



ST. ANDREWS-WESLEY UNITED CHURCH

2023 Annual Report





OUR STORY

*"Whoever you are, whoever you love, all of **you** is welcome here!"*

When you enter St Andrew's Wesley United Church, you know you are entering a sanctuary space. It's not just the beautiful stained glass or the high ceilings, but the way people hold each other, the way the space itself seems to whisper to us "God can contain all things." The word sanctuary means "sacred container". Every Sunday we say "All of you is welcome here" as a reminder that God holds all our joy, pain, uncertainty, hope and even our mistakes.

What we hope you experience when you walk into this church is spiritual sustenance, hope, and acceptance. With our mission to encounter God through Art, Spirit, Social Justice and Inclusion, we offer many services, programs and community outreach projects to help you live out your faith. Your gifts have a place here, and together we can make the world a more just, peaceful and loving place in the name of God.

ART

Art connects us to Spirit, to justice, and to each other.

Artist in Residence

Ashley Cook is a queer, multidisciplinary artist and designer with a keen interest on how we perceive and notice the world through language and metaphors. Working with paper mechanics, charcoal, acrylic painting, block printing, or a combination of these mediums, she offered a popular, low barrier set of workshops throughout the fall that included projects like book binding, pop-up cards, queer mapmaking and more. Most of the public workshops sold out, and the congregation enjoyed her offerings on Sundays after worship and in the children and youth programs.



Public Art

Our big stone steps keep being transformed into places to engage in conversation with the city. We invited Cynthia Vo Tran to create a floral design for Easter, and Harc Creative to create a Pride Rainbow. In partnership with Moms Stop the Harm, which is a grassroots advocacy group that addresses the poisoned drug supply issue, we created *¡Compañerxs Presente!* Used in Chile and in other Latinx communities, this phrase is used to highlight the names of people who have fallen due to injustices. Many families who lose loved ones to the toxic drug supply crisis feel silenced because of harmful myths and stereotypes around drug use. By listing their names on our steps, we called out for justice in their name.

Two artists in our congregation also offered meaningful public art. Fabric and Liturgical artist Mae Runions gathered lace pieces from different households for a piece called "The Threads of our lives". Using the design of a Rose window, volunteers from





the church stitched the pieces with Mae to make a meditative hanging. Dr Wendy Stephenson showed her work of mixed media panels titled "Injustices in Colour in Relief." Looking at racism, climate crisis, poverty and colonization, these pieces explored the key issues of our time.

The Chapel

The Chapel was a popup music venue that highlighted up and coming musical artists with a focus on those from the BIPOC and LGBTQ community. Built as an outreach for young adults in the community, it ran for two years as a way of supporting the arts and making community connections. Matthew Presidente, Julian Davis Reid, Kristen Fung and Tissa Rahim are just a few of the artists who graced the stage! We give thanks to the artists, booker Jonny Tobin, and the volunteer team who made the Happier Hour series possible.



Sanctuary Swing Cats

In partnership with the Uptown Swing Collective, we collaborated to start a new youth and young adult outreach program called the Sanctuary Swing Cats. Combating social isolation and finding a fun way to exercise, express yourself and meet new people, this live band swing dance burst onto the scene, with 60-100 attendees dancing up a storm in our church.



Concert series

Our church continues to offer affordable neighbourhood concerts in the evenings featuring professional musicians and choirs. This past year we hosted seven concerts. Some of our artists include international award-winning organist Aaron Tan, soprano Tabitha Brasso-Ernst in solo recital, tenor Eric Schwarzhoff singing Schubert, oud player Michael Streit, and the Grand Prairie Boys Choir.



Community Band

Our free community band rehearses Saturdays at 10am and plays at community events. This is a fun and easy way to learn to play music with others!

Choirs

St. Andrew's-Wesley's choirs continue to grow and fill both worship services and the neighbourhood with song! West End Singers, our community choir led by Peggy Hua, is part of our outreach to the neighbourhood and is a non-auditioned choir that sings pop, musical theatre, and movie hits. Attendance has grown from around 12 singers in January to a solid 20-25 singers in November. The choir enjoys singing and socializing every Wednesday evening. They have performed to a packed audience in their July 2023 concert at St. Andrew's-Wesley, and as part of St. Paul's Hospital's Lights of Hope event in November.

