



**ST. ANDREWS-WESLEY
UNITED CHURCH**

2024 Annual Report





OUR STORY

*"No matter who you are, no matter who you love,
all of **you** is welcome here."*

You imagined a church where all are welcome. Where God's love wasn't conditional. Where open conversation and questions about faith were encouraged and where your own life experience was valued. You imagined a church where Jesus' commitment to care for the world was taken seriously. Where justice for climate and refugees matters. Where we have concrete ways to do something about issues that trouble our hearts, and where art and music were seen as beautiful ways to experience the Divine and build community. That place you imagined is St. Andrew's Wesley United Church.

ART

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

Artist in Residence

Poet, performer and film-maker Brandon Wint (2024-2025) and Multi-media and Paper mechanics artist Ashley Cook (2023-2024) brought further growth and community engagement through our Artist in Residence program. Ashley's focus on paper mechanics led to a series of successful evening workshops that spanned a wide range of mediums such as puzzles, books, maps, and decorations. Ashley worked closely with Karis in creating Queer Arts nights that proved to be a fantastic way of engaging folks seeking community and art in Vancouver. Brandon has been teaching a Monday evening poetry course and launched a spoken word with music evening on the last Thursday of every month.



Public Art

Eye-catching artistic design on our Burrard St. steps continue to be a fantastic way to highlight key social justice issues and raise awareness. This year we saw the Rainbow steps, a climate action installation that highlighted important Indigenous plants and a peace-building design during the fall. We thank Ursula Andrade for her designs.



The Chapel

While this project was initially geared for youth and young adults, that was put to bed and in the interim we have offered pop-up concerts and events including the evening with Double Date whose folk-rock show helped raise money for arts at StAW, and the poetry and music events that will hopefully help re-grow the poetry evenings that Vancouver lost due to the closure of two venues.





Concert series

Our church continues to offer affordable neighbourhood concerts in the evenings featuring professional musicians and our own choirs. This past year we hosted eleven concerts:

- Bright Morning Star, featuring Magda How, Rebecca Collett, and Tabitha Brasso-Ernst (March)
- The Itamar Erez Trio (April)
- Alan Lowe's memorial service and concert with The Ensemble and Peggy Hua conducting Fauré's Requiem (May—sponsored by the estate of Alan Lowe)
- Angelique Po, solo organ concert (June)
- Variety Show! Chamber Music Concert (September)
- British organist Roger Sayer playing the music of Interstellar (October—in partnership with the Royal Canadian College of Organists)
- Two piano recitals with the piano students of Dr. Corey Hamm (UBC)
- Spring and Winter concerts featuring the West End Children's Choir
- Spring concert "Tale As Old As Time", featuring the West End Singers performing choral arrangements of Disney tunes.

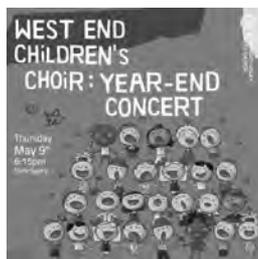
Six of these concerts were free admission: the piano recitals, West End Children's Choir, and West End Singers' concerts. Apart from Roger Sayer's organ concert, attendance for concerts was between 30 (Erez) to 170 (WES), averaging around 85 people.

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 25 last year to 40 this year. The choir enjoys singing and socializing every Wednesday evening. They performed with the Downton Singers (a community choir also directed by Peggy) to a packed audience in their July 2024 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. Children learn basic musical skills and games, and have fun singing together in their weekly Thursday night rehearsals. Both groups of the West End Children's Choir are substantially larger than they were last year. Attendance for the younger choir averages 20 children, with a maximum of 30. Due to the large numbers this year, we have had to restrict registration period to the first month of each term (September and January.) For the older choir, attendance averages 15 children. 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 they find singing together and for Sunday services meaningful and fulfilling.



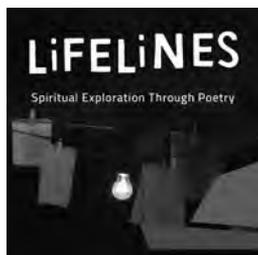
The Sacred Voices Ensemble

The professional singers of the Ensemble and Sacred Voices continue to provide a high level of artistry and lead congregational singing in our morning and evening Candlelight services. This past August and September, we undertook a recording project to produce professional video recordings of five songs which hold meaning for the congregation, including Bob Chilcott's beloved *Irish Blessing*, and Darryl Nixon's *The Lord's Prayer*. Audio recordings have been posted to YouTube.



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. Somehow Tim always finds new and emerging work that engages us with our longings, fears and hopes. New attendees always welcomed!



