



Tsawwassen United Church ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year Ended December 31, 2009

MINISTER'S REPORT

The past year has been a good year of solid work and committed ministry at Tsawwassen United.

We have implemented the new governance structures and they appear to be working very well.

Our small study groups have been reaching a larger number from within our congregation this year and even have included some from our neighbouring churches. These give the participants a wonderful opportunity to talk about faith development in a safe and confidential setting.

We have managed our finances carefully and end the year in a much better state than we forecast, and with no deficit. The Trustees have done a good job at managing our investments and have recently made necessary changes to ensure a good income from those investments.

The Long Range Planning Committee has finished the work you asked of them last AGM and will report to this year's meeting.

We have mourned the passing of more than a dozen members or adherents in the past year, as we are an aging congregation.

We have tried another form of Christian education for children called Godly Play, under the enthusiastic guidance of Marilyn Merry. The number of children is smaller than it used to be of course.

Our Pastoral Care Committee under the leadership of Jean Ryan has been a wonderful help to the congregation and is to be commended for their good ministry among us. The same is true for our Outreach Committee under Archie Mullan and Jean Stuart's leadership.

Our new Music Minister, Sandra Dawn Nash, has done a fine job in her first few months with us. The music at Advent and Christmas was perfect! It is safe to say that we will continue to value music highly at TUC.

Our building and the grounds are very well kept and visitors often tell me how noticeable this is. This is again even more remarkable as we have been managing these jobs in a new way. It is good to know the new ways are working!

Our fellowship and joy is still heartening when we gather as a congregation for community meals. This is always a favourite way to be a community of faith in our congregation.

I think we at Tsawwassen United Church are on a strong foundation and know that we have looked honestly at the challenges we face in the next 5 to 10 years. The challenges are certainly not unique to our congregation but reflect the situation within the denomination across the country. It is encouraging that the congregation is not adverse to creative new ways of doing things. This spirit of adventure is a huge asset for any congregation today.

When all is said and done, this is a great community of faithful people who genuinely care for one another and seek to live a Christian life worthy of being called disciples. Great ministry has happened here over the lifetime of this congregation and your ministry has blessed many people's lives.

We are told that people come to church in search of meaning in their lives, for spiritual growth and a deeper relationship with God. They come looking for opportunities to make a difference in the world and also to find a safe and authentic community where they can be valued for who they truly are. This is exactly the kind of community we seek to be at Tsawwassen United.

May the Peace of Christ be yours,

Rose-Hannah Gaskin, B.N., MScN., MDiv., STM.
Minister

**MEMBERS OF TSAWWASSEN UNITED CHURCH
WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2009**

PERCIVAL, PatriciaFebruary 9, 2009
McGINN, SophieMarch 13, 2009
KEMPTON, Malcolm.....May 30, 2009
BATES, JuneJuly 4, 2009
BENDER, FredAugust 28, 2009
GLOVER, Judith.....October 14, 2009
LEE, SheilaDecember 8, 2009
BUCHANAN, Phyllis.....December 17, 2009

**ADHERENTS AND FRIENDS OF TSAWWASSEN UNITED
CHURCH AT WHOSE MEMORIAL OR FUNERAL OUR MINISTER
OFFICIATED**

KLINE, GraceApril 4, 1996
LIPROT, DorothyJanuary 1, 2009
LOWE, MargaretJanuary 13, 2009
GIBSON, BarbaraFebruary 7, 2009
PROULX, Rita MarieOctober 31, 2009
WILSON, Elva Jean.....December 3, 2009

REPORT FROM THE STREAMLINED BOARD

One year ago marked the beginning of a new, simplified organizational structure at Tsawwassen United. On a trial basis, the congregation approved the adoption of a Streamlined Board structure as more appropriate for the size and activity level of Tsawwassen United. The structure consists of a small, elected body devoted to mission discernment, mission strategy, policy development, long-range planning and accountability. The various ministry groups are still in place and continue to carry out their mission within the overall direction and boundaries set by the Streamlined Board.

