or bunting could easily be put up for special events without using tape. Electrician Wayne Robinson replaced the bare 4-foot fluorescent fixtures with LED fixtures and added 10 dimmable pot lights in between for mood lighting at dinners or receptions. We replaced the side aisle lights with dimmable LED fixtures. PropCom covered the gap in the bulkhead in the middle of the ceiling, tidied up the cables and covered the black pipe insulation with paintable white vinyl. John Bell Painters repaired water-damaged plaster in Memorial Hall and in all four stairwells and painted those areas, using a colour scheme in MemHall recommended by Anna MacDonald. PropCom installed a large pull-down projection screen on the east wall and hung a large mosaic on the same wall. We installed an EcoBee thermostat. This project was funded by the Memorial Fund and GI&C at a cost of about \$15,000. It was highly praised at the Deficit Dinner in November.

Smaller projects included replacing the large projection TV in Kingsbury with a donated wall-hung flat screen. We replaced the worn-out 8-year-old mower with self-propelled Honda mower. Buckling floor boards at the foot of the SE stairs were restored by cutting air vents in the floor and using a small fan to dry out the under-floor area. Santiago painted gym walls. John Struve undertook organ repairs to the tune of about \$12,000.

The kitchen renovation was completed and commissioned in winter to great praise from the Community Meal group. Judy Whitfield and her committee did great work in developing this project and bringing it to completion.

During the last half of the year we had several instances of taps running at full blast overnight. We urged evening users to make sure that the taps are off before they leave but it is possible that these incidents are deliberate. We are monitoring the situation. We have also had a couple of toilets that occasionally (rarely) run after flushing. We have made adjustments.

Total maintenance expenditures charged to GI&C for the year were \$5,000, lower than most years. Property-related expenses charged to current operations totaled \$86,035.

Our electricity use through the 220 volt meter in 2017 was 38.94 MWh, 3% below average for the last three years. Gas use was 2.01 million cubic feet, about average. Water use was 2.26 cubic metres/day, the same as last year but about 8% more than the average for the last five years because of some taps being turned on overnight and a couple of running toilets.

Submitted on behalf of the Property Committee, January, 2018.

Don Dewees, Chairman



Left: Don installing gym diverter in January while David W. supports and meditates.



Above: Roofing crew installing new gym roof in July

David, David and Gary closing up the gap in the bulkhead in Memorial Hall. Note the old bare fluorescent lights.



Memorial Hall at the deficit dinner in November, with decorative lights hung from the new hooks and the dimmable pot lights on.



Below: David and David working on diversion of NE downpipe to carry roof water farther away from stairwell wall to



Below: PropCom raked 25 bags of leaves in November.

