

DUNBAR HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH

3525 West 24th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6L 1S5
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www.dunbarheightsuc.ca



June 14th 2009
Annual Congregational Meeting

DUNBAR HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH

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Minister:	Rev. Michelle Slater
Ministry with Children, Youth & Families:	Cathy Cryder
Music Director:	Dr. Greg Caisley
Treasurer:	Fred Fawcett
Chair of Council:	Jean McTavish
Office Administrator:	Sheila Satherley
Night Watchman:	Bill Johnson

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 2008

SUNDAY, June 14, 2009

following 10:00am Worship

IN THE FREEDOM OF ONE WORSHIPPING BODY ... OUR VISION

A sanctuary for the Spirit, within and without

Celebrating the Spirit loose in the community, we engage our neighbours
in innovative and courageous ways.

OUR COMMITMENT

- To act God's will for us as faithful Christians in as yet unimagined ways;
- To deepen vital Christian roots through learning, worship, music, prayer and healing ministries;
- To be a prophetic presence in our community and beyond;
- To embrace and engage across generations, cultures, denominations and faith.

OUR GOALS

As seekers and givers we listen and respond with loving care
to the needs of those around us.

To be the embodiment of an enlivened United Church.

Annual Report 2008 - Dunbar Heights United Church

Prepared for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, June 14, 2008

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In Memoriam.....back cover

DUNBAR HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH

3525 West 24th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

Minutes of Congregational Meeting

Date February 22, 2009

Council Members Presenting

Y	Jean McTavish	Chair
Y	Arthur Ross	Past - Chair
Y	Rev. Michelle Slater	Minister
	Cathy Cryder	Minister of Youth, Children & Families
	John Smith	Ministry & Personnel Committee
Y	Fred Fawcett	Treasurer
Y	Mark Paetkau	Finance Committee
	Maureen McLellan	Property Committee
	Anne Clark	Dunbar Deepening 2
	Maureen Paetkau	Worship Committee
	Susan Pond	Presbytery Representative
	Susan Silver	Outreach Committee
Y	Chris Epting	Secretary
	Anne-Marie Fuller	Member at Large
	Don Hitchen	Member at Large

- List of Members and Adherents present are attached to the end of the minutes. Please view the posted Minutes.

Call to order 11:50

- Michelle led the congregation in prayer.
- Jean welcomed the congregation to the Congregational Meeting.
- Attendance sign-in sheets were circulated and attached to the minutes.
- Motion that adherents as well as Members to be allowed to vote at the meeting was moved by Arthur Ross, seconded by Jill Parker and the motion was carried.

Minutes of June 1, 2008 Annual General Meeting

- Minutes were reviewed by all present. Motion to adopt the minutes was moved by Judith Ann Donaldson, seconded by Barbara Johnson and the motion was carried.

Report from the Maternity Leave Search Committee.

- Susan Burns introduced the members of the search committee. The committee has had four meetings to date. Susan identified that the committee's goal is to find a strong candidate. As a congregation we may have to be open to consider one or more people for the positions to fit the needs of the candidates. Search committee recognizes that we already have a strong continuing leadership and will keep this in mind throughout the process.
- A job posting has been completed and will be posted on Monday, February 23, 2009. The Search Committee has identified several suitable candidates and has had preliminary conversations with identified candidates. Interviewing will commence once the posting is

closed. The hope is to have a recommendation of a name or names for council to consider shortly. Search committee invited members to speak with them about their concerns or skills they feel are necessary. Arthur Ross asked that each candidate for consideration should come with a vision, goal or theme for the period of the maternity leave.

Finance Report 2008 and Budget 2009

- Jean introduced the financial report and the budget. Jean reviewed extensive process of preparing the budget that the finance committee and council have undertaken. The last two council meetings were primarily concerned with budget. The current budget has had at least three major revisions. Furthermore each council meeting the council reviews the previous month's financial statement.
- Part of the budget process includes considering both the financial matters and spiritual visions for the church. The following items are examples of what the church council considers when drafting a budget: attendance, maintenance, sources of revenue, expenses and the mission and services fund. Jean expresses her gratitude for the financial gifts to the church as well as gifts and skills of it's' members.

Financial Report

- Mark apologizes for the mistake on first posted report. The Church's finances are amazingly complex and thus require revisions as new information comes to light.
- Mark highlighted the major aspects of the report.
- He indicates that there are several areas where the revenue was not as high as expected, such as Christmas Eve services (which were cancelled) and the thrift sale (there was only one sale this year).
- However in light of these considerations the variance between the budget and the actual financial statement is within an acceptable range.
- The second consecutive deficit is concerning, but we are also concerned with the physical site renewal.
- We are now on track with the Manse.
- Mark highlights how close to the line Churches and non-profit organizations operate and how much a minor change can alter the Budget.
- Mark indicated that congregation has responded financially when the need was identified.
- We have an average weekly attendance of 103 people. We have declining attendance, but sustaining financial commitments.

Budget for 2009

- Mark presented the Budget to the Congregation and highlighted the following points
- Expenses will be down.
- The Budget asked for an 8% increase in the givings for 2009, due to declining attendance. However this would be only a 1% increase over the 2007 budget.
- Mark discussed the reasons for removing the Mission and Service line in budget. Pledged donations from members are expected to cover our obligations and targets. This was thoughtfully considered in council.

The following points about the budget were discussed in the meeting

- GST is paid on all products and services we use and purchase. As a non--profit we are charged at a 2.5% rate.
- Observer subscriptions contributions accountings.
- Mission and Service contribution statements explained by Fred Fawcett, Mark Paetkau and Arthur Ross.
- The number of people who are designated as receipted givers appears to have remained stable.
- The burden of the finances is on a smaller number of people.
- How do we attract new people to our church to sustain the work of this congregation? Perhaps it is reframed that the work of church is fueled by the faith of the members who believe that church is doing good work.
- New members come to church through personal invitations.

- Motion to approve the Budget for 2009, on the condition that we monitor the progress to meeting the Mission and Service Goal was moved by Mark Paetkau, seconded by Arthur Ross and the motion was carried with one abstention.

- This year's fundraising considerations will be the Organ Fund, Godly Play Storage, and the Men's washroom. The council believes the best way to raise these funds is through special appeals.