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 200 folks attending and 27 families participating in the church. Our popular sermon series this year included the "Undivided Love: Exploring Landscapes of Living Faith based on Rev. Janet Gear's work, the Oscar sermon series (including Oppenheimer and Barbie!), Hope and Anxiety with Rev. Rhian Walker and Rev. Deb Bowman, and Exodus. We were blessed with some excellent sermons from our own congregation such as Carellin Brooks and Colin Philips, and our Camp Spirit summer service put a huge smile on everyone's faces. 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 Elgers string quartet, The Grand Slam band, and some fantastic combined choral offerings that included the congregational choir, the gospel choir, and the Downton Singers, all led by Peggy Hua. Angelique Po continued to dazzle on the organ.



Jazz Vespers

Since the loss of our beloved Jamie Croil, Benjamin MacRae has been continuing to build on the 30-year legacy of jazz ministries at StAW. The 4pm service features big bands like the Leading Ladies Little Big Bad and the Impressions Big Band, all the way to quartets and trios with Diane Lines, Kristen Fung and Kristian Braathen. We remain passionate about showcasing a wide range of styles including Salsa Divina and Van Django, but also highlighting the next wave of jazz artists including Julian Borkowski, Noah Franche Nolan, and Riley Poystila. We continue to also revel in the talents of legends like Sharon Minamoto,

Lorraine Foster, Chris Sigerson and Deanna Knight. A jazz newsletter was created and over 250 people have signed up to date and we have raised over \$2500 for the St. James Music Academy. This year we included a Pride and Trans Day of Remembrance service to our jazz ministries and hosted Lorraine Foster's birthday. Our average attendance was 75.



Candlelit Contemplative

Based on the French Taizé-style, this 7pm service is a mixture of beautiful music, meditative ancient rituals and hands-on prayer. The Labyrinth now takes place within that service on the first Sunday of the month and features guest musicians such as harpist Abigail Mazar and percussionist Katie Rife. Special services included a service dedicated to Frontline Workers, an All Souls Service, a Trans Day of Remembrance Service, and a Quiet or Blue Christmas service to support those who are grieving during the holiday times. Starting in December, Karis Dimas-Lehndorf has joined as the host for this service and is currently training a team of people to offer hands on prayer and support in this most sacred of spaces. Our average attendance was 50.



Bible Study and Christian Education

Faith education through study still remains one of the most exciting and engaging aspects of the StAW community. The Undivided Love course with Rev Janet Gear provided a rich exploration of all the ways we understand our faith and why we might value some hymns more than others! We left with a greater understanding of each other and a wider ability to cherish the expressions of evangelical, ecclesial, missional, ecumenical, and spiritual expressions of faith. The Listening Circles course with Rev. Dan, Tim Scorer and Margie Savigny used Parker Palmer's work to deepen how we accompany each other in Christ. We also held The Spirituality of Land in the Hebrew Scriptures with Prof. Pat Dutcher-Walls, and Ben MacRae taught a music appreciation course to help deepen our understanding of hymns and music choices in worship. Dr. Harry Maier taught a rousing course on the Apocalypse and all that is weird and wonderful about that text, and Rev. Rhian closed the year with an Advent series on Shadow and Light to help us move into a space of noticing for the season. The Jesus Way





and the ongoing Life Groups that study the weekly sermon and related Scriptures continue to offer a way of deepening our understanding of sacred text.

Finally, one of the most powerful and profound offerings this year was with Rev. Jen Cummings and Marymargaret Gingerich called “We Are Not Alone”, involving a few guest speakers including Labhrás Quigley from Dying with Dignity, Paul Magennis a Palliative Care Nurse and the Right Rev. Dr. Gary Paterson; this course tended to the practical and spiritual aspects of death, dying, end of life, MAID and reflecting on our legacy both present and in the future. With over 45 participants this was a beloved workshop and we are grateful to all those who designed and held the space.



Exploring your Faith and Spirit-given Gifts

Exploring your Faith is a one-day workshop for people who are new to St. Andrew’s Wesley, Protestant Christianity, or the United Church of Canada. It is designed to provide a quick overview of key faith concepts and United Church beliefs and history in order to prepare people for membership in the church. This year over 25 people took the course and of those folks 17 became members or transferred their memberships.

As part of helping people discern the Christian faith path, Rev. Rhian and Allison Rennie offered the Spirit-given gifts workshop which helped people uncover their spiritual gifts (not just what they are “good at” or rewarded for!) and find a community to explore them with. We had 24 people go through this workshop and the majority are now actively volunteering and offering their time and talents in the church.