We have now worked with the new structure for a year and it is time to reflect on its effectiveness for Tsawwassen United at this time. Tsawwassen United continues to be in a position of transition and change and volunteer availability continues to be a challenge. The Streamlined Board has freed up our current volunteers' time to focus more on the ministry they choose to be a part of.

The Streamlined Board meets once each month and the meetings are positive and energizing even though at times we wrestle with difficult issues. The Board has considered and passed several policies, such as Bequests, Annuities and Other Donations, Weddings & Funerals, and Conflict of Interest. The Board has spent time in discernment, such as how the building can best be used and how to handle unexpected income in a deficit budget year. The Board has also fulfilled its oversight responsibilities with hiring decisions and other day to day operational items.

In carrying out its role, the Streamlined Board strives:

- to maintain open, honest, respectful discussions
- to remain non-anxious in light of the challenges from transition and change
- to provide effective communication with the congregation.

It has been a positive and fulfilling year serving the wonderful congregation of Tsawwassen United Church.

Members of the Streamlined Board are:

Rev. Rose~Hannah Gaskin, Marleen Soutar, Marilyn Merry, Bill Williams, Mary Sambell and Melanie Williams.

TRUSTEES

Members of the Board of Trustees are: Jim Moore, Mary Jackson, Mary Main, Bob Tarlton and Bill Williams.

The primary concerns of the Trustees were as follows:

We continue to oversee the management of the funds realized from the sale of the Manse, such funds still having

been handled by RBC. Our account has shown a nice recovery from the disastrous market conditions of a year ago. We are continuing to make improvements in our holdings and will, this year, be in a position to provide funds to the Church general accounts.

The Memorial Garden was again maintained by Trustee volunteers and certain improvements were made with the use of the money donated to the garden.

Unfortunately Bell Mobility, for unknown reasons, decided not to use our premises for the installation of the cell phone tower.

The current balance of the Trustee bank account is \$9,200.35.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Williams

Chair, Trustees

FINANCE DIVISION

The 2009 committee consisted of the following members: Rick Soutar, Glen Stanger, Jan McLaurin and Bill Williams.

At the 2009 Annual General Meeting, the congregation approved a budget of \$252,954 which contained a deficit of \$8,970. The preliminary operating income for 2009 is a surplus of \$9,292.91.

This surplus comes as a welcome surprise, as we cut back in a number of areas while at the same time trying to maintain a good balance in the overall operation. Capital expenditures were kept to a minimum and some areas such as donations, pie income, building rental and weekly offerings were greater than expected.

The main challenge of a shortage of volunteers to carry on the work of the church remains for 2010 and we will continue with paid staff to manage the property inside and outside as well as many of the financial duties. The proposed Bell Mobility tower was withdrawn by Bell and is not expected to happen in the future.

On a positive note our investments, managed by the Trustees, have improved and for 2010 we are budgeting \$6,000 in interest income.

Overall our congregation supports the church in many ways and this year was no different. We are pleased to report that our continued support for First United Church and the Mission and Service Fund amounted to \$30,000. The Finance Division is also pleased to present a balanced budget for 2010.

The Church's financial operations will be reviewed in May by an independent accountant and we will present those statements when they become available.

Rick Soutar
Treasurer

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Mandate

The Committee (Rev. Gaskin, Ron Wasik, Glen Stanger, Rick Soutar, and Norrie Paget), made a presentation to the 2008 AGM and was authorized and empowered by the congregation to "explore options that will ensure the viability of our ministry for years to come."

We met eight times in the year.

What We Considered

1. Partner with a developer to develop a building project on our land. This would not be feasible due to the time and effort that would need to be put into the successful completion of such a project. We are very short on volunteers to serve the congregation.
2. Southlands proposal — Met on Feb. 3rd with Sean Hodgins who expressed interest in having an inter faith chapel as part of the overall plan. We were challenged to find one or two "partners" from other denominations. We were unable to do this.
3. Share space in our building with another church group, eg. The Way, St. David's, Benediction Lutheran. No interest was shown.
3. Visit other churches to get ideas of what might work — U-town Church at UBC.
4. Review other United Church of Canada projects and reports: East and South Toronto Ministry area; Derek Evans report to Fraser Presbytery; The Observer article on 'The Amalgamation Puzzle' March 2007; Statistics Canada data; Aging in Place Seniors' Project Steering Committee Report; Alban Institute articles; attended some sessions of the Tsawwassen Area Plan sessions; the December letter from the Spiritual care Network of BC Conference and the letter therein from the Conference President Rev. Dan Chambers.
5. Met with Ladner United church representatives March 18th, 2009, and Jan 17th, 2010. Future discussions are possible.