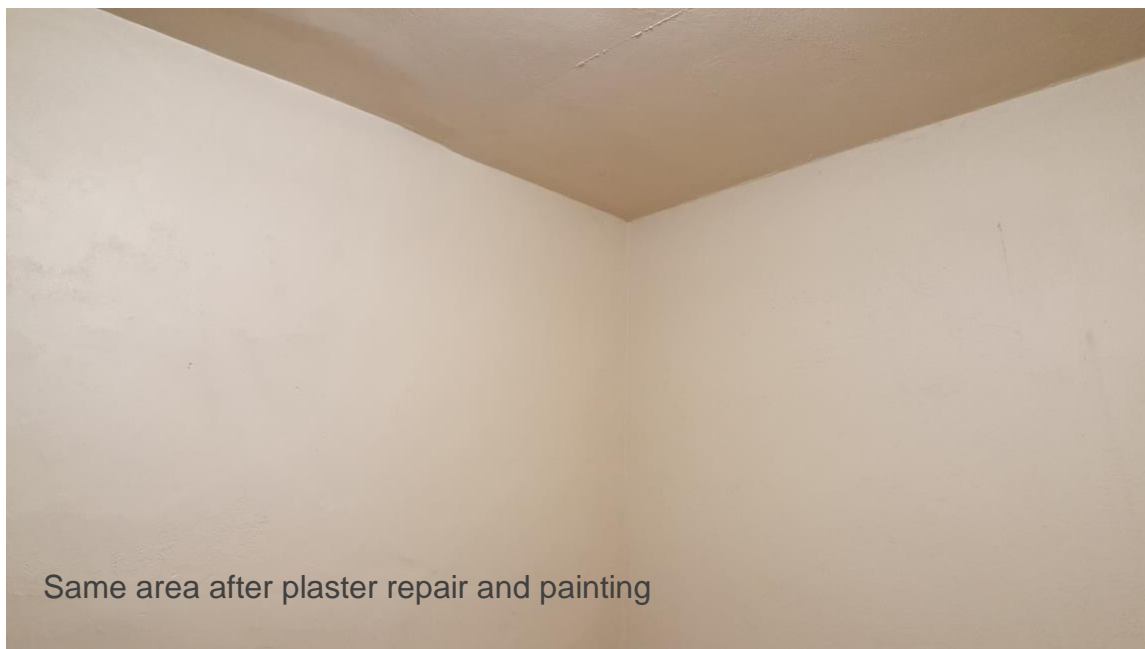




Left: Carl tries the new short cut from piano to organ after PropCom removed a panel and built a step.



Above: Over a decade of water damage to the plaster in the northwest stairwell, basement.



Same area after plaster repair and painting

REFUGEE FAMILY SPONSORSHIPS – 2017 REPORT

RUC is actively involved in three refugee sponsorships in widely different stages.

In December 2014 RUC agreed to sponsor an Iraqi family of 2 adult sisters and 3 children (Feryal and Nawal Ridha and Nawal's 3 sons, Basheer, Baraa and Sudad) who took refuge in Syria in 2008. We have worked closely with a third sister Amal who came to Toronto as a government-assisted refugee in 2009. Amal has been instrumental in keeping us aware of her family's circumstances. As the civil war in Syria escalated the family was again in danger and was moved many times by the UN, eventually being sent to a UN refugee camp in northern Iraq. An ISIS attack on the camp forced them to flee into the desert with many others. Nawal, mother of the 3 boys, was separated from her children and has not been seen since that time. Contact with the family was lost for nearly 2 years. Canadian sister Amal bravely went to Baghdad in late 2016 and discovered the boys and their aunt Feryal in a camp for Internally Displaced Persons. Since then Runnymede has advocated strongly for this family to be brought to Canada as refugees under our sponsorship. Immigration has refused their application as they are back in their home country (through no choice of their own) and no longer fit the definition of "refugees". Supporters at Runnymede have generously contributed to a legal challenge of this decision on Humanitarian and Compassionate grounds. It is currently before Federal Court and a decision is expected by the end of January. There are still many hurdles to cross but we pray that our family will soon reach the safety of Canada. There will be huge challenges to settle a family so traumatised by war and poverty, and to educate the boys (now 9, 12 and 14) who have not been in school for more than 5 years. Runnymede volunteers have always stepped up for such challenges. Please give prayerful consideration to the needs of this family if and when we are blessed with their arrival in Canada.

The Syrian family arrived in Toronto in October 2016. Parents Warda and Antoun continue at various levels of learning English. The young adults, whose English is quite proficient, are taking OSSC credits with the goal of further education in Business Studies for Majdolin and Computer Science for George. Majdolin is in full-time employment as an administrative assistant in a legal firm, while George is working at Starbucks. Our official sponsorship obligations to the Saadeh family ended in October 2017 with a celebration of their first year in Canada. Many volunteers have become the Saadehs' "Canadian family" and are still active in helping them integrate into their new life. Thanks to all the Runnymede volunteers who helped to settle this family especially: Eric Apps, Sue Cameron, Alex Cruickshank, Jennifer Cruickshank, Ann Dewees, Sandi Dunn, Dave Kenny, Kelly Kenny, Anne Lakoff, David Lakoff, Karen Magill, Jocelyn McLean-Tharp, Bill Tharp, Lynne Salt, David Wilcox.

The Ethiopian family of Tayiba Hebo and her 5 children has been in Canada since 2005, and all have attained Canadian citizenship. In spite of not speaking any English when they arrived, the young people have flourished at school. Zaituna has completed an LPN course at Ryerson and hopes to get into nursing. Fitryia is in third year Sports Management at Brock University. Abdulsalam is in second year Commerce at Ottawa University. Temima is completing Grade 12 this year and Rahima is in Grade 9. Tayiba has bravely stepped into the workforce although is currently unemployed. Although the congregation's official obligations to this family ended many years ago, the connection with Runnymede is on-going. Thanks to Roberta Axworthy, Linda Fischer and Mary Young for their continuing support and work with this family.