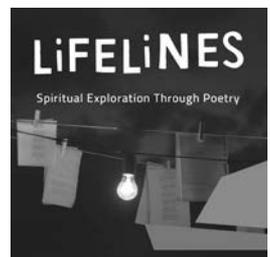
The West End Children's choir, led by Rebecca Collett and Magda How, meets as two groups (Grades 2 and under, and Grades 3 and older.) They sing in two seasonal concerts as well as the Christmas Pageant. A loyal group of around 15 children learn basic musical skills and games, and have fun singing together in their weekly Thursday night rehearsals.

Our Congregational Choir, led by Peggy Hua, has grown and continues to bring the power of music to our morning services once a month. The Gospel Choir, led by Rev. Curt Allison, also sings once a month on Sunday mornings, bringing fun and excitement whenever they perform. Participants in both the Congregational Choir and Gospel Choir are among the most active volunteers in our church, and a number of singers sing in both choirs. Many state that singing in the choir is an important way for them to contribute to church life, and find singing together and for Sunday services meaningful and fulfilling.

The professional singers of the Ensemble and Sacred Voices singers continue to provide a high level of artistry and lead congregational singing in our morning and evening Candlelight services.

Poetry

Facilitator and Spiritual Director Tim Scorer leads this popular year-long series exploring the place where contemporary poetry illuminates aspects of our lives and our spirituality. One afternoon a month these poetry lovers take a deep-dive into poems that have the capacity to startle, inspire, and to reveal: essential challenges for these times. No previous positive experience of poetry is required!



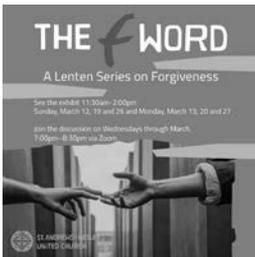
SPIRIT

Nourishing our faith in body, mind, and spirit.



10:30 am worship

Our 10:30 am service continues to grow with an average of 253 folks attending and 20 families participating in the church. We celebrated our 90th year as a United Church, held our popular Oscar sermon series, the "F word (Forgiveness) series, the "Bad words of the Bible" sermon series that explored terms that made people uncomfortable and the Gifts of Faith series on compassion, humility, tolerance, and generosity. Musically we focused on diversity of styles including choral, organ, classical, jazz, Taizé, gospel and community singing. Special guests included Katherine Edwards on Trumpet, the Elgar String Quartet, Julian Davis Reid on piano and vocals, and Jennifer Scott and Rene Worst on voice, piano and bass.



Jazz Vespers

In addition to our ongoing commitment to excellence in Jazz and the featuring of artists such as Salsa Divina, Karin Plato, and the South Van Big Band, this was the year of celebrations! We hosted the 30th anniversary of our Jazz Vespers program with a special evening concert including Candice Churchhill, Leora Cash, Marcus Mosley, Amanda Woods, Diane Lines and Buff Allen. As part of that evening, we recognized the outstanding efforts of Jamie Croil, who passed the organizing torch to Ben MacRae. Jamie played Vespers an additional time before his untimely death this year. We also honoured local jazz legend Ada Lee, whose career includes playing with Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong and Dave Brubeck. Our average attendance for this service was 80 people.



Candlelit Contemplative

Based on the French Taizé-style, this 7pm service is a mixture of beautiful music, meditative ancient rituals and hands-on prayer. With the addition of a monthly labyrinth-based service, we have seen how this service continues to hold a space of healing for the neighbourhood. The Remembrance Day service featured writer Micaele Johnson sharing an original piece on grief, and Dec 17 featured a Quiet Christmas time for those in mourning. Our average attendance for this service was 50 people.



Bible Study and Christian Education

You asked for more deep-dives into the Bible and we were excited to journey with you! From our Exploring our Faith course, a rich Confirmation course for youth, the Jesus Way's study of scripture using Ignatian practices, and ongoing Life Groups that study the weekly sermon, we also offered many special series this year. The F Word – Forgiveness focused on the lessons forgiveness offers us, even in terrible situations. Eat the Word—a study of the Psalms was offered in the summer, the Spiritual Alphabet was a joint project with the Bethlehem retreat centre, and this Advent focused on the nativity from a Palestinian Christian's view with Shadia Qubti.