Conclusions

No clear path has emerged at this time.

We will remain open to the workings of the Holy Spirit and explore any options that arise.

A special congregational meeting would be called at that time to consider the opportunity.

Our financial situation suggests that if we continue on with our ministry as it is today, we will be fine for a period of 5–7 years. This assumes we will likely require deficit budgets spending.

When we come to the point where we can no longer afford full time ministry, or music ministry at least at our present level, or if we can no longer afford the upkeep and insurance of our building, we will recommend that the congregation ask the presbytery to disband the congregation and celebrate our many successful years of ministry in this place.

The Congregation may choose to disband the Long Range Planning Committee at this time or to keep it in place to explore any new options that may develop.

PASTORAL CARE DIVISION

It is the responsibility of the Pastoral Care Division to ensure there is care for the families of the church through the efforts of the Minister and members of the congregation.

To provide a vital, caring link to all we have a group of wonderful caring people who are willing to contact those in their pastoral district with information regarding the events and activities of the church. This included delivering formal invitations to the Fall Communion. These leaders may be called upon three or four times a year but more often if necessary. We greatly appreciate them and thank them for their dedication and support. Sheila Lee had been one of our district leaders for several years and we were deeply saddened by her sudden death in December. She will be missed.

Visiting covers an area from regular visits to members who reside in Kinsmen Care facility, Kinsmen Assisted Living, The Waterford and Westshore Laylum, to hospital and home visits.

Greeting cards are sent to those who are ill, facing or recovering from surgery, grieving the loss of a loved one or just need a "Thinking of You" card. We also acknowledge members who have reached the age of 90+ with a card. We thank Dede Shave for the time she spent sending cards for us during part of the year.

This division was responsible for providing a one-half hour worship service on Sunday afternoon at Mountain View Manor (Delta Hospital ECU) six times in 2009 and will continue in 2010. Leona Prowse was the pianist

until she retired and then Ethel Armitage took her place. Members of the congregation often come to give support.

When possible, we arrange volunteer drivers for those who need transportation to and from worship services Sunday morning.

A luncheon was held May 20 for members in The Waterford, the Kinsmen, and seniors in the congregation, hosted by this division and the Lunch Bunch. Vern Ross played the piano before we ate and accompanied Freda Wise when she sang. Entertainment by Walter Melnyk was well received. An appreciation tea for District Leaders was held September 10. Rose-Hannah thanked them for their contribution to pastoral care. Musical entertainment by a popular trio, Marilyn Merry, Jan McLaurin and Sandra Timuss, was enjoyed by all. We volunteered help with the Seniors' Christmas Luncheon, December 16.

Members of the Prayer Group answer requests for prayer for anyone whether or not they are associated with our church. All information is kept confidential if that is the wish of the families. For prayer requests contact Ethel at 604-943-2949, Rhoda at 604-943-1674 or Doris at 604-943-7102.

Sunday morning worship services are taped thanks to Bill Williams. Tapes are kept in the Library for one month and then recycled.

Members of this division are Mary Wartnow, Marilyn Cotter, Agnes Jackson, Ellen Womersley and Jean Ryan.

Jean Ryan

Chair, Pastoral Care Division

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Much of the work of the Ministry and Personnel Committee is confidential; therefore, some specifics may not be presented here.

At the end of May, we said good-bye to Mrs. Leona Prowse, our Director of Music, who most capably led our music programme for 25 years.

A member of the Ministry and Personnel Committee took part in the search for a new music director. The Search Committee formed in the early spring and the work was brought to a conclusion in September.

Position descriptions were reviewed and those needing it are in the process of being revised.