Lynne Salt (lynne.salt@cloverbeen.com)

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Stewardship Committee continued its work to raise awareness in the congregation about financial stewardship and the opportunities for stewardship in our lives. The Committee implemented stewardship initiatives to address the needs of the congregation and how we can serve God with gifts of time, talent and money.

During Lent, the Committee carried out a "Loonies for Lent" campaign where a number of individuals and families in the congregation set aside a Loonie a day for each of the 40 days of Lent as special offering.

In the Fall, the Committee conducted its annual financial pledge campaign where people were encouraged to pledge their financial giving for 2018. This year's theme was based on John 10:10 "*I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly*". It was a reminder that at Runnymede we continuously experience new life in Jesus as we gather together and as we reach out to make God's abundant love a reality for others and that our support for the Church makes this new life happen.

This year we also talked about "*Runnymede's Challenge*". At the time of the campaign, our giving to Current Operations – the fund that pays for the core operations of the church – was down from the previous year and our costs were up. Over the last number of years, we have been able to balance our Current Operations budget by the end of the year, but we often have had to make special appeals to close out the year.

Again, in 2017, our giving had not kept pace with our costs and we were on track to fall short by \$15,000 by the end of the year. The "challenge" was to fill this gap this year and in the future.

We pointed out that we are extremely dependent on a small number of donors. Over 50% of giving comes from 25 individuals or families. On average, they give \$6,400 per year. Our dependence on these generous members of the congregation has been growing in recent years, making our budget increasingly vulnerable to the changing circumstances of a few.

We asked everyone in the congregation to help to close that gap for 2017 and in their pledges and giving in 2018.

The campaign was conducted in October and November. The committee distributed letters and other materials informing people about the stewardship campaign, the church's finances and the congregation's planning for the future. This information was also provided online with an online pledge form making it easier for people to indicate their plans for giving for 2018.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017

From September to December of 2017, Emily Mather stepped in as leader of the Sunday School program during Rev. Katherine's Sabbatical. The teachers continued to follow the SparkHouse curriculum set out by Rev Katherine over the past few years. It is a bible-based comprehensive program designed for children in Kindergarten-Grade 5. The children explore key stories of the bible; connect worship themes and workshop ideas based on the bible stories.

This Fall offered an exciting introduction to our children's programming at Runnymede United. We launched a new element to Sunday mornings with the weekly appearance of a Mystery Reader in the first few minutes following Children's Time. Our Readers were church members of all ages who came and read the weekly Bible story to children from kindergarten to grade 5, often adding their own dramatic flair and telling our kids about different aspects of our church. This was a successful initiative and the children were very happy to meet so many new people from our church community.

Our Sunday School curriculum was enriched by three special events that took place in October: an inter-generational potluck, a movie and pizza afternoon with a viewing of "The Lorax" and finally a "Messy Church" session on Thanksgiving Sunday with the creation of a gratitude wreath for each child to bring home. These events were organized in partnership with Cayley and the youth group. We are truly blessed to have our volunteers working with our Sunday School teachers, Eammon Stewart, Lauren MacDonald, Emily Chamberlain and Kathryn Botsko and our Nursery leader, Quincy Yee. They all continue to make Sundays a fun and faith-filled introduction to God and our faith community.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 2017

Women's Fellowship has hosted a variety of enjoyable and informative evenings at Runnymede United Church in 2017. We welcome all women who have an interest in meeting other women, enjoying fellowship, learning new things and having fun. While our programs run from September to April/May, this report will highlight the activities from February to December 2017. Due to inclement weather, we elect not to meet in January. Therefore, our first meeting was Feb.28th and Rev. Katherine Brittain spoke about women of the Bible and the impact they had on biblical history. There was a strong turnout that evening, and afterwards, there were many requests for Katherine to provide more presentations. In March, we welcomed Niki Ainslie as our leader for an "Armchair Yoga" workshop. About 15 ladies were present and we were instructed in the art of correct breathing, stretching, relaxing, and yoga positions. By the end of our session, we agreed that we felt energized as well as relaxed.

Our April meeting was in Memorial Hall where we had access to the newly renovated kitchen for our potluck dinner. The theme for the evening was "Celebrating Canada's 150th". We enjoyed a variety of dishes, many of which highlighted locally grown ingredients. After, Judy Whitfield entertained us with activities, quizzes and stories about Canada.