Labyrinth

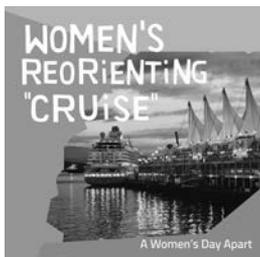
Kate Siddall and other volunteers have been hosting the monthly Thursday evening labyrinth program in the city with candles, sacred chanting and singing bowl sound bath as a low-barrier way for the neighbourhood to use the church space, and to have a peaceful, meditative experience in an often stressful downtown core. Guest musicians have provided gorgeous music to add to this ancient spiritual practice, occurring once per month during the Sunday Candlelit Contemplative service, along with the first Thursday of the month.





Interfaith

In partnership with Canadian Memorial and the Centre for Jewish and Israel Affairs, we participated in an interfaith Sedar dinner both live in our sanctuary and on Zoom. In August, Ben MacRae and Dan Chambers hosted a special Jewish and Christian day of friendship service that featured traditional klezmer music and prayers from Temple Sholom and Congregation Beth Israel. Quantum Healing co-hosted an interfaith prayer ritual to honour the grief over Palestine and Israel, and the sanctuary filled with all voices singing from the Sufi tradition.



Women's Wisdom and Women's retreat

The Women's wisdom group continued to meet on Zoom and explored topics such as the stories in our stained-glass windows but also the wisdom we have minded from our own lives. The annual Women's day together was styled as a cruise so women could restore, rejuvenate and relax! Rebecca Collett taught Cumbia music, Angelique Po led hymns, yoga lessons were on offer and Rev Rhian and Rev Maggie led bible reflections and soul collage.



Men's Breakfast

With a mix of laughter and deep sharing, a group of men come together twice a month on zoom to have a regular life check-in and consider how Spirit intertwines with our daily events, concerns, celebrations. This continues to be a safe and supportive space for men looking for connection and community.



Sunday Club

With an intentional focus of creating safe and brave space for children to bring the gift of themselves, their faith-filled wonderings and questions, our children's ministry staff team of Breanna, Tamryn, Kelly, Ariminia, Marshall, Nicole, Bree, Clover, and Pilar have been blessed with creativity and growth. Some highlights include: an engaging and tasty focus on the sacrament of Communion, Pride Sunday and the children's conversations on love, acceptance and the meaning of family, an imaginative and thoughtful program (using



Godly Play) centered on stewardship that stretched and deepened children’s understanding of their gifts and giving, and reconciliation with the children creating posters for Orange Shirt Day. Godly Play continues to be a much-cherished way of entering the story deeply through wonder, reflection, and response. We enjoyed the intergenerational service for Palm Sunday and the Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday. Our nursery is bursting and we have welcomed many younger children, so many that we will be relaunching a revamped preschool / kindergarten Sunday club program that we haven’t had since closing the church for the restoration!



Visio (youth)

In the Fall we launched a new program for ages 13-18 on Sunday mornings. Happening right after the sermon, youth gather in the chapel to discuss the intersection of art, faith, Christian tradition, and scripture with their lived experience. Attendance varies from 3-8 people.



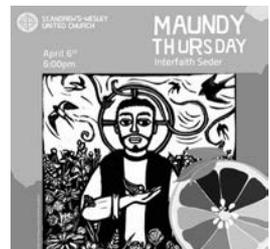
Pastoral Care Team

Our team meets every month and through telephone calls, visits to homes, hospitals and assisted living facilities, they provided prayer and heart-centred care for people going through life’s transitions. We were blessed to have Marvin Shank come twice this year and offer training based on his decades of work in pastoral care and hospital chaplaincy. Of particular impact was the session he offered on providing prayer with people in crisis. We were also thrilled to have Christa Ovenell, CBC’s *Death Apprentice*, Funeral Director and Death Doula, lead a session on “Befriending Dementia.” This year the team has journeyed with many folks who have entered their final stage of life and provided ongoing support and care to them and their families.



Prayer Group

A place of sacred support in our community, our prayer team gathers regularly to prayerfully hold people and places in our community and world who that are in crisis. People can submit requests for prayer to staff or volunteers, in person, via email or over the phone.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Faith is not only belief, it is action.

Refugees

The Refugee team sponsored and supported eight newcomers through 2023. In addition, we have offered support during key events to those we have previously sponsored. Our work is all encompassing and includes such things as:

- a. securing and fitting out apartments,
- b. registering children in school,
- c. attending soccer practice,
- d. finding medical services and
- e. connecting with social services.

