

# Grace United Church

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## OUR MISSION

Grace United Church is a diverse Christian community called by God to live out the message of love shown by Jesus Christ.

## OUR MEANS

We will encourage growth in faith for all ages through meaningful worship, educational opportunities, and fellowship and by responding to the needs of our local and global neighbours.



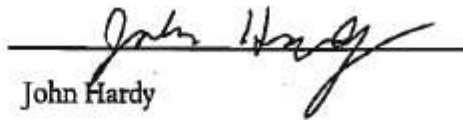
*“A church with heart in the heart of the community”*

# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

WE HAVE REVIEWED THE RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE LOCAL ACCOUNTS OF  
GRACE UNITED CHURCH, HANOVER, FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016,  
AND FIND THAT THESE BOOKS ARE IN ORDER.



Sylvia Stewart



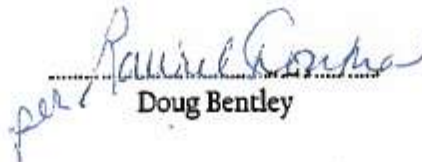
John Hardy

*Review of the Financial Statements was completed January 21, 2017.*

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I, Doug Bentley, as appointed, have reviewed the Treasurer's books to the best of my ability, and submit that these reports  
reflect fairly the financial accounts of these organizations  
ending the year 2016:

Charles & Olive Wright Youth Trust  
Senior Choir  
Mission & Service

*per*   
Doug Bentley

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## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Attendance is taken.

- Lighting of the Christ Candle/ meeting called to order
- Rev. Micol Cottrell to lead the worship part of the meeting/ hymn singing
- Pat Blackmore to read the ‘In Memoriam’ names
- Motion to name Pat Blackmore as Chair and Larry Howes as Secretary of the meeting
- Motion to grant voting privileges for this meeting to adherents
- Motion to accept the agenda as printed
- Motion that the minutes of the 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting be adopted as printed
- Motion that the printed reports of the Action Teams be received for information, including any amendments
- Names to add to/delete from committees as printed in report

Finances

- Review of the 2016 financial reports presented by Bill Brown – motion to accept the 2016 financial report as printed
- Review of the 2017 Budget presented by Bill Brown – Motion to adopt the 2017 budget
- Motion to accept the 2017 Mission and Service objective
- Motion to accept the appointment of the officers and committee members
- Motion to appoint reviewers of the financial records of Grace United Church organizations

New Business

- Remits

Other Courtesies – appreciation to many and all

- Motion to adjourn
- Singing of a hymn

Thank you to all who were able to attend today!

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Grace United Annual Congregational Board Meeting**  
**February 21, 2016**

**ATTENDANCE:** William Brown, Henk Gaasenbeek, Donna Gaasenbeek, Susan Vlietstra, Laurel Douma, Doris Kobe, Carol Dey, Sylvia Stewart, Bert Badger, Marion Badger, Johanna Hardy, John Hardy, Sandra Schreinert, Robert Schreinert, Colleen Price, Debra Brown, Kathryn Dankel, Robert Newbigging, Marilyn Newbigging, Ian McDougall, Bernice McDougall, Marilyn Bentley, Sandra Howes, Larry Howes, Rev. Reink Vlietstra, Leigh Anne Boese, Sally Kormann, Cathy Caicco, Jenn Olivero, Adam Olivero, Claire Olivero, Kathi Maskell, Arthur Holley, Annabelle Holley, Lynn McDougall, Pat Blackmore, Bette Pattinson, Gwen Pattinson, Wendy Burrell, Wilda Wilson, William Wilson, Clair Rogers, Mae Rogers, Joyce Macphail, Lorrie Runge, Korleen Schmidt, Valerie Bennett, Beth Cruickshank, Marlene Calhoun, Ron Calhoun, Ivan Blake, Gertie Blake, Marjorie Monk, Eva Swanson, (Rev.) Gerry Hofstetter (presbytery rep.), Rev. Rienk Vlietstra.

Larry Howes lit the Christ candle while Pat Blackmore called the meeting to order.

Rev. Rienk Vlietstra led the worship portion of the meeting beginning with the singing “Joyful, Joyful We Adore You.” “In Memoriam” names were read concluding with two minutes silence.

Pat Blackmore welcomed everyone and began the meeting.

To begin the business of the meeting, **A MOTION** by Ian McDougall, to name Pat Blackmore as chair and Larry Howes as secretary of the meeting, was seconded by Leigh Anne Boese. Carried.

**MOVED BY** Jennifer Olivero, seconded by Bill Brown, that voting privileges for this meeting be extended to adherents. Carried.

**MOVED BY** Sylvia Stewart, seconded by Wendy Burrell, that we accept the agenda as printed. Carried.

**MOVED BY** Deb Brown, seconded by Jennifer Olivero, that the minutes of the 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting be adopted as printed. Carried.

**MOVED BY** Sylvia Stewart, seconded by Colleen Price, that the printed reports of the action teams be received for information, including amendments. Carried.

**REVIEW OF THE 2015 FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Presented by William Brown.

**MOVED BY** William Brown, seconded by Wendy Burrell, that we accept the 2015 financial report as printed. Carried.

**REVIEW OF THE 2016 BUDGET:** Presented by William Brown.

**MOVED BY** Bill Brown, seconded by Jennifer Olivero, that we adopt the 2016 budget as printed. One vote against. Carried.

**MOVED BY** Jennifer Olivero, seconded by Kathryn Dankel, that we accept the Mission and Service objective as printed. Carried.

**MOVED BY** Adam Olivero, seconded by Bill Wilson, that we accept the appointment of officers and committee members and those appointed by the Official Board. Carried.

**MOVED BY** Bill Brown, seconded by Bill Wilson, that we accept the appointment of Douglas Bentley and Sylvia Stewart as reviewers of the financial records of Grace United Church organizations. Carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Joint Needs Assessment Committee has completed its report and make the following motion to the congregation presented by Presbytery Rep., Rev. Gerry Hofstetter.

**MOTION:** Moved by Bill Brown, seconded by Robert Newbigging,  
That the Joint Needs Assessment Committee of Grace United Church, Hanover, request Bruce Presbytery

- 1) Declare a vacancy for one full-time Ordained, Diaconal or Designated Lay Minister, effective July1, 2016.
  - 2) that Bruce Presbytery authorize the immediate formation of a Joint Search Committee.
  - 3) that Bruce Presbytery appoint two members to serve on the Joint Search Committee.
- Carried.

**MOTION:** Moved by Ian McDougall, seconded by Kathryn Dankel,  
that The Joint Needs Assessment Committee be disbanded with Thanks. Carried.

**MOTION:** Moved by Lorrie Runge, seconded by Bill Brown, that the Joint Search Committee be composed of the following named as well as those additional appointments made by the Official Board, Valerie Bennett, Leigh Anne Boese, Kathryn Dankel, Jennifer Olivero, Donna Gaasenbeek, Cathy Caicco. Carried.