Adjournment at 1:45pm

- Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Arthur Ross, seconded by Patricia Alexis and the motion was carried.

How We Govern our Congregation

All congregations of the United Church of Canada are governed according to *The Manual* of the United Church. The smallest independent unit of the United Church of Canada is the local congregation. In setting out the way congregations are to govern themselves, *The Manual* says, “Church structures should be designed to liberate and to enable the people of God to exercise their ministry in building up the body of Christ through worship, reconciliation, evangelism and outreach, service, and the seeking of justice.” (*The Manual, Section 103, 2001*)

Dunbar Heights United Church is governed through a number of committees and working groups, with the chairpersons of each group reporting to, and being a member of, the Church Council. The Church Council has the overall responsibility for the spiritual well-being of the congregation and its members and adherents, and the proper conduct of the life and work of the congregation. We are currently served and led by a Council of 14 members. The Council consists of a chairperson, secretary and the church treasurer, and four members-at-large. Currently, the chairs of the following working groups and committees also serve on Council:

- Dunbar Deepening (Spiritual Development)
- Finance
- Outreach
- Property
- Ministry & Personnel
- Worship
- Trustees

Our congregation’s representative to presbytery, our next level of governance in the church (a regional body), is also a member of Council; Susan Pond is our current presbytery rep. Finally, the Minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care is also a member of the church Council, as is the Staff Associate Minister for Children, Youth and Family Ministry. All lay members of Council are elected at the spring Congregational Meeting. If vacancies occur during the year, the Council may appoint a replacement. All positions on Council are for a two-year term. Council normally meets once a month. Minutes of Council meetings are posted soon afterward, on the bulletin board outside the library.

To the greatest extent possible, the committees and working groups of the congregation make decisions and implement projects within their areas of responsibility. Each group is responsible for its own budgeted funds. Members of each committee and working group can join in that group’s area of work at any time during the year. The following committees and working groups are currently undertaking the various ministries of the congregation, and would welcome your participation in their work! Each committee or group usually meets once a month, and members may have some responsibilities in between in directing the ministry of their group.

COUNCIL: The church council meets once per month, usually the third Wednesday, except for July and August. Council attends to the overall functioning of the ministry of the congregation.

DUNBAR DEEPENING: This group gathers regularly to discern together the spiritual growth needs of the congregation, for all ages and groups. Together, they engage in various spiritual practices, share a meal, and learn from each other and members of other congregations who are sometimes interviewed. This group is currently in the middle of a two year term.

FINANCE: This committee manages the financial life and affairs of the congregation. With the Treasurer, this committee oversees the revenues and expenditures of the congregation, raising any concerns as they arise, and assessing for recommendation to Council, any out of the ordinary expenditures. The Finance committee prepares the yearly budget for the approval of the Annual Congregational Meeting and helps us stick to it!

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL: This committee is the one committee that does not accept new members without being approved by Council. This committee is also the one group on which no staff person may sit, as it is responsible for the supervision and support of the congregation's paid staff persons. The committee's tasks include regular review of working conditions, responsibilities and remunerations; personal support and care of the staff; oversight of the relationships between and among staff; and regular reviews of staff job performance.

WORSHIP: This group has oversight of the worship life of the congregation. This committee meets regularly to review the worship services and set policy. We evaluate the worship experiences through the lens of persons' ability to encounter God, and reflect constantly on how to make space for worship that is vital (alive and growing) and faithful (rooted in our traditions). This committee directs special services and arranges guest preachers when needed. It includes both ministers and the musical leadership. *We would love to welcome you to this committee, if you have a passion for the worship life of our church.*

OUTREACH: This committee directs and initiates programs and projects aimed at serving those in need, within and outside of the congregation. The committee welcomes new members, or those who would like to take part in one particular project or program only. The **REFUGEE** committee is a sub-group of Outreach, which is co-ordinating the congregation's refugee sponsorship program.

PROPERTY: This committee has the hands-on responsibility of keeping this building functional and welcoming. Members of the Property committee take on personal repairs, as well as arranging for contractors or other professionals and oversee their work. *You are very welcome to join this committee, especially if you are someone who notices what's needed around the church and likes to get things done!*

TRUSTEES: In the United Church of Canada, all congregational property is held in trust by local members of the congregation, in the name of the United Church of Canada. That means each congregation must have a Board of Trustees in whose names the congregation's property is held in trust for the use and benefit of the congregation. The Board of Trustees meets infrequently (once or twice a year), usually to arrange for the proper insurance for church buildings. No major property sales or renovations can take place without the approval of both the congregation, and the presbytery. We are in need of a few more members to serve as Trustees. According to *The Manual*, a trustee cannot be held responsible for the failure of any investment or security taken out; that is, no individual is held personally liable for any part of the church's property.

REPORTS

WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

June 1 2008-June 14, 2009

For Annual Congregational Meeting

June 14th, 2009

Worship committee consists of the core members who meet monthly to support the work of our ministry staff in the preparation and delivery of weekly worship. In addition there are a number of adjunct members who support worship each Sunday morning.

Our meetings begin with a short spiritual practice; several members have shared leadership for that part of our meetings. We review past services, and plan future worship. Thanks to all, both core members and adjunct members for your dedication. We work together to provide weekly opportunities for encounters with God, to make space for the working of the Holy Spirit and to rejoice in Christian fellowship.