As we conclude our 2023 sponsorship, we give thanks and gather to celebrate this important milestone, while looking ahead to the next sponsorship cycle, in which we anticipate another seven people. The team has been honoured to walk beside newcomers and to help them establish a solid foundation on which they may build a future in Canada.



Reconciliation

Artist James Groening led a beautiful Sept 24 Reconciliation worship along with an amazing painting and storytelling workshop about Turtle Island. Leaders in the congregation led an engaging book study on “Restoring the Kinship Worldview” which featured 28 indigenous voices, and folks from our community marched in the Feb 14 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women’s March.



Climate

The aim of the Climate Team is to encourage a more just and sustainable world by offering monthly presentations on a variety of climate topics and suggesting actions for personal and community change. The Climate team hosted an impressive number of speakers and presenters to help educate and take action on the climate crisis, including Dr. Jiaying Zhao on Happy Climate Action and the documentary *The soul of the Fraser* with Ken Ashley. The team is also been participating in many conferences and multifaith groups, along with some members joining the Sierra Club BC’s Mother Tree school which brings a more indigenous perspective to climate action.



Homelessness and underhoused

Two teams went and served lunch to 150 people from the temporary First United food truck. Our partnership with Romano’s Pizza had volunteers walk the neighbourhood handing out coupons for a free meal to over 100 people. Discussions around partnerships with non-profits who are working on housing, recovery, and harm-reduction are ongoing as we see what our community might contribute to the neighbourhood.



iNCLUSION

We believe our community is strengthened by making space for each of us to be our whole selves.



Pride Week

In collaboration with other local Affirming United Churches, we marched in the Pride parade and on the steps of the church we served over 200 cups of ice tea and rainbow treats to show love for everyone in the rainbow. Wayne Davis presented on his work on "The Gay Purge", which is a national project detailing how LGBTQ police and military members were forced to leave their jobs due to sexual orientation. *1946: the Mistranslation* that changed history was screened at the Vancouver *Out on Film Festival*. The film received funding from StAW and we brought a huge crowd out to support this film's debunking of how homosexuality is mistakenly thought of as a sin in some translations of the Bible.



Word Is Out

The Word is Out is a safe space to explore LGBTQ2+ identity and spirituality. Some of our 4th Tuesday evening topics included an LGBTQ2+ arts-based workshop on map-making/timekeeping as a way of reclaiming queer stories, uncovering the rich queer history of Vancouver on the Gay Vancouver Walking Tour, engaging in the spiritual practices of lectio divina and community prayer, and a poetry writing workshop led by Allison Rennie as we took time to listen, wonder, and create.

Our community life also includes enjoying weekly Sunday lunches after church, other social gatherings, and an incredible annual weekend retreat in Manning Park. This year our facilitator was Matthias Roberts, a queer psychotherapist specializing in religious and spiritual trauma and the author of *Beyond Shame: Creating a Healthy Sex Life on Your Own Terms*. He led a powerful workshop at the retreat. Finally, our team was joined by Karis Dimas-Lehndorf to lead a women-centred group for queer women in the city!



Trans Day of Remembrance

This special candlelight service acknowledged the struggles faced by trans folx and the lives lost due to systematic oppression and violence towards the trans community. With music from Sacred Voices and the Van Deca choir, 70 people from the community held space in prayer and helped acknowledge that we will all stand against transphobic violence.



COMMUNITY LiFE



Parent Gatherings

In addition to all ages events such as the Epiphany at the Planetarium, parents gathered monthly on zoom for a time of support and prayer, sharing in the daily joys and challenges of parenting, and engaged in an online course with Saleema Noon, Sexual Health Educator for BC. Her program focused on the tween years and how to nurture and listen to these amazing developing minds and bodies in a supportive and open environment.



Ignite! Jr Youth Group (ages 8-12)

Our youth groups are places to practice and explore the Jesus way with caring adults who listen and journey with our youth as they walk the tightrope to adulthood. Children grow in faith and friendship through active movement games, Drama, Creative Arts and Music, and more. This year we have had an amazing race scavenger hunt, spent time with the artist in residence Ashley Cook, and held games nights alongside rituals for Advent and Lent. We look forward to working with the climate action team on a new project that will show our caring for the planet in the year to come.



