



**ST. ANDREWS-WESLEY
UNITED CHURCH**

2025 Annual Report





WELCOME

From the Chair of the Board

As we look back at 2025, we see a year of tremendous change and upheaval in the world, with changes that we could not have dreamt possible, and as we look forward to 2026 it is filled with many uncertainties. As I reflect back on the year at St Andrews Wesley, I do so with tremendous gratitude, and as I look forward it is with enthusiasm and excitement for all that is happening in the life of the church.

Day by day we continue to live into our vision to serve as a “Light in the Heart of the City.” Church programming flourished in 2025 and is expanding with new groups meeting to provide support and community for each other, expansion of the choirs including the children’s choir, growth of the Queer Prom, new outreach programs designed to reach into our neighborhood to support those around us, and successful arts programs that give sacred space for events and displays. We now have a new executive director who is thriving in his position, staff and ministerial team that work seamlessly together, investments that are well managed and growing, and a board that is connected and energized for the governing work ahead. I am particularly grateful at this time for the host of volunteers that bring such joy and love to their work whether greeting, praying, knitting, baking, writing letters, shopping, running spreadsheets or any of the other countless tasks that keep the church running smoothly.

I can feel the palpable energy and excitement for the work of the church whenever I am at a StAW gathering. We are well into our visioning process as we consider what further impact we can make with the abundance we have been given. So, as troubling as this moment in history is, St Andrews Wesley is thriving due to the faith and dedication of so many. I look forward to seeing how God’s work will unfold in the life of the church in the next few years.

Blessings,

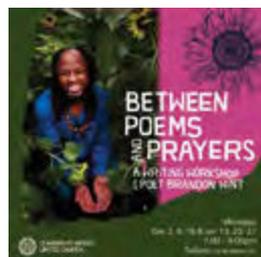
Wingfield Rehmus, Chair of the Board

ART

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

Artist in Residence

Poet Brandon Wint offered weekly poetry analysis workshops and hosted sold-out poetry, film and music nights in the Chapel that wove together hope, justice, joy and resistance. In this six month residency that blends community engagement and art, Brandon also debuted his film on disability and love, and wove together music, story and poetry in ways that left people connected to their hearts.



Congregational Choir

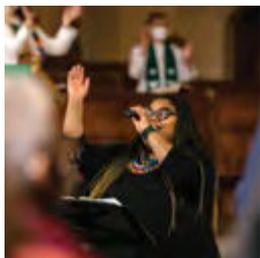
Our Congregational Choir led by Peggy Hua draws together singers from our congregation who wish to serve our church in song. Together, they bring the joy of music to our morning services once a month. Combined choir experiences with the Gospel Choir and the Downton Singers, shaking the rafters at Easter, and exploring a range of music from classical to contemporary made worship memorable.



Concerts

Our church continues to offer affordable neighbourhood concerts in the evenings featuring professional musicians and our own singers. In the 2025-26 season, we've featured Valerie Hall (organ), our Sacred Voices Ensemble, Ryan Davis (viola) and Song Hee Lee (cello) plus live electronics, and piano concertos with Corey Hamm (piano) and Angeliqne Po (organ).





Gospel Choir

The Gospel Choir led by Rev. Curt Allison sings once a month on Sunday mornings, bringing fun and excitement whenever they perform. New members brought joy and passion to exploring gospel tunes in worship each month, and a vibrant workshop with Marcus Mosely helped develop skills and confidence.



Lifelines

Tim Scorer continued the monthly explorations of poems that spoke to spirit, hope and hurt. This group is made up of people new to poetry or experienced and offers a reflective and soulful look at how the words reach the often-unspoken places of our lives.



Mixed Tape

With our feisty volunteer team we held multiple Friday nights of music, film, poetry, and sing-a-longs to build community and make Vancouver less lonely! Curt and Rhian hosted Shower Stall sing a long with a live band, poets Brandon Wint and Gillian Christmas made us laugh and cry, and folk, rock and jazz graced the stage.



Public Art

Our church stairs were dazzled with our Pride Rainbow by Cheryl Loh, street artist Lupo offered a sculpture of two souls embracing in honour of those loved and lost ones to the overdose crisis (a piece that brought many to tears) and Tarcila Neves led our church through a mural/sculpture process on Unity. Scan the QR code next to the flame sculpture and hear our congregation share why unity matters to them.



Sacred Voices Ensemble

The professional singers of the Ensemble and Sacred Voices continue to provide a high level of artistry and congregational singing in our morning and evening Candlelight services. Some of the pieces that made an impact on the congregation were *Hallelujah Chorus*, from *The Messiah*, *Defying Gravity* from *Wicked the Musical* and *Lully, Lulla, Lullay* by Philip Stopford at the Christmas eve service.

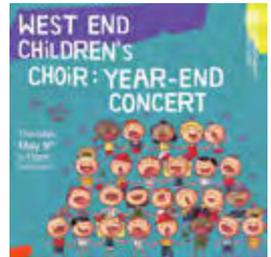
West End Singers

The West End Singers, our community choir led by Peggy Hua, is part of our outreach to our neighbourhood and is a non-auditioned choir that sings pop, musical theatre, and movie hits. Attendance has grown from around 40 last year to 50 this year. The choir enjoys singing and socializing every Wednesday evening.



West End Children's Choir

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 three 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. This year, attendance has grown to 40 children!



SPIRIT

Nourishing our faith in body, mind and spirit.



