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# THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

## ELGIN – PORTLAND PASTORAL CHARGE



## ANNUAL REPORT

**2015**

## **Mission Statement:**

*A growing, caring Christian community working together, striving to make a difference by God's grace.*

## **Vision Statement:**

*The Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge of the United Church of Canada, is a growing, caring Christian community that works together striving to offer people a welcoming space and resources to explore their faith, enrich their lives and empower themselves by God's grace and inclusive love.*

## **Value Statements:**

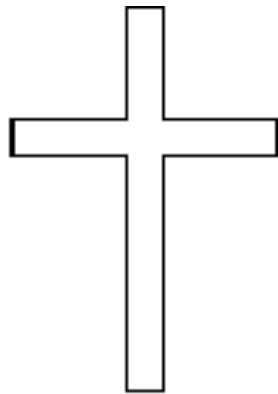
*As a Christian community, we, the members of the Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge value:*

- 1. Christian love as the root of all values, demonstrated through respect, affection, benevolence, goodwill and concern for the welfare of others and ourselves;*
- 2. Kindness to and respect of each other, the welcoming of new people, the support of each other through difficult times and the celebrating of good news;*
- 3. The educational pursuit of equality and inclusivity regardless of gender, race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, social or economic status;*
- 4. Courage in facing challenges, overcoming personal fears and making a stand for what is right;*
- 5. Justice through fairness, the cessation of discrimination and the caring for the weak, poor and disadvantaged regardless of perceived "deservedness";*
- 6. Generosity and thankfulness, the offering of something to someone in need and the thankfulness for God's love and His care for us;*
- 7. Striving for truthfulness in sharing our convictions and associating with others, being honest and faithful to oneself and walking with others who seek to make informed moral choices;*
- 8. Forgiveness and reconciliation by not bearing grudges or seeking revenge, by repairing damaged relationships and seeking conflict resolution;*
- 9. Service and stewardship through putting the needs of others ahead of our own selfishness, and the taking of responsibility to use, not abuse, the resources of whatever nature we have been given;*
- 10. Spiritual and material<sup>(1)</sup> security through the sense of well-being for the whole of creation in the context of peace with God and the positive harmony and healthy relationships with people.*

*Note 1: "Material" refers to the participation in and/or support of programmes and initiatives such as, but not limited to, Clothing Co-Op, Food bank, Dental Issues Group, Mission and Service.*

# IN MEMORIAM

Dorothy Louise Jensen  
Robert Glen Huntley  
Florence Vivian Perrin\*  
John Alan Bossert\*  
Thelma Ann Good\*  
Eleanor Anne Thériault\*  
Connie May (Donald) Ginder\*  
Norman John Merriman  
Elmer Allan Smith\*  
Aurel Hart\*



**“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted”**

*Matthew 5: 4*

\* Member/Adherent

\*\* Member/Adherent but funeral not held or recorded at either Elgin or Portland.

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### **THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM, 2015**

Jayden Michael Lorne Mallett-Ferguson, March 29, 2015 - Elgin  
Kayle-Ann Elaine Pamela Rogers, March 29, 2015 - Elgin  
Lewis Bryan Underwood, July 26, 2015 - Elgin  
Jack Gordon Underwood, July 26, 2015 - Elgin  
Seamus Sean Andrew Alderdice, August 30, 2015 - Elgin

### **MEMBERS RECEIVED BY TRANSFER, 2015**

Lynne Dimma, October 11, Portland

### **MEMBERS WHO JOINED BY PROFESSION OF FAITH 2015**

Anita Cox, April 5, Portland  
Peter Cox, April 5, Portland  
Jim Johnston, April 5, Elgin  
Roger Bedore, June 7, Portland  
Vickie Bedore, June 7, Portland  
Janice Brophy, June 7, Portland

### **SERVICES OF MARRIAGE, 2015**

Sean David Warman Alderdice and Sara Jennifer Andrew, January 31 at Elgin United Church  
Stephen Darryl Sargeant and Amy Louise McCumber, July 18 in Gananoque, ON  
Michaelangelo Mundacruz and Alysson Dawn Levesque, August 22 at Elgin United Church  
Shannon David Michael Griffin and Kristina Joanne Clair, September 26 in Gananoque, ON

### **FUNERALS CONDUCTED, 2015**

Audrey Gladys Sheldon, January 3  
Florence Vivian Perrin, June 12  
Dorothy Louise Jensen, June 13  
John Alan Bossert, June 30  
Thelma Ann Good, August 10  
Eleanor Anne Thériault, August 29  
Norman John Merriman, September 25  
Elmer Allan Smith, October 9  
Connie May (Donald) Ginder, October 10  
Aurel Hart, October 31

**Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge**  
**Minister's Report 2015**

*“Behold, I Make ALL Things New...”*

Revelation 21:5

We are in the cusp of *“ALL Things New”*. Whether we are ready for it or not, the year 2015 has set the pace for what lies ahead. The title of the 42nd General Council of the United Church of Canada was the above verse from Revelation. In August, when we met in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, the anxiety of new beginnings was evident within some church members as we are always afraid of the unknown; forgetting the fact that nothing stays the same in life – except God’s Eternal Love. As a first time commissioner I went with many questions, doubts and fears, however, I returned with confidence, certainty and comfort that God’s Spirit is with us no matter how our surroundings change. It was a privilege to be a commissioner elected by Four Rivers Presbytery and represent our Bay of Quinte Conference.