Youth Group (ages 13-18)

As our senior youth navigate school, friendships and faith, their youth group provides a safe and supportive space to meet them on the journey of life. They learn to cook a meal each month, go on outings from laser tag to nature walks, develop one-on-one relationships with community members, and even have flex space to study together.



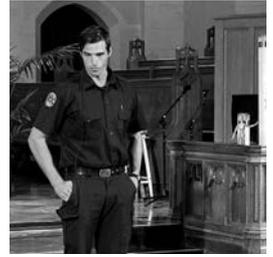
Parent and Tot

Parent and Tot offers play, connection and learning for children from 0-5 and their caregivers in our neighbourhood. This extremely popular program is regularly attended by over 70 people and represents the diversity of Vancouver. Partnerships with Three Bridges Public Health Nurses and the Vancouver Public Library allows caregivers to gain more information on how to support the children in their care, but it is also a place for friendship in an often lonely city for newcomers.



Good News Café

This vibrant group of seniors meet on Tuesdays at 10:30 am to hear fascinating speakers on a variety of topics which included: Vancouver visual artist Tom Carter, Palestinian Christian and community organizer Shadia Qupti, Vancouver firefighter Jason Lynch, and social worker and refugee team member Jean Budden. Held weekly, this program is a source of friendship and connection, and often leads to projects and outings that reflect the lived experience of our community. Hosted and organized by Kathy Murphy, with support from Diane Jones, a new roster of speakers will be announced shortly.





Elders programs

Rev Don Robertson and Rev Maggie Watts Hammond co-led a workshop on Generative Aging. Focusing on how to honour and mine the wisdom of our life as we age, and what our life's "work" might look like in our final decades, this was a rich space to explore the many gifts of aging in a culture that often doesn't treasure the experience.



Stitching circle

From prayer shawls to baby blankets, knitted caps to keep out the cold, and to tiny hats and booties to keep newborns warm, the knitting team provides treasured items that help people in our city. Our team meets twice a month to share conversation and to make items that truly offer comfort and joy. Many of these items are delivered to First United, to Covenant House for homeless youth, and to cold weather shelters. The group regularly puts together knitting kits for beginners, and more experienced knitters and people participate from as far away as Alberta.



Community Events

Our volunteers are amazing, and thanks to you, we were able to throw open our doors and decorate our steps for a number of fun and free community events! Our Drag Queen Storytime was a huge hit with the neighbourhood, the Welcome back Sunday BBQ meant we ate a lot of hotdogs, and Lights of Hope featured our community band, cotton candy and crafts.



PARTNERSHIP

We believe in working together to address the needs of our community. Vancouver is full of amazing non-profits and social agencies who seek justice and tend to those in need. While we work informally with many organizations, here are some we support with donations, volunteers and collaborations.

Rainbow Refugee provides sponsorship support and community support to LGBTQ+ refugees who are fleeing Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression and HIV+ persecution. Our refugee team continues to work with them on lgbtq+ cases, we have volunteers in their mentoring program, and we continue to raise money for them through special events.

First United is so much more than a shelter. It provides essential services to meet the most basic human needs like food, shelter, clothing, and saving lives by reversing overdoses and providing harm reduction supplies. It also provides community and spiritual support for street-involved folks. In addition to the volunteer energy of many of our congregation members who are on their board and committees, we volunteered at the food truck to serve meals while First is out of their building.

Sierra Club BC advocates for a rapid shift away from fossil fuels to a low carbon, equitable economy. They rely on science-based research and peaceful, democratic means to advocate for change but lately they have also been learning from indigenous teachers and partners on how an indigenous world view might help us be in balance with the planet. With a recent donation from StAW, they started an indigenous-led environmental stewardship school to train community leaders in how they might advocate for climate solutions, with two of our members going through the program.

Moms stop the Harm is a network of Canadian families impacted by substance-use-related harms and deaths. They advocate for the change of failed drug policies, provide peer support to grieving families, and assist those with loved ones who use or have used substances. We collaborated with them to raise awareness about those who have died due to the poisoned drug supply.

Interfaith Climate Action Group is a grass-roots, multi-faith climate action group that seeks to find ways for different communities to collaborate on petitions, policy change, and educational events. Our members regularly attend events and look for ways to collaborate on public forums or climate actions.