Core Committee members

Maureen Paetkau, Chair and arrangement of lectors and pulpit supply

Judith Ann Donaldson, Communion and Baptism supplies, note-taker and healing stations

Colleen Cotton, liturgical items and sanctuary readiness

Lynn Hitchen, note-taker and representative to maternity leave committee

Craig Burns, consultant to the chancel renovation committee

Staff, Michelle Slater, Cathy Cryder, Ailsa Zaenker (08), Craig Lewis (08), Greg Caisley (08&09)

Adjunct Members

Audrey Cloghesy, Special service altar decorations

Prentice Durbin, Ushers

Doreen Fraser, Anne Gartshore, Coffee hour hospitality

Elaine Knapp-Fuller, Children's activity packs

Dragon Sabanac, Sound system

Committee work highlights

- Had a dreams and goals discussion: **Results:** carpet and cushions were added to the children's area of the sanctuary; a chancel renovation committee was formed with Council direction.
- Changed the name of the committee from Music & Worship to Worship committee to reflect the importance of all aspects of worship: prayer, preaching and music.
- Added Lynn Hitchen and Craig Burns as core member of the committee. They bring valuable gifts to our work.
- Moved the organ banner to above the high table
- Participated with Caroline Penhale and property committee in a walk-through of the building to assess welcoming potential: **Results:** made additions to bulletin boards; 18 people attended a Greeters' workshop conducted by Caroline Penhale.
- Initiated contact with Knox Worship committee to discuss summer worship schedule for 2009 and 2010
- Submitted a budget to finance committee
- Purchased a computer and projector provided for in 2008 DHUC budget to make the children's time more visible to the congregation

- Added an additional license to cover use of more sources of music
- Received the Organ Report from Greg Caisley
- Recommended to Council an increase in pulpit supply remuneration from \$125 to \$200
- Reviewed offering procedures and produced information on bulletin boards and in the pews
- Received letter of resignation from Prentice Durbin as head usher
- Met and/or consulted with those preaching during May, June and July

Special Services

We celebrated the sacrament of Communion eight times between June '08 and June '09, in November by Westminster Rite, all other Communion services are by Intinction. Prayer Stations are offered at Communion services.

We continue to celebrate the sacrament of baptism, as well as join couples together in marriage, and help other say goodbye to those they love with funerals and memorial services.

Weddings June 2008-June 2009

Gordon Lawson and Tara Burnell

Baptisms June 2008-June 2009

Oona Elise Vogel September '08

Gavin Neil M^{ac}Phee-Irvine October '08

Memorial services June 2008-June 2009

Lois Margaret Blais

Roland Stuart Bradley

Pat Rose

All Ages Worship provides an opportunity to explore themes, to share music and to pray in ways that are especially suited to children. The services also endeavour to give adults a chance to worship in different ways, to see with different eyes, to sing with a different voice.

June-December 2008

Recognition of Graduates, June

Open House/Welcome Back Sunday, September

World Wide Communion, October

Children's Sunday, November

Pageant Sunday, December

January-June 2009

Deferred Pageant from Christmas Eve, January

Baden Powell Sunday, February

Palm Sunday, April

Pentecost, May

Celebration of Grad and Leaders, June

Other worship celebrations June 2008-June 2009:

June-December 2008

Anniversary of Church Union, June
Covenanting of Godly Play Leaders, September
Celebration of Music Leadership of Ailsa and Craig, September
Thanksgiving, Welcoming Dr Greg Caisley, October
Celebrating Stewardship, October
All Saints Sunday, Memorial for members, November
Remembrance Sunday, November
Carol Service, December
Christmas Eve Services, 4pm, 7pm and 11pm; all cancelled because of snow and road conditions

January-June 2009

Ash Wednesday, shared with Knox, at Knox, February
Barb Myers, Service of music and healing, March
Holy Thursday, April
Good Friday, shared worship with Knox at DHUC, April
Easter Sunday, Rutter Gloria, April
Disciple Graduates Sunday, May
Rev. Michelle's last Sunday, May
Outreach Sunday, First United, Rev. Bob Burrows preaching, May
YAYA Wandering Worship, June

Prepared by Maureen Paetkau
Chair of Worship
with assistance by Sheila Satherley

FROM GREG

Thanks to Maureen Paetkau for that retrospective of the past year. She articulated the changes within the music ministry this past year—that were substantial—and reflected changes and issues which I am only now beginning to have a good idea of.

On a personal level, these changes have been a whirlwind for me as well, but I have enjoyed the challenge, and am enjoying getting ready for the coming year. Now that I have completed an inventory of the many things that make up the years of DHUC's music program, and have been working on budgets, reorganizing, and forward planning, I am looking forward to working and assisting all of the people within our greater community to express themselves and be creative at the highest possible level through the gift of music during the coming year.

Our plans are still not finalized for the coming year—we have about three concerts planned to raise both awareness within the community, as well as money for church programs. More details on these will be released soon. We have already done much of the planning for services up to Christmas, and I can tell you that we have some wonderful music planned, and we will be inviting more people from the community and greater region to share their talents with us.

In addition, it remains a goal of mine to continue to ask each member of the church to be involved in services musically if they wish. If you are interested in singing, in playing a solo—or helping us “behind the scenes” there are many simple things that need help, and some big things too, we would be happy to have you. If you have a comment or request—please let me know—you can email through the church website.

Events to look forward to:

- Choir returns from summer recess- first practice Thursday, September 10 at 7PM.
- First service with the choir September 13, 10AM
- Choir Carol Service: December 13, 7PM

I would like to thank everyone who has been so welcoming to me, and has made my job easier. Also, a special thank you to members of the choir for being so supportive this past year, and for the members of the choir committee, whose labours are legion throughout the church. It has been a real pleasure getting to know you all.

Safe travels this summer to all; please take care of yourselves, and I will look forward to seeing you in church.

Greg

SENIOR CHOIR Financial Statement
May 31, 2008 to May 14, 2009

May 31, 2008 Bank Balance		2,828.13
Petty cash		24.99
Total		2,853.13
Plus Receipts:		
Fees		103.00
Subtotal		\$2,956.14
Less Disbursements		
Plants/Flowers/ Cards	152.37	
Stationery	61.18	
Soloist	50.00	
DHUC General Acct (Worship Com)	500.00	
Subtotal		\$763.55
Balance as of May 14, 2009		\$2192.59

Bank Balance May 14,2009		\$2164.59
Petty Cash		28.00
Total		\$2192.59

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NOTE: Proceeds from the *On Broadway* Concert Feb 1, 2009 were not processed through the Choir Account. Proceeds to DHUC General Acct Worship Committee. Proceeds from the concert plus the \$500 from the choir funds were used to pay the ten orchestra members who accompanied the "Gloria" presented at the Easter Sunday service.

Receipts

Tickets sales and door receipts	\$1785.00
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Expenses (paid by cash out of proceeds)

Printing of flyers, poster, tickets	\$129.50	
Sound system rental (50/50 split with Langley UC)	82.19	
Flowers for guests	38.00	
Postage (mailing posters to churches)	21.00	270.68
Net Proceeds		\$1,514.32

DUNBAR DEEPENING REPORT

September 2008 – June 2009

Dunbar Deepening acts as both clearing house and support team for the deepening activities for adults, children and youth in the congregation. We meet each month to share a meal, to practice a spiritual discipline and conduct the “nuts and bolts” of offering rich spiritual learning opportunities for all.