The 42nd General Council was the bigger picture of what the Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge had already begun in a small way at the start of the year. The Official Board of our charge saw the need to establish a Visioning Team, a Moving Forward Team, which met regularly and wrestled with the blessings that God has in store for us; to come up with a MapQuest of sorts and establish a five-year plan. There will be more information shared about this as we begin the groundwork in 2016, together. Stay Tuned!

2015 has been a year of *All Things New* indeed. We launched our new website ([www.eppc-ucc.com](http://www.eppc-ucc.com)). I did not have any clue how much work is required to keep a website up to date, let alone get it set up. I also have learned to expand my own technological horizons and I have new respect for all who work behind the scenes to make websites possible. My deepest gratitude goes to all dedicated individuals who made this possible and still work hard to make this website a tool to help us connect virtually with the wider world. From posting simple events on the calendar, to posting bulletins, historical information and sermon recordings regularly – it is a team effort. Certainly we have not arrived where we would like our website to be, but all of life is a work in progress and that is ok – we are always evolving and developing.

In 2015 we also had consistent youth activities where a *New Thing* began when our neighbouring presbytery, Four Winds, hosted one of the youth events at Glenburnie United. The Youth of Four Rivers Presbytery met regularly and a sense of community was established for all the youth who attended. The average attendance was between 20-25 youth per gathering and each time we gathered, the youth did not want to go home. These gatherings establish new friendships and help these young souls realize that they *“are Not Alone*. Another major *New Thing* that took place for the Youth was at the Fall Retreat in Belleville. Saturday morning, we all watched the movie, *“Following The Ninth: In the Footsteps of Beethoven’s Final Symphony”* by Kerry Candaele (Director, Producer), who also spoke with our youth via Skype all the way from Venice, California. The highlight of the conversation, at the end, was to find out that the director himself is a fellow Canadian.

In the month of April, I had the privilege to participate in two marches to honour and commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide (1915), which my father was a survivor of. One of the *New Things* I realized at these marches (Queen’s Park, April 19 and the Parliament Hill, April 24) is the fact wherever I was introduced, I was introduced as the incumbent minister of Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge, therefore this community of faith was

present with me. All the honour that was bestowed to me in different ways was actually bestowed upon ALL of you; because we are in this together. Whatever I participate in, may it be in our small communities or in the wider world, we are together - partners in this mission of LOVE.

In the month of May one of the new places I visited was Denver, Colorado. I attended the Festival of Homiletics, "*Preaching from the Mountain: Heralds of Good Tidings*". This festival takes place every year in different parts of United States. This was only the second time I was able to attend, because of the cost. It is not a possibility to attend this event every year as the annual lifelong learning budget does not cover half of the Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro expenses. But overall, whenever I am able to go, it is a life changing experience. Not only do I meet and learn from wonderful teachers, theologians and preachers; but it is also a time where my soul is nourished and new friendships established. Other lifelong learning events I attended in 2015 are: "Dare to Dream" a workshop presented by EDGE, in Kingston (March 7); a Mission and Service Fund Workshop in Ottawa (March 28), where Larry Cochran and Lynne Dimma came along with me. One other *New Thing* that took place in my lifelong learning events was attending the lectures of Bishop John Shelby Spong at College Street United Church in Toronto (April 17-18) about his most recent (WONDERFUL) book, "*The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic*".

One of the new things I also learned this year is that we are all called to ministry in life beyond life. I have averaged about ten to twelve pastoral care visits per month, but I learned that we can also care in life after life. The work of the Portland United Church Cemetery became a pillar of love and stands out for me as another *New Thing*. There was an individual who was at the end of this physical life and needed a place to rest, and had no such space. Portland United Church Cemetery stepped in and offered a resting place. When this decision was made known to the individual, a sense of Peace came over them and a *New Thing* definitely had shaped up for the glory of God.

Every day *New Things* take place, from sudden departures of loved ones from our congregations, to the wonderful arrival of our immediate past moderator, the Very Rev. Gary Paterson along with the Rev. Peter Woods and James J. McGowan to kick start the Season of Advent with the amazing concert, "Jesus, Jazz and Hope: The Light Ahead" (November 19 - PUC), raising money for the "Save a Family from Syria" Mission of our Presbytery. Another *New Thing* was to have the musical group, "Agua Viva" perform and turn the sanctuary into a place of Dance and Praise; raising money for musical instruments for Cuba (May 17 - PUC). As a Pastoral Charge we all worked together and still continue to work hard to fund raise for different causes throughout the two points of our charge, without forgetting our own brothers and sisters in these neighbourhoods where we reach out through DIG, Food Bank, Cases of Caring, Pancreatic Cancer, and many more. For the third time, this year once again, the fifth and sixth grade students of The South Crosby Elementary School helped Elgin United Church prepare Christmas Goodie Bags for over fifty families, for the Elgin Food Bank. One of the *New Things* that happened there was that three teachers came along and helped the children pack the goodie bags – talk about a ripple effect.

