



PORT NELSON UNITED CHURCH

Our Values

Affirming

We affirm, include, and celebrate people of every age, race, belief, culture, ability, income level, family configuration, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation in the life and ministry of Port Nelson United Church. As followers of Jesus we believe that we are part of the body of Christ. The apostle Paul said that "the body does not consist of one member but of many" and all are indispensable. (1 Corinthians 12:14, 22-26).

Caring

Caring for one another is important and vital at Port Nelson. We seek to follow Jesus' encouragement to "Do to others as you would have them do to you." (Luke 6:31). We also follow the direction in 1 John 4:11 that, "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." The realization that we are loved inspires us to love one another. We are blessed. We share this blessing with others in the way we care.

Growing Spiritually

We recognize at Port Nelson that each one of us is on a journey through life and that many people have a deep desire to grow spiritually. We grow spiritually and experience the Spirit of God in our midst through inspiring word, uplifting music, thoughtful prayer, ongoing study, poignant silence and in other ways. The prophet Isaiah said, "See I am doing a new thing!" (Isaiah 43:19) With eagerness we continue to anticipate many new ways that we can help one another grow spiritually.

Reaching Out

Jesus encouraged his followers to "Feed my sheep." (John 21:17) Since its beginning, Port Nelson has been reaching out, giving resources, time, money, and skills to support those in need. We strive to follow the words in 1 John 3:18 that we should "not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." We are ready to discover, encourage, and support new ways of sharing God's love.



Affirming Statement

Port Nelson is an Affirming Ministry of The United Church of Canada. We affirm, include, and celebrate people of every age, race, belief, culture, ability, income level, family configuration, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation in our life and ministry.

Recognition of Territory and Treaty

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and the Anishnaabe first peoples, covered by the Fort Albany Treaty in 1701. With respect for their history, their spirituality and their culture, we give thanks for God's gift of gathering in this space on this land.

PORT NELSON UNITED CHURCH

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

STAFF



Minister: Rev. Dr. Michael Brooks

Leads the staff team, oversees the various ministries of the church; leads worship, baptisms, weddings. Provides staff support to Worship Ministry, Stewardship Ministry, Communications, Governance and the Trustees

email: michaelbrooks@portnelsonunitedchurch.com



Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Martha Reynolds

Provides pastoral visitation, oversees the Pastoral Care ministries

email: marthareynolds@portnelsonunitedchurch.com



Director of Music: Dr. Stillman Matheson

Oversees the music ministry and programs. Provides staff support to Worship Ministry, and the Choir Executive

email: stillmanmatheson@portnelsonunitedchurch.com



Developer of Youth Ministry: Jay Poitras

Develops the ministry with youth in grades 6 to 12

email: jaypoitras@portnelsonunitedchurch.com



Developer of Children's Ministry: Sharon Holmes

Develops the ministry with children up to age 10

email: sharonholmes@portnelsonunitedchurch.com



Nursery Coordinator: Kelly Rogers

Cares for our youngest children and toddlers each week during services



Church Administrator: Jennifer Bath

Provides administrative support to the Staff, Church Council, Committees, Congregation, Property, Facilities & Rentals as well as assists the Treasurer and Bookkeeper with financial matters including maintaining the member database and income tax receipts

email: office@portnelsonunitedchurch.com



Custodian: Rick Tucker

Ensures the property and buildings meet the needs of the various groups and ministries. Provides staff support to Property Management Ministry

email: custodian1@portnelsonunitedchurch.com

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

CHAIR OF COUNCIL

After a couple of years of constantly adjusting to challenges related to the renovation, this has been a rather quiet, yet exciting year.

We started the year with a wonderful official opening of the new spaces in the Roseland Room and we found ourselves at a turning point as a church - essentially “the renovation is completed ... now what?”

Looking at use of our new space, we were cautious of forestalling our own use of the facilities. Council decided to take a slow and steady approach to rentals to external events and groups as we initiated some of the recommendations in our Visioning Plan and grew into the new facilities.

Some highlights of uses of the new spaces included:

- Our spring fundraiser “A Second Night on the Bayou” netted \$10,300
- An expanded Glee Camp hosted 255 children, resulting in a financial surplus and a contribution of \$8,000 to our operating account
- The Mistletoe Mart committee was back to operating from one building and raised a record \$30,000 for their efforts
- We kicked off a very popular and well-attended Speaker Series, attracting many people from the neighbourhood

In the context of “now what?” Council spent time exploring our purpose and function as a governing body. We determined that we need to move away from the traditional role of approving our ministries’ and committees’ work and become more focused on visioning and strategic planning.

We developed a new Board structure that will provide the fluidity, flexibility and nimbleness required to carry out our vision for the future of our church in the current context.

I thank the members of Council for their work and support over this past year, and look forward to the results of this change in philosophy for our governing body.

- Richard Hensen, Chair

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

MINISTER - REV. DR. MICHAEL BROOKS

“Second Waiting”

Waiting. It’s part of life. It can be a necessary annoyance. It can also be a gift. Now if the year 2018 was the year of anticipation and disruption for our church family, then the year 2019 was the year of fulfillment and restoration.

Of course, I am speaking about the project which has come to be known as “Rekindle.” The full name is: *Rekindle: Our Home, Our Future*. It’s important to remember the full name, because the “home” has been rekindled but the future remains. The future always remains.

Our church family has invested several years in waiting. We were, in a sense, living Advent continuously. We were waiting for plans to be finalized. We were waiting for permits and approvals. We were waiting for pledges and grants. We were waiting for construction to begin. Then, 2018 was the year of anticipation and disruption. Even as our routines and ways of being “church” were thrown into exciting chaos, we anticipated the conclusion. We anticipated what this new space for ministry would look like, feel like, be like. We anticipated the future.

Then, in the early weeks of 2019, we began to discern how to navigate “new.” There was fulfillment and restoration. But there was also renewed anticipation and a second period of waiting. We began to wonder how, exactly, God is calling us to share space and place. What will our stewardship of space and place look like in the coming months and years?

These questions, I believe, are at the forefront of much of who we are and what we are doing right now as church family. Wisely, your Church Council has decided not to answer these questions in haste. It will take fallow time to listen, to discern, and to plan. This is not unusual following a major project. Many churches experience similar time and, in the longer run, have found it fruitful. The best farmland needs fallow time in order to continue being productive.

Epiphany follows Christmas, which follows Advent. Christ is born! Yet we still wait, and we still ask, “What is next?” The prophet Isaiah is helpful with this second period of waiting. Isaiah speaks of the waiting, the fulfillment, and the renewed waiting. Isaiah is often thought of as three books in one. First Isaiah records the people’s lament as they experience being in exile. Second Isaiah seeks to reassure the people that God will set the captives in Babylon free and return them to Jerusalem. Third Isaiah celebrates the freedom and the return.

But even though Third Isaiah celebrates, it also raises new questions: What is next? What will we do with this restored life?

In whatever ways you are involved in our church family, I invite you to live with these questions in the coming months. I invite you to share with others – especially with the leadership of the church – how God is speaking to you in response to these questions: What is next? What will we do with this restored future?

It will surely come, dear friends. The days will surely come. “For everything there is a season.”

- Michael Brooks

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE - REV. MARTHA REYNOLDS

One of the books I read during my training for ordered ministry was *Faith Seeking Understanding* by Daniel Migliore. I remember having an 'aha' moment as I read that the church is "a sign of the kingdom of God." I suddenly realized that if the church is a sign of God's kingdom, then we are to live as citizens of that "commonwealth of justice, reconciliation, and freedom based on the grace of God." At the time I wondered if this image of the church were better known, wouldn't our way of being as followers of Jesus be more in line with how God calls us to be? (All quotes from this book are found in chapter 10, "The New Community," pages 185-205.)

As I write this annual report, I am reflecting on the many and various ways that this congregation shows that it is a sign of the kingdom of God. I believe we can see this in our values - Affirming, Caring, Growing Spiritually and Reaching Out – and how we live them out in our ministries. Here I'm able to touch on only a few out of many.

The Affirm Group explores ways for our congregation to be more inclusive and affirming of the LGBTQ Community and other minority groups. One of the highlights of their work this past year was partnering with The Knowledge Centre at Six Nations Polytechnic in Branford to present a weekend of informative activities, "Listening to Indigenous Voices." Along with many from the congregation, a good number of people from the wider community attended this learning event in late March.

A large part of my Ministry of Pastoral Care involves visiting with people in their home, a long term care or retirement residence or in hospital and this gives me an opportunity to extend the love and care of this faith community to them. It is our way of assuring them that although it may be years since they were able to regularly attend church functions, they are in our thoughts and prayers. I discover that we are in theirs also, as they ask about the Rekindle Project and share stories of their former involvement in church activities. Mistletoe Mart, our yearly Christmas bazaar, often comes up in conversation!

One of the specific ways we show these people our care is through "Caring Connection," that takes place around Valentine's Day. Valentine cards created by the Adventure Crew, our children's ministry capably led by Sharon Holmes, together with cookies made by generous bakers are delivered to about sixty folks. We receive phone calls and mailed cards thanking the church for this visible sign of our and God's love.