10:30 am service

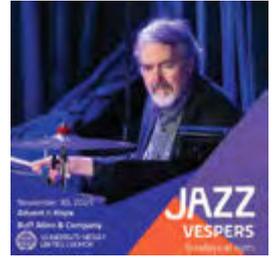
We experienced slow but steady growth in attendance of our morning service with a big spike in new members as we welcomed 20 people into the congregation. Through music, pageants, reflection of movies and cultural events, we creatively engaged each season of the Christian year (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost). Some highlights included working with artist Ella Emsheimer on a reinterpretation of the 7 virtues, Marcus Borg's "The Heart of Christianity" and an interfaith service with a Sufi community. We were enriched by a variety of voices offering the sermon, including several members of the congregation (Wingfield Rehmus, John Alarca, Gregg Taylor, Carellin Brooks, Colin Phillips), and Indigenous leaders such as Rueben George and other guests. Easter saw the combined choirs fill the morning with joy under the leadership of Peggy Hua, and Angelique Po continues to guide the choral and organ music to new heights, receiving much positive feedback on her talent at weaving the music and worship themes together.



4:00 pm Jazz Vespers

The 4:00 pm Jazz Vespers experienced meaningful growth this year, with rising attendance, committed volunteers and a significant increase in givings through a new stewardship campaign, reflecting a deepened

community commitment. The service fostered an integration of jazz spirituality with Christian theology, exploring themes like Black History Month, Asian History Month and Trans Day of Remembrance. We welcomed greater diversity within the community, especially among younger people, families, children, and disabled persons, strengthening the sense of belonging. The ministry also expanded its impact with jazz musicians themselves, nurturing social outreach, support, and creativity that brought more original music and local artists into our worship life.



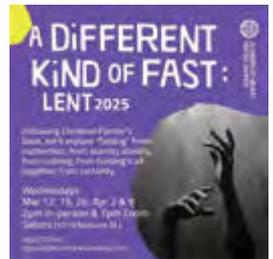
7:00 pm Contemplative service

The Contemplative service continues to be a space for tenderness, reflection, and stillness. This service has been enriched by an incredible team of volunteers who support the community through spiritual care, prayer, and hospitality. Throughout the year we have held a few special services including Overdose Awareness Day, Trans Day of Remembrance, Blue Christmas, and Winter Solstice. We have also been joined by at least a dozen guest musicians this year. The Sacred Voices Ensemble continues to bless us with their gift of song. This year the labyrinth was repainted for higher visibility, which has made a huge difference in making our monthly labyrinth services more accessible.



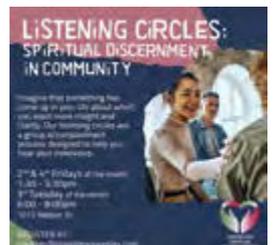
Adult Education

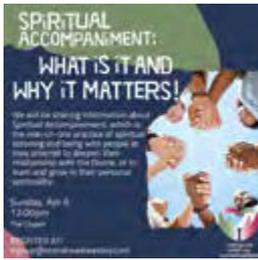
2025 saw a diverse and rich offering through the year. We offered an Epiphany series: "The Heart of Christianity: Part I", a Lenten series: "A Different Kind of Fast", Easter series: "The Past as Present: The First 100 Years of the United Church of Canada" with the Rev. Dr. Brian Thorpe, a Summer Bible Study: The Gospel of Matthew, a Fall program: "The Heart of Christianity: Part II" and Approaching Advent: "The Subversive Gospel of Paul" with Prof. Harry Maiers. Most courses were offered online and in person and attendance ranged from 20-45 people per course.



Centre for Spiritual Accompaniment and Listening Circles

Having an attentive and listening person or community to hear you speak about your life and your spirituality is a rare gift. The Centre for Spiritual Accompaniment offers one-on-one spiritual direction with trained



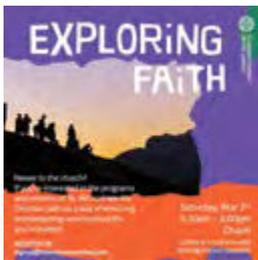


volunteers or a listening circle process whereby you can share your wonderings or challenges with a group who will deeply listen and reflect your wisdom back to you in a safe and supportive environment. These ancient Christian practices of “holy listening” are almost non-existent in our culture. Over 20 people accessed the Centre for spiritual accompaniment.

Eat Pray Love



After relaunching Eat Pray Love in the fall of 2024 with our neighbors Christ Church Cathedral, we continued offering worship experiences and a community meal for all ages and during the church liturgical seasons. We were delighted to partner with STAW’s in house church band “The Instrumentalists” to provide music and song. Grateful for the creativity and commitment of our planning team: Nancy, Barbara, Shirley, Bota and Nicole and all the volunteers!



Exploring Faith and New Members

Exploring Faith is a series that is run for people curious about membership and in 2025 we offered 4 sessions for those newer to St. Andrew’s Wesley, or the United Church of Canada, or Christianity (or all of the above). We welcomed 25 new members in 2025 and 16 adult baptisms. These signs of life, of Christ working in our midst are exciting to witness!



Ignite

We gather each Tuesday night with beautiful full energy from 630-8pm. We weekly have 8-10 members in our group, and it continues to grow. We have participated in the four pillars of the church by making care packages, serving a few community meals at the church, games and art creativity nights, and participating in spiritual practices. We look forward to welcoming more youth into our program and seeing where the spirit leads us next... We give thanks to the parents and church members who help support this program.



Prayer team

Our prayer team gathers monthly but prays daily for those on our congregational prayer list. The request for prayer is taken seriously, and people and places in our world are intentionally held in prayer.

Spirit-given Gifts

Two cohorts of 20 people went through our Spirit-given gifts workshop, which helps you identify what God-given gifts you might wish to share with the church and the wider world. This deep and meaningful time together helps us identify what our gifts truly are and what brings us joy (instead of what we have to do!). We then find ways to put them to use through volunteering, special projects and finding folks who share our gifts. Many of the people who take this workshop now volunteer at StAW.