Staff Associate Resource Team: As a result of an initiative of the Council, the new Staff Associate Resource Team has with extraordinary dedication and energy taken on building up and supporting the Ministry of Children, Youth and Families, providing support in the Godly Play program and in the spaces which welcome children in the church. Traditionally the children’s ministry has been within the purview of Dunbar Deepening. The Spirit’s undeniable calling to this enthusiastic group will no doubt result in much richness and Dunbar Deepening looks forward to the necessary conversation for a proposal to go forward to Council to ratify the Resource Team as the committee in charge of the Ministry of Children, Youth and Families.

Children experience God in their Godly Play classrooms, through their families, the way we welcome and incorporate them in the worship in the sanctuary and through music and drama. On the last Sunday of Advent, the children told the congregation the story of Michael Mouse’s journey to see the baby Jesus, meeting hens, sheep, cows, cats and others on the way, and learning that when there is no gift to give, one can always give oneself.

Godly Play Training: Cathy Cryder, an accredited trainer of Godly Play teachers, offered four sessions as an Introduction to Godly Play, the pre-requisite course to full accreditation as a Godly Play teacher. The training is normally structured over one very intense weekend, but with the support of Naramata Centre, Cathy Cryder and Anne Clark redesigned the program to accommodate the busy schedules of many people that could not give up an entire weekend. Five members of the congregation completed the training over four 2 hour sessions and are slowly being incorporated into the teaching roster, supported by Anne and Cathy.

Adult Spiritual Learning Opportunities: Spiritual small groups such as Centering Prayer and Healing Touch continued working this year.

A number of women from DHUC attended the Western Women’s Retreat at Naramata, finding it a rich and bonding experience.

The Disciple Bible study course was offered this year, co-led by Rev. Michelle and Ed Geppert. Both leaders commented on how different discussion is when the group has more men than women. Five people “graduated.” This year’s class led worship prior to Rev. Michelle’s departure on maternity leave.

Rev. Michelle led a Wednesday morning Lectionary Prayer Group, faithfully attended by Ross and Marnee Connal. During Lent, Rev. Michelle, Cathy Cryder and Anne Clark offered a Godly Play experience for adults, telling the stories central to our faith, giving adults a chance to reflect on the stories with new eyes and ears. The early sessions attracted 3-4 participants; three sessions were cancelled for limited attendance.

Contemplative Parenting was a small group offering for six families (22 adults and children) exploring simple techniques in listening, meditating and praying, as a way to “unhook” parents from the pressure to do more, better, faster. The series began with a public lecture by Dr. Jane Garland discussing the research on the importance of creative, collaborative, costless, connected and contemplative choices in raising children. Four evening events followed, at Advent, Epiphany, Lent and Holy Week, with a full dinner prepared for parents and children by wonderful cooks and servers from the congregation. After dinner, the families listened to a Godly Play story and then divided into separate rooms: for the children to do reflective work on the stories told (and get into their pyjamas); and for the adults to meditate and engage in discussion about the evening’s theme.

Dunbar Deepening sponsored a meeting, with the Maternity Leave Committee in attendance, with the Rev. Major Jim Short and Maggie Watts-Hammond on lessons learned when the called minister takes a leave of absence to pursue another ministry. Thanks to both ministers for their frank sharing in assisting us in addressing some of the anxiety that naturally comes with change and thinking through issues around transitions, covenanting and communication.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Clark, Chair, Dunbar Deepening

PROPERTY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Property Committee meets monthly to deal with the ongoing concerns of the church building and property. Our facilities have served the congregation for many years, and continue to serve a number of groups both within the congregation and the wider community of Dunbar Heights. A special thank you to the committee members who have shared responsibility for the stewardship of this valuable resource: Don Hitchen, Bill Johnson, Malcolm McFadyen, and Dan Sage

Keeping these facilities maintained and available, and matching their utilization to the needs of the congregation and community is not without its challenges. Some work has been done over the past year to define specific roles within the committee, and also to look outside the committee when necessary. While this is a work-in-progress, specific roles identified are as follows:

- External Facility User Liaison – this role is the committee’s point-person for communicating with the individuals and groups that use our facilities who are not a part of the formal congregation. These include the pre-schools, manse tenants, Scout & Guide groups, among others.
- Staff and Committee Liaison – this role is the committee’s point-person for facility users *within* the congregation, including staff and the leaders of various committees and activities that take place at the church.
- Repairs and Maintenance – this perhaps embodies what most people think of the property committee, that is, being responsible for coordinating the physical repairs and maintenance of our facilities. Note that coordinating does not always equate to actually doing this work, but is often contacting the appropriate person or contractor to undertake the required activity.
- Facilities Development – this role analyzes how our current facilities and space are being used and identifies opportunities for improvements either through re-purposing existing resources, or by planning for and coordinating the acquisition of new resources and capital projects.
- Communications – this role involves coordinating primarily the outgoing communication of the committee through various means, such as the Good Tidings newsletter, the Sunday Worship bulletin, etc.
- Members-at-large – there is always room for a few more hands, and the members-at-large provide them. They may be key people involved in other areas of the church relevant to the committee (such as trustees or finance committee), or individuals who are willing to be flexible and divert their efforts to the appropriate area on an as-needed basis.
- Chair – the chair of the committee is responsible for the overall coordination of the committee’s effort, which includes, planning, budgeting, facilitating meetings, as well as being a member of the General Council of the Congregation.

While many people think of the Property Committee as a very “nuts-and-bolts” activity, reviewing these roles one can see there are many “people-skill” needs outside of picking up a hammer. If you think that you or someone you know has skills and gifts that are well suited to one of these roles, please contact the Property Committee Chair (or any member of the committee).

In addition to the ongoing maintenance of our facilities, there were also a number of specific issues undertaken through out the year – some of which include:

The replacement of the Ethel Todrick Room floor was completed, thanks to an anonymous donor who donated the money to cover the cost of the floor replacement. Prior to the floor replacement a group of volunteers painted the room. Thank you to all involved, the room looks great.