There was a large turnout for our May meeting which featured Leonora Obara from Kenya. She shared with us some updates about her own family, family life in Kenya, especially the families living in the Kibera slum areas, and information about the grassroots movement, "Village of Love". Many at the meeting brought items such as towels, sheets, etc. for the Obaras to take back to the people Leonora mentioned in her presentation.

After the summer, we met again on Oct.17th for a potluck dinner and the evening's theme was "Gratitude and Thankfulness". Although we were crowded in the Kingsbury Room due to a large turnout, we thoroughly enjoyed the delicious food and of course, the fellowship. After dinner, we welcomed Linda Fischer and Lynne Salt who provided us with updates about our refugee families from the past and present and what is being done to help refugees now in their struggles to come to Canada.

On Nov. 21st, the theme of the meeting was "Commemoration" and Judy and Katy Whitfield provided a talk and slide presentation. Judy was in attendance at the Vimy 100th anniversary in April 2017 and Katy worked as an Educational Coordinator for the Vimy Foundation. Their presentation featured some of the WWI monuments and cemeteries in France and Belgium. They talked about the sacrifice of so many Canadians who fought for our country 100 years ago, and how they have been commemorated.

The "Period Purse Project" was the topic of our December meeting. Danielle Kaftarian, a volunteer with this outreach program, led us through a "packing party" where we filled donated purses with feminine hygiene products, personal hygiene items as well as warm clothing articles such as hats, mittens, and scarves. Our Women's Fellowship filled 53 purses for women in local shelters or living on the streets. Once the packing was completed, we ended the meeting with a Christmas story about "giving". A special thank you goes to Janis Traquair who sends out notices and reminders of all our activities. Our good attendance is due to her diligence in keeping people informed. Also, we wish to thank our technical support expert, David Whitfield, who graciously assists us in meetings where technical setups are required. Thanks to the women who contribute refreshments on meeting nights and to Pat Ainslie, Bette Andrews, Debra Hogan, and Judy Whitfield who offered leadership in planning the meetings this year.

Respectfully submitted, Debra Hogan (for the Women's Fellowship Planning Committee)

2017 Annual Youth Group Report: July – December

Joining the Runnymede United Church community this year has been a lovely experience, and I have been so blessed to become a part of such a welcoming and supportive congregation. It has been a lot of fun getting to know all of the youth and families through my time here so far! It was a challenge to run the youth program coming in as a new leader, particularly with the timing of Reverend Katherine's sabbatical. I found support in Katherine prior to her departure, and having the support of Melissa Milkie, Suzanne Gordon, and Alison Gadsby was integral to the success of the program.

A big thank you to everyone who welcomed and aided with my transition and who helped me sort out any gray areas or questions that popped up as we went along.

July – August: I was brought on as the youth leader just prior to Reverend Katherine's departure in mid- July for her sabbatical. I had a couple of weeks to consult and prepare, asking any and all questions necessary to be able to get the youth group going in the fall. I spent the summer planning and preparing the calendar of events for the coming year, including some preparation of the youth group and my "office." I worked largely from home, but often came into the church once a week to work in the youth room itself.

September: Sunday, September 10th: RUC Welcome Back BBQ I had the chance to meet some youth at the RUC 'Welcome Back' barbecue at the beginning of September. I was largely working at the table, talking to families and got the chance to meet some families and youth in our community.

Sunday, September 17th: Youth Group Kick-Off! To kick off the year with Youth Group, we gathered as a group after Children's Time and went down to Bloor West Village for the Ukrainian Festival. At the time, we were also doing an activity called "Trade Ups." Youth were challenged to trade away the small items I provided for bigger and better things. They started with some paperclips, a small candle, a pipe cleaner, etc. and ended up getting some pretty snazzy items. We had a great time with the activity but also enjoyed the Ukrainian festival.

Friday, September 22nd – Sunday, September 24: Youth Retreat I worked with Laura Leach, our former youth leader, to run an amazing retreat at Crieff Hills, outside of Guelph. Laura planned and organized the weekend, which allowed me to take the time to get to know the youth who attended. It was a wonderful weekend, filled with moments for reflection and chances for us to grow as a community.

Thursday, September 28th: Time Capsule Crafting I brought jars and crafty items to decorate them, with the goal of filling the vessels with goals for the year and personal aspirations. The idea was that we would decorate them then seal them up for the year, and open them in June.