Courtesies were expressed by Pat Blackmore to Rev. Rienk Vlietstra, Sonya Bolek, Sally Kormann and staff for continued leadership, also to Committee members and volunteers who provide dedication to their respective roles as individuals and promotion of Church programs. Please accept our Thanks. The congregation expresses THANKS to Pat Blackmore for leading us as Chair of the Board and all the energy expended.

**MOTION** to adjourn made by Sylvia Stewart.

Rev. Rienk Vlietstra closed the meeting with the attendees singing “Seek Ye First the Kingdom” and then ended with prayer.

May God continue to give us support in 2016.

**NOMINATION REPORT**  
**OFFICIAL BOARD**

Chair:	Pat Blackmore	Presbytery Representatives:	Kathi Maskell Sandra Howes
Past Chair:	Paul Cruickshank	Board Secretary:	Larry Howes
Vice Chair:	Jerry Asling	Ministry & Personnel:	Adam Olivero
Treasurer:	Bill Brown	M&S Treasurer & Finance:	Bert Badger
Property:	Paul Cruickshank	Spiritual Care & Membership:	Doris Kobe
Stewardship:	Kathryn Dankel	Christian Development:	Sylvia Stewart
Worship & Music:	Bob Blackmore	Social Action & Global Concerns:	Jerry Asling

**OTHER LEADERSHIP**

Minister:	Rev. Micol Cottrell	Church Administrator:	Laurel Douma
Youth Support:	Sonya Bolek	Senior Support:	Sally Kormann
Music Director:	Wilda Wilson	Senior Organist:	Yuki Okumoto Stocovaz
Alternate Music:	Beth Cruickshank	Custodian:	Randy Pegelo



COMMITTEES

2017

*Chairpersons' names are in bold*

Christian Development

Stacey Bell  
 Sonya Bolek  
 Laura-Lee Hicks  
 Steph Martin  
 Nadia McCormick  
**Sylvia Stewart**  
 Pat Wilkin

Youth Representatives:

Laryssa Bolek  
 Sage Martin

Communications

Marion Badger  
 Laurel Douma  
 Wilda Wilson

Finance

**Bert Badger**  
 Bill Brown  
 Cathy Caicco  
 Henk Gaasenbeek

Ministry & Personnel

Donna Gaasenbeek  
 Stan Lytle  
 Kathi Maskell  
 Ron Motz  
**Adam Olivero**

Prayer Ministry

Betty Duncan  
 Colleen Price  
**Korleen Schmidt**  
 Emma Stevenson  
 Eva Swanson

Property

**Paul Cruickshank**  
 John Hardy  
 Jim Jackson  
 Susan Krueger  
 Justin Milne  
 Faye Moore  
 Jennifer Olivero  
 Randy Pegelo  
 Bill Wilson  
 Alan Yardley

Social Action  
& Global Concerns

**Jerry Asling**  
 Bob Blackmore  
 Gertie Blake  
 Kathryn Dankel

Special Gifts

Bert Badger  
 Lynne McDougall

Spiritual Care & Membership

Pat Blackmore  
 Judy Boylan  
 Helen Gruetzman  
 Doris Kobe  
 Sally Kormann  
 Cathy McCartney  
 Janet Motz  
 Gwen Pattinson  
**Colleen Price**  
**Lorrie Runge**

Stewardship

Marilyn Bentley  
 Kathryn Dankel  
**Sandra Howes**  
 Lynne McDougall  
 Marilyn Newbigging

Trustees

Doug Bentley  
 Bruce McDonald

Worship & Music

Marion Badger  
**Bob Blackmore**  
 Micol Cottrell  
 Annabelle Holley  
 Sally Kormann  
 Jenn Olivero  
 Willie Wilson  
 Joyce Yardley

Youth Trust

**Jerry Asling**  
 Paul Cruickshank  
 Larry Howes  
 Laura-Lee Hicks

**GRACE UNITED CHURCH - HANOVER**  
**BALANCE SHEET**

Year Ending - December 31, 2016

**ASSETS**

**CURRENT**

General Account	(6, 948)
Capital & Building Funds in Trust	5, 771
Account Receivable – HST	4, 996
Special Gifts Fund	17, 480
Mission Fund	-
Youth Trust Fund	2, 077
Trustees Fund	646
Discretionary Fund	1, 017

\$25, 039

**INVESTMENTS**

Youth Trust Fund	140, 857
Manse Property Sale Fund	160, 686
from Special Gifts Fund & reinvested dividend	275
Market Value Change	\$8, 159

169, 120

**FIXED**

Church Property & Equipment @ 310 – 12th Street	1, 000, 000
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1, 000, 000

Total Assets

\$1, 335, 017

**LIABILITIES**

**CURRENT**

Bank Loan	0
Accounts Payable	6, 880

6, 880

**LONG TERM DEBT**

Total Liabilities

0  
\$6, 880

**CONGREGATIONAL EQUITY**

Balance Forward		1, 302, 894
Manse Fund Market Adjustment	10, 275	
Operational Income/(Deficit)	General Account	27, 283
	Youth Trust	(1, 841)
	Discretionary Fund	( 296)
	Trustees	( 20)
	Youth Trust Inv.	(5, 629)
	Accounts Payable	(4, 529)

25, 243

Total Liabilities & Equity

1, 328, 137  
\$1, 335, 017

Certified to fairly reflect the financial position of Grace United Church, Hanover

W. K. Bert Badger - Chairman, Finance Team

**GRACE UNITED CHURCH**

## INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT

Year Ending – December 31, 2016

	<b>Budget 2016</b>	<b>Current Year 2016</b>	<b>Prior Year 2015</b>	<b>Budget 2017</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
Local Fund	171,018	151,632	158,573	170,022
Local Outreach Mission	9,000	7,029	9,175	9,000
Building & Capital	7,425	10,063	7,909	16,000
Mission & Service Fund Receipts	35,000	24,009	26,387	35,000
Other Income	29,200	32,889	35,944	33,866
Investment Income	2,112	1,526	2,286	1,419
Special Gifts Fund	3,616	18,946	3,511	0
Supra Gifts	0	20,713	17,197	0
Gifts in Kind	0	0	0	0
	257,371	266,807	260,982	265,307
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Salaries, Wages, Educ. & Trav. etc.	145,137	129,928	156,966	146,924
Office Services	6,109	6,996	5,931	7,938
Church Property	30,023	28,622	26,305	28,587
Christian Education	2,200	1,782	1,405	2,650
Worship & Music	5,584	2,658	4,924	3,585
Social Action & Global Concerns	8,185	8,449	7,172	7,441
Joint Search Committee		429		0
Spiritual Care & Membership	350	417	211	430
Stewardship	500	110	38	500
Ministry & Personnel	1,000	66	0	68
Congregational Concerns	3,500	2,546	1,440	3,015
Other Expense	4,104	5,428	3,985	4,170
Transfer Payments	46,176	46,005	52,673	44,000
Capital & Building	7,500	4,293	0	16,000
Special Gifts Fund Projects	-	1,795	-	0
	\$260,368	239,524	\$261,050	265,308
<b>EXCESS INCOME / (EXPENSES)</b>	<b>(\$2,997)</b>	<b>27,283</b>	<b>(\$68)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS ACCRUAL</b>				
Outstanding Supra Gifts		\$3,544	\$1,171	
Grace Local Missions			\$ 175	
Vacation Bible School		<u>\$2,999</u>	<u>\$1,005</u>	
		<u>\$6,543</u>	<u>\$2,351</u>	
35% Investment of Special Gifts		\$6,631	\$1,229	
<b>ACTUAL EXCESS INCOME/(EXPENSES)</b>		<b>\$20,740</b>	<b>(\$2,419)</b>	