The Property Committee hired Abell Pest Control to come in monthly and keep the facility clear of rodents. Currently Greg and the choir have been hearing noises in the sub-ceiling above the Choir Room but William of Abell Pest Control insures us that it is squirrels and he is working on finding the openings that these little fuzzy tailed rodents are getting in through.

As many of you may have noticed, the preschool play space, situated between the church and the manse, is under construction. This play area is being funded by the preschools and will be available for all users of Dunbar Heights United Church.

A monitored fire alarm system was also installed in the church. Prior to this instillation DHUC had an alarm but no monitoring of this alarm. This is especially timely with the two daycares and the number of youth who use the church on a daily bases.

Trafalgar School Daycare was also accommodated by DHUC. The daycare found themselves in a situation were the school in which their daycare was housed was being seismically upgraded and the daycare was without a space. Trafalgar has been using rooms 204 and the Rainbow Room. Most of the children that were accommodated were kindergarten children. Trafalgar hopes to have their new facility built by the beginning of September 2009. We are very happy that we were able to reach out into the community and help a neighbour in need.

Some other items addressed by the committee through out the year include upgrading some of the electrical boxes (which our insurance company requested we do), tightening the lights in room 204, upgrading the lights in the office, the dishwasher (that Knox donated) has been installed in the kitchen, and lights were installed in the organ room so that the repair person could see the organ.

The upcoming year promises continued work for the committee, including repairing the ramp door and the office entry door, the Men's washroom needs upgrades and the stairs to the second floor need repairs. No doubt, many other meaningful challenges will also present in the coming year.

Finally, a special thank you to the many individuals who help keep the church facilities functioning and ensuring the building is left secured at the end of the day, to Sheila Satherley who not only handles the bookings of space by various users, but is often the one people turn to when they have a building issue that needs addressing. And last, but not least, a thank you to the whole congregation for your continuing support of our facilities through a variety of means, whether through monetary givings, gifts in kind and time, or simply through considerate use of our facilities.

Maureen McLellan
Property Committee Chair
June 2009

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

June 2009

The Outreach Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month beginning with a light meal at 5pm. Our goal areas can be viewed as three concentric circles of influence: **1.** our home community, **2.** the broader city, **3.** the global community.

We are very aware that the service work done by the committee is only a portion of what is done by the Dunbar Heights community. We acknowledge all the many regular tasks and generous work that is done by members of our church to engage with others in outreach.

Our goals expanded this year:

1. Our Home Community

Soup Sundays: Once a month hot soup and buns serve as an opportunity for fellowship. Frequently these times were accompanied by presentations: information on Camp Fircom, Café Justica and the Hamper Project.

Rent-a-Read: Susan Silver is overseeing this simple system which allows ou to take a book for #2 and return it after you are finished.

Salmon and Sugar sales (from Sweet Justice) also occurred throughout the year.

Outreach Services: In the Fall, the Outreach committee led a Sunday service on food. The service this May, with Rev. Bob Burrows, was an opportunity for us to hear about the first United Mission as well as to welcome back a dear friend!

Western Women's Conference at Naramata: Last year, a group of women attended this conference, making us realize the power of this event. Outreach will support the attendance of two members so that the September 2009 event will be even better attended.

2. With our City

St Elizabeth's House: In November we said goodbye to the long and wonderful tradition of Christmas Hampers. We thanked Deb Henderson and Bob Parker in particular for their leadership. In its stead, we have made a year-long commitment to St. Elizabeth Home, a shelter for women and children run by the St. James Community Service Society. Our hopes are that we form an informal relationship with St. Elizabeth so we can be of service in a variety of ways throughout the entire year.

This year we organized a very successful Christmas party, providing a generous stocking and pyjamas for each resident. Food hampers were also collected and distributed for families leaving the shelter in the upcoming months.

For Mothers' Day we provided a gift bag with personal necessities and treats for each mother.

Donations of gently used clothing and small household goods are collected at the church and have been delivered several times a month.

First United Church: Our strong ties with this downtown community continue. Susan Burns, an adjunct member of the committee, delivers food and clothing items on a weekly basis along with her brother, Dave.

Agape Project: Sandy Hwang has been supported in her work to provide sandwiches for the Youth Crisis Centre.

Camp Fircom: We continue to receive information regarding the developments at the camp and have responded by supporting them for purchases of a brush-clearing machine and large tents for events.

Conference on Homelessness: Four members attended in October. It was informative and we were able to make connections with other organizations.

3. The Global Community

Fair Trade Coffee: This coffee is brought to us by Café Justica, a grassroots organization which is working with the farmers in Guatemala to bring about a better lifestyle for the local people and to support orphans and street children in the cities. By using this coffee we are not only fundraising for Outreach projects, we are also supporting a very worthy cause.

Advocacy: Vancouver South presbytery is well served by advocate Rosemary Collins who works out of Wilson Heights United Church. Rosemary assists people in areas such as housing, attending court hearings and accessing government services. The Outreach committee contributed money to cover bus passes for travel during this work.

Community of churches: Several members of the committee attend these meetings with Outreach committees from other churches in our area. They report back to our committee for discussion.

A separate report from the Refugee Committee follows.

Our committee meetings are informal. We welcome guests and certainly new members!

A very heartfelt thank you to all the members of the committee for their involvement this year!

MEMBERS: Sabina Harpe (Chair), Susan Silver (Past Chair), Ross and Marnie Connal, Maggie Hosgood, Jean McTavish, Patricia Alexis, Erek Walden, Sandy Hwang Pat Breen.

FROM THE REFUGEE COMMITTEE

Last year the congregation approved a proposal to sponsor a refugee student jointly with the World University Service of Canada (WUSC). The student whom we were hoping to work with was unable to come. This year, however, we have a student to sponsor- a young woman with a baby who will be about 4 months old when they arrive this coming August. Our student's name is Rebecca

She comes originally from Sudan, though was rushed away to safety in Ethiopia at a very young age. At this time she was separated from her parents. Once Ethiopia became unsafe for the Sudanese refugees, another forced move to Kenya took place.