Because we are a faith community that trusts in the loving Spirit of God to lead and accompany us, I believe that all of our ministries are opportunities for us to grow spiritually. I particularly appreciate our weekly Sunday worship and I'm glad that participation in it is part of my work. I value this sacred time when we connect with our Creator God and with one another and open our spirits so that we hear how God is calling us to learn and grow.

Our Reaching Out ministries demonstrate God's love and care in a wide variety of ways. When I'm able to, I enjoy being part of the PNUC group that goes on the first Friday of each month to help with Friday Night Community Dinner at Wellington Square United Church. On World Food Sunday, the third Sunday in October, I led the worship service in which we highlighted the work of our Food Voucher Program.

My heart-felt thanks goes to each and every person who contributes to and supports all of our ministries. As you read through the Annual Report of this congregation, I encourage you to do so through the lens of how this church is a sign of God's kingdom, a realm where there is love, peace and justice for all of God's creation.

In writing this report I returned to the book previously mentioned, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, and I close with inspiring wisdom from the author Daniel Migliore:

The end for which the world was created and redeemed is deep and lasting communion between God and creation, a commonwealth of justice, reconciliation, and freedom based on the grace of God. While flawed and always in need of reform and renewal, the church is nonetheless the real beginning of God's new and inclusive community of liberated creatures reconciled to God and to each other and called to God's service in the world.

May it be so!

Respectfully submitted

- Martha Reynolds

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

ANNUAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 24, 2019 - MINUTES

Call to Order (Brian Snell)

Brian Snell called the meeting to order. Brian began the meeting by acknowledging the lands and treaties – as it is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and the Anishnaabe first peoples, covered by the Fort Albany Treaty in 1701. With respect for their history, their spirituality and their culture, we give thanks for God’s gift of gathering in this space on this land.

There was then a short prayer to guide proceedings.

Enabling Items and Voting Privileges (Brian Snell)

It was moved by Richard Hensen that:

- Tiffany Harvey be appointed as recording secretary for the 2019 Annual Meeting of Port Nelson United Church.
- Voting privileges for the 2019 Annual Meeting of Port Nelson United Church be extended to adherents.
- Marilyn Parsons and Ken Posgate be appointed as parliamentarians, timekeepers and scrutineers for the 2019 Annual Meeting of Port Nelson United Church.
- Each person speaking to a motion be allowed two minutes to speak; that no person may speak twice to a motion until all people wishing to speak have had a first opportunity; and that the Mover and Seconder may speak at the beginning and at the end of the discussion of a motion.”

Seconded by: Ron Gardner

Hearing no opposition, the motion carried.

Approval of the Agenda (Brian Snell)

It was moved by Ann Fleming that the agenda for the 2019 Annual Meeting of Port Nelson United Church be approved as presented.

Seconded by: Lorraine McMaster

Hearing no opposition, the motion carried.

We Celebrate Past Ministry

Approval of the Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting (Brian Snell)

It was moved by Steven Halfpenny that the minutes of the Feb 11th, 2018 Annual Meeting of Port Nelson United Church be approved as written.

Seconded by: Rod McGrath

Hearing no opposition, the motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes of the May 9, 2018 Congregational Meeting (Brian Snell)

It was moved by Marilyn Parsons that the minutes of the May 9th, 2018 Congregational Meeting of Port Nelson United Church be approved as written.

Seconded by: Jill Jukes

Hearing no opposition, the motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes of the July 10, 2018 Congregational Meeting (Brian Snell)

It was moved by Brian Duncombe that the minutes of the July 10, 2018 Congregational Meeting of Port Nelson United Church be approved as written.

Seconded by: Beth Kuiper

Hearing no opposition, the motion carried.

Chair's Remarks (Brian Snell)

Brian began by noting it had been an interesting two years – and that there has been incredible progress made in the church in the past two years. Brian viewed the biggest accomplishment was the sense of community built. In the annual report, Brian spoke of leadership - and that leader is in all of us. The church is alive right now. Brian wanted to thank Rev. Michael Brooks, Marilyn Parsons for spending extra time as past chair as Alan Brown moved away, and Richard Hensen for his governance work. Finally, Brian thanked the congregation for its support and encouragement.

Approval of Actions by Council in 2018 (Brian Snell)

It was moved by Henk Kuiper that the actions of Port Nelson United Church Council for the year ended December 31st, 2018 be approved.

Seconded by: Jean Jewell

Hearing no opposition, the motion carried.

Report from the Trustees (Ron Gardner)

Ron noted the report in the handout, and pointed out the major accomplishments of the trustees this year. This includes the loan to the Rekindle project, continued management of solar energy project, and ensuring insurance was in place during construction.

Approval of the 2018 Written Annual Reports (Brian Snell)

It was moved by Larry Ridge that the written reports contained in the 2018 Annual Report Book of Port Nelson United Church be adopted as presented.

Seconded by: Ken Posgate

Hearing no opposition, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report (Steve Jones)

Steve Jones reviewed the financial statements. It was noted that offerings were down but that was to be expected due to ongoing Rekindle campaign gifts. Also, the budget was conservative and included positions under M&P that were not filled immediately, leading to a surplus. For those who would like to review the audited statements, they are available. There was one slight change from the auditors – the costs associated with Wifi were moved from operating to capital expenses.

It was moved by: Steve Jones that the Financial Statements of Port Nelson United Church for the year ended December 31st, 2018 be approved as presented.

Seconded by: Ron Gardner

Hearing no opposition, the motion carried.

Approval of Auditors for 2019 (Steve Jones)

It was moved by Rod McGrath that BLR LLP be appointed as auditors for Port Nelson United Church for the year ending December 31st, 2019.

Seconded by: Marty Wamsley

Hearing no opposition, the motion carried.

Report from the Rekindle Project Management Team (Stan Harvey, June Wright)

June noted a copy of the report was distributed. June reviewed the major objectives of the project – to be a green build, to have a high-quality working kitchen, to have multipurpose spaces and to be accessible to all. Work completed has been of good or great quality, and while on budget was slightly behind on timeline, although completed in 15 months from demolition to occupancy. It was apparent to the PMT that it takes a whole church to complete a project like this.

Stan noted the contract envelope increased but the project still came in on budget.

We Seek God's Guidance in Future Ministry

Presentation and discussion of revised Values (Marilyn Parsons)

Brian noted that in the bulletin over the past few months there were some recommendations from Council about updating values.

Marilyn noted the history of the values, and their development. At the time of the creation, it was felt that six may be too many and that four would be better, but it couldn't be decided which would be best to remove.

Marilyn noted that meaningful worship was a function not a value, and that it is incorporated in all values. It was felt that all values build community, and that it does not say Christian community, as Port Nelson United Church affirms all.

Marilyn then asked all members attending the AGM to turn to a neighbour and discuss the value statements.

There was a suggestion that caring should also include forgiveness, Marilyn will note that for the next iteration for this. Another member noted that the food voucher program was an example of building community. Also, reaching out ministry would like to create more community partnerships.

It was moved by Marilyn Parsons that the revised Values for Port Nelson United Church be adopted.

Seconded by: Dorothy Birkes

Hearing no opposition, the motion carried.

Report from the Endowment Fund Committee (MargaretJane Wallace)

MargaretJane noted that the report is in the package but wanted to point out the recommendations – the Rekindle project, new floor scrubbers, council development, Affirm United group's speaker event, Tecumseh Art Camp, Speaker series seed money and the Food Voucher program.

It was moved by MargaretJane Wallace that the recommendations of the Endowment Fund Committee of Port Nelson United Church, as approved by Council, be adopted.

Seconded by: Marty Wamsley

Hearing no opposition, the motion carried.

2019 Budget Presentation (Steve Jones)

Steve Jones noted that there are several funds that should be celebrated from 2018 including the Refugee sponsorship and the Food Bank. Also, there was \$125,000 in new pledges for the Rekindle campaign in 2018.

Steve noted a modest projected increase in offerings, and a larger increase in rental income due to the reopening of the facility. Also, the M&P submitted a conservative budget, but much will depend on staffing updates over the year. Steve pointed out that due to the reorganization of the United Church structure there is now an assessment due to the United Church of Canada of 4.5% of total there are revenues. However, as the national office is no longer funded out of the Mission and Services Fund, the M&S donation percentage has decreased, but more monies will go directly to Missions around the world.

It was moved by Steve Jones that the operating budget of Port Nelson United Church for the year ending December 31st, 2019 be approved as presented.

Seconded by: Rod McGrath

Hearing no opposition, the motion carried.