Another *New Thing* took place this year, the Armenian Evangelical churches of Montreal and Toronto used Portland United Church's facilities to hold their bi-annual one-day retreat. In the early afternoon they were also able to visit Elgin United Church and witness the joy of a small town community celebrating Elgin Days. It was one of the busiest weekends of the year,

since Heifer International was visiting Elgin United Church and educating us on the work they do to end hunger by teaching farming.

Another *New Thing* occurred within the wider Church that has historical proportions. The United Church of Canada and the United Church of Christ (U.S.A.) entered into a full communion relationship - each recognizing each other's ministries and ordained ministers. I had the privilege to attend this covenanting ceremony on October 17th in Niagara Falls, by taking vacation time and witnessing history being made.

We can spend many hours and name every single event that took place in the past year. However, it is availing for us to say that as much as *New Things* are scary to embrace, but God's *New Things* are abundant with unimaginable blessings. In scarcity God provides our needs and we find safe space in the eye of the storm.

I urge you to be comforted that the One who loves us is the One who never leaves us. May the words of Revelation 21:5, be the Word of courage as we journey and pave the way for *All Things New. Amen.*

Because of Grace – Your Servant Leader,

*Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro*

## **THE OFFICIAL BOARD OF THE ELGIN–PORTLAND PASTORAL CHARGE**

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR FOR THE YEAR 2015**

This has been an active year as **we** began to look at strategic planning over the long term. Just the term “Strategic planning” gives me a bit of a deer in the headlights feeling, however I believe **we’re** in extremely capable hands with **our** dedicated visioning committee. As this message is written to you, in late December, the visioning committee is preparing to submit its concept to our two church councils. I had noted in one of our newsletters in 2015, “if you’re not moving forward, you’re falling backwards”.

**Our** pastoral charge is a busy place. Lots of people give generously of their time, talent and finances, and while this greatly benefits **our** Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge, it certainly doesn't end there – it's just a beginning. People are affected by our actions locally, nationally and in far off places around the world. As you read reports penned by Rev Takouhi, **your** Official Board committees, as well as those from **our** two churches, it's loud and clear - there is a lot going on around here!

To go further, there are hundreds of little things, that aren't mentioned in any report. Committee work isn't everyone's cup of tea. Things that are done, often anonymously and humbly - it can be too easy for us to simply not consider their need or importance - until that faithful servant can't do them any longer, then we notice!

Thank you to **every person** who belongs to this charge, for all you do!

Yours in love and service,

Mark Bee

Luke 1:37 For with God, nothing shall be impossible.



**Elgin-Portland Pastoral Charge**  
**Worship Planning Committee Report for 2015**

*“24 And let us consider how to spur one another to love and to good works. 25 Let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but let us exhort one another...” Hebrews 10:24-25a Modern English Version (MEV)*

The basis of Christian Faith that Jesus taught his followers is gathering together as a community. Loving each other and doing good works not for our egos to be fed but to make this world a better place. This is the main purpose of Worship Gatherings of every Sunday. But it does not stop there, it extends also to our Christian Education and the Sacraments of our Faith, which we practice. Every time we meet, our celebration is not only the Love of God, but it is also the loving relationships that we develop towards each other.

Your pastoral charge’s Worship Planning Committee has this reality at the heart of their meetings. From music selections, to time dedicated for prayer, and the sharing of the Sacrament of Communion, we look into the heart of what makes this community a gathered people of encouragement and possibilities. This group listens to what helps everyone feel at home when we are gathered. Of course we are unable to please every single person’s style of worship, but we all strive to make every gathering a refreshing and rejuvenating one. We do believe that church is the spa for the soul.

Through the year we have kept the rhythm of Celebrating the Sacrament of Communion almost every First Sunday of the Month, or on special occasions, such as the First Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve, the First Sunday of Lent, Maundy Thursday and Easter.

Our Lenten Journey’s Spiritual Focus was: “An Invitation to a Meaningful Life”. Throughout the season we focused on specific missions. In the Portland community the focus was the Portland Food Bank and in the Elgin community the focus was the World Vision Child. Every other Sunday both churches had presentations done by the youth focusing on the specific mission. Our Lenten journey was completed by holding a Maundy Thursday service with communion and a Friday evening Cantata put together by both choirs of our charge – both were held in Elgin. Certainly an Easter morning is not as meaningful without experiencing the sunrise service on top of Leggett Hill, followed by breakfast. This year the breakfast was held at Portland United. We are ever grateful to Carl Leggett who invites us annually to use the hill and embrace the new life realized in the story of the resurrection with the beautiful sunrise.