PMR AGM

St. Andrew’s Wesley had the honour of hosting the Pacific Mountain Region’s Annual AGM which includes representation from all the churches in the BC and Yukon region. The theme was collaboration, and we witnessed music, storytelling, and worship from our team and others. The event ended with a particularly meaningful Celebration of Ministry service in which our own Jen Cummings became Rev. Jen Cummings, much to the great joy of the whole congregation.



Centre for Spiritual Accompaniment and the Listening Circles

Based on conversations with Tim Scorer, Margie Savigny, Liam MacLure, Rhian Walker and Dan Chambers, there has been a longing to create more contemplative spaces and provide more spiritual support in the city. This team turned Marnie's Room into a beautiful space for one-on-one spiritual direction sessions and has begun to build a team of directors from individuals who have taken the Pacific Jubilee training program. A group of congregants also took a Lenten training with Rev. Dan on the listening circle process and have begun to offer twice monthly listening circles for people who are going through transitions in their lives.



Labyrinth

In addition to the monthly labyrinth at the Sunday Candlelit Contemplative service, a trial run was done on a labyrinth walk with musical guests. This event was very successful financially and in terms of community participation and we hope to try an additional one in 2025.



Women's Wisdom and Women's retreat

Led by Allison Rennie and Angelique Po, 45 women participated in a retreat designed to look at their inner life. Some of the activities included Soul Collage, singing and small group discussion as they explored the "mirror to the soul."



Sunday Club

Our Sunday morning children's program embraces the wonderings and wisdom of our children and the children's ministry staff team work hard to create space for children to explore their connection with the Holy. We were delighted to welcome Pegah who is now working in the Nursery with Pilar. Bree and Ariminia work with our Preschoolers and Kindergarteners in the Upper Room, engaging stories of faith alongside different mediums of art. Breanna, Tamryn, Kelly, Nicole and Marshall work on a rotational basis with our active, creative and thoughtful grades 1 to 7 children. 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, the Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday, and working on the Christmas Pageant.

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 intersections of art, faith, Christian tradition, and scripture with their own 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 have been excited to welcome some new members to our team, and to offer "Befriending Dementia with Christa Ovenell" and the "We Are Not Alone Series" led by Marymargaret and Rev. Jen with special guests as we faithfully explored our legacy and end of life planning. This series came about through Jen's work and studies in her sabbatical on End of Life Doula Training. Earlier in the year a number of us sat in on a training for Pastoral Care Teams offered by the Pacific Mountain Region with Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins which stirred a conversation around the title, "Pastoral Care Team", does it reflect what we do? Do people understand what Pastoral Care means? We continue to reflect on the title and seek to share more about what we do.



Prayer Group

A place of sacred support in our community, our prayer team gathers once a month in a group, but individually daily and weekly, 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

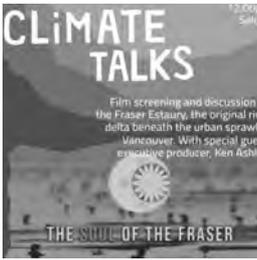
After combing through many applications, the Refugee team has begun the sponsorship process of 7 newcomers. Currently all paperwork is submitted and we wait for arrival dates before we can move into finding accommodation. This year the team also hosted an information event featuring Njamba Koffi, a UBC International Relations and Creative Writing student and author of "Refuge-e: The Journey Much Desired," to share his story of resilience as he navigated refugee camps, schooling, new cultures and beginning again.



Reconciliation

Artist James Groening led a beautiful Sept. 29 Reconciliation worship along with a painting and storytelling workshop about Turtle Island. The Good News Café group went on a Talasay Tour of art and culture in Stanley Park, and folks from our community marched in the Feb. 14 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's March.





Climate

The Climate Team has continued to grow its mailing list by providing monthly presentations on eco justice, sustainability and hope. Speakers this year included Dr. Kai Chan on CoSphere, the online network allows people — or, as Chan prefers to call them, “small planet heroes” — to contribute their skills toward climate action, conservation and social justice. Dr. Wendy Sarkissian’s on “Faith, Fear and Hope: Healing Climate Grief” and David Quigg of the Sierra Club’s presentation on how to talk to others about climate change gave spiritual and practical advice on this tender subject. Elaine Perry, Margie Savigny and Rev. Rhian led an intergenerational contemplative retreat on climate action at Rivendell as their final project for the Mother Tree School.



Homelessness and underhoused

Our partnership with Romano’s Pizza had volunteers walk the neighbourhood handing out coupons for a free meal to over 100 people.



Safe Drug supply

In partnership with Moms Stop the Harm, StAW screened the documentary *Toxic* by Robert Colbourne. The film examines the fentanyl and overdose crisis in Vancouver’s lower mainland and featured a panel of speakers including harm reduction and recovery expert Guy Fellicella, Deb Bailey of MSTH and our own Catherine Atyeo who lost a child to the poisoned drug crisis. A partnership with St. Paul’s Hospital Foundation’s Road to Recovery program is also being explored.