Nominating Report: (Marilyn Parsons)

Port Nelson United Church Council 2019

Chair:	Richard Hensen
Vice Chair:	Vacant
Past Chair:	Brian Snell
Secretary:	Tiffany Harvey
Treasurer:	Steve Jones
Trustees Representative:	Marty Wamsley
Minister:	Rev. Dr. Michael Brooks

Council Members

Finance Committee:	Rod McGrath
Ministry and Personnel:	Susan Posgate
Nominating Committee:	Brian Snell
Pastoral Care Ministry:	Susanne Zinkie
Property Management Ministry:	John Greven
Reaching Out Ministry:	Heather Stewart
Spiritual Growth Ministry:	Ann Fleming
Stewardship Ministry:	Pat Gilmore
Trustees:	Ron Gardner
Worship Ministry:	Hamilton Jukes
Members-at-large:	Ruth McQuarter Brian Duncombe
UCC Region 9 Reps:	Pat Gilmore Ann Fleming Marilyn Parsons

Members of the Youth Award Adjudication Committee 2019

Council: Ruth McQuirter
Congregation: Grant Sweeny
Ministry: Rev Dr. Michael Brooks

Members of the Endowment Fund Committee 2019

Chair: MargaretJane Wallace
Members: Bryan Clarke, Bill Carr

Other Positions

Safety Coordinator: Dan Emery
Roll Clerk: Bryan Clarke
PNUC Representative to the Roseland Community Association: Susan Posgate

Marilyn thanked those leaving for their faithful service. There is still a need for a Vice Chair. Marilyn noted that we are now in United Church Region 9 (Horseshoe Falls region). We are eligible for 4 representatives, although only 3 spots are currently filled.

If there is interest among the congregation for any of these vacant roles, they should speak to Brian Snell. There has not been much turnaround this year among ministry chairs and succession planning is always ongoing.

It was moved by Marilyn Parsons that the Nominating Committee Report and slate of Council Members of Port Nelson United Church for 2019 be approved as presented.

Seconded by: Brian Duncombe

Hearing no opposition, the motion carried.

Other Business

There was a question from the congregation about contemporary or alternative services. Brian noted that there was mention of alternative gatherings in the visioning plan, and our first step is a group looking at a speaker series. Also, there was a request about a screen in the sanctuary to improve the experience. Brian noted that Rekindle specifically did not deal with the sanctuary, and that there may be discussion about improvements to the sanctuary at a later time.

Brian then ‘handed the torch’ to Richard Hensen.

Richard then thanked Brian Snell for his service as the Chair of Council, and for his dedicated service, most recently heading up the ‘Grill Menu’ program.

Closing Prayer (Richard Hensen)

Richard then closed the meeting with a short prayer asking for continued guidance.

Close

It was moved by Ron Gardner that the 2019 Annual Meeting of Port Nelson United Church be closed.

No seconder required.

Hearing no opposition, the motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:03pm, February 24, 2019.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MINISTRY

Our mandate is to offer opportunities for all age groups within the congregation, beyond worship, to enhance their spiritual journey.

For Adults:

Offering morning discussion group time through the seasons of Lent and Advent brought a group of early risers, (we gathered from 7:30 to 9:00), at Cora's Restaurant for breakfast, discussion and to be in community. In preparation for the discussions the readings provided food for thought, insight, and questions to be noted and brought to the table for sharing.

Also through the year, fall and winter an evening study group was led by David Bagshaw using author Father Gregory Boyle's book *Tattoos of the Heart*. The book offered the story of working with street teens with compassion, understanding and acceptance that led to the young people finding ways to education, jobs and early adulthood.

Children & Family Ministry Report

Nursery/Toddlers

A special thank you goes out to the volunteers who carried on with the welcoming ministry of this service that offers care to infants and toddlers to age 4 enabling parents to attend worship on Sunday mornings. Kelly Rogers continues as our paid Nursery/Toddler coordinator position, for whom we are most grateful. At least one volunteer is also on duty to welcome the parents and children. Our nursery is equipped with a pager system that allows us to connect with parents if the need arises.

Adventure Crew

The Adventure Crew is our church school program that includes children SK – Grade 5. I am very fortunate to have wonderful volunteers who help in the classroom on Sunday mornings. We use various themes to explore the Bible and life as a Christian through stories, crafts, games and songs.

From January to June we went from Epiphany to Pentecost, learning about Baptism, Communion and Lent along the way. We started our year in September with the Blessing of the Backpacks, getting caught up with old friends and making new friends that joined our Crew.

Our Outreach this year included making Valentine's Day cards that were given to over 100 members of the congregation. In June, several of the Adventure Crew joined Team Port Nelson to participate in Wesley Urban Ministries Case for Kids Walk again. The team was ecstatic that our final tally raised was over \$4500.00. Adventure Crew and Pinnacle added to the Gift Service again this year by filling Christmas Stockings with toiletries for Wesley's Christmas store.

PA Days

This year Port Nelson hosted 3 fun PA Day camps. Games, crafts, music and fun snacks made for active, fun-filled days. I am always grateful to the wonderful team of volunteers that help make these days possible.

Friday Family Fun Nights

Our Friday Family Fun Nights have become a fun, monthly activity that has families of all shapes and sizes eating pizza, enjoying a movie and each other's company. Our October night found us wandering through a corn maze. Glad we all made it out!!

Thank you to all who have given their time and talents to help our children grow within our church community.

- Sharon Holmes

PINNACLE

Port Nelson United Church Young Leaders (PINNACLE) celebrated its **eighth anniversary** in November 2019. Over the last eight years, a safe place for youth and teens in grades 6-12 to meet, hang-out, worship and give back has grown in our church. It's always great to see our college and university students when they return home to visit their families. Our most recent post-secondary gathering was the annual PINNACLE Alumni Christmas Reunion, which took place at Kelsey's Restaurant with 20 young adults.

Whether they attend every Sunday or every occasional Sunday, or whether they attend a movie night or Halloween sleepover as guests of faithful members, all youth are welcome. We recognize that every young person is on an individual faith journey that we seek to nurture and support. Participants explore Christianity as it relates and makes sense to them, all the while building leadership skills to make positive change in their own lives and for others.

Highlights of our faith journey this past year include:

- Attending 'Worshiplude' in Ottawa in February
- Leading Palm Sunday service in April
- Participating in MCC TOOLS (Toronto Ontario Opportunity for Learning) service weekend in November
- Writing and delivering the December Gift Sunday service based on our experience of the homeless situation in Toronto
- Serving at the Wesley Centre's No-Charge Christmas Store

In May of this year, we confirmed 5 young people from our two-year Confirmation Program (Ben B., Sam F., Quinn T., Alyson W., Darby W.). In September, we welcomed a new group of first-year participants. We continue to use the interactive DVD and journal resource, "Animate Faith", as a curriculum for discussion groups for all confirmands. It continues to be an effective guide in helping the youth explore their decision to renew their baptismal vows.

It has certainly been an exciting year for Pinnacle as we have settled into our renovated space. Fun and friendship continue to abound and new traditions (like getting a hot chocolate and sampling the cookie trays before we head downstairs!) make Sundays a highlight of our week. We are blessed when we get to spend time with our church friends and family.

ADULT SMALL GROUPS

During the year in the seasons of Lent and Advent groups of 8 to 12 gathered from 7:30am to 9:00am at Cora's Restaurant to share over the breakfast meal their responses to the readings of the *Daily Devotions* booklets that were distributed through the United Church. Those gathered were nourished through the community built, the lively discussions and the breakfast meal.

Affirm Group

A group exploring ways to be more inclusive of the LGBTQ Community and other minority groups.

Caring Wisdom Circle

Meets weekly, Thursday 1:30 to 3:00. This is an open gathering of caring people sharing their life journey and learning from one another. We are guided by inspirational readings that challenge and support our spiritual growth. Drop in and receive a warm welcome, be inspired and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee in community.

Couples Mixed Bridge

Offers an enjoyable way to play your favourite game with another couple through the fall, winter and spring months.

Elaine's Vision

As part of Small Group Ministries, Elaine's Vision women's group is a well-established part of PNUC's ongoing offering to our congregation.

Over the decades, the scope of what we do hasn't changed much. Friendships are strengthened and members are always there to help in times of need. It's a social gathering with interesting topics presented. Occasionally outings are planned and usually one fun night of games and laughter also take place. The service activities are generally very quietly completed. Two potluck dinners are held to bring the year to a close in May of each year. Another dinner in September opens the new season.

The group meets the third Wednesday of the month, September through May, 7:00pm to 9:00pm, with two exceptions to the regularly scheduled meetings. We help decorate for Mistletoe Mart in November and host the Ladies Communion and Dessert in December, generally the second Wednesday of that month. This year we were able to host this very moving, seasonal gathering in the Roseland Room of our newly renovated building. Our group regularly gathers in the Family Room, unless otherwise announced. Please check with the office for upcoming dates.

Of course there have been other special events that the group has organized and although a special fund raiser isn't held every year, what is collected from dues is then given back to the church or given to outreach programs of the members' choosing. The last major event held was a Wedding Shower for Megan and Harry and the items gathered were distributed to the Women's Shelter in Burlington and Milton for their clients to start on their new journeys.

We hope to have another event during 2020 in which our family and friends will be asked to participate by way of ticket sales. No date or announcement can be made at this time of reporting.

You are most welcome to join or just visit an Elaine's Vision meeting. Contribute what you can to the membership. Historical dues of \$20.00 are paid each year towards our service activities, cards, flowers and small honorariums for our special guest speakers. We look forward to seeing our regular attendees and welcome new ones into the group.

- Leslie Harrison

Ladies' Bridge Group

A friendly, fun afternoon of bridge enjoyed no matter the level of expertise. We play six games between October and April. Each team hosts three games. Various locations.