In Kenya, Rebecca managed to finish high school with good results: She continued to study at any opportunity until her options ran out. While studying Rebecca also played volleyball and other sports, tutored high-school students, and taught small children in her church. She loves music.

Rebecca came to the World University Service (WUS) well recommended by her teachers. Her spirit and determination have won her respect and admiration, according to the dossier we received from WUSC. She hopes to study nursing at UBC, stating that she wishes to have a career that she can use to help people.

Rebecca will be registered at UBC this coming September but will not begin classes until January. This will give her a chance to get settled in here, perhaps take a class and get the baby ready for childcare while Mum is at school.

We at Dunbar will cover all her expenses for the four months until she begins classes at UBC. Then, her WUSC support will kick in and we will cover such items as child care and pocket money.

We have some of the money we will need already in hand. Of course we are fundraising as well! We have a refugee support fund: all donations made to the DHUC Refugee Fund will be tax deductible. As well, look for some events to help us learn about Sudanese life and about Kakuma Refugee Camp where she (and Tekle!) lived so long.

Maggie Hosgood

STAFF ASSOCIATE RESOURCE COMMITTEE

June 1, 2009

The Staff Associate Resource Committee's role is to support the Ministry for Children, Youth and Families. We have just completed our first year, meeting once every two months. We currently have four members but would like to increase it to six within the next couple of months. Currently, three of the members represent families with young children in the church and the fourth is the Minister for Children, Youth and Families. We hope to add two members with youth at home to better round out the representation within the committee.

Our first year focused on what our role was and what we could do to support a Ministry that we all believe strongly in. The first item that we addressed was the fact that the children's Nursery and the space in the Sanctuary for children was not as welcoming as we would have liked it to be for the young ones. We therefore initiated projects to make both of these spaces more inviting to the children. Through the generous donations of time and money from various members of the congregation the Nursery was painted, a mural was commissioned and painted telling the story of Creation and a new laminate floor was installed. In the Sanctuary, some comfortable pillows and an area rug were donated and the art materials used by the children were organized in such a way, that it allows the children to be creative and to do what inspires them while they are at church.

The second project that we then took on was to pull people together to organize a large clean up of all materials throughout the church that were designated for children and youth; to donate, recycle or discard anything that was no longer of use and then to organize what remained. The Godly Play story materials were reviewed and where necessary new materials were supplied or prepared. Members of the committee each played a role in ensuring the schedules were prepared, Doorkeepers and Storytellers were coordinated and supplies maintained each Sunday. This past year the Godly Play classrooms had from three to seventeen children, ages three to ten, in attendance. The average class size was eight. The children represented approximately thirty different families.

As an ongoing project throughout the past year we worked at determining whose role it was to ensure that all the congregational events went off without a hitch. After one complete year we now feel that we can finalize the templates required for each of these events so as to make the organization of each subsequent event easier and the outcome even more effective.

In December, as a result of the work that had been done by all the volunteers to the Ministry for Children, Youth and families our committee thought it would be wonderful for us to host a social event to get all those who have assisted in the past years together to celebrate all of our accomplishments and to ponder on things still to come. This event was held in January.

For the balance of the year we have been focused on how we can resurrect a youth program within our church (our attention to this point had been more focused on children ten and under). The committee, along with some additional volunteers, completed the renovation and move to Cathy Cryder's new office. We have also taken responsibility for organizing Celebration Sunday on June 21st and the Congregational Picnic on July 26th.

As we worked on each project it made us aware of the importance of:

- 1) having visible, sacred spaces where the children and youth feel welcome.
- 2) how we choose to engage the children and youth.
- 3) allocating space to the Ministry for Children, Youth and Families in such a way as to create opportunities for how it can be accessed.

We hope that through our efforts as a committee and with the generous support we get from our tireless volunteers that next year will bring an increased awareness of the value and importance that lies in a strong Ministry with Children, Youth and Families. Over this past year we have come to realize that it is essential, not only within our congregation, but also within our wider community that we become more attentive to the ways God is calling us to engage children and youth. They are not only the future of our church but an integral part of the present.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Findlay, Chair
Staff Associate Resource Committee*

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT May 2008 to May 2009

Members of the Trustee Committee are Stuart Leslie, David Breen, Malcolm MacFadyen and Penny Jennings. The committee met twice during the last 12 months.

In August 2008 an evaluation of the church buildings was conducted by Canadian Underwriters who have a system of inspection which estimates replacement costs. As questions arose concerning the evaluation, which was not received until December, 08, the Insurance paid in December 2008 was the same as in 2007, \$7.951

As a result of the report, upgrades were completed for insurance purposes. They are:

1. A fuse panel in the basement was brought up to current standards.
2. All outside door hinges were strengthened.

At the time of writing this report, we are in the process of having an evaluation completed of the Manse. Once we have this report, we will be paying an additional premium to cover the increased values of both the church buildings (\$692 additional premium) plus the manse.

Submitted on behalf of the committee by
Penny Jennings

CENTERING PRAYER REPORT – 2008/2009

Centering Prayer is silent meditation— listening to God in the silent of one’s heart.

Although an ancient Christian practice, this form of contemplative prayer fell out of favour in the age of rational thinking and scientific exploration. Now, as many in North America hunger for an authentic spirituality, and as science moves into realms that it finds unprecedented and unfathomable, the ancient practice of Centering Prayer is increasingly finding a place in the everyday practice of many Christians and others.

Dunbar’s Centering Prayer group has been meeting for three years. It began with an introductory workshop lead by Judith Ann Donaldson and Susan Burns.

The group meets every Tuesday night at 7:30 in the Sanctuary. It is an open group and all are welcome. Our format is to first connect with one another. We then practice Centering Prayer for 20 minutes. This is followed by tea and discussion. Currently the group is working its way slowly (emphasis on slowly) through Eckhart Tolle’s book, *A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life’s Purpose*.

What makes Dunbar group unique? – besides how slowly we are reading? Ours is a group made up of Dunbar folks and those who are not members of Dunbar. In addition some of our regular members are Muslim Sufis. It has been a rich year as we learned more about Ramadan this fall and adjusted our meeting time so that those observing Ramadan could participate. In turn, this spring, we have been focusing on Easter and living out the 50 days of Easter that culminates in Pentecost.