**STATEMENT of CHARLES & OLIVE WRIGHT MEMORIAL YOUTH TRUST FUND**

Opening Bank Bal. Dec. 31/15      \$ 3,918.38

**RECEIPTS**

Investment Income    \$ 9,409.44  
Donations to Fund    \$   325.00    \$13,652.82  
\$13,652.82

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Cheques purchased            \$   58.52  
Donations of Fund            \$8,806.44    \$8,864.96  
+ Outstanding chqs            \$2,861.15  
Less outstanding chq. 207    \$  150.00    \$11,576.11  
Bank Balance Dec. 31/16                            **\$2,076.71**

In 2016, the Trust Fund was able to support: 8 youth attending Silver Lake Camp; Vacation Bible School; Christmas ornaments for the youth; purchase of scooters; Youth Choir accompanist; and the church as well.

Total Market Value of Fund as of December 31, 2016: \$140,857.45

Paul Cruickshank - Youth Trust Treasurer

**STATEMENT of GRACE UNITED DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Opening Bank Bal. Dec. 31/15                      \$1,312.94

**RECEIPTS**

Interest    \$    0.76  
Donations    \$1,291.00    \$1,291.76  
\$2,604.70

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Bank Service Charges                          \$    2.50  
Outreach    \$1,585.00  
\$1,587.50  
Bank Balance Dec. 31/16                            **\$1,017.20**

**STATEMENT of MISSION & SERVICE FUND**

Opening Bank Bal. Jan. 1/16                      \$    0.00

**RECEIPTS**

Congregation Envelopes                      \$22,008.05  
Lenten Offerings                                \$  1,165.80  
Sunday School M&S                             \$     61.15  
Memorial - M&S                                 \$    155.00  
Special Gifts – M&S                             \$    125.00  
Fish Fry     \$    494.08  
\$24,009.08

**DISBURSEMENTS**

M & S Remittances                             \$24,009.08  
\$24,009.08  
Bank Balance Dec. 31/16                            **\$    0.00**

**STATEMENT of SPECIAL GIFTS FUND**

Opening Balance Dec. 31/15                      \$1,691.63

**RECEIPTS**

Memorial Fund                                    \$ 8,295.00  
Estate Gifts                                        \$10,581.00  
Other Gifts                                         \$     70.00    \$18,946.00  
\$20,637.63

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Investments Purchased                         \$ 1,362.55  
Transfer to Local Fund                         \$ 1,951.20  
Local Mission Top-up                            \$ 1,795.21  
\$ 5,108.96  
Balance Dec. 31/15                                **\$15,528.67**

**Memorial Gifts** of \$8,295.00 were received in memory of Marian Wersch, Duncan McCallum, Dorothy Magwood, Deb Brown, Glen Rawson, Marion Pentland, Josie Hershberger, Isobel Palmer, Lance Weidner and Stella Asling. Other gifts were given in honour of Sandra Howes' 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

**STATEMENT of SUPRA GIFTS FUND**

**RECEIPTS**

Canadian Foodgrains Bank	\$ 644.35
Discretionary Fund (see p. 8)	\$ 1, 771.00
VBS (see p. 9)	\$ 2, 571.00
Crafts Plus (see p. 15)	\$ 3, 323.00
Youth for Christ	\$ 200.00
Sound of Christmas	\$ 4, 400.00
Senior Programming	\$ 859.25
Ukulele Band	\$ 1, 087.95
Retirement Gift	\$ 1, 085.00
Gifts with Vision	\$ 260.00
Silver Lake Camp	\$ 67.10
Sister Act Bus Trip	\$ 4, 244.32
Scooters	\$ 200.00
	<u>\$20, 712.97</u>

**DISBURSEMENTS**

\$ 644.35
\$ 1, 771.00
\$ 577.35
\$ 814.53
\$ 200.00
\$ 3, 496.96
\$ 484.76
\$ 750.71
\$ 1, 085.00
\$ 260.00
\$ 67.10
\$ 4, 244.32
\$ 394.74
<u>\$14, 790.82</u>

**STATEMENT of VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Opening Bank Bal. Dec. 31/15 \$1, 005.13

**RECEIPTS**

Church Contributions	\$1, 250.00	
Mission	\$ 21.00	
Fundraising	\$1, 300.00	\$2, 571.00
	<u>\$3, 576.13</u>	

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Supplies	\$ 319.36	
Mission	\$ 21.00	
Promotion	\$ 236.99	\$ 577.35
Balance Dec. 31/16		<u>\$2, 998.78</u>

**CONTRIBUTION RANGE REPORT:**

**January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016**

<b><u>Contribution Range</u></b>	<b><u># of Contributors</u></b>	<b><u>Total Given</u></b>	<b><u>Average/Contributor</u></b>
0.01 -100	31	1, 189.95	49.63
100.01 -200	12	2, 080.00	158.75
200.01 - 300	17	2, 158.75	262.61
300.01 - 400	11	4, 926.00	376.93
400.01 - 500	8	6, 577.05	473.75
500.01 - 750	17	14, 365.90	631.89
750.01 - 1, 000	13	11, 780.00	909.62
1, 000.01 – 1, 500	17	17, 838.50	1, 233.03
1, 500.01- 2, 500	19	37, 470.95	1, 951.33
2, 500.01 – 5, 000	9	40, 276.10	3, 175.17
5, 000.01 +	10	58, 693.25	6, 758.86
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>\$192, 613.08</b>	<b>\$1, 174.47</b>

Total Envelope Contributors in 2015:	166	Percent Change:	
Total Given in Envelopes in 2015:	\$197, 356.45	/Total Given:	- 1.2 %
Average/Giver in 2015:	\$ 1, 188.89	/# of Givers:	- 1.2 %

## **REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

The year 2016 has been an exceptionally busy one for the Congregational Board of Grace United Church. We have experienced many celebrations and a few challenges over the past several months. Fortunately, our board and our church congregation exemplify the meaning of “team.” I continue to be amazed at the support, fellowship and hard work that are such an integral part of our Congregational Board. Through hard work, cooperation, and a strong Christian bond, we, as a church community, have accomplished a great deal.

Grace United continues to be a vibrant, busy place with many activities and programs on the weekly schedule. There is not a day or evening when the church lights are not on and cars are not in the parking lot.

An important element of our board meetings are reports from our many committees who continue to provide meaningful programs for youth, seniors, families and a variety of community outreach programs. Thank you to all who lead, support and participate in those volunteer endeavours. As well, many of our committees have members who have served for many years. To continue to be a dynamic church, we need to have new members on our various committees. The committees are listed in the beginning pages of this report. Please consider getting involved.