The World Day of Prayer (March 6) this year was hosted by the Anglican sisters and brothers in Portland (Emmanuel). This gathering takes place on the first Friday of March and this year’s prayers were prepared by the women of Bahamas. The attendees were not many but the Spirit of Love and Courage was wonderful. On March 22, each church held a covenanting service at worship time with all who hold Office in the Official Board and Councils.

On Sunday May 3, we had a special worship service dedicating the Christ Candle (PUC & EUC) and Communion Table Candles (EUC) from the Memorial funds we have received. In the afternoon of the same day we had an interfaith dialogue, where Imam Mohamad Jebara did a presentation about the Muslim Faith. On May 24 we celebrated Pentecost Sunday and heard prayers, readings, and songs in many languages. The Spirit was alive and present with the Language of Love.

On Wednesday, June 10, we had a special ceremony of ringing of the Church Bells, as we celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United Church of Canada. On June 14 the Stewardship officer of our Conference spoke at our morning worship gatherings. Paul Sales spoke about how we partner up with God when we give as we are able, through our talents and gifts. Our Annual Picnic took place indoors, at Portland United Church, as the weather was rainy. The plan had been to gather at Hanna Park in Portland. We gathered at the Portland Sanctuary where Charalee Smith and Margaret Ross led the music with wonderful accordions. Thanks to Jan & Bruce Haskin and everyone who helped prepare BBQ lunch for all. It was amazing to see a few new people join us and the lunch was a great opportunity to connect and build new bridges.

The sixth annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) of our pastoral charge took place in Portland on June 29, 30 & July 2 & 3. Our topic of the week was, ***“The G Force: In God we live, move and exist”***. Many people stepped in and helped to make these gatherings a fruitful time of faith in action for all the children. We had about 15-20 attendees and we had nine adults helping out. This year’s biggest gift was the Noah’s Ark that was built by Larry Cochran. It was built to scale in many pieces and this helped the children put the entire ark together and experience partnership. They learned how God works in us and through us.

On July 5, 19, 26 and August 2, we had a special sermon series on prayer, specifically, the Lord’s Prayer. Elgin Days was a central focus on the weekend of July 11 and 12. We had Rev. Marvin Caldwell and Carol Hess share and display information about Heifer International and all the work this non-profit organization does in the wider world. Heifer’s aim is to end world hunger by teaching farming. A very dear topic to a farming community of our area. We had many people enter the church on Saturday to find out information, have a cup of coffee and enjoy the sanctuary that we gather in with love each Sunday. On the Sunday evening the Elgin Ecumenical Worship Service was held at Elgin United and it was a blessing to all.

This year for the first time we held evening worship services, one at each point. Portland on July 26 and Elgin on August 30. The feedback was both negative and positive, so for 2016 we will see how the Spirit will lead and things will develop.

For the second time, on August 2, Portland United Church held a memorial Cemetery service at the Portland Cemetery on Hwy. 15, where over 30 individuals came from near and far. In the evening, at the request of Portland Councillor, Mr. Doug Good, we held the first annual ecumenical worship service at Hanna Park. We had 15-20 individuals attend and they were very glad to have come.

On September 6, we had a special worship service of blessing the back packs of the youth who are going back to school. On September 13, we covenanted with our Sunday school teachers, choir members and music leaders – at the end of the day we are all in this ministry together.

Once again on November 1, All Saints’ Sunday, during worship celebrations we remembered all the saints of our immediate and the larger communities who have passed on into eternity during the year. We lit a candle in remembrance of each person as we heard their names. This is a ritual of re-membering ourselves with them.

The traditions of Advent continued, where the ecumenical churches in Elgin Share the Light of Christ every First Sunday of Advent (November 29). Once again this year the

participants were many and the Spirit of Light, Love and Laughter was ever present. We have kept with traditional events such as the Sunday School Christmas Pageant at Portland United, where we still have a handful of children that participate, followed by lunch; however, we have done a new thing at Elgin United. Charalee Smith, our CYAYA coordinator, prepared the Prayers of Hope and Healing for that morning's worship gathering and asked the children who were present to join her and participate in the act of putting a Christmas ornament on the Christmas Tree for each person or topic she was praying for. Brian Blowes had a PowerPoint prepared that was a blessing all together. This truly demonstrated a creative way to be the church and continue doing the basic necessities for our souls in a new way. I feel the urge to thank all the Audio Visual individuals who are dedicated to make our Worship Celebrations and other gatherings a meaningful one. THANK YOU!

Besides Sunday worship celebrations, we also carry out Christian Education for adults who want to explore our faith and go deeper in the roots of God's Love and Wisdom. The VIBE Pilgrims (Venturing in Biblical Education) met regularly on Wednesdays in Elgin Church at 10:00 a.m. and Portland Church at 7:00 p.m. This year we completed, ***"We Make the Road by Walking"*** by Brian McLaren, which took us all through the year, as the book consists of 52 chapters. And celebrated this journey on December 13, at the minister's house.