Sunday, October 1st: Faith and Family; Intergenerational Pot Luck This Sunday, was a Faith and Family Sunday, meaning the youth were in the sanctuary with their families instead of in the youth room. Youth were also invited to participate, with their families, in the Intergenerational Pot Luck hosted by Emily Mather.

Thursday, October 5th: Office Hours Beginning in October, I began hosting 'office hours' in the youth room every other Thursday. I remain in the youth room from 3pm to 8pm with an open-door policy, giving youth the opportunity to stop by to chat, or do homework, or share hot chocolate – whatever they need! This is a recurring event.

Sunday, October 8th: Thanksgiving Messy Church Activity The youth joined forces with Sunday School to craft their own Thanksgiving wreaths, sharing what they were most thankful for this time of year.

Thursday, October 12th: Post-Thanksgiving Pot Luck Youth were invited to join me in the youth room to share snacks and food together as a belated Thanksgiving celebration. We shared empanadas and cupcakes and veggie snacks!

Sunday, October 15th: Get to Know Youth Youth took the time as a group to fill out some silly (but informative!) questionnaires so that we could get to know our group a bit better. Questions ranged from languages spoken, to favourite chocolate bar, to Smarties or M&Ms!

Sunday, October 15th: Youth Babysitting/Movie afternoon Working with Emily Mather, youth and Sunday Schoolers were invited to the North Room to watch *The Lorax* together. For \$5, attendees could watch the movies, share some snacks, and have some pizza! The movie was lovely, and we even had time to play some parachute games outside afterwards! All thanks to Emily Mather for coordinating and hosting the event!

Thursday, October 19th: Office Hours

Sunday, October 22nd: Team-building games As a group, we played a number of fun, cooperative games aimed at boosting teamwork, communication, and our bond as a group! Some games includes Headbanz, 'This is a This', and counting to 10 as a group (which is harder than it seems!)

Thursday, October 26th: Halloween Movie Night We gathered in anticipation of Halloween night in the youth room, where the projector had been set up and we watched *Hocus Pocus* while sharing some delicious cupcakes! (It's always fun to share movies from my childhood with the next generation of youth!) Lots of laughs were shared!

Sunday, October 29th: Gardening with Barbara and Brenda Barbara Tetherington got in touch with me to ask if the youth could possibly help her out with the native garden as the weather cooled down. Together with Barbara and Brenda Lien, the youth rallied and we all gathered with gardening gloves, trowels, and a keen eye for weeds! It was really awesome to see the youth get together and really listen to what Brenda and Barbara had to say about the importance of indigenous species and the benefit they have on local ecosystems. I think it was a cool chance to learn not just about how to garden as a skill, but about local plant life as well!

Thursday, November 2nd: Office Hours – cancelled due to illness

Sunday, November 5th: Power of Words This Sunday, we focused on the power that words can have, and how often we use certain words, negative or positive. We spent some time trying to think of synonyms for bad/good, and reflected on how often we use these words, often times without thinking and perhaps having more of a negative influence than we think. On the flipside, we discussed the power of positive words, and how much they can affect mood and relationships, within ourselves and when interacting with others.

Wednesday, November 8th: Board Game Night I brought in a great number of board games and invited youth to join me (and try to sink my Battleship!)

Saturday, November 11th: Craft Sale Youth were invited, as in years past, to set up a table in the youth room at the annual Bloor West Village Arts and Crafts Sale. Youth were invited to bake and/or help man the table during the event, mostly working in shifts (some youth came in the morning, some arrived in the afternoon, some could not attend but brought baked goods to sell). It was a very successful day, with our goods raising over \$200 for youth programming!

Sunday, November 12th: Trash Talk This morning, youth were engaged in a discussion about waste and environmental stewardship. We discussed major problems that affect our environment and how climate change is the direct product of human action (or inaction). We discussed the role that we can have in changing the course of history in regards to the destruction of the planet, and what small (and large!) actions the youth can take to becomes better, more responsible stewards of the earth.

Thursday, November 16th: Office Hours

Sunday, November 19th: Like Jesus This morning, youth gathered in the youth room where they found a large blank outline of a human. We discussed why the image was blank, and without identifying characteristics, and then worked together to fill the space with Christ-like qualities, values, and personality traits. We then took this further and described how we can act out those characteristics in our every day life. E.g. Christ is forgiving. When someone says something rude, or doesn't act in a way that you like, understanding their intention and moving forward, without holding a grudge.