2016 was indeed a year of challenges and transitions for us. Our former minister, the Rev. Rienk Vlietstra announced his retirement late in 2015. As a result of this announcement, we formed a Joint Needs Assessment Committee to review our needs and report to Presbytery our requirements for a new minister. This was an opportunity for us to look, not only at our needs, but where we would like to be in the future, as a church community.

Subsequent to that, a Search Committee was formed to advertise for, interview and hire a minister to take us forward in our growth as a church. This culminated with the hiring of our new minister, Rev. Micol Cottrell. I wish to extend my thanks to the church members who agreed to serve on these committees, which were so critical in the church's future growth and direction.

The leadership and hard work provided by our staff of Micol, Laurel, Willie, Yuki, Beth, Sonya, Sally, and Randy has been a true blessing to us all. It has been their talents, creativity and vision that are key to making Grace the caring and interesting place it is. We welcomed the Rev. Micol Cottrell to our team this fall and we look forward to new change and growth under his leadership.

As well, music has always proved a valuable tool in expressing our faith and feelings. We are so fortunate to have Willie, Beth and Yuki to share their musical talent, as well as our choir and other guest performers to enrich our services each week.

A look at the committee reports in the following pages will attest to the many events that are such a big part of the life of our church. As well, Grace United was the setting for two special events in 2016. In June, we hosted a retirement celebration for Rienk and Sue, wishing them all the best as they move forward in their life journey. In November, we were pleased to hold the Covenanting Service for our new minister, the Rev. Micol Cottrell.

Yes indeed, 2016 has been a busy year for Grace United. I am confident that we will continue to thrive as “*a church with heart in the heart of the community*” as we work together in meeting the new challenges that will face us in 2017.

Blessings, Pat Blackmore



“I found these in my parent’s house,” Nancy, the church’s pianist, told the secretary and me as she handed us a small pile of old papers. In the midst of the pile were three booklets. They were the annual reports for the congregation from 1929, 1930 and 1932. I was amazed at their small size. They contained a very short blurb by the chair of the board, the financial statement and budget, and the pledged and actual financial contribution of every household that year; short, simple, and to the point.

Now, annual reports are much longer. They contain reports from all the committees of the church, as well as from the minister, and a listing of deaths, baptisms, and weddings from our church. And you know what? I like this change. Okay, I’ll admit it, I’m a church geek and proud of it. I like to sit and read through the annual report, to read all the things that have happened over the past year. It is a great snapshot of the life and work of the church. This is especially important for me this year since I am new to Grace. As I read the report I like taking the time to celebrate the great things that have happened over the year. I find it important to pause and reflect on the losses, struggles and uncertainties our church faces. I enjoy the way my imagination stirs as I think about where God is leading us in the new year. I truly believe the Spirit of God is at work in our lives as we read and reflect on what is written in this report and as we share in conversations and decision-making during our Annual meeting.

During worship, before our annual meeting, I’m going to be inviting us into this type of reflecting and discerning by asking us to think about the following questions:

- 1) What do you celebrate about our church?
- 2) What do you grieve in our church?
- 3) What is something new you wish to see happen here?

During worship we’ll have a chance to write our thoughts down. They will be collected and posted for us to think about. It will help us as a congregation to understand one another and to set a course for the year.

I proudly present to you our annual report. As you read through it, I invite you to take some time with it. Offer prayers of thanksgiving and prayers for direction for each of our committees. Prayerfully reflect upon the three questions above. Annual reports aren’t just for full-out church geeks like me. They are for all of us, offering us a time to celebrate, reflect, and envision who we are as a community of faith and where God is leading us.

Blessings, Rev. Micol Cottrell

### **SENIOR SUPPORT MINISTRY**

2016 has been another fulfilling year for me as Senior Support Coordinator for Grace United Church. I have continued to organize and facilitate programs and have added some new ones. Listed below are activities we provide for our senior population:

- ❖ **One-On-One Visits:** These visits are a big part of my week. I keep in close contact with Rev. Micol, making recommendations for visits with him if needed or requested.
- ❖ **The Friendly Visitor Program:** People in the congregation are matched with a senior (either of their choosing or one I recommend). I ask that they visit at least once a month. They might get together to play a game of crib, have tea, chat, or go out for a drive. What a difference this program makes for others. It’s as rewarding for those doing the visiting as it is for those being visited.

- ❖ **Operation Secret Santa:** 16 people/families took part in playing Secret Santa to 23 of our Seniors. What a great way to brighten someone's day!
- ❖ **Won't You Be My Valentine:** I set up a Valentine Box at the back of the church. People either place cards to seniors in the box and I deliver them, or people choose from a suggested list, and do something special for that person.
- ❖ **Grace's Easter Egg Deliveries:** The congregation was given strips of paper handed out each Sunday before Easter (started 3-4 weeks before Easter). They were asked to write an Easter message to a senior in the congregation - a message to brighten someone's Easter. They placed the message in an Easter Bag left on the table at the back of the church. I placed the messages in plastic eggs along with a chocolate egg. As the messages came in, I filled the eggs then placed them on a branch at the front of the church. After Palm Sunday, I delivered the eggs to shut ins, seniors going through a difficult time, or those 90 and up.
- ❖ **Secret Pen Pals:** 7 seniors were matched with 7 of Grace's youth in the Fall of 2016. Writing continues until June of 2017, when they will learn the identity of their secret pen pal.
- ❖ **Grief Support Group:** This group was first facilitated by VON, but the group has continued meeting on their own once a month.
- ❖ **Caregiver Support Group:** Facilitated by the VON. They met twice in 2016 and have their next meeting January 2017.
- ❖ **Moments from Memory:** This is a time of sharing with each other. The 2016 topics were "Outhouses, Backhouses & Washrooms;" "Life during the Depression;" "Our Fine-Feathered Friends;" and "Favourite Family Pets."
- ❖ **Petting Zoo:** The Bolek family brings their assortment of pets/farm animals to The Villa Nursing Home and the Hanover Care Centre for the seniors to pet or snuggle.
- ❖ **Seniors Luncheon:** Each Fall and Spring, seniors are invited to come for lunch, communion and social time. This yummy home-made meal is served to over 80 seniors. The luncheon is free, although people can make a donation if they choose.
- ❖ **Valleyview/Sprucewood Taxi Service to Church:** Seniors from Valleyview/Sprucewood pay \$4 for transportation to and from church. We generally run this program during the winter months. It is a self-sustaining program, with no additional cost to the church.
- ❖ **Christmas in the Country Drive-Through:** This past year, there were 10 participants including myself and another driver. Following the drive through, we enjoyed a social time and refreshments at Tim Horton's.
- ❖ **Christmas Cheer Dinners:** 24 yummy Christmas Cheer Turkey Dinners were delivered.
- ❖ **Bus Trips:** This year I organized two bus trips - one to see "Sister Act," at the Dunfield Theatre in Cambridge, and a second to see "Sounds of Christmas" at the WMB Church in Waterloo. We made a profit of \$1, 134.68 with the Sister Act bus trip and \$903.04 with the Sounds of Christmas - a total of \$2, 037.72. Both trips were sold out, with 56 tickets sold.
- ❖ **Walk & Talk:** This is a time for getting out and active. Thursday mornings, twice a month, the group meets at the church at 9:30 and heads out for a nice walk... nothing too fast-paced as we need time to chat along the way. In the nice weather, we often travel to local walking trails and forests, followed by a social time and treats.