Pastoral Care

This “ministry of presence” is offered by a team of volunteers who visit with homebound and hospitalized folks. Many small bouquets of cheer were delivered, along with prayer shawls and Christmas care packages. Gregg Taylor offered a wonderful training focused on supporting those who are grieving for our team. The Pastoral Care team hosted a tea for those 90 and over in June with scrumptious strawberry shortcake, music and video messages from our children’s choir.



Sunday Club

10:30 am Sunday Club continues to nurture children’s spiritual growth through its three groups: The Ark for infants and toddlers under three, The Mustard Seeds for preschoolers through grade two, and The Well for children in grades three to seven. Our dedicated team creates spaces where children can wonder and come to know God through story, play, creativity, and the practices of Godly Play. This year we said goodbye to two team members who are pursuing new careers, and welcoming four new staff as part of our ongoing succession planning. Highlights included presenting Bibles to 13 children, celebrating our graduates—one of whom joined the team—and exploring the prophets together over the summer.



Visio

Now in its second year, this teen-focused art and scripture gathering happens 3 Sundays a month during morning worship. As part of this cohort, we held a lively confirmation program with Maureen Cowin, with three new young people choosing to affirm their faith after participating in an 8 week course.





Third Place

The partnership and growth of the joint Young Adult ministries between PSUC and StAW has been successful, with weekly gatherings happening in the Chapel to share food, study the Bible, and engage in social activities like games night, bowling and movies. What began with 4–6 members last year has now expanded to more than 25 young adults, marking remarkable growth. The No Kings service was a significant highlight, offering a meaningful contribution to the wider community of faith. This group continues to thrive as many disabled and queer young adults find safety, belonging, and connection with one another and with Nik and Ben.



Youth Group

The partnership and growth of the joint youth ministries between PSUC and StAW has been moderately successful, with mutual support and a shared outreach strategy making a meaningful impact even as youth ministry remains a challenge for both congregations. Youth in the program are socially engaged, theologically oriented, and deeply committed to the values and vision of the United Church. They continue to build strong bonds with Ben and Nik, creating a close-knit community despite small numbers of around three to five participants. These deepening relationships are planting the seeds for a lasting and vibrant cohort in the years ahead.

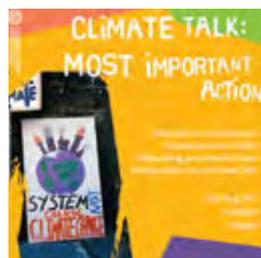


SOCIAL JUSTICE

Faith is not only belief, it is action.

Climate

Our passionate Climate Action Team continued to organize and deliver insightful monthly climate talks, connecting climate action and care with poetry, mental health, and more. Members of the team have been working on a project with the Metro Vancouver Alliance, strengthening our broader community relationships and working towards tangible local climate goals. This summer's Life After Doom preaching series gathered our broader St.AW congregation into discussion around climate concerns and turning to hope and courage in troubled times.



Nourishing Neighbours

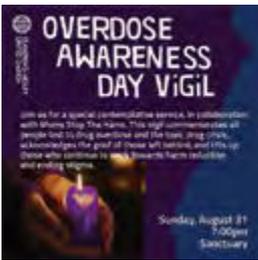
This year we started our new monthly free community meal which takes place on the second Monday of every month. This program ran consistently from March through the end of the year. Our amazing volunteer team offers a welcoming presence, a nourishing meal, and live music for the community to enjoy. We have connected with community organizations to allow for this meal to be widely community based so that we serve as an ongoing presence in the city. We offered our largest meal yet on Thanksgiving Monday, serving 60+ people from both the community and our congregation.





Reconciliation

This year our reconciliation work deepened through meaningful relationships and shared learning with local Indigenous leaders. Jen participated in the week-long “Reconciliation as an Act of Community” gathering at Camp Fircom alongside Squamish Elders and Knowledge Keepers. At our Congregational Retreat, we were grateful to be guided by Wes, Chiaxt’n of the Squamish Nation, who helped us build relationships and taught us about native plants and their healing properties. We were also blessed by the leadership of Audrey “Kwasi” Siegl from Musqueam at both Camp Spirit and our September Prayer Walk, grounding our community in presence, gratitude, and learning. All three worship services featured teachers such as Rueben George of the Tseilil-Waututh nation, Wes Chiaxt’n of the Squamish Nation, and Norm Leech of the T’it’q’et community of the St’at’imc nation .



Refugees

The Refugee Sponsorship team continues to work on sponsorship paperwork and newcomer accompaniment. In 2025, we processed paperwork for 4 applications accounting for 9 individuals total and we continue to wait for the processing of these applications. In late June, we welcomed a sponsored couple who now call Vancouver home.