BAPTISMS MEMBERSHIPS + MEMORIALS

Names of baptisms: Juliette Bewza, Lucy Bowman-Berardo, Lola Bowman-Berardo, Aine Collins, Raha Ghanbari, Holly Hurst, Boston Jarman, Raphael Jazin, Phoenix Lynch, Ruby Lynch, Ali Pezeshki, Nafas Pezeshki, Lauryn and Aiden Press-Yates, Pegah Seraji, Amara Van West, Amy Wotherspoon

Names of new members: Oz Celik, Raha Ghanbari, Ira de Guzman (youth confirmation), Yna de Guzman (youth confirmation), Raphael Jazin, Kozmo Kliegl, Emily and Jason Lynch; Ainsteena Martin, Diane McMillan, Ali Pezeshki, Colin Phillips, Sonja Renwick, Pegah Seraji, Joy Shepphard, Finn Spreter (youth confirmation), Amy Wotherspoon, Peyyuan (Gary) Zhu

Names of the deceased: George Baldwin, Sheila Baxter, Don Cummings, Jamie Croil, Grace Margaret Francis, Gary Lund, Alice Hush, Rosemary Kendall, Don McEown, Bob Nelles, Vince O'Connor, Paul MacDonald, Lorna Seaman, Michael Shannon, Winnifred Smith, Callum Tichenor, David Watson



VOLUNTEERS

Part of our Christian life path is to be of service to those in our community. Over 130 of you volunteer for events, worship, outreach and more, helping folks in our city know there is a loving and safe space for them. These are just some of the teams that people serve on:

Board and Ministry teams

Board: Wingfield Rehmus – Chair, Michelle Henry-Vice Chair, Ken Tanner-Treasurer, Marymargaret Gingerich -Secretary, Lyn Hagglund- M & P, Jacqueline Crummey, Richard Arias Hernandez, Lois Keebler, Liam MacLure, Maggie Magee, Wayne Savigny, Seth Watson

Finance: Bob Burrows, Sue Parker, Wingfield Rehmus, Ken Tanner, Wayne Savigny

Governance: Marymargaret Gingerich, Michelle Henry, Wingfield Rehmus, Wayne Savigny, Ken Tanner

Artist in Residence: Ilena Lee Cramer, Ruth Faber, Richard Arias Hernandez, Suzanne Steele, Brenda Maitland Whitelaw

Children, Youth and Families: Douglas Anderson, Sharon Brady-Browne, Mitch Broome, Clover Brooks, Kathryn Cholette, Jacqueline Crummey, Wayne Davis, Michael Dobbin, David Finnis, Bailey Fisher, Lyn Hagglund, Michelle Henry, Skye Holness, Nancy Illman, Diane Jones, Regan Katerenchuk, Ewelina Kurty, Iro Lugo, Jason Lynch, Maggie Magee, Diane McMillan, Barbara Morrison, Kathy Murphy, Marjorie Nelles, Hanieh Nahalgir, Penny Nation, Katsuko Ochiai, Sue Parker, Ana Prado, Will Rehmus, Wingfield Rehmus, Sonja Renwick, Mae Runions, Margie Savigny, Wayne Savigny, Pegah Seraji, Farideh Sheikh, Tyler Welsford

Climate: Katherine Cholette, Jacqueline Crummey, David Finnis, David Hodge, Lois and Conrad Keebler, Liam MacLure, Kathy Millar, Elaine Perry, Wingfield Rehmus, Maggie Savigny, Wendy Stephenson, Ken Tanner

Communion: Carol Downton, Gord Harding and Diane McMillan

Events: Diana Bell, Mitch Broom, Oz Celik, Jacqueline Crummey, Stephen Enns, Peter Falk, David Finnis, Raha Ghanbari, Michelle Henry, Scott Johnson, Diane Jones, Nick Leung, Jason, Emily, Phoneix & Ruby Lynch, Maggie Magee, Kathy Millar, Barbara Morrison, Kathy Murphy, Hanieh Nahalgir, Marjorie Nelles, Katsuko Ochiai, Ali Pezekshki, Robert Pietrzak, Ana Prado, Wingfield Rehmus, Sonja Renwick, Mae Runions, Pegah Seraji, Joy Sheppard, Joel Thompson, Jude Walker