Grace United provides a safe, welcoming and supportive environment for our seniors. Our congregation has been very involved in the programs I've initiated. People are always ready to reach out and help where there is a need. Making sure our seniors feel connected and supported by their church family is paramount. Showing love and caring is what it's all about – Thank you Grace, for supporting me, as I work through Him, to care for our seniors.

Sally Kormann

## **CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SUPPORT MINISTRY**

Programs were offered during the 2016 year.

In winter 2016 we held a few Kids in the Kitchen nights. Spiritual Parenting Group met until Spring, schedules proved to be difficult to meet. It is my hope to get this going again. March Break offered a day camp which included crafts, baking, yoga, Godly Play and tons of fun.

In spring, our youth once again took on Secret Seniors and that was a wonderful joy to the youth and the seniors. We also began meeting to discuss VBS. Plans began for our second Fancy Dress Tea. I supported the youth choir for various performances. For Easter, our family once again brought our farm `pets` for visiting. We made 2 farm visits to the care centres, one in spring, and one in summer.

In spring and summer my focus was on planning for Graceful Nature Camp and assisting with Vacation Bible School plans. We finished the school year with Sundae Sunday; the kids love this one!

In July, I held a volunteer kick-off meeting for VBS and the week of VBS followed at Grace United. This year I looked after preparing the snacks for the week of VBS.

In July and August, 6 days of Graceful Nature Camp were planned, the July dates included 2 days and an overnight at Silver Spur in Neustadt. Many thanks go to Marilyn Newbigging for coming out to help. In August, 3 days were held at our home, Kathryn Dankel and Sylvia Stewart came to help out. We had 15 different children attend. This was once again a tremendous amount of fun and connection.

In September, I led the worship service on the 11<sup>th</sup>; this was a nature-based service which featured a Graceful Nature Camp sharing.

Fall saw the start of Youth Chat 'n' Pray, which offers prayers, discussion, breakfast goodies and scripture study to 8 youth ages 10 and up. We welcomed Micol for some drumming on October 28.

During late fall and winter, all of my focus went into the Christmas Pageant. This year we had about 20 children involved in filming a short movie. This included various film times, different casting, and a lot of fun! The movie, "It Came upon a Midnight Dream," was shown on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

I want to thank everyone for their tremendous support of the work I do. I continue to treasure this work at Grace United and look forward to a year full of more fun and faith for families in 2017. Plans include Messy Church, retreat days, Kids in the Kitchen, Parent Prayer Group, an Easter event, VBS, Nature Camp, a whole new Christmas movie and much more!

Sincerely, Sonya Bolek

## **BRUCE PRESBYTERY RESOURCE CENTRE**

The year 2016 saw the Resource Centre realizing total sales of \$8,893.66; remaining consistent with last year. The financial support of Presbytery was essential in helping us meet our expenses of \$11,097.60, and to eliminate the operating deficit of \$770.57 with which we began the year. Presbytery support for 2017 will be reduced and planning has begun at the Presbytery level to discontinue the Resource Centre.

The new procedures regarding Annual Meetings of Conferences meant there was not annual meeting of Conference this year and no meetings of the Hamilton Conference Resource Centre Network were held. The Waterloo Presbytery Resource Centre located in Cambridge closed in June of 2016, leaving only the Bruce Presbytery and Hamilton Presbytery Resource Centres remaining. Since the takeover of Conference Sales by the Grand River Book Store, the share in sales agreement previously in place with UCRD has no longer been in effect despite expectations. Assistance at Conference Book Sales in the future will no longer be required.



Four Resource Centre Advisory Committee meetings were held at Grace United. Leadership of the committee continues with the Rev. Lyn Workman, Chair; the Rev. Bonnie Holliday; Donna Gaasenbeek; and Ellen Underwood.

Book displays were provided for Presbytery meetings held at Grace United, Hanover and Zion-Amabel United, Sauble Beach; at the Presbytery Learning Day at Port Elgin United Church; and at the UCW Bruce Presbyterial Annual Meeting at Pine River United Church. With the support of Grace United and St. Paul's United, I have been able to rearrange my schedule in order to be present at all Presbytery meetings and my presence has been appreciated.

My most sincere thanks go out to all the volunteers from Presbytery and Grace United who lend a hand when they can and especially to those who serve on the Resource Centre Advisory Committee for their unfailing support.

Laurel Douma, BPRC Coordinator

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**



The Christian Development Committee met six times in 2016 following Sunday worship. Sonya and Rienk regularly attended our meetings and Micol attended our November meeting.

In 2016, we continue to use the "One Room Sunday School" curriculum with regular attendance and the ages ranging from three to fifteen. A thank you goes to our teachers for their enthusiasm and dedication in leading our children about God and Jesus.

Our youth choir has grown to six members from our original three! Each time they have performed they have done a wonderful job and gained more confidence in presenting their message through song. I would like to thank Bob Blackmore, Jenn Olivero and Stacey Bell for their leadership. We are thrilled to have Yuki Stocovaz and Doug Tielli providing their talents by accompanying the choir on piano and

guitar.

In April, there were 19 ukuleles purchased by families and our committee. Thanks to Beth Cruickshank, Stacey Bell and Laryssa and Gillian Bolek for teaching the children how to play their ukulele. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, the children performed their first song! We look forward to hearing from them in the future.

In June, for Rienk's retirement party, the children sang a song during a slide show of memories throughout the years with Rienk and the children. Thank you to Sonya for putting this together.

On Father's Day Sunday, the Sunday school children were scooping up sundaes with donations gladly accepted and sent to Silver Lake United Church camp.

Our committee helped to sponsor eight children that attended Silver Lake Camp. The children get to experience Christ through many activities at camp that makes it so rewarding for this committee to help with the camp fees.

The Hanover Vacation Bible School was held at Grace United Church in July with Sonya spending time in the planning and executing of another successful week. The Mennonite Youth troupe lead the programming. They provide wonderful role models and are a great inspiration to the children.

During the summer, Sonya led Graceful Nature Camp with an overnight stay at Silver Spur in Neustadt for one of the camps. Many great memories were created during these camp days.

Welcome Back Sunday in September had a great turnout with many staying for hotdogs and ice cream after church. The children from Graceful Nature Camp and our Silver Lake campers took part in the service.

Sonya has taken on the leadership of the Senior Sunday School. It is called Youth Chat N`Pray, which

offers prayers, discussion, breakfast goodies and scripture study to 8 youth ages 10 and up.