Road to Recovery and Overdose Awareness

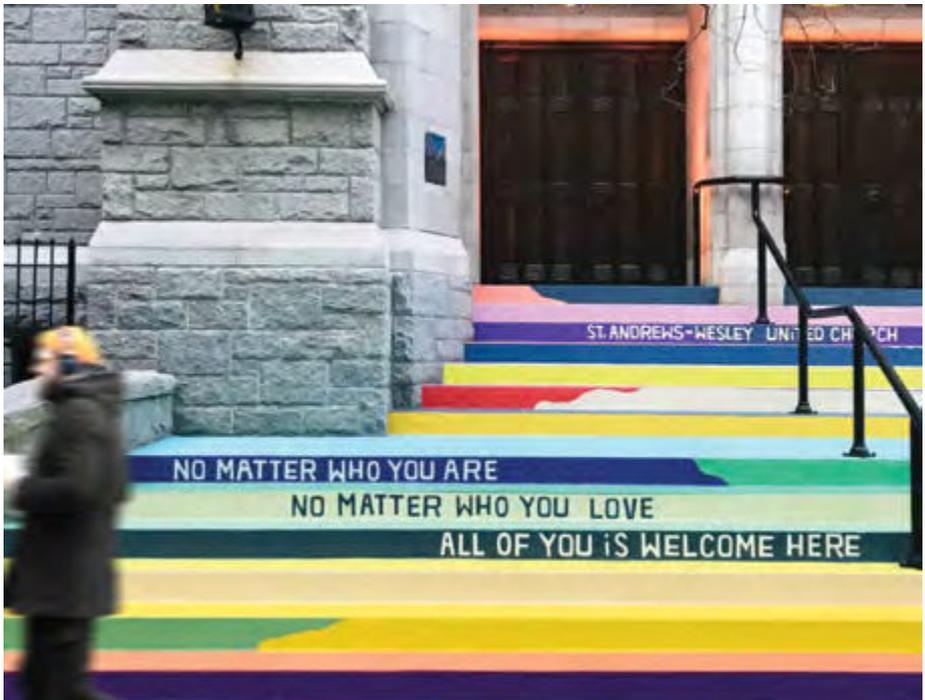
In 2025 we have deepened our relationship with the Road to Recovery program, specifically with their aftercare team. We have been able to support Road to Recovery by providing a meeting space for client meetings and are looking to connect with clients in other areas in the coming year. We also hosted an Overdose Awareness Day Vigil at our contemplative service in August. This service featured a Beloved Ghost sculpture from local artist Lupu who makes visible those gone too soon due to the toxic drug crisis. This sculpture had a profound impact on our community and is now part of our memorial gardens.



Social Justice Team

The Social Justice team worked to evaluate grant proposals looking specifically for smaller local organizations whose work aligned with StAW's values (climate, reconciliation, 2SLGBTQ+, safe drug supply, refugees, etc.) to recommend to the board for granting approval. In 2025, StAW supported a range of programs including language and employment skills program for newcomers, gender affirming care/supplies/support program, intergenerational Indigenous food knowledge program, emergency medical cost support for seniors, and much more. StAW supported the following organizations (listed alphabetically) in 2025:

- Aboriginal Mother Centre Society,
- Directions Youth Services,
- Gordon Neighbourhood House + Little Mountain Neighbourhood House,
- Metro Vancouver Alliance,
- Qmunity,
- Vancouver Friends For Life,
- West End Seniors Network.



iNCLUSION

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

Camp Spirit

With the theme focused on what is refreshing about God's love, we hosted a wonder filled week at the church, exploring stories of water from our bible. A great drama team led the children through the morning worships highlighting the messages from scripture. We enjoyed the gift of time from many dedicated volunteers offering engagement with the children like fabric arts, painting, science experiments, crafts and games. Time at local parks, including the water park at Lumberman's Arch were highlights along with time with Audrey "Kwasi" Siegl from Musqueam



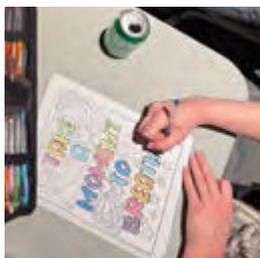
Cancer Support Group

In response to need and encouragement from congregants we began a monthly Cancer Support Group in August. Offering a space to gather and to engage in spiritual practice as people seek support as they live with cancer, we have been blessed with great resources within the group.



Congregational Camp

The first weekend of May found some of the congregation enjoying the beauty of nature at Camp Fircom on Gambier Island. Throughout the weekend we explored the story of the post resurrection story of Jesus on the beach with Peter preparing breakfast. We were blessed to have Chiaxt'n from the Squamish Nation with us as we embraced the wonder of creation through forest walks, hikes, archery and song along with leadership from camp staff and participants.



Elders programs

Don Robertson led two Adventure in Aging groups where elders in our community can speak honestly about transitions, purpose and what this final chapter of life brings to them and the wider world. Our one Life Group is still going and celebrated their 10th Anniversary in 2025. Good News continues to be a place of connection and learning with personal testimony and sharing being part of the session every second week.



Good News Cafe

Under the wise and creative leadership of Kathy Murphy and with support from Diane Jones, this weekly gathering provides a remedy for isolation and a focus on good news in a time when news is far from good and more often overwhelming. Each Tuesday folks are welcomed with hot coffee and treats and alternate between wonderful and engaging speakers and chat Tuesdays, participants build rich relationships. Some of the guest presenters from the congregation included Carol Pan speaking on faith and democracy in Taiwan, Mae Runions on fabric art, Wayne Davis on the history of the church windows while outside speakers shared information on Dementia, Navigating the healthcare system and Cycling in Vancouver.



Intergen gatherings

Church is one of the few places in our society where the generations can connect and learn from each other. The Children and Elders Halloween tea featured costumes, cupcakes and fun, the Amazing Easter Egg race was a hit in the West end community, Pentecost Birthday party is a wonderful mixer, and the intergen services like Palm Sunday, The Camp Spirit celebration service, the "Good news" Christmas Pageant and the Youth/Young Adult "No Kings" service showed the gifts of our community. The family picnics continue to be a place for newcomers to connect and build friendships.



Men's Breakfast

Our 8-12 members meet twice a month for 11 months of the year, usually online, quarterly in-person; usually reflecting on a poem and attending to moments of beauty, grace, struggle and the sacred in our lives.





Parent Gatherings

Monthly zooms on the first Thursdays with parents offer connection as we gather for lectio divina, reflection, prayer and mutual support. In the fall we also added monthly coffee and cheesecake gathering on Tuesday evenings.



Parent and Tot

With an incredible volunteer team our weekly outreach to parents and their babies and toddlers is a delight. The sanctuary fills with joyous sounds of laughter and connection and play. The amazing caretakers help alongside the volunteers to offer a place of welcome and care where as many as 65 children come with their grownups.