Dunbar’s group is one of many throughout the Lower Mainland, and indeed throughout the world, that is connected to Contemplative Outreach International, an organization founded by Thomas Keating to foster the practice of Centering Prayer and contemplative practice in daily life.

This is a warm, welcoming and intentional group. If you would like to join us for a taste, feel free to come any Tuesday. We will be meeting during the summer.



VANCOUVER SOUTH PRESBYTERY Report for ACM, June 2009

It has been a pleasure to represent DHUC at Presbytery for the last few years. It has also been an interesting time as Presbytery has tried to make itself into a more efficient and helpful member of the United Church body.

Until last year the full Presbytery met about four times per year. We ate together, worshipped together and then conducted our business together. Responsibility for most business was carried by the members of the executive.

This year, under the leadership of Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin of Tsawwassen UC, Presbytery meets monthly at St Stephens Church. The meeting is a business meeting begun with prayer. Regular tri-annual visits to Presbytery congregations have been revived. The committee system is strengthened.

One of the expectations for lay representatives is that they serve on Search Committees for area churches. I have served in this capacity at St. Stephen's and at Oakridge Church. Both experiences increased my affection and respect for this United Church of which we are all a part. I have resigned from my role as Presbytery Rep for DHUC. I hope one of you reading this will seriously consider taking over my job.

*Respectfully,
Susan Pond*

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### **CARING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

We are a small committee for four members who perform outreach into the church community to send out cards for people who have become ill or are bereaved. We also send out cards for graduation, Easter and Christmas.

My committee members are: Olive Magee, Mary Brown, Craig Walden and myself John Stott. We used to be a lot larger committee and met once a month but due to reduced numbers found that the meetings were no longer viable.

Our committee depends on you as well to let us know if you have anyone who you feel would benefit from such a service. My telephone number is 606-734-2047. If any of the congregation feel that they would like to participate in some way, we would warmly welcome any help if you would like to be a part of our group.

*Respectfully submitted,  
John Stott*

## THE FELLOWSHIP CLUB REPORT 2008

The Fellowship Club had seven meetings this year after cancelling January's meeting because of the snowfall. The attendance was 10 to 17 people, with 4 visitors from Delta and Steveston. The activities included travelogues of Ireland, Vietnam and the pilgrimage in Spain. We had a Whist day and talks on interesting subjects as well as sharing our fellowship. The last meeting was a special Chinese lunch.

*Respectfully submitted  
Jack & Jean Tremaine*



## UNIT 3 REPORT 2008

Unit 3 joined Dunbar Heights U.C.W. in January, 1966. We are a much smaller group now but still meet in each other's homes once a month for Devotional and Friendship.

We support First United Church with food vouchers and necessary supplies. We assisted at the Fall Fair Home Bake Sale in November.

We will miss our dear friend Pat Rose who passed away on May 10th, 2009. Her courage was an inspiration to all of us.

*Respectfully submitted  
Catherine McCloy*



## AURORA GROUP REPORT 2008

The group still continues to function with just 6 members. We meet for lunch at each others' homes on the second Tuesday of each month, except July & August.

Our meetings have become more of a social event among like minded friends. We are still able to support financially the work of our own Church along with donations to First United, the M&S Fund and VS T Bursary fund.

We are still providing layettes for a Special Baby Unit at Women's Hospital at the rate of one each month. Each layette consists of a hand knit jacket and cap, sleepers, undershirts, receiving blanket, diapers, baby oil, etc. The gifts are thankfully received.

Any new members would be warmly welcomed.

*Respectfully submitted  
Irene Lomax*

## HEALING MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

The members of Dunbar Heights United Church Healing Ministry team are truly blessed to be able to offer the work of the spirit with hands on prayer, aka Healing Touch. God's spirit works in mysterious and wondrous ways.

Members of the team are Healing Touch practitioners trained through Naramata's Healing Pathway program. They are volunteer practitioners, and meet regularly for practice every second Monday of the month. They offer Healing Touch to members of the Congregation and wider community on the fourth Monday of every month at Dunbar Height United Church, in the Sanctuary from 7:30-9:00pm.

There are currently seven active members of the Healing Ministry team. These include Susan Burns, Pearl Cheng, Janey Cole-Morgan, Judith Ann Donaldson, Jean McTavish, Mary Ann Mutter, and Lorraine Struyk.

Thanks to Roger Purdy who as a member of the healing ministry has until recently represented us on council. We regret he has left our congregation.

We continue to offer our work to the members of the congregation and to the community. We are pleased to be part of the Healing Stations during communion. We participated in a discussion on healing during a worship service led by Rev Michelle. More recently, after a musical healing worship service led by Barbara Myers, we offered Healing Touch during the coffee hour.

## STITCH & CHATTER REPORT 2008

Stitch & Chatter met every Thursday from 9am to 2:30pm, except over Christmas. We have an average attendance of 7 people and welcomed 3 new members – Marjorie Campbell, Janey Cole-Morgan and Maureen McLellan.

### FINANCIAL REPORT:

#### INCOME:

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Balance Forward   | \$ 178.48     |
| Tea money         | 68.55         |
| Sales during year | 2,391.50      |
| Sales on Sundays  | <u>691.75</u> |

|       |             |             |
|-------|-------------|-------------|
| TOTAL | \$ 3,258.28 | \$ 3,258.28 |
|-------|-------------|-------------|

#### EXPENSES:

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Supplies        | \$ 664.41    |
| Donated         | 2,207.50     |
| Christmas Gifts | 75.00        |
| Machine repairs | 73.45        |
| Flowers         | 22.40        |
| Filing Cabinet  | <u>15.00</u> |

|       |             |                    |
|-------|-------------|--------------------|
| TOTAL | \$ 3,067.76 | <u>\$ 3,057.76</u> |
|-------|-------------|--------------------|

#### BALANCE FORWARD:

\$ 200.52

Please come and join us anytime.