In the fall, 12 scooter boards and a stacking tray arrived. They have already been used in a creative game of shuffleboard scooter boards. Keep an eye out for future games involving balls and toilet bowl brushes!

On November 27<sup>th</sup> we held a Snowflake Chili Lunch and Tea with the children helping out. The donations from this fundraiser went towards two missions chosen by the Sunday school.

Something new for the children this year was the filming of their Christmas presentation as a short movie. Sonya with her creative talent wrote the movie "It Came upon a Midnight Dream" and was shown at church on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

We are very blessed and grateful to have Sonya leading our Youth and Family Support Ministry. She puts so much thought and effort into everything she does throughout the year for Grace United!

I wish to express my thanks to all who have helped support the ongoing work of Christian Education in our congregation. We have a great team that is very excited to plan and carry out our ideas for 2017.

Sylvia Stewart, Board Representative

### CRAFTS PLUS

2016 was another busy year for the Crafts Plus group. January saw us helping to take down the Christmas decorations. We also held our annual soup and pie lunch.

In February, we made the desserts for the first of the Wednesday Lenten services held at St. Matthew's.

A brunch consisting of pancakes and sausages was served in March.

April saw our annual fashion show with dessert. There were lots of new fashions to see and yummy desserts to eat.

In June, we said goodbye to member Sue Vlietstra, with a lunch at Pebbles in Varney. We wish her continued happiness in her new adventures.

In July, we baked pies for the Vlietstra anniversary celebrations.

September's start for the fall was held at Beth Cruickshank's home. She showed us the art works that are the result of the classes she has been taking.

We purchased a new, more appropriate office chair for our new minister, Micol Cottrell, in October.

Gumdrop cakes were on the agenda for November. We baked 119 pounds of cake.

December saw us helping to decorate the sanctuary and other areas of the church for Christmas. A year-end social was hosted by Marion and Bert Badger for members of the group and their spouses.

### STATEMENT OF CRAFTS PLUS

Opening Balance - January 1, 2015                   \$ 754.50

#### RECEIPTS

Soup & Pie Lunch	\$ 601.00	
Pancake Breakfast	\$ 505.21	
Fashion Show	\$1, 400.00	
Gum Drop Cakes	\$1, 185.00	
Anniversary Pies	\$ 65.00	
	\$3, 756.21	<u>\$3, 756.21</u>
		<u>\$4, 510.71</u>



#### DISBURSEMENTS

Lunch Supplies	\$ 116.01
Breakfast Supplies	\$ 160.00
Fashion Show Expenses	\$ 227.00
Baking Supplies	\$ 358.46
Office Chair	\$ 560.23
Misc.	\$ 21.94
	<u>\$1, 443.64</u>
Balance - Dec. 31/15	<u>\$3, 067.07</u>
on account	\$2, 853.97
on hand	\$ 213.10

Joyce Yardley



## MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

The Ministry and Personnel Committee had another busy year. Adam Olivero continued as Chair of the committee. We had Stan Lytle and Kathi Maskell join our committee throughout the year. Our other members are Ron Motz and Donna Gasenbeek.

The Committee meets monthly or more as needed. The committee supported both the Joint Needs Assessment and the Joint Search committees with job descriptions and a committee member to sit on both committees. When Micol arrived in October he attended our first meeting to introduce himself and get us up to date. In November, over two meetings, we had our yearly reviews; no major issues to report. We have followed up on minor problems with staff already.

We are still continuing with the volunteer nursery and have no plans to hire a new paid supervisor due to the church's financial position.

We elected not to have a Christmas staff party this year. But do leave open the possibility of a winter time party in the new year.

We still have a dedicated group of three on our committee with two new members this year! We're looking forward to an even busier 2016! First on the docket is Micol's three-month staff review in February.

Adam Olivero, Chair

## PROPERTY TEAM

As usual, this team was kept busy throughout the year. Many repairs were made as needed each month.

Our specialists were responsible for several of these:

- ❖ Bill kept our furnaces humming, and the roof drains working.
- ❖ Jim installed new coach lights outside the narthex, among other electrical jobs.

Assisted by Larry Howes, the cracked storm windows around the sanctuary were replaced. A new lawn tractor was purchased, and is housed in the shed. Thanks to Alan and Bill for keeping the lawns in great shape. The dampness in the choir stairwell was corrected with special paint and wall board.

The most notable project completed was the refurbishment of the Minister's Study upstairs. With Telf Struthers assistance, the walls were repainted a refreshing colour. The windows were repaired, brightening up the whole space. New furnishings added finishing touches to a beautiful room. Paint was also ordered for the other 2 office areas for the coming year's projects. Thanks go to Joyce Yardley for her inspirational decorating ideas.

On Labour Day, our new electronic sign was vandalized, requiring extensive repairs, and discussions with the insurance adjustor. Finally, it was returned to us all mended and held securely by several new locks.

With the coming of snowy weather, the team members have been working to make the walkways safe and cleared after snowfalls.

New members are always welcome. We enjoyed the help of various other church members throughout the year as they were able to help with projects. This is one team that works well with many hands helping, as there are always small and large tasks to do to keep the building and property in good condition. The next year will see further improvements and maintenance done - just as any property requires each year.

A big thank you goes to all team members and friends who were able to lend a hand this year. Bless you all.



Paul Cruickshank – Chair  
Marilyn Bentley – Secretary

## SENIOR CHOIR

In the New Year of 2016, our choir was made up of 18 members, including the music director, Willie Wilson, and the accompanist, Yuki Okumoto Stocovaz. Practices began in January in preparation for Good Friday and Easter Sunday services on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Two Sunday afternoon practices were required to prepare for the April 17<sup>th</sup> Canadian Food Grains Bank concert, "Spring into Song," held at St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Our choir participated in this, as well as many choirs from the surrounding area. This proved to be a very successful undertaking with substantial donations going to the Canadian Food Grains Bank.

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, a potluck retirement dinner party was given to honour Rienk and his wife Susan. Choir members from both the senior and junior choirs sang "A Place in the Choir" and this was followed with a gift being presented to Rienk in appreciation of his years serving as our minister.

June also marked the choir's break for the summer and once again on the 16<sup>th</sup> we had a potluck dinner at the lake hosted by Rienk and Susan. A small token in the form of a gift certificate was presented.

After the summer, we were into the fall and preparing for Thanksgiving. This quickly led to the Christmas Eve service. The Church was beautifully decorated and was attended by many members and extended families.

Our turkey dinner was postponed until January 15, 2017 at the Curling Club.

Each year we support the Rotary Music Festival with a donation to go towards a promising musical talent.