Wednesday, November 22nd: Justice League Movie Night at the Humber We met at the Humber Cinemas at 6:30 to see Justice League together! We had snacks and watched the movie, with a little debrief afterwards! And on a school night no less!

Sunday, November 26th: Welcoming On this Sunday, as a congregation, we welcomed new members. As a youth group, we got together and discussed what it meant to feel welcome, and how we can help others feel welcome when they join our communities. We talked about personal experiences with not feeling welcome: how did that feel? How did we know we were not welcome? What changed, eventually, to make us feel welcome, if such was the case?

Thursday, November 30th: Office Hours

Sunday, December 3rd: White Gift Sunday/Ornament Crafting We gathered before service to put together the last items for the shoebox the youth group was putting together as a group for a mother. After it was wrapped and ready to go, we presented the boxes together with Sunday School. After, in the youth room, we crafted some Christmas ornaments that we could take home to decorate our tree, chatting about Christmas plans and traditions.

Thursday, December 7th: Christmas Cookie Decorating Meeting in the kitchen, we gathered as a small group to bake sugar cookies and decorate them! I prepared all of the dough before the event, and had it chilled and ready to be rolled and cut out into fun cookie shapes! We trayed them, baked them, cooled them, and then let our creative genius out and went crazy with the sprinkles! We split the hoard in the end and everyone got some cookies to share with their friends and family!

Sunday, December 10th: Christmas Pageant What an amazing performance! It was great to see so many of our youth participating in the show! Some of those of us not in the pageant sat together and reveled in the warmth of the Christmas spirit!

Thursday, December 14th: Office Hours

Sunday, December 17th: Reverend Katherine Returns/Scone Baking Together with Sunday School, the youth group celebrated Reverend Katherine's return to Runnymede ... by baking scones! We gathered in the kitchen with James, a friend of RUC, who helped the youth prepare plain and blueberry scones for coffee hour after service. Suzanne Gordon provided most of the supplies, and helped us prepare and clean up as well! A big thank you to her and James for all of their help – we couldn't have done it without them.

Wednesday, December 20th: Toronto Christmas Market Initially planning to meet at Runnymede subway station, we explored the Toronto Christmas Market in the evening on one of the cost-free entry days! It was beautiful, all lit up, and jam-packed with folks taking in the festivities. We got some snacks, took some photos, and stopped for a well-deserved warm up with hot chocolate!

Sunday, December 24th: Cheesy Christmas Games with Sunday School Headed up by Rev. Katherine, we joined forces with Sunday School for some cheesy Christmas fun. First, we set up three stations, and youth could spend their time at the table of their choosing, generally rotating between them: cookie decorating, Lego, Christmas crafts. After, we opened up the space to play some team games/relays! Lots of fun was had by all, and it was a wonderful way to get excited for Christmas and to spend time with Rev. Katherine and the younger ones.

Sunday, December 31st: Youth programming off for the holidays!

2018: Looking into the future of Youth Group

I am looking forward to the coming months with the youth program. We are headed to Ottawa in February for Worshiplude, and as the weather gets warmer, I can't wait to get back outside and exploring fun things our community has to offer! Having Reverend Katherine back will be wonderful, as we can make long term plans and I can get a better sense of my place and scope as youth leader. I would like to explore the boundaries we can push in Sunday morning programming, as this is when we have the highest attendance.

We have plans already for a confirmation class in the coming months, if there is interest, and are looking into a potential summer trip for those completing the class. I would like to have office hours continue, to provide an open space for youth, if ever they need it, and I will continue to try to develop programming that works for the interests and schedules of the youth in our congregation. I would love to see the community grow, and to develop a plan for the youth to get involved with community service projects – a necessity not only for a high school diploma, but for them to develop a stronger sense of stewardship and service.

Respectfully submitted by your Youth Leader, Cayley Pimentel

RUC SPONSORED GROUPS

BLOOR WEST NURSERY SCHOOL

School Year 2016-2017 with additional notes

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

New Board Members: N/A

Elections (re-elections)

Stephanie Martin as President

Sarah Armstrong as Vice President

Laura Sheppard as Secretary

Resignations

Tessa Schmitz-Wood as board member.

Danielle Kaftarian as Secretary and board member.

Water/Allergies

Water testing of the tap in the Jewitt hall kitchen took place at the end of October. The results concluded that there was lead in the standing sample. As a result, the tap will be flushed daily for five minutes before using the water.