Social Justice team

A team created by the board to tithe \$160,000 to organizations who were tackling key social justice priorities meant StAW gave the following organizations to support initiatives in reconciliation, climate, seniors and LGBTQ: Climate Justice Organizing HUB, Indian Residential School Survivors, Metro Vancouver Alliance, Rainbow Refugee, Road to Recovery, Sierra Club BC and the West End Seniors Network.



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 iced tea and rainbow treats as part of our outreach to the city. Congregation member Dr. Carellin Brooks preached a great Pride sermon as we featured the New Westminster Rainbow Chorus, while Jazz Vespers highlighted the Teresa Marie Trio.



Queer Prom

Karis Dimas-Lehndorf, with support from Rev. Curt Allison and David Hayes, launched StAW's first-ever Queer Prom. Held as a reclaiming of teenage milestone in what often was a time when folks weren't comfortable being "out", the evening featured a great dj, decor and a ton of fun. The event was featured in the Globe and Mail.



The Lavender Bunch

Karis Dimas-Lehndorf has successfully developed and grown this queer women's group to be a place of connection, creativity and spirit! The Lavender Bunch engages in arts and creative practices, goes to plays, hosts games nights, yoga sessions, and gathers for conversation that is relevant and compassionate. Held on the first and third Wednesday of the month.

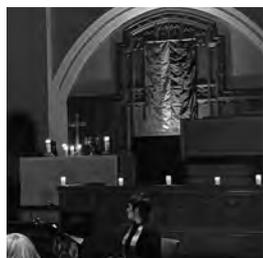


Word Is Out

The Word is Out is a safe space to explore 2SLGBTQ+ identity and spirituality. We meet each 2nd Tuesday for an off-site social activity such as dinner, a movie, bowling, and our 4th Tuesday evenings are held at the



church and involve a discussion around 2SLGBTQ+ faith and life. Our first 3 Tuesday meetings comprised of an extended Bible study around the Clobber Passages – those 6 Bible passages that have traditionally been used to condemn and ostracize queer folk. Our other 4th Tuesday evening topics included a discussion around Faith, Mental Fitness, and Personal Empowerment, an evening of spiritual practice focusing on the power of prayer in stress reduction, and a wonderfully candid “Let’s Talk About Sex” conversation led by Gregg Taylor as we looked at how we can live more fully into wholeness by integrating our sexual selves and our spirituality. Our annual September Retreat at Loon Lake Retreat Centre was sold out this year. Gregg Taylor and Curt Allison led a highly interactive workshop at the retreat on Deconstruction and Reconstruction of our faith as queer people. Our very popular weekly Sunday brunch after church continues to be a beautiful time of connection and breaking bread together.



Trans Day of Remembrance

This special candlelight service acknowledged the struggles faced by trans folk and the lives lost due to systematic oppression and violence towards the trans community. With music from Sacred Voices and the Quayside choir, liturgy from Minister Lauren Kirkey, and with support from our new contemplative service prayer team, 70 people from the community held space in prayer and helped acknowledge that we will all stand against transphobic violence.



Parent Gatherings

In addition to all ages events such as our Family Picnics and Eat Pray Love, parents gathered monthly on zoom for a time of reflection, support and prayer, sharing in the daily joys and challenges of parenting. We were thrilled to host a Parenting Event for the wider community with Dr. Deborah MacNamara in April to discuss her latest book, *Nourished: Connection, Food and Caring for our Kids (and everyone else we love)*. We held a Family Camp at the beginning of May at Camp Jubilee and it was a lovely retreat that included delicious meals, tasty conversations around the table and savoured times of play, bible study, singing, and adventure. This past fall we have partnered with our neighbours Christ Church Cathedral and have welcomed them



to our monthly parent zooms and we are delighted they have joined with their favourite “cuppa.” Finally, Eat, Pray, Love was rebooted this past fall and is now held in partnership with Christ Church Cathedral. An intergenerational, Biblically-based program featuring worship geared for all ages with stories, crafts, music and ending with a meal that deepens connection.



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 fun creating homemade cards and brownie mix to support the Guatemala Schools playground, and we also helped create butterfly gardens and took time this Fall to make care kits for the unhoused folks in our community.



Youth Group (ages 13-18)

This year, we have decided to trial holding youth group with Pacific Spirit United Church, where we have been holding a weekly gathering in the church hall. Activities have ranged from games night, Bible study, dinner and conversations, watching The Chosen, and providing supports for the older teenagers as they apply for university programs. Regularly, we have a collective attendance of 12-14, with about 1-2 coming from StAW, which we hope to see grow in the coming year.