As we endeavour to provide leadership through our music we would encourage and welcome any new members to join us. This year we welcomed Stan and Carolyn Lytle and Leona Hutton to our group. We were also happy to have Doug Tielli sit in when he was available to join the bass/tenor section

Suzanne Hope, President

### CHOIR MEMBERS 2016:

DIRECTOR: Wilda Wilson	ACCOMPANIST: Yuki Okumoto Stocovaz
SOPRANO: Stacey Bell	ALTO: Marilyn Bentley
Valerie Bennett	Carol Dey
Donna Gaasenbeek	Klaske Werth
Leona Hutton	TENOR: Bob Blackmore
Carolyn Lytle	BASS: Bruce McDonald
Sylvia Stewart	Stan Lytle
Vera Struthers	

### GRACE UNITED SENIOR CHOIR

Bank Bal. Jan. 1/15

\$544.44

#### RECEIPTS

Collections	\$209.33	<u>\$209.33</u>
		<u>\$753.77</u>

#### EXPENSES

Rotary Festival	\$ 30.00
Spring into Song Music	\$ 80.00
Gifts	\$ 50.00
Choir Room Clock	<u>\$ 8.78</u>
	<u>\$ 168.78</u>
Bank Bal. Dec. 31/15	<u>\$ 584.99</u>

Klaske Werth, Treasurer



## SOCIAL ACTION & GLOBAL CONCERNS

The committee met 7 times during the year. We continue to oversee the M&S Fund and the Local Mission Fund. This year we fell short on our M&S budget, raising \$24,009. The proceeds of the Trunk Sale (\$1,144) went to the nine Local Mission projects to bring the total to \$7,029. The Fund was topped up to \$9,000 with \$1,795 from the Special Gift Fund so that all projects were fully funded last year. A “Minute for Mission” is read every Sunday to keep the congregation informed of the work that the M&S fund provides.

We have replaced the Canadian Bible Society donation with support for a child going to Camp McGovern. Several committee members attended the annual car rally which raised over \$7,000.

We, also, actively support the Hanover Food Bank with our “grocery cart” donations of food and other essentials. The “Baby Blessings” crib was discontinued this year when the “Light on Main Street” moved to Grace.

The Alzheimer Coffee Break netted \$263. We thank the congregation for their generosity.

The Canadian Food Grains Bank project still has no land, so no crop was grown last year. The Local Mission Fund added \$1,250. In April, our Church participated in a CFGB fundraiser call “Spring into Song.” Our Music Director, Willie Wilson, along with St. Andrew’s Presbytery Church’s Music Director, Linda Finlay, organized an eighty-voice choir to do a concert of Ron Klusmeier hymns. Our thanks go to Willie and Linda for a great job; over \$3,000 was raised.

We continue to support YFC Hanover and “The Forge” Youth Centre” (formally, “The Deck” youth centre). The fall banquet was a great success, bringing in over \$12,000. The Bike Rally netted over \$650. A fish dinner raised \$2,000. A yard sale in the summer raised \$1,100 and a BBQ added another \$300. We give \$1000 from our Local Mission Fund. Thirty to forty children attend on a regular basis. Paul Neuman is doing a great job as the new Director.

Two petitions were sent on behalf of Amnesty International.

My thanks go to Kathryn, Gertie and Bob for their support throughout the year.

Jerry Asling, Chair

### MISSION PROJECTS OF GRACE UNITED CHURCH

#### RECEIPTS

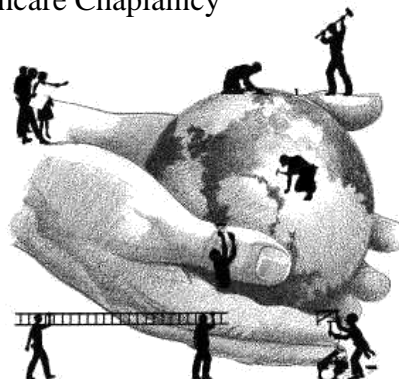
2015 Carry over	\$ 175.39
Envelopes	\$5, 884.75
Trunk Sale	\$1, 144.65
Special Gift Fund Top-up	<u>\$1, 795.21</u>
	<u>\$9, 000.00</u>

#### **MISSION PROJECT BUDGET 2016**

Women’s House	\$1, 000.00
Camp McGovern	\$ 500.00
Queen’s Bush Rural Ministry	\$1 ,000.00
Canadian Food Grains Bank	\$1, 250.00
Hanover Food Bank	\$1, 250.00
S.M.A.R.T.	\$1, 000.00
Youth for Christ	\$1, 000.00
Grey Bruce Chaplaincy	\$1, 000.00
The Light on Main Street	<u>\$1, 000.00</u>
	<b><u>\$9,000.00</u></b>

#### DISBURSEMENTS

Canadian Food Grains Bank	\$1, 250.00
Hanover Food Bank	\$1, 250.00
Youth for Christ	\$1, 000.00
Women’s House	\$1, 000.00
Saugeen Mobility & Regional Transport	\$1, 000.00
Queen’s Bush Rural Ministry	\$1, 000.00
Camp McGovern	\$ 500.00
The Light on Main Street	\$1, 000.00
GB Healthcare Chaplaincy	<u>\$1, 000.00</u>
	<b><u>\$9, 000.00</u></b>





## **SPIRITUAL CARE & MEMBERSHIP TEAM**

We had two very successful Connection luncheons in May and October. Invitations were given to those over sixty-five years of age. With the workers, approximately eighty people were served lunch, followed by singing and communion. We have become self-sufficient with the freewill offering collected and were able to donate the turkeys and food containers for the Christmas Cheer dinners.

There were fifteen participants in the Week of Guided Prayer, which was held in February at Grace. There were two co-ordinators and four companions. They did some things differently this year – meeting in homes, over the telephone, and doing two days together. Their closing was on Friday night and there were a lot of positive comments.

Sally Kormann continues to provide many interesting programs for our seniors. She organized an afternoon of music with Lincoln Miller, Won't You Be My Valentine, two bus trips to see "Sister Act" and "Sounds of Christmas," Moments from Memory, Walk & Talk, Friendly Visitors Program and Secret Santa.

The ladies of the Knitting Circle continue to produce shawls and lap afghans for members of the congregation. One member of the group has knit and crocheted over 100 shawls since the beginning of the prayer shawl ministry. (We don't think she sleeps!) Their ministry has extended a reach into the local community. There were 66 shawls given out in 2016. The Knitting Circle sold 800 magic cloths and donated the profit of \$2,400 to the church's ongoing expenses. Later in the year, they sold another 200, which allowed for the purchase of, with the assistance of Light on Main Street, two new coffee urns. The first has already been put to use and the second will arrive in the new year. The lunch for the fall Presbytery meeting was catered by members of the Knitting Circle. Knitted and crocheted articles were donated to the Coats for Kids program. The ladies of the Knitting Circle sorted and packed the White Gifts donated by the congregation so that they could be distributed to people who attended the Christmas dinner.

Faye Moore and her volunteers served a turkey dinner at Grace to 148 people who were alone or who wished to come on Christmas Day. Faye appreciated all the volunteers and the generous donations for the White Gifts. She looks forward to doing the dinner again next year.

Cookies and juice were served after the Valleyview service the fourth Tuesday of each month.

We have decided to meet more regularly – the first Monday of every other month. We are looking into how we can provide pastoral care to all members of our church.

We lost two members from our team this year. Dorothy Magwood passed away and Korleen Schmidt resigned from the team. We wish Korleen well in her other endeavours at Grace United. Three new members have joined our Spiritual Care Team: Janet Motz, Helen Gruetzman and Rev. Micol Cottrell.