Our Choirs keep us nourished through the gift of music. Besides sharing their ministry of music weekly, they also offer leadership for the two "low" Sundays of the year; those after Easter and Christmas. We are so blessed to have such gifted professional directors, conductors, musicians and singers, without their leadership it will not be the same.

We have been honoured to officially welcome **7** individuals to our pastoral charge. Baptized **5** infants. Officiated **2** weddings at Elgin United's Sanctuary. Sadly, I have had the honour to officiate **9** Memorial Services. It has been a roller coaster ride with the Sadness and the Joys, but we are assured that God is with us always.

Our gratitude goes to all who made sure to fill-in the blanks when we needed a Sunday Worship Celebration Leader. For 2015 those leaders were: **Clint Halladay; Marian Cooper; Carl Leggett; Catherine Oxenford-Grant; Mark Bee; The Rev. Kathy Walton; The Rev. Tom Walton; Larry Cochran;** and **Lynne Dimma**. I also would like to add a special Thank You to Lynne Dimma for filling in at the Maple View Lodge services whenever I am unable to go.

Your Worship Committee joyfully carries out the duties of worship and spiritual growth in our pastoral charge in different ways, without forgetting our roots – God's Love.

It is an honour and delight to be the Spiritual Leader at this pastoral charge and journey with amazing Pilgrims like YOU!

Your 2015 Worship Planning Committee Members:

**Sheila Campbell; Larry Cochran;**

**Marian Cooper; Katy Gibson;**

**Dave Irwin; Carl Leggett; Roberta McKinney;**

**Ann Overdulse; Marg Ross; Charalee Smith & Rev. Takouhi**

I remain humbly because of Grace – Your Servant Leader,

***Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro***

Chair of Worship Planning Committee

## MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL (M&P) ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

### **First Quarter 2015**

1. Review of Role and Responsibilities of M&P,
2. Participate in Mission and Visioning activities.

### **2nd Quarter 2015**

1. Impact of a call for Jury Duty on staff
  - In the case of a call for jury duty for an ordained minister in Ontario: Rev Takouhi received a call for jury duty which woke us up to a potential vulnerability we had not previously considered. Research revealed that across Canada the laws are not consistent. New Brunswick is the only province that specifically forbids Ministers from serving on juries. Quebec has a policy of excusing ministers from serving on juries. Ontario has no such law or policy, but an informal policy excuses ordained ministers. Apparently there is a concern that the presence of Minister on the jury could influence a jury toward leniency, hence ministers are excused.
  - Norma also received a call for jury duty. There is no such dispensation for church secretaries, so we quickly examined our alternatives and found that we had two local resources within the church who could fill in for a period of time. We have that as backup, should the occasion arise. In this case the call was suspended and the need did not arise.

### **3rd Quarter 2015**

- **Mission and Visioning** Activity relates to defining emerging capabilities and priorities for our church as we look to the future. The summary report, Elgin-Pastoral Charge Strategic Plan 2016 is presented at this board meeting. It identifies strategic planning priorities across all of the key capabilities:
  - i. Worship,
  - ii. Education;
  - iii. Outreach;
  - iv. Caring and Sharing;
  - v. Governance;
  - vi. Stewardship;
- **Communications:** The central enabling capability for each of these areas is **communications**. Communication is presently a consistent issue across the board. We as an organization do not communicate as effectively and efficiently as we can and should. The result is an increasing amount of effort on the part of our staff as well as the lay leaders. M&P has an action item for 2016 to explore our methods in collaboration with other committees to see how we can improve our methods and technologies to provide better support to our congregation as well as the people in our community who depend on us.

- Pastoral Oversight Visit (POV) was an insightful and informative experience in an effort on the part of the Four Rivers Executive Committee to enable and ensure effective measures for conflict resolution, performance feedback to staff, and definition of staff member roles and responsibilities. Two recommendations were made to the M&P committee:
  - i. Consider consolidating oversight of all paid staff;
  - ii. While we have a Harassment complaint policy and Harassment Education Response manual in place in PUC, in public display, it was implemented in 2010 and we have no information on training.
  - iii. We have **action items** on both of these issues to become informed as to what the relevant procedures and policies are and determine what we need to do to be better to mitigate potential risks. We will consult with the board and proceed with input from the board.
  - iv. M&P will be participating in the recruiting of a new Music Director as our beloved David (and Carol) shift priorities and transition to the next chapter in March.
- The report of POV 7 Oct 2015 is attached to this report.