Since the position description for Director of Music was no longer current, a new description was written. One of the most dramatic changes in this area of ministry is the time allotted to the position: 11.5 hours per week

to accomplish, among other duties, meetings with the minister, choir practice, planning for worship and Sunday worship services.

The position description for our Administrative Assistant was re-written to reflect new duties in the area of finance and changes in other duties.

The Custodian's contract was renewed.

The Minister's position description is currently under review.

In keeping with protocol, the following recommendations were made to the Board for approval:

- to hire a Director of Music
- to generate a new position description for Director of Music
- to amend the position description of the Administrative Assistant
- to increase the salary of the Administrative Assistant

Performance reviews were conducted.

Serving on the Ministry and Personnel Committee for 2009 were Albert Knudsen, Harvey Delaney, Judy Glover and Lynne Meinert. In October we were saddened by the death of Judy Glover who devoted several years to this committee and at one time served as Co-Chair. We miss her.

We are happy that our staff at Tsawwassen United Church interact well and, as a result, there is a pleasant atmosphere to their workplace environment.

The members of M&P are available to hear your joys and concerns. We consider it an honour to serve Tsawwassen United Church on this important Committee.

This report is respectfully submitted by:

Lynne Meinert

Chair, Ministry and Personnel Committee

CONGREGATIONAL ENRICHMENT

Since September, Marilyn Merry has led Sunday School for a small group of children using the Godly Play format. Attendance varies from week to week but we wish to recognize and thank Marilyn for her dedication.

In June 2009 we organized a farewell barbecue for Brenda Miller and, at the same time, recognized our graduates and Sunday School ending for the summer.

During Advent, a small but hardworking group organized a highly successful dinner for approximately 100 guests. Everyone enjoyed our traditional ham and scalloped potato dinner and good fellowship. Thanks to everyone who

volunteered their time and efforts to produce a profitable evening.”

Shelby Delaney

MINISTER OF FAMILIES & CHILDREN — JANUARY TO JUNE 2009

We started the year with a Sunday School lesson exploring baptism, complete with a “holy water relay race”! The children’s Sunday programming continued with the “Seasons of the Spirit” curriculum as our resource. We journeyed through Lent with lessons on prayer, healing, a drama with leprosy as the theme, and baking pretzels. Families were invited to take home a Lenten Home Kit with tea-lights, prayers, purple cloth, and a pancake recipe! Spring themes included making a Circle of Friends out of modelling clay, a scavenger hunt, puppet show, and recreating Sarah and Abraham’s tent. Holy Week began with a “Walk Through Holy Week” as we journeyed through scripture throughout several locations in, and outside, our church building. On Camping Sunday we camped outside behind the church complete with a tent, crafts, a campfire, and S’mores. On Celebration Sunday in June we enjoyed hot-dogs, ice cream, sidewalk chalk and an exciting game of “egg toss”!

The children at Tsawwassen United are a small but faithful group. Their wisdom and insight is a gift for the entire congregation. They continued to be an important part of worship by participating in bringing forward our Bible and Christ Candle each Sunday. They shared their gift of song in the Junior choir, and participated in the Children’s Story time.

Thank you Tara Britnell, Melanie Williams, and many others who continued to help with the children’s ministry while I completed my schooling. Each small gift was indeed important to the children, and to myself.

The children of Tsawwassen United are an important and life-giving part of the whole people of God.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Miller

GODLY PLAY

In September 2009, we moved to a new “Sunday School” program called “Godly Play”. Jerome W. Berryman is the founder of Godly Play and has wide experience working with children ages 2 – 18. His Complete Guides offer a unique approach to religious education that invites children to wonder about themselves, God and the world in a way that is playful and meaningful to them.

I was able to attend an “introduction” at St. Andrew’s Wesley, September 10 and 11 followed by a three day seminar in New Westminster at Shiloh United Church. Some very experienced leaders conducted this event and were most helpful in encouraging me to present Godly Play at TUC.

I have tried to follow the curriculum as best I can. My craft skills fall very short of the standard presented by Mary Sambell but the children are very forgiving. Those who have worked with children in any capacity will understand when I say I have learned far more from this experience than I dreamed possible.