Open Table (young adults)

Open Table, our monthly gathering for young adults, continues to grow and be a spiritual support for the emerging adults in our community of faith. With an average attendance of 16-20, Open Table offers an evening of community, dinner, and spiritual discernment, as we engage in community building activities, a home cooked meal, and then turn to Gospel Based Discipleship - a method for communal Bible study that was developed by Indigenous Elders in the Anglican Church of Canada, but that we have been adapting to suit our United Church context.





Camp Spirit

Our 12th year in hosting this amazing summer day camp, we had over 28 volunteers and 52 children, and 14 youth join us for a week of fun and learning! This year's theme was "Finding our Way - using G. P. S." As we learned about Grace (G), Peace (P) and Spirit (S) through the stories of our faith, we explored how God guides us and calls us to live as beloved children of God, living lives of love and hope in this world of ours. Our wonderful volunteers provided some incredible engagement, learning and fun in the afternoons, including a visit from a dear Search and Rescue Volunteer who gave us some helpful tips if we ever got lost in the woods.



Parent and Tot

Parent and Tot offers play, connection and learning for children from 0-5 and their parents and 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. We are blessed by an incredible volunteer team that exemplifies the meaning of welcome.



Good News Café

The Good News Café is a friendship circle which meets Tuesdays from 10:30 - noon, designed to help active seniors live their best lives. Topics range from wellness and safety, to science, creative living and resource building, to End of Life planning. Speakers from our own congregation as well as community leaders such as Maestro Kenneth Hsieh of the Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra, the More than a Roof Organization, the Community Policing Unit and QMUNITY for Seniors are invited to share their stories with a Q and A to follow. In addition, seasonal outings such as Tapestry Tours, Tulip Tours, the Italian Cultural Centre, and Festival of Lights are added to spice up the mix. Other perks include Soup Group, great snacks, many surprises, and much laughter. Hosted by Kathy Murphy and Diane Jones.



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, and celebrations. The group is beginning to trial meeting in person again as it seeks to be a place of connection and honesty for men.



Elders programs

While the role of an elder is well-articulated in some cultures, in our current Western Canadian one it is not. Rev. Don Robertson and others explored what meaningful eldership might look like to them and what the gifts of wisdom might be at this stage of life.



Stitching Circle

From prayer shawls to baby blankets, knitted caps to keep out the cold, 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. People participate from as far away as Alberta.



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.

First United 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.

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.

Metro Vancouver Alliance is a grassroots coalition of community, faith, labour, and nonprofit organizations that collectively work on the issues such as housing, climate, and living wage.

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.

Rainbow Refugee provides sponsorship support and community support to LGBTQ+ refugees who are fleeing Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and HIV+ persecution.

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.

West End Seniors Network enhances the quality of life of older adults by providing social, recreational, educational and supportive programs and services that foster connection and inclusion in the broader community.

BAPTISMS MEMBERSHIPS + MEMORIALS

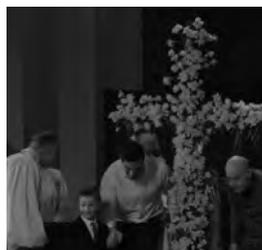
Names of baptisms: Sina Amirisadv,
George Anderson, Odile Caram, Saghar Faridi,
Sepand Faridi, Beckett Donald Gordan,
Hanieh Nahalgir, Eliana Kulakbayera Ramamonjisoa,
Zeinabsadat Razavian, Mahsa Sabouri, Faredeih Sheikh,
Taylor Agus Carla Sofia Spencer, Debra Antonio Tufano,
Josephine Elli Anna Tufano, Junliang Yu



Names of new members: Sina Amirisadv,
George Anderson, Josephine Merle Anderson,
Odile Caram, Wilfredo Contreras, Ronald DesJardins,
Saghar Faridi, Sepand Faridi, Ann Hughes,
Heather Macfarlane, Monireh (Hanieh) Nahalgir,
Zeinabsadat Razavian, Mahsa Sabouri, Faredeih Sheikh,
Dale Tarron, Junliang Yu



Names of the deceased: Renata Anderson,
Penny Bishop, John Bruce, Kathleen Coutts,
Elizabeth Mae Cunnings, John Foulds,
Marguerite Lamothe, Alan Lowe, Gary Lund,
Anne Louise Rolston, Lorna Seaman, Jamie Shannon,
Callum Tichenor



VOLUNTEERS

Part of our Christian life path is to be of service to those in our community. Over 200 of you volunteer for events, worship, outreach and more, helping folks in our city know there is a loving and safe space for them.