*Doris, Mary, Edith, Catherine, Muriel,  
Deborah, Marjorie, Janey, Maureen, Doreen*

## REGULAR USER GROUPS 2008/2009

| DAY                | GROUP                 | TIME          | ROOM                                                 |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mondays:</b>    | Trafalgar Care Centre | 7:30am-6:00pm | 204 & Rainbow                                        |
|                    | Seniors Fitness Group | 9:30am-noon   | Gym                                                  |
|                    | Monkey See Monkey Do  | 8am-5pm       | Preschool Rm.                                        |
|                    | Scouts                | 7:00-9:00pm   | Gym                                                  |
|                    | Monday Step Group     | 7:30-9:00pm   | Choir Room                                           |
|                    | Healing Touch         | 7:30-9:30pm   | Sanctuary (2 <sup>nd</sup> &4 <sup>th</sup> Mondays) |
|                    | VCSC                  | 8am-4:30pm    | Lower Hall                                           |
|                    | Math Tutoring         | 7pm-9pm       | Rainbow Room                                         |
| <b>Tuesdays:</b>   | Trafalgar Care Centre | 7:30am-6pm    | 204 & Rainbow                                        |
|                    | MSMD                  | 8am-5pm       |                                                      |
|                    | Coffee Hour Group     | 10:00-11:30am | Library                                              |
|                    | Brownies              | 6:00-8:00pm   | Lower hall                                           |
|                    | Cubs                  | 6:30-8:30pm   | Gym                                                  |
|                    | VSCS                  | 8am-4:30pm    | Lower Hall                                           |
|                    | Karate                | 4:30-6:30pm   | Gym                                                  |
|                    | Centering Prayer      | 7-9:30pm      | Sanctuary                                            |
| Disciple Group     | 7-9:30pm              | Library       |                                                      |
| <b>Wednesdays:</b> | Trafalgar Care Centre | 7:30am-6:00pm | 204 & Rainbow                                        |
|                    | Lectionary Prayer     | 10-11am       | Library                                              |
|                    | Seniors Fitness Group | 9:30am-noon   | Gym                                                  |
|                    | MSMD                  | 8am-5pm       | Preschool Room                                       |
|                    | VSCS                  | 8am-4:30pm    | Lower Hall                                           |
|                    | Highland Dance        | 4:00-6:30pm   | Gym                                                  |
|                    | Beavers               | 6:30-8:30pm   | Gym                                                  |
|                    | Guides                | 7:00-8:30pm   | Lower hall                                           |
| <b>Thursdays:</b>  | Trafalgar Care Centre | 7:30am-6:00pm | 204& Rainbow                                         |
|                    | MSMD                  | 8am-5pm       | Preschool Room                                       |
|                    | VSCS                  | 8am-4:30pm    | Lower Hall                                           |
|                    | Stitch & Chatter      | 9:00am-3:00pm | Todrick Room                                         |
|                    | Lifeline Group        | 6:30-10:00pm  | Gym                                                  |
|                    | Choir Practice        | 7:00-9:00pm   | Choir Room                                           |
| <b>Fridays:</b>    | Trafalgar Care Centre | 7:30am-6pm    | 204 & Rainbow                                        |
|                    | MSMD                  | 8am-5pm       | Preschool Room                                       |
|                    | VSCS                  | 8am-4:30pm    | Lower Hall                                           |
|                    | Karate                | 4:30-6:30pm   | Gym                                                  |
| <b>Saturdays</b>   | Dunbar Dads           | 9am-noon      | Gym (every 2nd Sat)                                  |

*Respectfully submitted  
Sheila Satherley, Office Administrator*

**ENVELOPE SECRETARY REPORT**  
**(Dollar) Range of Giving 2008**

| <b>Annual Giving<br/>between</b> | <b>Number of Identifiable Givers</b> |             |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
|                                  | <b>2007</b>                          | <b>2008</b> |
| 0-100                            | 20                                   | 16          |
| 101-200                          | 12                                   | 9           |
| 201-300                          | 8                                    | 8           |
| 301-400                          | 6                                    | 4           |
| 401-500                          | 6                                    | 7           |
|                                  | 52                                   | 44          |
| 501-600                          | 14                                   | 10          |
| 601-700                          | 7                                    | 5           |
| 701-800                          | 1                                    | 7           |
| 801-900                          | 4                                    | 5           |
| 901-1000                         | 4                                    | 6           |
|                                  | 30                                   | 33          |
| 1001-2000                        | 49                                   | 39          |
| 2001-3000                        | 12                                   | 14          |
| 3001-4000                        | 8                                    | 5           |
| 4001-5000                        | 1                                    | 2           |
| 5001-6000                        | 5                                    | 2           |
| 6001-7000                        | 1                                    | 2           |
| 7001-10000                       | 4                                    | 5           |
| +10000                           | 3                                    | 5           |
|                                  | <b>165</b>                           | <b>151</b>  |

*Respectfully submitted by*  
*Sheila Satherley,*  
*Office Administrator & Envelope Secretary*

# DUNBAR HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH

## 2008 RECEIPTED GIVINGS

*Prepared by Sheila Satherley, Office Administrator  
February 2009*

|                                              | <b>2007</b> |                   | <b>2008</b> |                   |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|
|                                              | #           | Amount            | #           | Amount            |
| Envelope Users, family or individual         | 89          | \$118,874.        | 76          | \$118,337.        |
| Including # of those who pledge              | 0           |                   | 0           |                   |
| PAR Users                                    | 34          | \$ 93,885.        | 34          | \$110,804.        |
| Including # of new PAR users                 | 4           |                   |             |                   |
| Givings from non-envelope users              | 42          | <u>\$ 38,409.</u> | 41          | <u>\$ 45,270</u>  |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                                |             | <b>\$251,168.</b> |             | <b>\$274,862.</b> |
| <b>SUMMARY</b>                               |             |                   |             |                   |
| Sets of Offering Envelopes issued            | 89          |                   | 76          |                   |
| Identifiable Givers who do not use envelopes | 42          |                   | 41          |                   |
| Identifiable Givers who use PAR              | 34          |                   | <u>34</u>   |                   |
| <b>Total number of Identifiable Givers</b>   | <b>165</b>  |                   | <b>151</b>  |                   |

*(Totals include givings to all designations, including outside agencies and gift-in-kind donations)*



IN MEMORIAM  
2008

Lois Margaret BLAIS

Roland Stuart BRADLEY

George Arthur FEAVER

Sheila Cora JOHNSTON

Gwendolyn Dorward MARSH

Sheena MASKELL

*“I am the resurrection and the life  
whoever believes in me, though he die,  
yet shall he live”*

John 11:25