## **COMMUNITY FRIENDSHIP REPORT**

Through 2016, cards were sent as follows: 40 Valentines; 40 Easter; 36 Thanksgiving; 51 Christmas; 17 Get Well; 28 Sympathy; 4 Anniversary; 18 Birthday and 11 Thinking of You; for a total of 245 cards for the year.

There were 24 Christmas Cheer Dinners delivered on December 11, 2016. At Christmas, there were 5 seniors remembered with calendars at Sprucewood Court, 6 at the nursing homes, and 17 in their homes.

A plant was delivered to Al Hall for his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. A 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plant was delivered to Eugene & Marguerite Perkins and Doug & Jean Kaufman. A 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plant was delivered to Lance & Audrey Weidner.

Nine funeral lunches were served by the ladies of the church in 2016.

Doris Kobe

## STEWARDSHIP

It continues to be gratifying to serve on the Stewardship Team. So many people in the congregation give selflessly and generously of their time, talents and treasures day by day, and week by week. We thank each of you.

One of our greatest joys is welcoming each of you at the front doors of the church every Sunday morning. The love and laughter we receive during this time is another gift from you to us. Thank you.

During 2016, our team raised approximately \$5000, which were distributed between the Local Fund of the church, the Local Mission Fund and the Mission & Service Fund. The Valentine's Pizza Luncheon, the Fish Fry, and the Trunk Sale fall under our umbrella. We enjoyed planning and hosting a Fancy Dress Tea in May. We catered a 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday party in April and were thrilled to be asked to host Doug & Jean Kaufman's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary in June.

The fall brought excitement in our congregation with the arrival of Rev. Micol. It was a time of new beginnings; both for the people of Grace and for Micol. Our committee celebrated this new relationship by promoting a Reverse Offering Food Drive. Over 400 pounds of food were collected for the Salvation Army in November. Thank you for your generous donations.

Let us move into 2017 with a Story of Love among us, and a Spirit of Stewardship within us.

Your Stewardship Team: Sandra Howes, Chair



## WORSHIP & MUSIC



The Worship and Music Team met regularly in 2016. Members of the team are Chairperson Joyce Yardley, Marion Badger, Willie Wilson, Annabelle Holley Sally Kormann, Jenn Olivero, Bob Blackmore, Rev. Rienk Vlietstra (until June) and Rev. Micol Cottrell (October To December) .

The Worship and Music Team has oversight of the audio/ video and overhead projections each Sunday morning. Thanks to our volunteers –

Bert Badger, Larry Howes, Greg Bolek, Ian McDougall, Bill Wilson, Robert Newbigging, Paul Cruickshank, Marilyn Holley, Adam Olivero and Nathan Bell. Bob Blackmore looked into the effectiveness of our present sound system, with a view to making necessary updates.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to act as ushers and greeters this past year. If you would like to volunteer and are not on the list or would like your name removed from the list, contact Bob Blackmore at 226-434-2134. Thanks also go to those of you who read scriptures each week. A list is located at the back of the church for you to sign up for a Sunday which suits your schedule.

Our team has oversight of baptisms, confirmation and membership classes held at Grace. Please contact the church office if you wish to transfer your membership.

Our team undertook the book study called "Fishing Tips" by Rev. Dr. John Pentland about ways he used to revitalize his church in Calgary.

We held a Good Friday service and one Easter service on Sunday. Our team served cupcakes after our Easter worship service.

Pentecost Sunday was a “Bright Colour Day.” On Christian Family Sunday, the following children were baptized: Braydon Beirnes, Gavin Brunner, and Liam Blackmore. The Youth Choir sang for the first time “I Can Sing a Rainbow.”

Pulpit supply was extensive this year due to Rev. Rienk’s retirement. The following persons provided this leadership: Sonya Bolek, Russell Rogers, Rev. Jerry Hofstetter, Rev. Rick Hawley, Rev. Doug Kaufman and Tamara Hodgins.

A deconvanting service was held in June for Rev. Rienk, as well as a farewell celebration in which our team participated.

October 9 was Rev. Cottrell’s first service at Grace and his covenanting service was held on November 5 with our congregation and choir participating.

We held our annual turkey dinner and silent auction with entertainment by Lincoln Miller, a local musician, on October 22.

In November we welcomed the Al-Ali family, our Syrian refugee family, to our church.

Rev. Micol introduced Drum Circle Worship which will be held once a month on Monday evenings – a great activity providing an alternative style of worship.

Gifts from the White Gift service were once again given to Faye Moore to distribute to those attending the Christmas Day dinner.

Christmas services were well received – especially Christmas Eve. Christmas Day service was attended by about 35 people who were welcomed with refreshments of hot cider and cookies.

There are a lot of people who work behind the scenes to make worship meaningful for everyone. Appreciation is extended to members of our team for their ongoing support: Janet Motz (banners), Bob Blackmore and Sylvia Stewart (youth choir); in music leadership: Yuki Stocovaz (Pianist), Wilda Wilson (Director of Music), Beth Cruickshank (Pianist), and the Senior Choir.

We look forward to 2017 with enthusiasm as we continue to grow with new ministry leadership. If you would like be a part of the worship and music team, please call the church office. Our meetings are usually held in the daytime hours.

Wilda Wilson, Secretary



## MILESTONES

### **BAPTISMS**

Gavin Robert Brunner, *son of Ryan & Jennifer (Blackmore) Brunner*  
Liam Mark Blackmore, *son of Adam & Stephanie (Chambers) Blackmore*  
Braydon John Beirnes, *son of John & Brittney (Madill) Beirnes*



### **MARRIAGES**

Jason Kleingeld & Sara-Lymm Pickard  
Daniel Stretch & Andrea Plessis-Belair

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Carl & Debbie Ribey  
Dorothy McCaslin



### **IN MEMORIAM**

Richard Kaster	William Rowland
Marian Wersch	Debra Brown
Margaret Harron	Dorothy Magwood
Dingena Botma	Moreen Schaus
Evelyn Gill	Art Dally
Duncan McCallum	Roy Hopkins
Glen Rawson	Lance Weidner
Marion Pentland	Marg Allensen
Josey Hershberger	

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

*In addition to our Action Teams and Bruce Presbytery,  
the following community organizations also used the facilities at Grace United in 2016.  
Grace United is proud to be at the centre of the work of our community.*

Al-Anon	Leprosy Mission
Alcoholics Anonymous	Light on Main Street
Canadian Cancer Society	North-Wellington Co-op
Cedardown Farms CSA	ORMTA
Census Canada	Poundwatchers
Girl Guides of Canada	Resolution Advocates
Hanover & Area Refugee Committee	Scouts Canada
Hanover Masons	St. John Ambulance
Hanover Parks & Recreation	T.O.P.S.
Hanover Shufflers	Victorian Order of Nurses
Hear More Health Fair	Women's House
Horticultural Society	Youth for Christ – Hanover
Junior Field Naturalists	