Board and Ministry teams

Board: Wingfield Rehmus-Chair, Richard Arias Hernandez,-Vice Chair, Ken Tanner-Treasurer, Marymargaret Gingerich -Secretary, Lyn Hagglund- M & P, Catherine Ayteo, Jacqueline Crummey, Lois Keebler, Liam MacLure, Seth Watson.

Finance: Bob Burrows, Sue Parker, Roger Phelps, Ken Tanner.

Governance: Lyn Hagglund, Wingfield Rehmus, Jeanette Stark.

Artist in Residence: John Alarca, Ilena Lee Cramer, Shirley Etter, Richard Arias Hernandez, Pegah Seraji, Suzanne Steele.

Children, Youth and Families: Yasemin Akbari, Douglas Anderson, Clover Brooks, Kathryn Cholette, Jacqueline Crummey, Wayne Davis, Michael Dobbin, Sepand Faridi, Raha Ghanbari, Lyn Hagglund, Michelle Henry, Skye Holness, Nancy Illman, Diane Jones, Bota Kulakbayeva, Iro Lugo, Jason Lynch, Maggie Magee, Diane McMillan, Jan Morgan, Barbara Morrison, Kathy Murphy, Hanieh Nahalgir, Penny Nation, Marjorie Nelles, Katsuko Ochiai, Will Rehmus, Wingfield Rehmus, Sonja Renwick, Mae Runions, Margie Savigny, Wayne Savigny, Farideh Sheikh, Pegah Seraji, Maureen Seymour, Tyler Welsford.

Climate: Co-leaders: David Finnis, Lois and Conrad Keebler, Kathy Millar.

Members: Katherine Cholette, Jacqueline Crummey, Liam Maclure, Marjorie Nelles, Elaine Perry, Wingfield Rehmus, Wendy Sarkissian, Wendy Stephenson, Ken Tanner.

Communion Team: Jacqueline Crummey, Carol Downton, Gord Harding, Nick Leung, Diane McMillian, Robert Pietrzak, Penny Wong.

Contemplative service: Marymargaret Gingerich, Ray Hane, Diane Jones, Kozmo Kliegl, Kathy Murphy, Michelle Porter, Anthony Rocha, Mae Runions, Margie Savigny, Tracy Wallace.

Events: Catherine Barnum, Juliette Barnum Diana Bell, Crystal Bewza, 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: Douglas Anderson, Jacqueline Crummey, Wayne Davis, Saghar Fairdi, Sepand Fairdi, Jocelyne Gatore, Marymargaret Gingerich, Greg Glasgow, Kayoko Gossen, Lyn Hagglund, Fred Kabali, Wesley JellKnight, Peter Machan, Brenda and Ladis Maitland-Whitelaw, John McKinstry, Susan Parker, Roger Phelps, Robert Pietrzak, Wingfield Rehmus, Alice Rose, Joy Sheppard, Marie Sudds, Ken and Carol Tanner, Sam Thebuwana, Nancy Uwurumuri.

Hospitality: Georgina Arntzen, Nazanin Bahadorinejed, Odile Caram, Oz Celik, Fred Crawford, Wayne Davis, Blue Hardman, Diane Jones, June Lau, Kathy Murphy, Hanieh Nahalgir, Mahsa Sabourie, Alida Jurconi Marie Sudds, Nancy Uwurmumni.

Jazz Vespers: Diana Bell, Oz Celik, Leslie Van Duzer, Patti Hirschberg, Kozmo Kliegl, Maggie Magee, Heather Mcfarlane, Jezebel Pimentel, Maureen Seymour, Diana Wagner.

Library: Janet Buchanan, Ruth Faber, Marymargaret Gingerich, Blue Hardman, Richard Arias Hernandez, Jane Parrent, Elaine Perry.

Listening Circles: Flossie Baker, Avtar Bath, Jean Budden, Odile Caram, Wilfredo Contreras, Marymargaret Gingerich, Kelly Handerek, Andrew Heakes, Liam Maclure, Marsha Mah Poy, Barbara Morrison, Marjorie Nelles, Shelley Peters, Margie Savigny, Tim Scorer.

Liturgical Décor: Raha Ghanbari, Elaine Harmen, Margorie Nells, Mae Runions.

Office support: Kozmo Kliegl.

Pastoral Care Team: Catherine Atyeo, Kim Butler, Gwen and Jim Maclean-Cruickshank, Michael Dobbin, Marymargaret Gingerich, Lois and Conrad Keebler, Diane McMillan, Marjorie Nelles, Bobbie Phillips, Jane Parrent, Mae Runions.

Prayer Group: Gary Lyseng, Sue Parker, Bobbie Phillips, Mae Runions.