Library

Newly located just past the offices on the parking lot entrance level. Drop in to browse for books to borrow! Open Sundays 1/2 hour before and after worship, 10:00am and 11:30am.

Men in Aprons

Are a group of men who love to cook and create with each other 'out of the ordinary' lunches for themselves and occasional guests. Gatherings are on the third Thursday of each month September to May. The group is asked from time to time to help out for church activities when food preparation is required.

Church Breakfast

On the first Saturday of each month October thru' May a full buffet style breakfast is prepared and served with a guest speaker following the meal. The breakfast is coordinated by Men in Aprons and we are now inviting women to attend if the guest speaker is of interest.

Prayer Group

A caring group that gathers at the church Thursdays at 9:30am to offer prayers for people who are experiencing health problems or personal crises. We are looking for new members to join us.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Is for those who crochet or knit. As the shawls are made, the group prays that those receiving them will feel the care, prayers and love of God aided by the loving hands that prepare them. Yarn may be provided, if needed. Prayer shawls are given to anyone who could use a warm hug. If you are aware of a need please contact us; arrangements can be made to deliver shawls. It is also hoped to provide shawls for children being baptised. A group gathers on the 4th Friday of each month to knit in community.

Seniors Lunch

On the first Wednesday of each month, September to May, at 12:00 noon, a catered, home-cooked style meal is provided and enjoyed, followed by a speaker on topics of interest to seniors. Everybody is welcome. Bring a friend.

Sunday Supper Group

Periodically on Sunday evenings, we will be cooking, eating and cleaning up after enjoying a nice Sunday Supper. Everybody is welcome, and encouraged to bring a friend.

Teleministry

Teleministry makes calls Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings. Over the year we attempt to be in contact with every family in the congregation.

Using a cell phone has proven to be effective and beneficial for the teleministers. Every call is supported in prayer faithfully by the prayer mates, who are scheduled every fifteen minutes while the calls are being made. If you are interested in either of these ministries please contact Sharon Ife or Nancy Leithead.

Helping Hands also comes under the Teleministry umbrella. A small meal is prepared and delivered to any member of the congregation experiencing a change, be it an illness, a hospital stay or the birth of a new baby. This year 10 members of the congregation have enjoyed this caring ministry. If this ministry appeals to you Ellen Snell would love to hear from you.

- Sharon Ife, Director of Teleministry

Helping Hands

When a teleminister call suggests that a meal might be helpful for a member of our church family a Helping Hands volunteer will prepare and deliver it, or, if you know of such a need, please make it known.

Travel Crafts

For those who wish to make crafts with people living with disabilities. We meet every other Monday at 1:30pm

If you are interested in joining any of the small groups there is a brochure available in the Gathering Place outside the sanctuary doors.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

AFFIRM UNITED

This has been a very active year for the Affirm Group. Our activities are guided by an Affirming statement that respects many forms of diversity. We placed an emphasis on Indigenous perspectives, but also addressed LGBTQ issues, the environment, and income disparity. Below are some highlights:

Signage:

We worked with the Rekindle Committee to create new signage that promotes our Affirming message. We have hung rainbow banners on exterior windows readily seen from the street, plaques with our Affirming statement and Recognition of Treaties and Territories at each entrance, and washroom signage that includes a Washroom for Everyone on two floors.

Indigenous Voices:

On March 29-30, 2019, we partnered with The Knowledge Centre at Six Nations Polytechnic in Brantford to present "Listening to Indigenous Voices." In the weeks leading up to the event, a member of our group well-versed in Indigenous literature led book talks and discussions prior to church. Over 70 people enjoyed viewing the movie "Indian Horse," attending informative and deeply moving workshops, and eating authentic Indigenous food.

This fall we launched a fundraising campaign to assist Six Nations students studying Mohawk or Cayuga at Six Nations Polytechnic. We have raised over \$3,000, and hope to secure further funds as well.

LGBTQ

In May, 2019 we hosted an evening with Rick Prashaw, co-author of *Soar, Adam, Soar*, the story of his transgender child Adam, who died in his early twenties from an accident related to epilepsy. Adam was an organ donor, and the Burlington resident who received Adam's heart also spoke at the event.

Environment

Our Indigenous weekend highlighted the fundamental connection between Indigenous culture and the environment. As a committee we are investigating various ways in which we can work with environmental groups. For example, on November 21 we hosted, along with the Port Nelson Energy Co-op, a presentation by two community members on Climate Reality.

Income Disparity

We worked with Council to develop procedures for non-fundraising events that will invite people to pay what they can while also suggesting a contribution amount. We want everyone to be able to enjoy fellowship at Port Nelson.

We launched our first Winter Clothing Drive in cooperation with a number of church and community partners. We were thrilled to collect over four days 150 coats and pants, 200 hats, mitts, scarves, socks, 84 blankets and items of children's clothing, 47 items of adult clothing, and 29 pairs of boots. We will begin the drive even earlier next year.

*Our active committee is always ready to welcome new members.
Contact Ruth McQuirter at 905-977-7818.*

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

YOUTH AWARD COMMITTEE

The Port Nelson United Church Youth Award was established in September 2012 by the Church Council to recognize and celebrate the leadership of young people in the area of being inclusive, particularly pertaining to the needs and concerns of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer (LGBTQ) people. The church's lead minister, the Rev. Michael Brooks and his partner, Mr. Jay Poitras, an educator, sought to establish a public and tangible way to celebrate the church's emerging core values, and to mark the occasion of their wedding on November 3rd, 2012.

The award consists of an annual one-time \$1,000 grant to a qualified young person in our community. Once again, as has been the case every year since the award's inception, the 2019 field of applicants was plentiful and well qualified. This would seem to confirm the ongoing value of the award and its goals. The committee consisting of Grant Sweeny, Ruth McQuirter and Michael Brooks reviewed all applications and decided that the successful recipient for 2019 would be **Jessica Leishman**, a grade 12 student at Aldershot High School in Burlington.

The Youth Award was presented to Jessica during worship on Sunday, June 2nd. Jessica addressed the congregation and subsequently joined with the Port Nelson Pinnacle youth for discussion.

The Youth Award is open to any graduating high school student in Halton Region who has contributed to a more inclusive and affirming environment in school and/or community. If you know of young people who would be good candidates for the award, encourage them to apply. The deadline for applications is May 1st each year, and application information is available on the church website.

- *Michael Brooks*



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

WORSHIP MINISTRY

On behalf of the Worship Committee, Michael, Martha, Stillman and Candy I would like to thank the congregation for your support and participation in our worship services this past year. Your feedback is appreciated.

We have found the theming of a group of services enhances the message which has had a great reception from the congregation. To that extent we initiated a Focus Group in November whose task was to suggest other themes we might explore. The results (recommendations) were outstanding and we will be including some of these in future services.

The Bell Choirs, under Stillman's wonderful leadership, have grown to three with more potential members waiting in the wings. They have been universally supported by all and add so much to the services when they perform. Our music program continues to grow providing us with outstanding choral and instrumental arrangements.

Communion services, twelve times a year, have seen a noticeable increase of participants who would like to serve. It is very encouraging when you recruit servers and are met with enthusiasm from all who are called. For that, I thank you.

Children and Youth programs, led by Sharon, Jay and Kelly, are an integral part of our service offering. When they join a regular service such as at Christmas and Easter, we are proud of the message they deliver.

On my behalf, I would like to thank Michael for his overall leadership, the members of the Committee for their dedication and Rick for his quiet effort.

It has been a very good year and I look forward to serving you in 2020!

- Hamilton Jukes, Chair, Worship Committee

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

2019 was a year of successes for those of us in the Music Department: The handbell program grew so that we now have two three-octave and one two-octave ensembles, the choir continued to skillfully lead the singing every Sunday, and we were blessed with a variety of guest instrumentalists who joined us on several occasions.

We were sorry to have to say goodbye to Choral Scholars Jamie Thomblison and Olivia Morton but were happy to welcome Nathania de Haan as our Scholar for this year. I wish to thank all who support the choral scholarship program, and I hope that it will continue to be the great success that it has been so far.

Along with their Sunday appearances, the choir presented two special performances in 2019, a concert in May and the Festival of Lessons and Carols in December. The spring concert was a performance celebrating the completion of the Rekindle Project and to remember the life of our friend and colleague Don Gillies, whose family generously supported the concert. We usually have one or two special guests on the program, but this year we had about 30, members of the Hamilton Children's Choir under the direction of Zimfira Poloz.

Once again the number of people in the congregation at the Festival of Lessons and Carols increased, and I am glad that this special service is appreciated by members of Port Nelson and the wider community as well.

Special solo performances in our services were provided this year by Jacki Kingston, William Peltier, Claire Sweeny, Jamie Thomblison, Elaine Whiskin, Tina Depko, Olivia Morton, Katelyn Emery, Doug Robson, Alix Kingston, Diana Emery, Tian Li, Don Hall, Christopher Gaudreault and Jim Thomas. Also, accompaniments for anthems were provided by choir members Fae Falls, Diana Emery, Carol Ann Thomson and Brian Snell. I am grateful to all of these musicians for their sharing of their talents and their generosity.