We started with the Circle of the Church Year — a calendar that explains the seasons and colours of the worship. This was followed by The Holy Family, Creation, The Flood and the Ark. On Thanksgiving Sunday we sold cupcakes to a very generous congregation to raise funds for our Foster Child — thanks to Jess Smiley for looking after this. We then turned to what we call the Hebrew Bible and studied The Great Family, The Exodus, Ten Best Ways, Talking with God and then into the Advent Season, Focus on the Prophets, The Holy Family, the Shepherds and then The Wise Men.

The Christmas Eve Service was a delight with many children participating in the beautiful Christmas pageant — quite unrehearsed but perfect in every way. Thanks to Christie Sambell for her experienced help.

I hope to continue this program in 2010 and ask for your prayerful support.

Marilyn Merry

OUTREACH DIVISION

Over the last year, Outreach with the help of our congregation, has supported a number of projects and causes.

We continue to support the education of our two African students through the Canadian Harambee Education Society (C.H.E.S.).

Through the year we have continued to send food, clothing, and other items collected from the congregation to First United Church (for adults) and children’s clothing, toys, and other items to the Oak Avenue Neighbourhood Hub. Some food, ladies clothing items and toiletries are given to the Vivian House. Archie Mullan also sees that a birthday cake is taken once a month to First United for them to celebrate the birthdays of those they serve.

In June we participated in the “Love South Delta” weekend project. This was a joint activity of several churches in Ladner and Tsawwassen. This consisted of

random acts of kindness throughout the two communities with a wind-up luncheon featuring music and fellowship.

In August we donated school supplies to help Oak Avenue Neighbourhood Hub prepare school bags for needy children in Surrey. We prepared 40 birthday bags, each of which contained everything necessary to host a birthday party for eight children. These were given to Oak Avenue Neighbourhood Hub for distribution.

In November we supported the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child Project. Seventy-five filled shoe boxes were collected from participants.

In December socks, gloves, and toques were collected and distributed to either Oak Avenue or First United.

Throughout the year, Outreach continues to be involved in various projects including: the Community Fund of Faith, for which the membership fee provides emergency funding for certain needs; Doctors without Borders (donation); Local Dry Grad (donation); and Food on the Corner (donations of money and food).

Our Outreach group is a small but very dedicated group of people who always welcome new members and volunteers.

Jean Stuart / Archie Mullan
Outreach Division

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

It has been a delight to begin serving musically for Tsawwassen United, and most importantly, I wish to say thank you to every one of you (there are so many!!) that have supported and encouraged me, as I have been finding my way. It has been a joy to meet you all, and I am grateful to now be remembering most people's names!

My first Sunday on the job was September 13th, after my first few days of exploring my new music office (there's a LOT of music in there!!), and beginning the learning curve that comes with any new position. From the very first day, working with Rose-Hannah has been a dream, in all aspects of our work. I thoroughly enjoy co-creating with her, as we conspire to uplift through word and music. Working with Mary Almond is another gift. Isn't she awesome?

The Senior Choir and I began working together September 24th, after our meeting to get to know each other on September 17th. It has been a wonderful challenge for me to take on this new form of leadership. Thank you to all choir members for beginning this journey with me, sharing your wishes, and for working hard at all the music I have brought forward. I appreciate you! Thank you Freda and Gail for your lovely solo offerings. Jan McLaurin has been a huge support. Thank you for your hours going

through the music library with me, for discussing musical ideas, and for always willingly jumping in to my last minute hand bell ideas!

Speaking of hand bells — thank you to all members of the Hand Bell Choir for a beautiful service on December 6th! It was enjoyed by all. A special thank you to Marcie Henry and Michele McLaurin from the Bell Choir for also playing along with the Choir's Anthem "Seek Ye First / Pachelbel's Canon."

We were blessed with beautiful music throughout our Advent season. The choir sang a gorgeous Advent anthem on November 29th, "When the Wind of Winter Blows", and offered two special anthems on December 13th, which they worked very hard on, and performed beautifully. We were treated to Betty McBurney's heavenly flute playing, the guest conducting of Duane Bates, Finn Manniche's incredible cello offerings, Lia Wolfe on piano, flute and vocals, and Miriam Davidson's vocals. On Christmas Eve, Jamie Perry offered guitar and his voice (and was a great support for the Children's Choir), and Julia Latimer played gorgeous violin for our late service. Thank you to all.