Greeters: Simon Agostino, Douglas Anderson, Wayne Davis, Jim Evans, Eoin Gaughran, Greg Glasgow, Kayoko Gossen, Fred Kabali, Mary Margaret Gingrich, Lyn Hagglund, Gord Harding, Lois & Conrad Keebler, Grace LaFrance, Brenda and Landis Maitland-Whitelaw, John McKinstry, Susan Parker, Roger Phelps, Robert Pietrzak, Wingfield Rehmus, Alice Rose, Ken & Carol Tanner, Natacha Warwick, Joan & Cam Yates



Hospitality: Cherisha Agarwal, Georgina Arntzen, Diana Bell, Oz Celik, Maureen Cowin, Wayne Davis, Leslie Van Duzer, Kirsten Ebsen David Finnis, Gord Harding, Diane Jones, Kozmo Kliegl, June Lau, Nick Leung, Maggie Magee, Kathy Millar, Kathy Murphy, Robert Pietrzak, Natasha Sawyer, Eddy Wong



Labyrinth: Christine Coles, Wayne Davis, Jim Evans, Ruth Faber, Carrie Froese, Diane Jones, Kathy Murphy, Alice Rose, Kate Siddall



Library: Janet Buchanan, Ruth Faber, Richard Arias Hernandez, Marymargaret Gingerich, Elaine Perry

Pastoral Care Team: Douglas Anderson, Catherine Atyeo, Kim Butler, Gwen and Jim Maclean-Cruickshank, Lois and Conrad Keebler, Diane McMillan, Marjorie Nelles, Bobbie Phillips, Mae Runions



Prayer Group: Barbara Barron, Gary Lyseng, Penny Nation, Bobbie Phillips, Mae Runions and Sue Parker

Refugees: Jean Budden, Marymargaret Gingerich, Patricia LaCroix, Alan Lowe, Iro Lugo, Penny Nation, Barry Potvin, Donna Scorer, Meseret Taye

Word is Out: Rob Cameron, Michelle Henry, Gregg Taylor

OPERATIONS

2023 felt like it was the year to settle into our new and old routines. More people have returned to our church services and our programs and we see it in our numbers. Any guesses as to how many programs we put on as a church (every program, not including church services) from January 1st to December 31st? **537!** Our caretakers were busy doing the setups and tear downs for all those programs. In addition to all our own programs, we hosted **143** use of facilities events. This was concerts, speakers, events, weddings and funerals. Many of these events and concerts use the staging and require unique setups and tear downs.

We had never even thought of livestreaming 3 years ago and now our livestreaming services are averaging around 180 viewers a week! Our AV system continues to give us some concerns, but Robin and Tom are amazing at getting things working with minutes to spare before the service starts.

We welcomed Martin Uren this year as our Manager of Volunteers and Hospitality. Martin will be contacting each of you to see how you may want to use your gifts at the church.

The messages on the church stairs are having a real impact on the community and how they engage with the church. We receive wonderful comments on them all the time. People also comment how it made the front of the church feel more welcoming. The hospitality and greeting teams are doing a fantastic job at making newcomers feel welcome and help the tourists to understand what a United Church is.

Construction on the offices was completed and have provided the staff with the space needed to work efficiently. Our new phone system helps to easily get you to the person you wish to speak to. Finally, the restoration was recognized at the Vancouver Heritage awards!

We look forward to all things that will come our way in 2024.

Treasurer's Report – End Nov 2023

Our year is following the budget plan reasonably closely. Revenues are 10% less than anticipated at this point of the year, but end of year surge in givings may alleviate this. Expenses are 6% lower than anticipated at this point of the year.

My prediction is that we will have withdrawn \$1.763M from investments to balance operations at year end. That is almost \$100K less than we had planned.

Profit and Loss

St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church

For the 11 months ended 30 November 2023

Account	Nov 2023	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	Full Year Budget	EOY Prediction
Income					
Total Givings and Donations	24,682.31	304,887.07	332,739.00	362,988.00	335,136.07
Total Rentals and Programs	8,156.12	74,486.72	87,539.00	95,496.00	82,443.72
Total Interest Income	13.00	134.01	473.00	516.00	177.01
Total Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	32,851.43	379,507.80	420,751.00	459,000.00	417,756.80
Operations					
Total Operating Expenses	40,682.77	477,358.49	460,262.00	502,104.00	519,200.49
Total Maintenance Expenses	3,759.89	58,731.96	57,453.00	62,676.00	63,954.96
Total Programs and Worship Expense	14,723.89	93,795.65	143,011.00	156,012.00	106,796.65
Total Compensation and Benefits	116,551.24	1,280,211.74	1,343,188.00	1,465,296.00	1,402,319.74
Total Staff Expenses	222.22	6,886.92	17,413.00	18,996.00	8,469.92
Total Other Expenses	0.00	89,846.87	113,179.00	123,468.00	100,135.87
Total Operating Expenses	175,940.01	2,006,831.63	2,134,506.00	2,328,552.00	2,200,877.63
NET INCOME	(143,088.58)	(1,627,323.83)	(1,713,755.00)	(1,869,552.00)	(1,783,120.83)