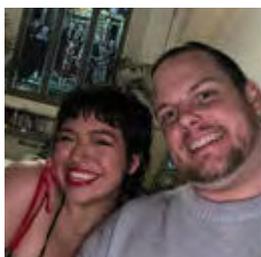
Pride Parade

St Andrews Wesley participated in the Vancouver Pride Parade along with other affirming Lower Mainland United Churches. Karis organized a float this year and STAW hosted a float decorating party. Over 100 of us marched in solidarity with the queer community. Together we let the welcoming light of Christ shine brightly to proclaim that our churches are safe spaces of healing and flourishing for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. No matter who you are. No matter who you love. No matter where you are on your journey. All of you is welcome here.



Queer Prom

The Lavender Bunch and Word is Out hosted our second annual Queer Prom, this time taking over the whole sanctuary space and filling it with laughter, dancing, and queer joy. This year, DJ WhySoSerious brought all our favourite tunes to the party, and we received wonderful feedback that folks felt welcomed, safe, and celebrated. We heard time and again that Queer Prom felt like a truly inclusive space for queer and trans folks to be together in their fullness. This was all possible thanks to our wonderful volunteers who greeted, served concession, and decorated. And a huge thanks goes to our incredible caretakers who ran the sound and lighting.



Stitching Circle

This incredible group of folks gathers twice a month to weave prayer and compassion into works of art. From stunning prayer shawls that bring comfort to folks who are ill or struggling, to warm toques for our care kits, to lap blankets for elders in care homes to baby hats and blankets, so much love is knit and crocheted by this caring group of people.



The Lavender Bunch

Meeting twice a month during the program year, the Lavender Bunch has continued to be a space for personal and spiritual exploration for 2SLGBTQIA+ folks. With its focus on Queer women, gender diverse, and non-binary folks, this year has been about strengthening relationships and building trust. We have intentionally connected with the Word is Out and grown our broader community network with other organizations like Connecting Queer Communities. We have continued to collaborate with diverse local artists for art-based reflective workshops from somatic painting to poetry. We also created our very first Lavender Bunch Zine.



Word is Out

The Word Is OUT celebrated another wonderful year of growth, spiritual connection, and community. Highlights include a special Livestream with author, activist, and public theologian Rev Brandon Robertson, a presentation by Wayne Davis on the LGBTQ Purge in the RCMP, Craig Addy's healing evening of piano music, and another experience of the Really Gay History Walking Tour. Our amazing September retreat was once again sold out. The weekly Sunday brunch continues to be a warm place for conversation and community. And we enjoyed our first combined event with the Lavender Bunch for a wonderful Christmas party. Giving God thanks for this community where our sexuality and spirituality is no longer a place of conflict, but a cause for celebration!





Trans Day of Remembrance

This year we honoured Trans Day of Remembrance at both the Jazz Vespers and the Contemplative service on November 23rd. The contemplative TDOR Vigil was our highest attended service of the year with time for grieving, prayer, and reading of the names of trans folks gone too soon. Rev. Lauren Kirkey held the space with tenderness and compassion, and Quayside Voices enriched the space with music honouring queer and trans artists. Lisa Salazar gave personal testimony in Jazz Vespers and queer jazz artist Riley Poystila brought their quartet to make it a service to remember.



FACTS & FIGURES

BAPTISMS

18 (16 adult, 2 children)

Nazanin Bahadorinejan, Reza Bahadorinejan, Hamed Dianatpey, Shadi Farvani, Nima Motallebi Jouneghani, Seyed Karan Khademi, Aaron Don Lovely, Mahboubeh Mousavi Nafchi, Maryam Parvizi, Karen Ga Yun Poon, Mehdi Rahmani, Fatima Rahimibalaei, Maryamalsadat Seyedabrishami, Aliasghar Soufi, Hassan Sour, Kianoosh Tarkhorani, Aaron Tong, Farzaneh Yazdanisoudjani.



NEW MEMBERS

25

Rob Anderson, Nazanin Bahadorinejan, Reza Bahadorinejan, Anne Beer, Hamed Dianatpey, Shadi Farvani, Eric Harms, Nima Motallebi Jouneghani, Seyed Karan Khademi, Kelvin Kintu, Aaron Don Lovely, Tito Andrés Maturana de la Cruz, Mahboubeh Mousavi Nafchi, Alan Oliveria, Maryam Parvizi, Karen Ga Yun Poon, Mehdi Rahmani, Fatima Rahimibalaei, Jesse Redmond, Wendy Sarkissian, Maryamalsadat Seyedabrishami, Aliasghar Soufi, Hassan Sour, Douglas Thorpe-Dorwood, Kianoosh Tarkhorani, Aaron Tong, Farzaneh Yazdanisoudjani.



MEMORIALS

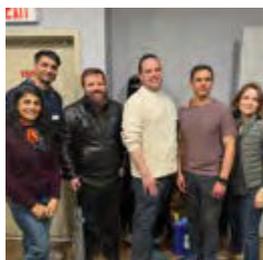
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Evelyn Black, Steven Enns, Richard James Evans, Patti Gunning.



VOLUNTEER TEAMS

Board: Wingfield Rehmus-Chair, David Finnis,-Vice Chair, Ken Tanner-Treasurer, Marymargaret Gingerich -Secretary, Lyn Hagglund and Doug Thorpe-Dorward - M & P, Members at Large John Alarca, Catherine Ayteo, Liam MacLure, Heather MacFarlane, Drew Meilke.



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

Governance: David Finnis, Lyn Hagglund, Roger Phelps, Wingfield Rehmus.

Ministry and Personnel: Thomas Berg, Doug Thorpe-Dorward, Peter Falk, Lyn Hagglund Colin Phillips, Carol Tanner.