My sincere thanks to all the singers, ringers and instrumentalists for all they add to our services, and to a great staff and a most supportive congregation.

- Stillman Matheson, Director of Music

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

REACHING OUT MINISTRY

Seeds of Life Growing Project

To Seeds of Life Donors and Friends,

Our harvest at Seeds of Life was completed on November 26 at our farm at Alberton (near Ancaster), ending a growing season that had many weather related problems. We ended up with a decent average yield, harvesting 309 tonnes of corn. The crop was sold and the proceeds sent, together with your donations, to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. After expenses, Port Nelson's share of this was \$18,471. When matched up to 4 to 1 for projects approved by the Government of Canada, this could turn into over \$90,000 to fund the relief and development programs of Foodgrains Bank members. Thanks to all of you at Port Nelson for your generous support!

We also want to thank our farming partners, Miller Farms, for getting the work done that makes our project a success. Several local suppliers also donated seed, fertilizer, and crop protection products to help out with our crop expenses.

Our 2020 crop at the farm will be soybeans. In the early spring we will be in touch with our plans and donation details for the new growing season.

It has been an honour to work with our friends and donors at Port Nelson, as we work together to help people overseas who do not have the resources to feed themselves. **Truly a Christian response to hunger!** Please visit our website www.seeds-of-life.ca for financial statements and more information.

- Scott Brooks, Project Manager



Food Voucher Program

The need is great in our community and it is startling the number of people who make their way to us Thursday mornings every other month for a \$25 food voucher. Last year we distributed well over 1,280 vouchers to people of all ages, each with a unique story of challenge, disability, ill health, loss, and more.

Often over coffee and a snack, our team provides friendship, encouragement, information about community resources and just a chance to talk. Many of you have generously donated hats, scarves, gloves, socks, toothbrushes, etc. that have been gratefully received by our clients.

It is thanks to the generous contributions of our church members that we can reach out to at least some of our community neighbours who are in need. Your support of the gift card program continues to add to our revenue.

- Heather Stewart

Port Nelson Serves on Friday Nights

In 2014, Port Nelson United Church began volunteering every month at the Friday Night Community Dinner at Wellington Square United Church.

The origins of the dinner began in part with our own “Men in Aprons”. Ten years ago, we served dinner to 30 guests. Today, the community dinner hosts 250 - 300 guests every week. Just prior to last Christmas, we hosted a beautiful celebration with 400 guests.

Each week a different Church, Service group or Sports Team is responsible for the community dinner. For over five years now, the Port Nelson congregation has taken on the duty of handling the dinner on the first Friday of every month. There are 3 shifts to be covered: preparation, serving and clean-up at 4:00, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Everyone is encouraged to take a break and have a meal in the dining room to chat with the guests. The food is delicious! “Not a soup kitchen”, guests have been heard to say. Children’s activities are available throughout the entire evening.

There is a free will offering box that helps with the cost of the meal.

New in the last year is “the Hub”. It is a drop in area open at 1 pm on Friday afternoon. There are snacks, magazines, games or just a place to rest and feel safe.

- Nancy McKenzie, Coordinator



Port Nelson Refugee Sponsorship Group

Hamza Raslan received his Grade 12 Graduation Diploma in June from Gary Allen High School. Hamza was also a recipient of the Re-Engagement and Resiliency Award.

He is continuing to work full time for a local plumbing company learning tiling, plumbing and bathroom re-design. Hamza is pursuing his Canadian Citizenship and he would also like to receive formal post-secondary education or training.

The Refugee Group is continuing to work hard to try to find a way to sponsor Hamza's mother and two sisters to Canada. The family was able to travel to Jordan via a Visitor's Visa to visit one of Hamza's sisters and her family. Unfortunately, the Jordanian government took away their passports on entry to the country and forced them to return to Syria once their visa expired. We haven't given up hope in our efforts to reunite Hamza with his family and are continuing to work on all possible means to help them come to Canada.

The Refugee Group continues to offer some advice and support to the Rasho family. Sham received her Grade 12 Graduation Diploma in June from Central High School. In September she enrolled at Mohawk College. Sham is enjoying her college experience but finds the work challenging. Falak had cataracts removed in both eyes. Eiman is the caregiver for Falak and Lamar. The Refugee Group added \$200.00 to Lamar's RESP for her birthday in May.

The Refugee Sponsorship Group values and appreciates the continuing support from the congregation.

*- Mat Ardron, Mary Carey
Co-Chairs, Port Nelson Refugee Sponsorship Group*

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Ministry & Personnel Committee acts under the guidelines of the Manual of the United Church of Canada (2019). We perform the human resource role of the church, functioning in three areas, which are the consultative and supportive role, the healthy relationships role and the supervisory role. We provide resources and support for the staff and the congregation with respect to any issue affecting staff of our church, including ministry personnel and lay employees. The committee works to build positive and trusting relationships between staff and members and adherents of the congregation. If members of the congregation have praise or concerns about staff, either ministry personnel or lay employees, these can be shared in signed correspondence with the committee. The issues will be considered confidentially by the M&P Committee, who will recommend any action deemed necessary. The current M&P committee members are: Susan Posgate (chair), Leslie Mercer, Jill Jukes, Marty Wamsley, Bill Willson and John Durfey.

Our dedicated staff team is guided by the Mission Statement of Port Nelson United Church- *To reach out to one another and our world as we grow spiritually in a caring, inclusive, Christian community enriched by meaningful worship.* The Rev. Dr. Michael Brooks and the Rev. Martha Reynolds lead the congregation in all aspects of worship, pastoral care, stewardship and reaching out to our wider community. Each minister performs duties according to their respective position descriptions. Michael oversees the staff team in all administrative areas. Martha, our Pastoral Care Minister, visits those in the church community, while in hospital or at home, providing guidance and support.

Sharon Holmes is our Developer of Children's Ministry. We are thrilled to listen to the children who grace us with wonderful choral music and the very special bell chorus. Sharon continues to present PD Day programs and Friday Family Fun Nights during the year, for children from the church and community. Jay Poitras is our Developer of Youth Ministry. It is a pleasure to watch the youth of our church involved in so many areas of service - participating in worship, helping out with Friday night community dinners at Wellington Square United Church, setting up and assisting in many aspects of Mistletoe Mart, and working at the Wesley Urban Ministries Christmas store. Kelly Rogers is our Coordinator of Nursery Ministry. She cares for the babies and toddlers in a bright new space.

Stillman Matheson is our music director. Stillman's expertise at the organ and piano enhances worship services and concert evenings with special joy. Stillman and our choir members continue to support a student, who under the provision of a musical scholarship joins our choir for Sunday morning worship each week. The addition of three bell choirs continues delight the congregation at many services during the year.

Rick Tucker, our Custodian continues to give us excellent service especially with the daily challenges dealing with the newly renovated church space. Rick ensures our summer students are trained in Health and Safety regulations prior to beginning employment. Jack Heeney assisted Rick during the summer months with many jobs arising as the renovation was completed.

In the spring, we wished Rebecca Murphy well as she left her role as Church Administrator. After some weeks of excellent temporary assistance in the office, we welcomed Jennifer Bath into this busy portfolio. Jennifer handles the needs of staff and the busy congregation with a smile.

Similarly, we wished Susan Reed well as she left the bookkeeping role. Danielle MacDougall was welcomed and is instrumental in helping our treasurer Steve Jones keep our financial records well organized.

The summer Glee camps were busy, noisy and fun-filled weeks. Claire Sweeny, Camp Director was supported by Grant Sweeny as Assistant Camp Director and Jocelyn Birkes as Program Director. Together our Glee Team delivered three exciting weeks of camp to maximum numbers of children from the church and the community. What joy to be back in our beautiful new spaces at Port Nelson after two years in other locations!

After David Hebb completed his duties in the Security/Lock up position, this position was not filled formally until construction was completed. We are thankful to Jocelyn Birkes who managed the duties during the summer months. Tina Depko assumed the role of Security/Lock up when Jocelyn returned to school.

Tina Depko and Riley Denver jointly serve as Communication Coordinator. The Communication Coordinator boosts the profile of Port Nelson in the community with Facebook and Twitter feeds. The weekly Port Nelson newsletter is ably produced and shared in a timely fashion.

Alex Hutchinson is our Audio-Visual technician. Alex mans the sound board on Sunday mornings, training volunteers to assist in providing consistency in sound to the congregation. Alex links the church services with YouTube, allowing those unable to attend services to listen and watch in real time. Alex offers expert advice to many who require audio-visual assistance during events and presentations.

It is not only a responsibility but also a privilege of the congregation to encourage and support the continuing education of our staff. Many staff members explored educational opportunities throughout last year, enhancing their day to day working lives and those with whom they minister.

On behalf of the congregation, and the Ministry and Personnel Committee, I extend to all staff our sincere gratitude for all that you do in ministering to each of us. Particular thanks this year to each staff member during the return to our renovated spaces. Your willingness and ability to handle the unknown and the unforeseen is very much appreciated.