Lastly, I must say it was pure joy for me to work with a Children's Choir, and I felt they did a marvellous job Christmas Eve, singing "Come Rejoicing", "The Little Drummer Boy:", and "Away in a Manger." Weren't they wonderful?

I look forward to 2010, and all that we will learn and create together in love.

Blessings,
Sandra Dawn Nash
Director of Music

REFUGEE OUTREACH

Refugee work during the year has consisted of oversight of previously assisted families. No new ones were undertaken. The two Afghan sisters we sponsored earlier are now settled in the Richmond subsidized housing where their younger sister and family also live. They are taking English classes and making some progress. At Christmas a considerable supply of food and gifts were given them.

With respect to undertaking further refugee assistance, we are looking into another Afghan co-sponsorship that has been brought to the attention of Benediction Lutheran Church. A joint committee of our two churches is investigating the situation. Funds for refugee work have accumulated from members of our congregation who are interested in this kind of outreach.

Floyd Wartnow
Refugee Rep.

PRESBYTERY

In 2009 you were respectfully represented at Vancouver South Presbytery by your Presbytery Representative, Mary Sambell; your minister, the Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin; Brenda Miller, our Children's & Family minister (for part of the year) and myself, Member at Large because I am the Convenor for Education & Students Committee for Vancouver South Presbytery. Our first full court meeting was held January 20th, 2009, at St. Stephen's Church in Vancouver.

The chair of Vancouver South Presbytery is Rose-Hannah. The meetings are basically business meeting for about two hours and we usually have about 30 – 40 people attending.

We received reports from the various committees and then took quite a bit of time discussing the Youth Ministry Needs Assessment for Vancouver South Presbytery and Vancouver Burrard Presbytery. This JNAC was approved.

We will continue with the planning and preparation for pastoral oversight with six churches this year. All presbyters are requested to serve on one of these oversight committees.

At the February 21st meeting we agreed to form a Search Committee for the Youth & Young Adult Ministry minister. The 2009 Budget was approved. An orientation session for the Pastoral Oversight visitations was conducted and those visits will begin in March and hopefully concluded by the end of April.

As most presbyters were involved in the visitations, the meeting in March was cancelled but we met April 21st with a special welcome to Hilde Seal, President of BC Conference.

I was nominated and approved as a Commissioner to General Council in Kelowna this summer.

May 26th we recognized Brenda Miller as a Diaconal Minister. Her first settlement will be in Omineca, BC.

Pastoral Oversight reports were received with a generally positive experience by both congregations and visitors.

Eric Hamlyn has been hired as the Youth & Young Adults' minister for Vancouver South Presbytery and Vancouver Burrard Presbytery.

June 16th we met at 5:30pm for dinner and recognition of the retired clergy and a short business meeting. Rev. Cliff McMurtry (retired) welcomed the retirees.

We met again September 15th with a worship service and covenanting service with the Executive of Vancouver South Presbytery. A presentation on "Ecojustice Ministry" was given by David Dranchuck and Ellen Bond.

October 20th was our next meeting where two Remits from the national church were voted on in the affirmative. These two remits dealt with clarification of wording in the Manual regarding folks being "Appointed", "Chosen", "Elected" or "Selected." The language is now uniform.

Our November meeting was cancelled and we were scheduled to meet again January 19th at Gilmore Park United church in Richmond.

Please keep Vancouver South Presbytery in your prayers as we deal with many changes and challenges in 2010.

Marleen Soutar

MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club has been functioning for the past fifteen years, having been started by the late Tom Taylor. The forty-two members continue to enjoy the fellowship, food and hopefully interesting speakers it provides.

In 2009 we had breakfast meetings in January, March and April. Then usually do not meet in the summer. We start the Fall with a barbecue at the Wartnow's. In December we had an excellent presentation by Murray Swayze. Peter Lemmer will be our speaker in January.

As always, all men in the congregation are welcome to attend functions of this Men's Club.

Albert Knudsen

Men's Club