#### **4th Quarter 2015**

- The M&P Committee has met on several occasions in Oct, Nov, and December to consult with Rev Takouhi and Norma Cummings, Church Secretary, to develop a revised job description for each position and to identify the areas in which we together might enhance performance in our Ministry and our administration. We are now developing recommendations for the board related to contract renewals and compensation for 2016. As a result of these consultations we expect to engage collaboratively, within the role of M&P, with other board committees to achieve improvements in the following areas:
  - i. Communications;
  - ii. Developing lay leadership;
  - iii. Outreach; and,
  - iv. Worship.

#### **January 2016**

- To complete contracts for Norma and Rev Takouhi.

Attachment:

- 1) Pastoral Oversight Visit with Elgin Pastoral Charge Ministry and Personnel 7 Oct 2015

If you wish to discuss or contribute to any of these topics please feel free to contact any of the members of the M&P Committee. Your inputs are welcome.

It is a pleasure to serve,

Larry Cochran, for M&P committee: Allison Hermansen, Carolyn Long, Jan Haskin, Jim Earl

**Pastoral Oversight Visit with Elgin Portland Pastoral Charge Ministry and Personnel  
at Elgin United Church, October 7, 2015**

The pastoral oversight team of Dave Charles, JoAnne Fletcher, and Rev. Shelley Roberts met with two of members of the Elgin Portland Ministry and Personnel Committee at Elgin United Church. Others on the committee that were unavailable to attend include Carolyn Long, Allison Hermansen, and Jan Haskin. Dave reviewed with Larry Cochran (Chair) and Jim Earl (Past Chair) that the Pastoral Oversight Committee of Four Rivers Presbytery added a meeting with Charges' M&P Committee to their visits to each Pastoral Charge. Dave explained that in previous Pastoral Oversight reviews we found that what appeared to be a good situation, sometimes did not work out that way with underlying concerns emerging a year or so after the visit. In many cases we determined that there were often weaknesses in the M&P processes or committees at these churches. The Four Rivers Presbytery Executive Committee determined that it was vital to the health of the church to have effective Ministry and Personnel in place as a first line of defence in providing conflict resolution, performance feedback to staff, and definition of staff member roles and responsibilities. Dave further reviewed the responsibilities of the Ministry and Personnel Committee as stated in The Manual B.7.8.5 as a backdrop for our discussion.

Initial feedback was that Rev. Takouhi was well prepared for what she is doing and that "her head and heart are in the right place". She is highly respected and appreciated for her ability to express theology in everyday language that is relevant to our times and everyday life. The VIBE Wednesday morning and evening studies are very well received. Larry described how Abraham in the study was described as a refugee who was not sure what would come next in his faith journey. Takouhi then related this to her personal story of leaving Lebanon and that she learned how to be a minister trusting God's guidance.

Larry and Jim described that M&P serves at the Official Board level for both Elgin and Portland congregations and looks after performance expectations, feedback, compensation, and issue resolution for Rev. Takouhi and the secretary Norma Cummings. Norma was also described as extremely competent and organized. When asked how other staff members such as the music directors and custodians were managed they said that this is by each church at the Council level via the Music Committee and the Property Committees respectively. M&P is consulted on HR technical issues like workplace legislation and compensation, but for the most part these folks are taken care of effectively by the Committee chairs at each church. *While this arrangement seems to be working well for the pastoral charge, the oversight team has concerns about the liability and practical issues that may arise if M&P is not involved with oversight of all staff. The UCC manual acknowledges the role that various committees play in creating position descriptions and working directly with staff, but there is no mention of committees doing their performance reviews or addressing their compensation packages. We feel that the pastoral charge would have less liability and be more in compliance with UCC guidelines if there was a practical way to ensure that the ultimate responsibility for all staff lies within the jurisdiction of the M&P committee.*

Performance feedback is given to all staff members annually with input solicited from the congregations and the minister and the secretary both on themselves and their interactions with

the congregational members. Requirements for the minister primarily come from the Joint Needs Assessment, but is updated regularly in the job description. The contract is reviewed and renewed in January.

Most issues or concerns are usually resolved directly between the person / group concerned and Rev. Takouhi or Norma. If the person / group concerned is not comfortable doing this, they do work through the M&P Committee. Larry and Jim shared a few examples including the appropriateness of Takouhi in providing a blessing at music (secular) events at the church and what was to be included in Takouhi's moving expenses. When they are unsure with a United Church policy, they will consult with the Bay of Quinte Conference Office staff, usually Mary-Jane Hobden.

When asked if they had a harassment complaint policy or Harassment Education Response Advisory Team (HEART), they said they were aware of the existence United Church policies but that they would consult with Conference if a complaint is registered. Any church members or staff members that interact with children, youth, or elderly has police checks done and reconfirmed annually. Consent forms are requested from parents / guardians before pictures or information is published in the public domain (e.g. internet posts of youth events). There is some confusion at times on the procedures which Presbytery or Conference could help them with.

Larry mentioned a one year Visioning process facilitated by Rev. David Timpson from Conference is about to wrap up and make recommendations and action plans. One recommendation is to document roles, responsibilities, and procedures of tasks done by the volunteers and committees of the churches. This will help describe to potential volunteers what is involved in church service opportunities and provide instruction to help make them successful. It will also provide continuity to task continuance when someone decides not to do it anymore, especially if they have been doing the task for a long time.