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

Licensing

In February, the Ministry completed its licensing inspection - compliance was met and the license was renewed.

Volunteer Policy

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

Safe House

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

Special Needs

Special Needs Consultant Denise Palermo from the Etobicoke Children's Centre Consultation Group spent time this fall working with two children. She remains our contact person as the need arises.

Capital improvements N/A

Events during the year

During the month of September, our new class of sixteen children adjusted to the daily routines. On the recommendation of our Special Needs Consultant Denise Palermo, we were able to hire on a contract basis a support staff worker to help attend to the needs of one of our students.

The teachers continued to implement the City of Toronto requirements in preparation for an inspection between October and December. Additional teaching items were purchased to fulfill some of these requirements. The teachers were delighted with the results of the inspection. All their hard work had paid off as they received a high score.

Our gym program began in October. The children participate in large gross motor activities twice a week.

In November, the teachers hosted the school's annual Open House. This event gave the children an opportunity to show their parents their classroom as well as their art displayed around the room. For the parents, it was a chance to meet other parents and talk to the teachers.

Professional Development

In November, the teachers attended a 3-hour Child/Infant CPR course. This event was offered to both the current parents and their caregivers.

Website and Social Media

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

Enrollment

There are currently 19 families on the wait list for the 2018/19 school year. We are pleased that 5 returning families will be attending in September 2018. For the 2019/20 school year, we have 3 families on the wait list.

Advertising

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

Finances

The school's financial situation continues to depend on student enrollment. We were at full enrollment for the 2016-17 year, resulting in a surplus of \$1,584.

Fundraising continued via Mabel's Labels, providing a modest amount. One anonymous donor gave the school \$500 in order to help the school update its toy and educational aids to comply with the new diversity standards instituted by the Ministry.

In October, the board voted to increase fees to \$352.00 per month (Sep to Jun) for the 2017-18 school year (up from \$340 in 2016-17).

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Martin, President, Bloor West Nursery School

85TH OLD MILL SCOUT GROUP - REPORT ON ACTIVITIES DURING 2017

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

Under the continued sponsorship of Runnymede United Church, the 85th Old Mill (Toronto) Scout Group's 35 adult volunteers ('Scouters') and Group Committee members continued to provide training for life to 88 registered youth, aged 5-26. The 85th's Group Committee, comprised of volunteers, a representative from Runnymede United Church (James Lien) and representatives of each section of Scouting, meets monthly, and is responsible for the delivery of the Scouts Canada programme and numerous administrative matters, including interview screening (with Police Record Check) prospective adult volunteers, registration of adults and youth, and fundraising events. Group Committee is also responsible for ensuring the quality of programme provided and during the year encouraged volunteers to undertake required Scout training (including a new Child and Youth Safety program through Respect in Sports as well Standard First Aid training).

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

Beavers in Action

There are 33 Beavers in the colony on Wednesday night 6:45 to 7:45 p.m.) aged 5-7, led by eleven Scouters. The Beavers this year are an energetic, attentive, and enthusiastic group, and a pleasure to guide along the Canadian Path. Meeting components vary weekly, but include crafts, cooperative games, stories, songs and outings. Again, this year, we had wonderful participation for both Apple Day and Christmas Tree sales, two events that link our youth to the broader Bloor West Village community.

In December, our Holiday Giving project consisted of working with John Gibson House where each Beaver was paired with a resident of the house to provide a shoebox of gifts which included basic items like toiletries, socks, scarves etc. They created personal cards for the residents to go along with their gifts. Some of the Beavers then went to personally deliver the boxes to the residents. This is an initiative we have been involved in in past years as well. This Spring we will again bring food donations to The Sharing Place on Annette Street. The Beavers will have a tour of the facility and learn a lot about the spirit of giving. For most, this will be an introduction to a place they did not know about, and the idea that they could help people in their own neighbourhood has a significant impact.