- Susan Posgate, Chair

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

STAFF TEAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES ADDENDUM TO MINISTRY & PERSONNEL REPORT REV. DR. MICHAEL BROOKS

Each year the Staff Team formulates shared goals to guide our common work and ministry.

For the program year 2019-2020, the Staff Team has developed the following goals in a collaborative way. We look forward to working on them together for the benefit of the church family and to the glory of God:

Goal 1:

- **Ensure lines of communication continue to remain open**

Goal 2:

- **Share in a continuing development experience as a team using a chosen resource (book, video series)**

Goal 3:

- **Have fun by gathering the entire staff and partners twice in the program year for social events**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

*God is creative and self-giving,
generously moving
in all the distant corners of the universe.
Nothing exists that does not find its source in God.
Our first response to God's providence is gratitude.
We sing thanksgiving.
-from A Song of Faith*

The Stewardship Ministry of Port Nelson United Church is most fortunate. People share freely out of their abundance. They share not only financially but also share their time and their talents. So often during our renovations, people shared their skills for the many tasks that were needed, and invested much of their time as well.

Over the years it has been the practice to have a yearly stewardship "Campaign." Due to the needs of Rekindle we had very low-key financial asks for the past couple of years. This fall our Stewardship Ministry decided that we would have a Stewardship Programme once again. A theme was picked - **Hearts Aglow in 2020**. It was determined that we needed to increase our collective givings by \$100,000 this year in order to fund new programs and new expenses that have been incurred with our new facility. We also know that there are plans for other projects which will require funding.

In the fall we held an event for the lead givers in the congregation. We brought them up to date on our new campaign and financial situation. Two of our committee members gave personal testimonies.

In January, an invitation to lunch was sent out to the congregation to come and learn about the Hearts Aglow 2020 Campaign and our needs, whilst celebrating all of the abundance which we have. Our treasurer, Steve Jones, guided us with the facts and figures. Everyone was given a package of information and pledge card. Those unable to attend were mailed a package.

To help launch our Hearts Aglow 2020 campaign, we were very fortunate to have Alex Hutchinson, our AV coordinator, and Riley Denver, Communication Coordinator, produce some professional videos for promotional use, which can be viewed on YouTube and the church website.

I would like to thank our minister, Rev. Michael Brooks, who worked with our committee of Steve Jones, Hal Rosser and Brian Duncombe. Michael encouraged us, kept us on track and provided many good ideas. As we start this New Year, we are encouraged by the leading of the Holy Spirit in new ways of being church in our community. We are so blessed.

Faithfully,

- Pat Gilmore, Chair of Stewardship Ministry

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT MINISTRY

2019 was a transitional year for the Property Management Ministry in so many ways, as we transitioned into our new space, welcomed new team members and transitioned to a new model with an events committee. We have been blessed by the continued support from the Rekindle Project Management Team, as a few final items were closed out.

We have also now transitioned into live streaming our services and friends can watch services and special events live or at their convenience from anywhere, and remain connected to our church family.

We closed out the year with a volunteer sponsored project, installing acoustic tiles within the Roseland Room, thus saving thousands of dollars of installation costs. Thank you to John Zinkie and Stan Harvey for their planning and leadership. Initial response has been tremendous on the improved sound within the room.

A sincere thank you to all who have played a role in this past year:

- In setting up our space for both church sponsored events and external rentals
- In broadening our reach and raising our profile on line
- In resolving remaining issues as we learn and grow in our new space
- And to John Greven and John Zinkie for their leadership this year.

We look forward to 2020 as we expand on our gains.

- Kim McGrath, Chair of Property

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

MISTLETOE MART THANK YOU

For the previous two years we dealt with yellow tape across dangerous zones, no access to areas, limited washrooms, and hiking across the street to the Roseland Club for jewelry, the dining room and more artisans.

Those years were not easy! But the team did it because they are one of the most flexible committees ever and they embraced the challenge with gusto.

Then we had Mistletoe Mart 2019 on November 9th - a new day, in a new space.

I have to say it was worth the wait!!! Hallelujah.

All were welcomed in our new accessible, open space; the elevator was pinging all day long, artisans had easy access to their sites, guests could move easily between floors, there was space for all the furniture to be stored, and washrooms for everyone. The architects did a great job, thinking of how we would use our church for this event and for many others.

What a crowd. We had over 400 more people attend this year than the last. I believe the big windows, the visibility, the new building, the past experience of the artisans at our event, the signage and publicity plus the social media attention all encouraged more to attend.

Thank you to a wonderful committee. As I mentioned they are flexible. But did I mention they are talented, dedicated, tireless, fun, thoughtful and committed to each other's success? Well, they are.

The committee members are:

- Beth Kuiper- Knitting
- Janet Hayes and Laurel Grace - jewelry
- Judy Totten -sewing
- Nancy McGrath, Pat Gilmore - dining room restaurant
- Nancy McKenzie with Sharon Holmes - children's craft table
- Susan Redgrave-bake table
- Karen O'Halloran-artisans
- Lisa Gibson -external publicity
- Kim McGrath-treasurer
- Nikki Brooks-collectibles
- MargaretJane Wallace-logistics
- Leslie Harrison -silent auction
- Jean Redgrave -internal PR and Publicity, signage and my lieutenant whose guidance has helped me in so many ways over the past 5 years.

We are sad to say goodbye to Leslie Harrison and Beth Kuiper who have chosen to take some well-earned rest from the Mistletoe Mart Committee. Both brought new energy and much success to their respective areas of Silent auction and Knitting. We are so grateful to the time and contributions they have made and we will miss them.

Our staff at Port Nelson has been supportive and flexible over the past few years during the renovation and before that upheaval and that attribute has carried on into 2019. Thank you to the amazing staff for the unconditional support and encouragement we have received.

We netted revenue of approximately \$30,000! With that, plus reserves we were able to write a cheque to Port Nelson for \$32,000!

What makes it all possible? You, the members of our congregation! Thank you all so much for contributions of time, talents, sandwiches, cookies, shifts, decorating with Christmas cheer, heaving couches and chairs, parking cars, serving, clearing, moping, directing and on and on. There are so many jobs that need to be done and no one job is more important than another. All of these jobs roll into one big successful event.

Respectfully submitted

- June Wright, Chair, Mistletoe Mart 2019

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

PORT NELSON MEMBERSHIP ROLL – DECEMBER 31, 2019

RESIDENT MEMBERS - JANUARY 1, 2019 **677**

Removed from roll during 2019:

a) By transfer	2
b) By death	10
c) By request	0

Status change to non-resident: 0

Total 12

Received during 2019:

a) By Profession of Faith	7
b) By transfer	3
c) By Council	0

Total 10

RESIDENT MEMBERS – DECEMBER 31, 2019 **675**

NON-RESIDENT JAN. 1, 2019 **7**

Removed by death, Council 0

Added 0

NON-RESIDENT DEC. 31, 2019 **7**

WEDDINGS – 6 BAPTISMS – 6 FUNERALS – 17
(As recorded in church registers)

- Bryan Clarke, Roll Clerk



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

IN MEMORIAM

Anne-Marie Brune

Greg Costa

Maisie Davidson

Don Green

Douglas Harper

Louise Hebb

Donna Hicks

Jack Holden

Sandra Johnson

Leona Monachello

Craig Morley

Dorothy Murphy

Elizabeth Napier

Martha Pieters

Lee Anne Pollington

Robert Rooks

Gloria Scott

Anne Taylor

Hal Taylor

Diane Whiskin

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The following individuals are members of The Port Nelson United Church Board of Trustees:

Ron Gardner – Chair
Pat Gilmore
Steve Halfpenny

Rev. Michael Brooks – Staff Representative
Marty Wamsley – Secretary Treasurer *
Rob Warman

- Marty Wamsley has acted as the Board of Trustees representative on the Church Council.
- With the proposed new Board Structure, going forward, The Trustees will not be represented on the Board.

Changes in Trustee Membership

Over the past year Rick Burgess, after providing great service and legal counsel to the Board of Trustees during his tenure as a Trustee, retired from his legal practice and as part of his desire to retire, submitted his resignation as a Trustee.

Rick will be focusing on his family and making the most of retirement. We wish Rick well and thank him for his invaluable service.

We are pleased to announce that Tod Wright, subject to congregation confirmation at the AGM, has agreed to serve as a Trustee.

Tod will bring a wealth of financial management expertise to the Trustees. Tod has been a long serving, dedicated member of Port Nelson United who has performed a number of leadership and support roles within the Church.

2019 Highlights

The past year saw the completion of the Rekindle project. The only on-going involvement the Trustees now have with Rekindle is the management of the \$125,000 loan with interest the Trustees were directed by Council to advance to Rekindle from the Endowment Fund to assist with the completion of the project.

Upon completion of the construction phase of the Rekindle project, this past May, the Trustees commissioned a new appraisal of the Church building and assets for insurance purposes. A new benchmark valuation has been created and the insurance coverage has been adjusted to reflect the increased value of the Church property and assets.

PNUC Renewable Energy Cooperative Inc. Loan Status

In 2014, The Trustees loaned PNUC Renewable Energy Inc. \$320,000 for the solar panel renewable energy project.