As in many churches the "few" (including the minister) tend to take on the majority of the work. To prevent burnout, the M&P and other committees are looking for ways to share the load and encourage / help Rev. Takouhi take her time off to recharge.

In conclusion, the Pastoral Oversight team was pleased to see that the Ministry and Personnel Committee was functioning well and that they understood and carried out their responsibilities with compassion and high energy. We suggest that they consider the possibility of consolidating oversight of all staff under their mandate. Also look at getting a harassment policy in place and ensure that publicity consent procedures are consistent in both churches.

Larry also provided a comprehensive written list of answers to the standard Pastoral Oversight questions. These are shown as part of the overall input from the Congregational meeting with the Pastoral Oversight team.

When asked what would you like to tell Presbytery, Larry commented, "We are having fun! Come play with us whenever you get the chance. We think if we succeed we can be a model for other churches"

Pastoral oversight team:

Dave Charles, JoAnne Fletcher, Rev. Shelley Roberts

## **Joint Trustees Committee Report - 2015**

2015 has been a quiet year for the EPPC Joint Trustees – that is a good thing!

Our property manager, Marian Cooper, reports that she has established a good rapport with the manse tenant and all is going well. She and Ted Brett work closely together and keep things sailing well.

We are grateful not only to Marian Cooper and Ted Brett but to all Trustees who work diligently to be good stewards of what is bestowed upon us to take care of.

Thanks be to the One who has Called us and Empowers us daily to carry the work at hand.  
Thanks be to God.

On Behalf of the Joint Trustees Committee of EPPC -  
I remain humbly your Servant-Leader,  
Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro  
Chair – Joint Trustees Committee



## Community Clothing Co-operative 2015

2015 was another successful year for the Community Clothing Co-operative. It is still going strong and filling an important need in our joint community.

We continue to collect good clothing and sell it for a minimal charge to those in need as well as those just looking for a bargain. The prices are a fraction of the cost of new and the quality is excellent.

Approximately 12 to 15 volunteers from throughout the Portland and Elgin areas are working together to get some great clothing out of closets and onto the backs of those that really can use them. It is truly an ecumenical effort which was a dream of the original group that first met in Portland United Church in 1996. More volunteers are always needed and welcome regardless of age or gender.

While it was never planned or anticipated that the CCC would generate cash we have been pleasantly surprised that it does. This cash is then donated back into the local and larger community to other honourable and worthwhile causes.

In 2015 the CCC made donations totaling \$1,500.

Distribution was as follows:

- Elgin Food Bank ..... \$250
- Portland Food Bank ..... \$250
- Dental Issues Group ..... \$100
- North Leeds Toy Drive ..... \$250
- Cases For Caring ..... \$100
- Elgin and District Nursery School ..... \$ 50
- Martha's Table ..... \$ 50
- Fire Victims 3 x \$150 ..... \$450

The CCC had a year opening bank balance of \$1,058.27 and a closing balance of \$ 1,331.26

The store is located at the Portland Community Hall and is currently open on Saturdays from 10 AM to 2 PM and on Wednesdays from 1 PM to 3 PM. While being open for sales this is also the time when good quality in season clothing can be dropped off. Unfortunately we cannot accept footwear or undergarments due to health regulations and space limitations. For more information or if you would like to volunteer to work with the CCC please call 613-359-5196.

Thank you once again to the Township of Rideau Lakes Council as well as the Portland Community Hall Board for their support and the use of space. For the many hands and the will that it takes to make this program work we give thanks to God.

Paul Simpson  
Community Clothing Co-operative

**ELGIN-PORTLAND PASTORAL CHARGE FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015**

**INCOME**

OPENING BALANCE	\$ 5,233.31	
GST REBATE	1,217.32	
Cheque from 2014 not cashed	230.00	
PHOTO COPIER USE	42.25	
ELGIN-PORTLAND ASSESSMENTS	94,800.00	
MANSE INCOME	11,000.00	
MANSE INCOME HYDRO	<u>1,723.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 114,245.88	\$ 114,245.88
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 109,377.03
BALANCE TO CARRY FORWARD TO 2016		<u>\$ 4,868.85</u>

**EXPENSES FOR 2015**

**EMPLOYEE WAGES AND BENEFITS**

MINISTER	\$ 48,591.89	
HOUSING ALLOWANCE	15,999.96	
COMMUNICATION ALLOWANCE	1,740.00	
SECRETARY	10,875.45	
Pulpit supply	<u>1,610.00</u>	
TOTAL	\$ 78,817.30	\$ 78,817.30

**OTHER EMPLOYEE EXPENSES**

EDUCATION	\$ \$ 2,152.00	
COMMUNITY OUTREACH	1,000.00	
MILEAGE	4,550.17	
PARKING	21.25	
B of Q Conference	435.00	
WSIB	<u>508.34</u>	
TOTAL	\$ 8,666.76	\$ 8,666.76