Artist in Residence: John Alarca, Shirley Etter, Pegah Seraji, Suzanne Steele.

Children, Youth and Families: Yasemin Akbari, Douglas Anderson, Crystal Bewza Clover Brooks, Kathryn Cholette, Jacqueline Crummey-Severyn, Wayne Davis, Michael Dobbin, Shirley Etter, Sepand Faridi, Raha Ghanbari, Lyn Hagglund, Mandy He, Michelle Henry, Skye Holness, Nancy Illman, Xander Jones, Diane Jones, Bota Kulakbayeva, Eliana Ramamonjisoa, Joshua Crummey-Severyn, Maureen Cowin, Iro Lugo, Maggie Magee, Ken McFaul, Diane McMillan, Jan Morgan, Barbara Morrison, Maryam Mousavi Nafchi, Kathy Murphy, Marjorie Nelles, Katsuko Ochiai, Will Rehmus, Wingfield Rehmus, Mae Runions, Margie Savigny, Wayne Savigny, Farideh Sheikh, Pegah Seraji, Maureen Seymour, Mario Vazquez, Tyler Welsford.



Climate: Co-leaders: David Finnis, Lois and Conrad Keebler, Kathy Millar. Members: Katherine Cholette, Jacqueline Crummey, Liam Maclure, Wendy Sarkissian, Wendy Stephenson.



Communion Team: Carol Downton, Greg Glasgow, Gord Harding, Diane McMillian, Alice Rose, Penny Wong.

Contemplative Service: Simon Caulfield-Sriklad, Marymargaret Gingerich, Ray Hane, Diane Jones, Kozmo Kliegl, Michelle Porter, Anthony Rocha, Mae Runions, Mahsa Sabouri, Margie Savigny, Nancy Szastkiw.



Events: John Alarca, Catherine Barnum, Diana Bell, Crystal Bewza, Mitch Broom, Jacqueline Crummey, David Finnis, Raha Ghanbari, Diane Jones, Blue Hardman, Michelle Henry, Nick Leung, Maggie Magee, Linn Magnussen, Kathy Millar, Barbara Morrison, Kathy Murphy, Hanieh Nahalgir, Marjorie Nelles, Katsuko Ochiai, Ali Pezekshki, Marsha Mah Poy, Robert Pietrzak, Ana Prado, Wingfield Rehmus, Mae Runions, Mahsa Sabouri, Pegah Seraji, Tom Rose.



Greeters: Peter Mchan, Greg Glasgow Douglas Anderson, Jacqueline Crummey, Wayne Davis, Saghar Fairdi, Sepand Fairdi, Jocelyne Gatore, Mary Margaret Gingerich, Kayoko Gossen, Lyn Hagglund, Fred Kabali, Wesley Jelly Knight, Nick Leung, Linn Magnussen, Brenda and Ladis Maitland-Whitelaw, Rueben Malinde, Peter Mchan, Robert Pietrzak, Fatemeh Rahimibalaeu, Bota Ramanaonjisoa, Jesse Redmond, Wingfield Rehmus, Alice Rose, Marie Sudds, Ken and Carol Tanner, Sam Thebuwana.



Hospitality: Kathleen Murphy and Diane Jones-Georgina Arntzen, Nazanin Bahadorinejed, Sara Bird, Odile Caram, Fred Crawford, Wilfredo Contreras, Wayne Davis, Shadi Farvani, Blue Hardman, Thomas Kee, Maryam Mousavi Marie Sudds.

Jazz Vespers: Diana Bell, Craig Davidson, Cathy Flores, Eric Harms, Patti Hirschberg, Kozmo Kliegl, Maggie Magee, Heather Mcfarlane, Patti Mcvey, Carol Reardon, Shannon Renault, Eric VanBuiten, Diana Wagner.





Library: Crystal Bewza, Janet Buchanan, Ruth Faber, Marymargaret Gingerich, Blue Hardman, Richard Arias Hernandez, Kozmo Klieg, Jane Parrent.

Stitching Circle: Wendy Carter, Margaret Davis, Diane Bruce, Raha Ghanbari, Caroline Hart, Nancy Illman, Diane McMillan, Clarice Misomali, Marjorie Nelles, Robin Pawliuk, Angelique Po, Jesse Redmond, Kathy Rennie, Linda Sherwood, Sheila Vaney, Shannon Watson.



Good News: Carol Downton, Diane Jones, Maggie Magee, Kathy Murphy

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



Liturgical Décor: Raha Ghanbari, Elaine Harmen, Nick Leung, Mae Runions.

Nourishing Neighbours: Sara Bird, Cyrus Cheng, Shadi Farvani, Raha Ghanbari, Greg Glasgow, Thomas Kee, Helena Abou-Khater, Maryam Mousavi, Jesse Redmond, Nicole Vachon, Eric VanBuiten, Mario Vazquez.

Office Support: Kozmo Kliegl, Sara Razavian, Shannon Watson



Pastoral Care Team: Catherine Atyeo, Sara Bird, 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, Shillah Mandava, Jane Parrent and Sara Bird. And Jean Budden as our "retired" social worker.



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

Refugees: Jean Budden, Anneke Jonker, Patricia LaCroix, Hoi Leung, Iro Lugo, Helena Maurice, Abdelrahman Mustafa, Barry Potvin, Donna Scorer, Meseret Taye.

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



OPERATIONS REPORT

Continued Growth in Activity

2025 was a year marked by momentum, growth, and a renewed sense of energy across our ministry programs and building use. After regaining our rhythms in 2024, this past year showed what stable routines can make possible. Attendance continued to rise across our three worship services, and participation in programs grew steadily throughout the year.