Over the past five years the Renewable Energy Cooperative has paid the Endowment Fund \$77,500 in loan principle and a further \$78,400 in interest. The interest has been provided to the Endowment Committee to make available for many worthwhile projects within our Church and the broader community in which we serve.

This project has truly been a win-win as it has benefited the environment and has enabled the Trustees to generate considerable interest for the Endowment Fund.

Please see the Secretary Treasurer's report that provides highlights of the various funds the Trustees have under management as well as a list of projects, as selected by the Endowment Committee, that have been funded from the interest earned by the Endowment Fund. There is also a detailed summary of the other funds managed by the Trustees.

Looking Ahead

Now that the Rekindle project has been completed, over the next year, the Trustees will be informing members of the Church family about the benefits associated with Legacy Giving.

Look for additional information about Legacy Giving during the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

- Ron Gardner, Chair

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

ENDOWMENT FUND

The annual income from this fund is allocated to local, national or international projects. These projects are approved by the congregation based upon the recommendations of the Endowment Committee and the Church Council.

ENDOWMENT FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENT - 2019

Receipts		Disbursements	
Donations	\$ 0.00	Port Nelson United Church - Council Retreat	\$ 1,500.00
Interest Earned	<u>\$ 17,290.98</u>	Port Nelson United Church - Rekindle Project – Debt Reduction	\$ 5,000.00
		Port Nelson United Church – Affirm Group	\$ 1,700.00
		Port Nelson United Church – Speaker Series	\$ 2,000.00
		Port Nelson United Church – Food Voucher Program	\$ 2,650.00
		Port Nelson United Church – Property Ministry – Floor Scrubber	\$ 4,950.00
		Tecumseh Public School – Art Camp	\$ 1,000.00
		Bank Charges	<u>\$ 115.70</u>
Total	<u>\$ 17,290.98</u>	Total	<u>\$18,915.70</u>

Note: The disbursements were funded using the interest earned in 2018 in the amount of \$15,858.72 plus \$3000.00 from 2017 interest originally designated for the Hand Bell Choir but subsequently returned by Stillman Matheson as he had received a grant from the United Church of Canada for the Hand Bell Choir.

Balance, January 1, 2019	\$435,711.94
Excess of disbursements over receipts	<u>(\$ 1,624.72)</u>
Balance, December 31, 2019	<u>\$434,087.22</u>

Please note: the disbursements listed above were approved at the Congregational Meeting of February 2019.

The Endowment Fund Committee has the interest earned from 2019 available for worthwhile projects in the year 2020. We trust, that in time, the interest generated by the Endowment Fund will do much to meet the increasing opportunities facing Port Nelson's congregation. The Committee requests you consider the Endowment Fund when doing your estate planning.

Up to December 31, 2019, the capital fund received monies in memory of the following people as a donation to the Fund:

Rev J.E. & Mrs. Ina Anderson	Keith Holder	Robert Newton
Ethel Adams	Ruby Horn	Robert Oikawa
Virginia Binko	Lionel Horncastle	Dennis Parker
Isobel Brocklehurst	Elsie Hummel	Ross Parker
Don Brown	Jean Isbister	Rev. Dr. Jewitt Parr
Lloyd Brown	Mildred Jehu	Frances Parsons
Evelyn Bryce	Edith Johnson	William Parsons
Ian & Marion Butzer	Melvin Johnson	Vera Posgate
Kay Campbell	Rev Bev Johnston	Kitty & Jack Ramsay
E. Carmichael	Shirley Johnston	Raymond and Muriel Rawson
Reta Carmichael	Fay Key	Gordon Redgrave
Dorothy Carson	James Keys	May Richardson
Earl B. Carson	Harry Kiefhaber	C. Gordon Robinson
Winnifred Clark	Bea Koleff	Wilf Scholfield
Elizabeth Cole	Lyla Kyer	Ada Scoates
Charlotte Cook	Vera Lennie	Rev Don Scoates
Donald F. Coons	Earl & Janet Lindley	Susan Scrimgeour
John Covert	Ken & Lorna Lloyd	Dan Seagrove
Willa Davidson	David Lofft	Marjorie Shakespeare
Phil & Ruth Davies	Jill Loosley	Stanley Sheldon
Phil Davies	William Loosley	Elinor Shepherd
Nesbitt Dobson	Alice Lugg	H.Lawrence Shepherd
Mary Margaret Edwards	Gladys & Douglas Lyons	Gertrude Smith
Vern Enson	Olive Macaulay	Ted Sopinka
Helen Eishoff	Rachel Anne MacCara	Margaret Stewart
Roy Evans	Helen MacLeod	Joan Marilyn Sutton
Ethel Fanshaw	Dorothy McCaughan	Harold & Frances Tovee
Jane Fisher	Jean McCurdy	Eleanor Vincent
Janet Fraser	Beattie McDonald	Glen Vincent
Gordon Fullerton	Helen McDonald	Kathleen Walden
Gord Gilmore	Thomas McLarty	Alexander (Sandy) Wallace
W.J.C. & Marian Gooch	Bruce McMulkin	Balfour Waugh
Mike Gresko	John McMulkin	Evelyn Webber
Alice Halfpenny	Jean Millar	Lloyd & Donald Webber
Dick Hall	Richard Millar	Beth Weller
Harold Hall	Carolyn Milroy	Reta Werner
Bill Herbison	Cliff Nelson	William (Bill) Whiskin
John Hinckley	Alex Nethery	Basil Williams
Kitchener Hodgins	William (Bill) Newport	

MargaretJane Wallace, Chair, Endowment Fund

PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE ENDOWMENT FUND – 2010 to 2019

2019

Port Nelson United Church - Council Retreat	\$ 1,500.00
Port Nelson United Church - Rekindle Project – Debt Reduction	\$ 5,000.00
Port Nelson United Church - Affirm Group	\$ 1,700.00
Port Nelson United Church - Speaker Series	\$ 2,000.00
Port Nelson United Church - Food Voucher Program	\$ 2,650.00
Port Nelson United Church - Property Ministry – Floor Scrubber	\$ 4,950.00
Tecumseh Public School – Art Camp	\$ 1,000.00

2018

Port Nelson United Church -Property Management – Snow blower	\$1,300.00
Port Nelson United Church - Rekindle Project – Debt Reduction	\$5,000.00
Nelson Youth Centre	\$4,500.00
Crash Rhythm	\$1,500.00

2017

Port Nelson United Church -Food Voucher Program	\$5,000.00
Port Nelson United Church - Rekindle Project – Debt Reduction	\$5,000.00
Ryerson Public School - Presentation System	\$2,000.00
Crash Rhythm	\$1,500.00
North BurLINKton Community Group- 55+ Programming	\$2,500.00

2016

Port Nelson United Church - Pinnacle Group – Christmas Parade Float	\$ 500.00
Port Nelson United Church - Rekindle Project – Debt Reduction	\$5,000.00

Port Nelson United Church - Refugee Group	\$5,000.00
Port Nelson United Church - Food Voucher Program	\$3,000.00
Port Nelson United Church - Council for Rev. Dr. John Pentland Visit	\$1,500.00
Tom Thomson Public School - iPads for Literacy Program	\$2,000.00

2015

Port Nelson United Church - Assistance Fund	\$2,000.00
Port Nelson United Church -Property – Vacuum & Air cleaner	\$ 820.00
Port Nelson United Church -Worship – Assistive hearing devices	\$3,800.00
Port Nelson United Church - Food voucher program	\$3,000.00
Joseph Brant Hospital Foundation - Evacuateds	\$1,700.00

2014

Port Nelson United Church - Reaching Out Ministry	\$ 500.00
Port Nelson United Church – Glee Camp	\$3,000.00
Nelson Youth Centres	\$3,500.00

2013

Port Nelson United Church – Carpet Cleaner	\$2,650.00
PNUC Renewable Energy Cooperative Inc.	\$3,900.00
Port Nelson United Church Trustees – Legacy Giving	\$ 400.00
Nelson Youth Centres	\$2,500.00

2012

Port Nelson United Church – Food Vouchers	\$4,500.00
Port Nelson United Church – Folding Chair Dollies	\$1,100.00
Port Nelson United Church – Renovation Investigation	\$5,000.00

2011

McMaster Campus Ministries Council	\$2,000.00
Developing World Connections – Adaptive Eye Care	\$ 300.00
Nelson Youth Centres	\$3,000.00
North South Partnership for Children	\$2,000.00

2010

Port Nelson United Church – Landscaping Equipment	\$1,300.00
Port Nelson United Church – Governance Facilitator	\$4,000.00
Port Nelson United Church – Engineering Assessment	\$6,000.00
Developing World Connections – Adaptive Eye Care	\$ 700.00

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

THE PAUL DAWSON FUND

Paul Dawson was a member of Port Nelson United Church for 24 years at the time of his death in 1999. He was an active participant in all church activities, serving as an Elder for most of those years and working on various committees as needed. He exhibited a keen interest in the world around him. Paul believed that education, at each juncture along the continuum of life, to be an essential part of living.