Legend: YTD – Year to Date EOY – End of Year BOY – Beginning of Year



Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer’s Annual Report – End November 2023

The church continues to be efficiently managed and there are no adverse issues of consequence. As of the date of writing this report, full year 2023 revenues are predicted to be 8% less than plan; the \$35K income shortfall being equally due to reduced rental revenues & reduced donations. Some of this shortfall will likely be mitigated by increased Advent season donations.

Full year expenses are expected to be \$110K less than planned, representing 5% of total expenditures – equally due to less compensation than planned, and changes in some programs (like the Congregational Camp).

Full year subsidy from investments to operations will be just under \$1.8M, which will be \$75K (4%) less than originally budgeted for the year.

I regret that there is nothing exciting to report! We are about \$35K under plan for revenues but expect an Advent givings bump in December. Our expenses are \$110K less than planned at this point and we expect that to persist to the year end. Overall, we are ahead of our budget expectations and anticipate a similar year end. Full year subsidy from investments to operations will be just under \$1.8M.



Investments

Our investment situation remains positive. At the end of the third quarter (9 months ending Sep 2023) our portfolios with TD Bank, Nicola Wealth and the United Church Foundation cumulatively had grown by 4% in those 9 months to \$91M. Assuming that performance level continues to year end 2023, there will be more than enough growth in the investments to cover the annual operating subsidy noted above. Thus no compromise to our 100 year plan.



Point of interest: Our Nicola Wealth Millennium Fund (the 100 year plan) has grown organically by 47% since inception at the beginning of 2019.



Ken Tanner, Treasurer,
St. Andrews Wesley United Church, Dec 4 2023.

THE TEAM

We were all called to serve Spirit and community and it is a honour to do this together. These are the folks that support St Andrew's Wesley United Church



Co-Lead Minister

Dan Chambers
rev.chambers@standrewswesley.com

Co-Lead Minister

Rhian Walker
r.walker@standrewswesley.com

Executive Director

Diane Mitchell
executivedirector@standrewswesley.com

Minister with Children and Families

Jen Cummings
j.cummings@standrewswesley.com

Director of Music

Angelique Po
music@standrewswesley.com

Minister of LGBTQ programs

Curt Allison
c.allison@standrewswesley.com

Minister of Youth and Young Adults

Benjamin McRae
yaya@standrewswesley.com

Minister of Women and Elders

Maggie Watts-Hammond





Ministers of LGBTQ programs

Rev Curt Allison

c.allison@standrewswesley.com

Karis Dimas-Lehndorf

lgbtq@standrewswesley.com

Choral Directors

Peggy Hua, Rebecca Collett, Magda How
music@standrewswesley.com

Sunday Club leaders

Pilar Benavides, Bree Cunnings,
Ariminia Hifuma, Marshall Henderson,
Kelly Jokanovich, Tamryn Kennedy,
Breanna Nichol, Nicole Welsford

Minister Emeritus

The Very Reverend Dr Gary Paterson
and Rev Tom Miles

Manager, Volunteer Engagement & Hospitality

Martin Urien

volunteer@standrewswesley.com

Caretakers

Armaan Malhi and George Mellish



Communications Coordinator & Administration

Ursula Andrade

office@standrewswesley.com

Head of AV

Robin Singh

caretakers@standrewswesley.com

Bookings and AV

Tom Rose

bookings@standrewswesley.com

Bookkeeper

Cynthia Philpott

accounting@standrewswesley.com



WITH GRATITUDE...

1 Peter 4:10-11. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God.

Feeling called to serve the world with your spiritual gifts? Want to grow in faith, offer your time and talents, and make the world a better place? Come and be part of this community! Get started by making an appointment with one of our ministry team members.

www.standrewswesley.com