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

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



OPERATIONS

2024 felt like we had settled into some great routines. 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? 679! Up from 537 last year. Our caretakers were busy doing the setups and tear downs for all those programs. In addition to all our own programs, we hosted 253, up from 143, use of facilities events last year. This included concerts, speakers, events, weddings and funerals. Many of these events and concerts use the staging and require unique setups and tear downs. That is an average of 2.55 programs everyday, 365 days a year, not including the church services!

We welcomed Nicole Welsford this year as our Manager of Volunteers and Hospitality. Nicole will continue to contact congregants 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 helping the tourists to understand what a United Church is.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Annual Report – End Oct 2024

The church continues to be efficiently managed and there are no adverse issues of consequence. As of the date of writing this report, the full year 2024 revenues are predicted to be more than planned. This is due to us decreasing our revenue expectations in the budget from the 2023 income we received.

Full year expenses are expected to be \$28K less than planned, due to tight adherence to budgets.

Full year subsidy from investments to operations will be just under \$1.8M, which will be what we budgeted for the year.

I regret that there is nothing exciting to report!

Profit and Loss

St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church

For the 10 months ended 31 October 2024

Account	Oct 2024	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	Full Year Budget	EOY Prediction
Income					
Total Givings and Donations	26,221.58	316,792.38	301,250.00	361,500.00	377,042.38
Total Rentals and Programs	5,887.70	66,626.75	69,500.00	83,400.00	80,526.75
Total Interest Income	0.00	56.64	420.00	504.00	140.64
Total Income	32,109.28	383,475.77	371,170.00	445,404.00	457,709.77
Operations					
Total Operating Expenses	42415.00	416,287.82	448,160.00	537,784.00	505,911.82
Total Maintenance Expenses	4384.74	39,820.05	46,680.00	56,016.00	49,156.05
Total Programs and Worship Expense	17,538.33	120,516.73	99,820.00	119,792.00	140,488.73
Total Compensation and Benefits	115,656.81	1,215,627.04	1,232,950.00	1,479,540.00	1,462,217.04
Total Staff Expenses	70.18	9,320.38	18,590.00	22,308.00	13,038.38
Total Other Expenses	0.00	130,750.20	114,430.00	137,316.00	153,636.20
Total Operating Expenses	180,065.06	1,932,322.22	1,960,630.00	2,352,756.00	2,324,488.22
NET INCOME	(147,955.78)	(1,548,846.45)	(1,589,460.00)	(1,907,352.00)	(1,866,738.45)

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

Investments

Our investment situation remains positive.

The third quarter investment returns are in. As of 30 Sep, our investment returns year-to-date have been:

STAW 2024 YTD Retrurns	Value (\$M)	as of 9 Month return	Sep 30, 2024 Approx \$ Increase
Nicola Wealth	79.5	6.48%	5.15
UCC Foundation	3.5	10.00%	0.35
TD \$5.3 GIC	5.3	3.70%	0.20
TD Trust Account*	2.2	1.70%	0.04
BMO Trust Account**	2.2	1.34%	0.03
TD Bank Main*	5.4	3.60%	0.19
BMO Main**	5.6	4.99%	0.28
Total YTD	96.1	6.49%	6.24

Eliminates duplicate bank totals.

*up to May 22

** since may 22

The TD Trust and TD Bank Main accounts are now held by BMO.

Net: Our STAW investments have grown over \$6M so far this year to \$96M. We have withdrawn about half of our intended \$1.9M subsidy for operations so far this year.