Worship Attendance and Giving

Our worship services saw healthy growth in 2025. Total annual attendance increased across all three services:

- Morning Service: from 10,292 to 10,744 (+4%)
- Jazz Vespers: from 4,152 to 4,955 (+19%)
- Contemplative service: from 1,974 to 2,285 (+16%)

Giving also rose significantly, with 10:30am offerings up 43% and Jazz Vespers up 25%, while CAM giving dipped slightly. These increases reflect strong community connection, renewed in-person engagement, and the vibrancy of our worship life.

High Volume of Programs

After offering 679 programs in 2024, up from 537 in 2023, our program activity remained exceptionally high in 2025 with that upward trend. Our caretaking team remained exceptionally busy, providing hundreds of setups and tear-downs to support everything from children's programs to Jazz Vespers to community gatherings.

Increased Use of Facilities

Use of Facilities continued to climb. After increasing from 143 events in 2023 to 253 in 2024, 2025 saw another rise with 306 concerts, rentals, events, weddings, funerals, and community gatherings hosted in our building. Many required staging, technical support, and unique room configurations.

Caretaking Team Excellence

Our caretakers supported hundreds of setups and tear downs, ensuring smooth operations for worship, programs, rentals, and concerts. Their behind-the-scenes work helps create a welcoming, safe, and well-organized environment for everyone who walks through our doors.

Visible Welcome on Our Steps

The welcoming presence created on the front steps of the church continues to make a meaningful difference. The messages on the stairs draw in neighbours, tourists, and passersby who pause, reflect, take photos, and often come inside. We continue to receive daily comments on how warm and approachable the entrance feels.

Strengthening Accessibility

In 2025, we began the project to install a permanent accessibility ramp to make our salons fully accessible. This work is now underway and scheduled for completion in 2026, part of our long-term commitment to ensuring that every space in our building is accessible to everyone.

FINANCIALS

Treasurer's Annual Report – End 2025

The church continues to be managed efficiently from a financial perspective. With our expanding program delivery to new communities and congregants, we now can track engagements/programs within each of the four Pillars in our mission – Arts, Spirit, Social Justice and Outreach/Inclusion. In the chart that follows you will see that although they are not yet self-financing on a stand-alone basis, the financial support needed to make each successful is reasonable. Each of these Pillars is an evolving initiative, and we expect to see encouraging growth in each over the coming years.

Overall income to end-November is under plan by \$50K (but end-of-year donations typically surge in December and will likely bring us close to budget), while total expenses are running \$132K higher than planned to date. Primary drivers of the over-expense are security at nighttime for the exterior of the church and building maintenance (notably landscaping). We expect to continue to need the nighttime security going into 2026, but we have modified our landscaping approach to bring those costs down next year.

Our predicted operations deficit is about 3% more than we had planned for in our 2025 budget. We now forecast drawing \$2.37M by year-end from investment growth to subsidize operations in 2025.

Account	Nov 2025	Year to Date Actuals	Year to Date Budget	Full Year Budget	EOY Prediction
Arts					
Income	6,587.31	50,224.03	28,457.00	31,044.00	52,811.03
Expenses	(15,877.44)	(121,450.80)	(77,286.00)	(84,312.00)	(128,476.80)
Net	(9,290.13)	(71,226.77)	(48,829.00)	(53,268.00)	(75,665.77)
Spirit					
Income	1,079.50	22,156.52	25,513.00	27,196.00	23,839.52
Expenses	(8,483.04)	(103,111.26)	(123,846.00)	(132,832.00)	(112,097.26)
Net	(7,403.54)	(80,954.74)	(98,333.00)	(105,636.00)	(88,257.74)
Social Justice					
Income	0.00	5,181.50	7,381.00	8,052.00	5,852.50
Expenses	(311.43)	(4,345.77)	(20,273.00)	(22,116.00)	(6,188.77)
Net	(311.43)	835.73	(12,892.00)	(14,064.00)	(336.27)
Outreach & Inclusion					
Income	17,266.01	18,804.45	16,375.00	17,500.00	19,929.45
Expenses	(1,054.81)	(18,635.06)	(33,674.00)	(36,008.00)	(20,969.06)
Net	16,211.20	169.39	(17,299.00)	(18,508.00)	(1,039.61)

	Nov 2025	Year to Date Actuals	Year to Date Budget	Full Year Budget	EOY Prediction
Operations Income					
Core Church Funding	56,317.93	320,273.99	320,837.00	350,004.00	349,440.99
Collaborative Ministries Project	0.00	(8,014.69)	0.00	0.00	(8,014.69)
Income	1.14	1.14	0.00	0.00	1.14
Outreach-Use Of Facilities	(24.39)	84,581.37	45,837.00	50,004.00	88,748.37
Interest	0.00	55.56	462.00	504.00	97.56
Other	60.00	60.00	0.00	0.00	60.00
Queer Prom	0.00	2,245.25	0.00	0.00	2,245.25
Total	56,354.68	399,202.62	367,136.00	400,512.00	432,578.62
Operations Expenses					
Total Administrative	32,764.20	405,790.33	368,720.00	402,240.00	439,310.33
Total Communications	3,074.17	17,549.81	38,500.00	42,000.00	21,049.81
Total Building Maintenance	19,659.83	237,782.66	188,386.00	205,512.00	254,908.66
Total Financial	1,746.12	56,450.21	50,424.00	55,008.00	61,034.21
Total Compensation	133,439.78	1,545,841.28	1,504,679.00	1,641,468.00	1,682,630.28
Total Staff	904.40	15,926.82	22,649.00	24,708.00	17,985.82
Total Miscellaneous	9,764.00	118,634.55	83,161.00	122,676.00	158,149.55
Total Income All Sources	81,287.50	495,569.12	444,862.00	484,304.00	535,011.12
Total Pillar Expenses	25,726.72	247,542.89	255,079.00	275,268.00	267,731.89
Totals Ops Expenses	201,352.50	2,397,975.66	2,256,519.00	2,493,612.00	2,635,068.66
Overall Net Income	(145,791.72)	(2,149,949.43)	(2,066,736.00)	(2,284,576.00)	(2,367,789.43)

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

The Team

F/T Ministry: Rev Dan Chambers, Rev Jen Cunnings, Karis Dimas-Lehndorf, Ben MacRae, Rev Rhian Walker, Nicole Welsford.