After Paul's death, Susan Posgate (Dawson) proposed and funded the creation of an educational fund that would be used by Ministerial staff for the purposes of their continuing education. The monies provided by this fund are intended to enhance, but not replace existing Continuing Education funding which is included in the regular employment packages. Thus the Paul Dawson Fund came to be. Administered by the Trustees, the principal of the fund is invested and the yearly income from the fund is divided amongst the ministerial staff in support of their continuing education events/programs/opportunities. Proposals for the fund monies are prepared by the ministerial team and presented to the Ministry and Personnel Committee for ratification.

The Paul Dawson Fund continues to gratefully accept donations. The fund is instrumental in allowing the staff to nurture their faith by continuing to learn and grow in areas apart from their daily employment. Donations should be made out to Port Nelson United Church and designated to "The Paul Dawson Fund".

The fund currently has assets of \$52,250.00 with interest of approximately \$1,015 expected to be available for use in 2020.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

PILKEY FUND

Interest from the Pilkey Fund is used exclusively for local Outreach Projects. The Reaching Out Ministry recommends the projects to the Trustees for ratification.

As at year end, the total bequest of \$75,382.00 has provided more than \$193,000.00 “for use in the community that Port Nelson serves”.

PILKEY FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENT – 2019

Receipts

Interest \$ 1,830.25

Total \$ 1,830.25

Disbursements

Total \$ 0.00

Balance, January 1, 2019 \$77,494.67

Excess of receipts over disbursements \$ 1,830.25

Balance, December 31, 2019 \$79,324.92

Note: There were no disbursements in 2019 so interest has been carried over and will be combined with the previous undistributed interest for disbursement in 2020.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE PILKEY FUND
SINCE ITS INCEPTION

<u>RECIPIENTS</u>	<u>ACCUMULATED AMOUNTS</u>
Inter-Church Council	\$35,700
Nelson Youth Centres	\$43,500
Halton Women’s Place	\$ 6,700
Danielle’s Place	\$ 4,300
Radio Reading Service	\$ 2,550
Port Nelson United Church – Watoto Choir Event	\$2,100
Port Nelson United Church – Food Voucher Program	\$1,500
Children’s Assessment Centre	\$ 3,500
Joseph Brant Hospital	\$ 1,450
I.D.E.A. Burlington	\$ 3,500
Burlington Bereavement Council	\$ 1,250
Halton Adolescent Support Services	\$ 5,650
Big Sister Youth Services Hamilton Inc.	\$ 9,500
Burlington East Emergency Food Bank	\$ 3,000
Burlington Counselling & Family Services	\$10,500
Friendship Program	\$ 2,650
Salvation Army Family Services	\$ 1,300
Schizophrenia Society of Ontario (Burlington Chapter)	\$ 4,900
Burlington Association for Community Living	\$ 1,100
The Hub	\$ 3,750
Friends for Success	\$ 2,300
Habitat for Humanity	\$8,100
Burlington Youth Wellness	\$1,000
Burlington Association for the Intellectually Challenged	\$2,800
Camelot Centre Adult Day Program	\$2,900
The Carpenter Hospice	\$1,200
INCITE – A Single Moms Support Group	\$5,400
Port Nelson United Church – Refugee Fund	\$3,400
Port Nelson United Church - Teleministry	\$1,000
Other Agencies \$1,000 or under each	<u>\$17,366</u>
	<u>\$193,866</u>

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

FACILITIES SUSTAINABILITY FUND, OUTREACH FUND, BUILDING CAPITAL FUND

FACILITIES SUSTAINABILITY FUND

This Fund was created in 2011 to provide a means to support the maintenance of the Port Nelson United Church buildings and grounds by way of bequests and planned gifts. There have been no donations made to this Fund since its creation.

OUTREACH FUND

This Fund was created in 2011 to provide a means to support the outreach work of the congregation in our local and worldwide communities by way of bequests and planned gifts. There have been no donations made to this Fund since its creation.

BUILDING CAPITAL FUND

The Building Capital Fund was established in December 2012 for the purpose of providing a means of supporting major capital initiatives of Port Nelson United Church. It was initially funded by two donations received and held as "Designated Funds" until the Building Capital Fund was created. The Fund is open to contributions from anyone by means of gifts or bequests.

BUILDING CAPITAL FUND – FINANCIAL STATEMENT – 2019

Receipts		Disbursements	
Donations	\$ 0.00	Bank Charges	<u>\$54.00</u>
Interest	<u>\$.31</u>		
Total	<u>\$.31</u>	Total	<u>\$54.00</u>

Balance, January 1, 2019	\$ 99.37
Excess of disbursements over receipts	<u>(\$ 53.69)</u>
Balance, December 31, 2019	<u>\$ 45.68</u>

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

LEGACY CIRCLE

A gift by will, known as a bequest, provides the opportunity to create a legacy for Port Nelson United Church, once the needs and those of your loved ones have been met. The Legacy Circle has been established to recognize and acknowledge individuals who have confirmed their intention to make a bequest to Port Nelson United Church.

As a member of the Legacy Circle and confirming one's intention to make a planned gift, we can help ensure our church remains vibrant and financially fit for our children and grandchildren.

We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals who have confirmed their intention:

June Wright
John and Susanne Zinkie
Anonymous (2)



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report – Stephen D. Jones, CPA, CA - Questions? Please call 905-319-3515 x 21

Report on the Year ended December 31, 2019

In an effort to simplify reporting I have attached a condensed operating statement of revenue and expenditures. There are other revenues and expenditures which are shown in the audited financial statements. If you are interested in obtaining a copy please contact the office. Items not shown in this condensed report are Rekindle income and expenditures, special funds and Trustees' Funds.

We budgeted an operating deficit of \$36,498 for the year and the final deficit (apples and apples comparison) came in at \$29,326 so it was slightly better than anticipated. "Below the line" we added the Rekindle interest expense of \$32,516 and the 2019 audit accrual.

Great news! We budgeted our 2019 general offerings to be \$480,000 and we ended up with \$495,253. This is a 4.6% increase over 2018 and 3.2% over budget.

More great news! Mistletoe Mart was very successful raising \$30,184 in our new improved facility. This was a \$12,000 increase over 2018 and \$6,000 over our budget of \$24,000. Even more great news! The Glee camp fund accumulated a surplus over the past few years so \$8,000 was returned to the operating fund.

On the expense side we came in slightly under budget for our staff compensation and were over budget in Property by about \$4,000 due to extra hydro and computer costs.

What doesn't show in the attached report are the funds raised for special causes such as: Food Voucher Program \$46,060; PNUC Assistance Fund \$15,930; Refugee Sponsorship \$14,400; Burlington Food Bank \$3,643; Student Gift Cards \$1,045; Bridges to 2 Youth \$1,783

Balance sheet highlights: at Dec 31/19 we owe the TD Bank \$775,000 in respect of the Rekindle renovation. We expect to receive about \$270,000 more in pledges in 2020 and 2021. We are also hoping to get back a \$67,500 damage deposit from the City of Burlington in the very near future which can be applied toward the loan.

Budget for the year ending December 31, 2020

We have not asked the congregation for large increases in general offerings for a number of years due to the focus on Rekindle donations. In late 2019 and early 2020, the Hearts Aglow program has a goal of increasing givings by at least \$100,000. The need for these additional funds can be summarized as follows: interest expense on Rekindle debt \$42,000; computer upgrades \$25,000; handbell choirs \$9,000; Social media \$7,000; Nursery co-ordination \$1,600; Live streaming of services \$5,000; funds for starting new programs during the year \$10,000.

At the time of writing we have received pledges that indicate we will raise in excess of \$100,000. Amazing! In the coming year we will decide where these excess funds will go. These funds could pay for more needed technology upgrades that might have been put off for another year and/or pay down our Rekindle debt and reduce interest charges accordingly.

This operating budget shows a small surplus for the year of approximately \$6,000

2020 BUDGET WITH PRIOR YEAR ACTUALS

Port Nelson United Church				
Statement of Operating Revenue and Expenditures				
Year ended December 31				
	Actual	Budget	Budget	
Revenue	2019	2019	2020	
Offerings	494,253	480,000	595,000	\$100,000 increase required
Fundraising	14,674	15,000	15,000	
Mistletoe Mart	30,184	24,000	28,000	
Rent/Co-op/Glee	26,666	30,200	30,200	
	565,777	549,200	668,200	
Expenditures				
Our amazing staff team	426,026	427,316	420,393	
Property management	75,300	71,000	93,000	increases Hydro \$9K; computers; Windows 10
Unknown blessings			10,000	ability to start new programs during the year
Wider United Church work	45,809	46,682	52,233	
Overhead - office/audit/bank charges	25,314	18,500	21,700	
Ministries and Programming	20,155	22,200	22,700	
	592,604	585,698	620,026	
	(26,827)	(36,498)	48,174	
Audit (first time accrual)	(6,500)			
Interest rekindle loan	(32,516)		(42,000)	
Surplus (Deficit), for the year	(65,843)	(36,498)	6,174	
Surplus (Deficit), beginning of year	55,869	55,869	(9,974)	
Surplus (Deficit), end of year	(9,974)	19,371	(3,800)	
This statement shows certain operating revenue and expenditures of the Church, extracted from the audited financial statements. Readers should review this statement in conjunction with the audited financial statements				