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

Rev. Dan Chambers

rev.chambers@standrewswesley.com



Co-Lead Minister

Rev. Rhian Walker

r.walker@standrewswesley.com

Executive Director of Operations

Diane Mitchell

executivedirector@standrewswesley.com

Minister with Children, Families, and Pastoral Care

Rev. Jen Cummings

j.cummings@standrewswesley.com



Director of Music

Angelique Po

music@standrewswesley.com

Minister with Youth and Young Adults

Benjamin MacRae

yaya@standrewswesley.com



Minister of LGBTQ programs

Rev. Curt Allison

c.allison@standrewswesley.com

Minister of Contemplative Services and Social Justice and Outreach

Karis Dimas-Lehndorf

lgbtq@standrewswesley.com



Minister Emeritus
The Very Reverend Dr. Gary Paterson
and Rev. Tom Miles

Choral Directors
Peggy Hua, Rebecca Collett,
Magda How, Curt Allison

Social Work
Jean Budden

**Manager, Volunteer Engagement &
Hospitality**
Nicole Weslford
volunteer@standrewswesley.com

**Communications Coordinator and
Administration**
Ursula Andrade
office@standrewswesley.com

Head of AV
Robin Singh
caretakers@standrewswesley.com

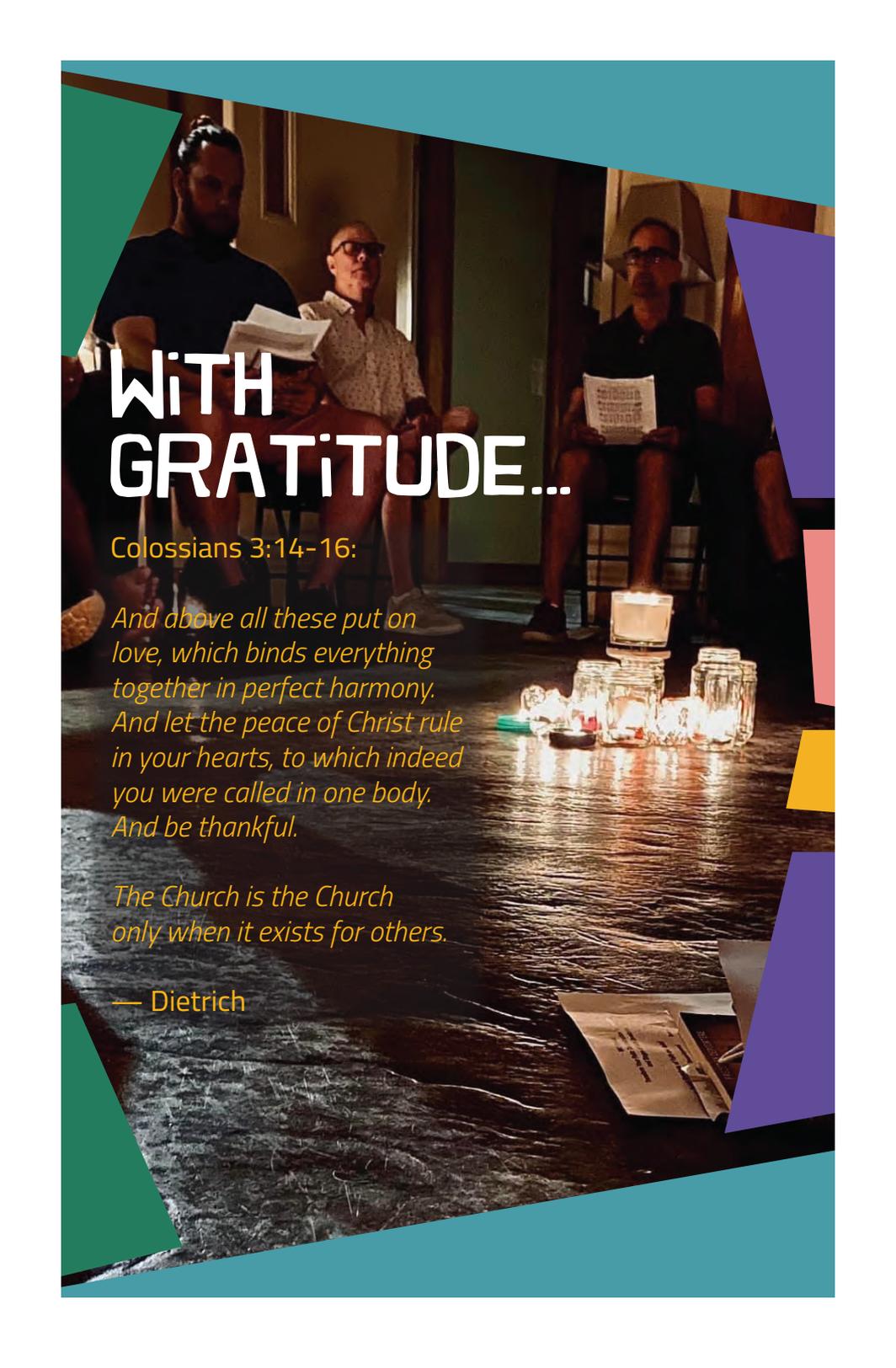
Bookings and AV
Tom Rose
bookings@standrewswesley.com

Bookkeeper
Cynthia Philpott
accounting@standrewswesley.com

Caretakers
Armaan Malhi
George Mellish
Christopher Mitchell

Sunday Club Leaders
Pilar Benavides, Bree Cummings,
Ariminia Hifuma, Marshall Henderson,
Kelly Jokanovich, Tamryn Kennedy,
Breanna Nichol, Nicole Welsford

www.standrewswesley.com



WITH GRATITUDE...

Colossians 3:14-16:

*And above all these put on
love, which binds everything
together in perfect harmony.
And let the peace of Christ rule
in your hearts, to which indeed
you were called in one body.
And be thankful.*

*The Church is the Church
only when it exists for others.*

— Dietrich