During the past year, the Beavers have enjoyed many fun activities, highlighted by the 85th All-Sections Camp in May 2017. From sleeping in tents and making s'mores, to alien costumes and themed activities, the kids were very engaged in all aspects of the camp. Other highlights of the year included racing our buggies at the Beaver Buggy rally, a guided forest hike with the High Park Nature Centre and our inaugural Winter Sleepover at Runnymede church. Outings and camps are always highlights, but the regular weekly meetings provide great opportunities for gaining knowledge about the world and having fun with new friends. Our ROCKETS! Night not only delivered a wildly fun introduction to physics, but brought some of our more introverted Beavers out of their shell. It was a joy to witness. This fall saw the addition of "The Box Game" where Beavers submit instructions for games that they wish to play at meetings to burn off some of their endless energy. All Beavers – especially white tails – are being encouraged to take on a leadership role by guiding these games

and helping with weekly tasks. The Colony looks forward to learning some practical skills like basic First Aid, and getting out and about in the coming months with skating, swimming and cycling.

Cubs in Action

The Cub Pack this year (Thurs. 7:00 p.m.) has 28 youth aged 8-10 and seven Scouters for 2017-18. The Cubs and their Akela Rich plus Scouters have been putting the "OUT" in SCOUTING - that is, experiencing the outdoors on a regular basis: canoeing the Humber, hiking in High Park, Fall camp at Woodland Trails Scout Camp, Exploring the neighbourhood hike, Apple Day, selling Christmas trees on the Church lawn, skating at Rennie Park, bicycling in the Humber valley, attending the 85th-led Cuboree at Everton Scout Camp, as well as a Winter Camp at Woodland Trails. The Pack leadership, including the Howler's Council, has also been revisiting much of Baden-Powell's core programming, with the Jungle Opening, along with increased attention to the new "Canadian Path" programme. As usual, the Pack participated in the Old Mill Area Kub Kar Rally, a perennial favourite, has provided service to our sponsor: Runnymede United Church, supported a local food bank and once again the Cubs delivered gift boxes to disadvantaged families in our local area as part of the Toronto Star Christmas Box programme.

Mindful of the Cub Motto - "Do Your Best" - the Cub programme encourages each Cub to participate in a range of activities and opportunities to further his/her growth in Social, Physical, Intellectual, Character, Emotional and Spiritual dimensions, all while having fun.

Scouts in Action

Our 17 Scouts and seven Scouters have continued to follow the Canadian Path over the last year with an emphasis on youth leadership. Each camp and weekly meeting offers the opportunity for youth to take on important roles in planning and running their own activities. A key forum for Troop decision-making is the monthly gathering of our Court of Honour, where Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol leaders make plans for the Troop and receive coaching on how to run a meeting and how to work effectively in a leadership role with other youth.

Highlights of this year's weekly meetings included Skit night, Nerf night, Camp cooking night around the fire pit at Etienne Brule Park and several opportunities to build team work and learn new skills. The Troop also participated in making Santa box deliveries to families in our community in early December as well as attended an all-night LaserQuest lock-in with other Area troops before Christmas.

The Troop this year have & are planning on three or 4 camps. The youth are the catalyst for the theme of the camps and the organization behind them. They will have had two weekend camps at the RASC CARR Observatory on top of Blue Mountain (Collingwood).

Venturers in Action

The Venturer Company (Wed. 8:00 p.m.) is made up of 9 High School aged youth aged 14 to 17 and seven Scouters. This year we have more registered youth members than last year, and in particular, more youth members who are active on a regular basis. The Venturers' section motto is 'challenge', which is particularly apt for high school aged youth since they have many conflicting activities including part time jobs and school. It is encouraging that so many manage to participate in regular activities in spite of competing demands on their time. Venturer company activities are selected and planned by the youth members of the company with the guidance of the Scouters who take the role of advisor as opposed to decision maker.

In the last 12 months, the Venturer company has planned and executed several camps including a visit to the CARR Observatory in February, a spring Bruce Trail hiking camp at Lion's Head, an October hiking camp at McCrae Lake in preparation for the Adirondacks trip and our annual trip to the Adirondacks in November. This year our group of 5 youth and 3 Scouters conquered 4 more of the 46

Adirondacks High Peaks. In addition to the camps, the group has been busy with a number of other activities including helping with Apple Day and Christmas tree sales, the United Way CN Tower climb (an early Saturday morning stroll up 1,776 stairs, plus a few more for good measure), and various activities at our weekly meetings for example, cupcake decorating, bowling, canoeing on the Humber River, cycling and hiking in local parks.

Rovers In Action

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

Respectively Submitted by Scouter Jim Lien, Group Commissioner and Runnymede United Church Sponsor's Representative, 85th Old Mill (Toronto) Group, Scouts Canada.