P/T Ministry: Rev Curt Allison, Angelique Po.

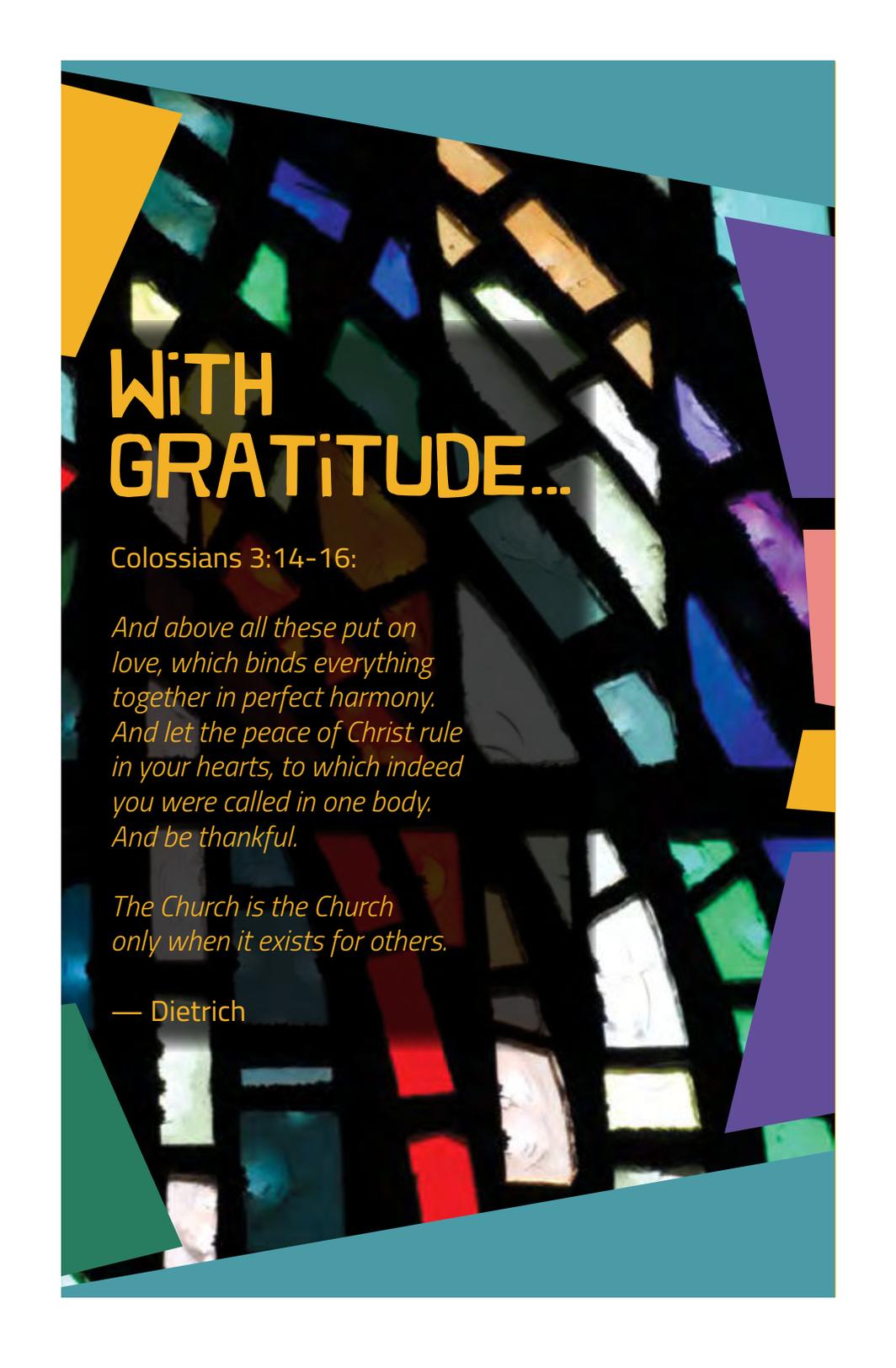
Music team: Rebecca Collett, Magda How, Peggy Hua.

Children and Family Ministry Staff: Pilar Benavides, Clover Brooks, Joshua Crummey-Severyn, Bree Cunnings, Yna deGuzman, Ira deGuzman, Marshall Henderson, Ariminia Hifuma, Kelly Jokanovich, Scarlett Kemp Tamryn Kennedy, Breanna Nichol, Cayden Rider, Pegah Seraji, Nicole Welsford.

F/T Operations: Chris Cababan, Armaan Malhi, Cynthia Philpott, Robin Singh.

P/T Operations: Ursula Andrade, Kelvin Kintu, Karan Khademi, Karanveer Matharu.



The background of the entire page is a photograph of a stained glass window, viewed from a low angle looking up. The window is composed of many small, irregular panes in various colors including blue, green, yellow, red, and purple, set in a dark, possibly black, leaded glass frame. The light coming through the panes creates a vibrant, multi-colored pattern. Overlaid on this background are several large, semi-transparent geometric shapes in solid colors: a yellow triangle in the top left, a teal triangle in the top right, a purple triangle in the middle right, a yellow triangle in the bottom right, and a teal triangle in the bottom left. The text is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page.

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