**MANSE EXPENSES**

HYDRO	\$ 1,122.34	
INSURANCE	1,373.02	
TAXES	693.89	
MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS	320.00	
PROPERTY MANAGER	<u>1,200.00</u>	
TOTAL MANSE	<u>\$ 4,709.25</u>	\$ 4,709.25

**OFFICE EXPENSES**

PHONE	\$ 1,085.38	
INTERNET	1,509.32	
OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,113.97	
PHOTO COPIER USE	<u>1,192.20</u>	
TOTAL OFFICE	\$ 4,900.87	\$ 4,900.87

**OTHER CHARGE EXPENSES**

TRANSFER TO SAVINGS ACCOUNT	\$ 2,500.00	
BANK SERVICE CHARGE	15.00	
BULLETINS	1,102.30	
Petty Cash	25.00	
EVANGELISM	711.21	
WORSHIP	881.39	
GIFTS	-	
MUSIC LICENSE	244.63	
PRESBYTERY DUES	<u>6,803.32</u>	
TOTAL OTHER	<u>\$ 12,282.85</u>	\$ <u>12,282.85</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>\$ 109,377.03</u>
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**M&S REPORT FOR ELGIN-PORTLAND PASTORAL CHARGE**

**2015**

PORTLAND UCW	\$ 2,400.00
PORTLAND UCW FOR WRC	200.00
PORTLAND UNITED CHURCH	10,029.12
ELGIN UNITED CHURCH	<u>6,110.16</u>
TOTAL M&S	<u>\$ 18,739.28</u>

**SAVINGS ACCOUNT FOR ELGIN-PORTLAND PASTORAL CHARGE**

BALANCE	\$ 7,990.34
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The savings account is used for and contains the last month's rent for the manse and money for part time ministry when our Minister will be on sabbatical leave two years from now.

The manse has now been rented for about a year and a half and the tenant wants to stay until at least August giving us some stability there.

All expenses and income are normal for us. Rev. Takouhi did a lot of pastoral care in 2015 so mileage is up slightly. I am going to assume that was abnormal and not budget for that amount this year.

Thanks to Duncan and Joanne for their cooperation which makes my job easier.

Ted

## **ELGIN UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 8, 2015**

The Annual Meeting of Elgin United Church, with a quorum present, took place in the downstairs hall following a pot luck lunch. We were called to order at 1:20 PM by Chair Sandra Smith.

1. Reverend Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro opened the meeting with prayer and a tribute to our deceased.
2. For the purpose of business conducted at this meeting, all members and adherents present may vote, with the exception of electing councillors - members only may vote.
3. Motion by Paul Simpson, seconded by Deborah Jodoin to adopt the agenda.
4. Committee reports as presented in the Annual Report pages 17 - 30. All reports were considered moved by the chair/presenter and following the presentation of all the reports there was one motion to second and adopt the Annual Report. Comments, questions and amendments were invited as each report was introduced:
  - Council Chair - Sandra Smith thanked everyone for their outreach support of the Dental Issues Group and the Food Bank.
  - Memberships and Sacraments - Alex and Roberta McKinney
  - Christian Education - Karen Earl
  - Social - Joanne McLean. Amendment made to the treasurer report re social finances. See treasurer report below.  
Sandra Smith thanked Joanne for her service.
  - Music - Jim Earl  
Thank you to Margaret Ross and Jim Earl for this fulfilling music program.
  - South Crosby Public School Breakfast Program - Catherine Ryan  
Sandra Smith thanked the volunteers of Elgin and Portland for this important outreach.
  - Ushers/Readers - Marion Steacy  
Thanks to Marion for her time and organization.
  - Sharing and Caring - Deborah Jodoin  
Thank you for a great job, Deborah.
  - Elgin and District Cooperative Nursery School - Jim Earl  
Jim noted that gifts to EUC are "in kind" through grants received by the Nursery School. Also, our new family to EUC is connected to the Nursery School.
  - Audio/Visual - Margaret Ross, Brian Blowes, Randy Cannon, Tim Hodgson  
Margaret explained that the use of the microphone is necessary so that people in the Friendship Hall can hear, and also for those listening to the recorded service from the website.  
Thank you to all of you for the wonderful work.

- Treasurer - Joanne McLean
    - Joanne Mclean amended the social committee treasurer report :
 

income from fundraising events.....	\$17,531.60
expenses incurred.....	\$ 6,752.38
net.....	\$10,779.24
- Out of these proceeds we purchased the new freezer and some kitchen supplies totaling.....\$ 587.47

5. Seconded by Carl Leggett to adopt the Annual Report. CARRIED

6. Nominations - Sandra Smith called for nominations for Property Chair and Council Vice Chair.

No proposals made. Positions remain open.

7. Goals approved at Council for 2015:

- a) M & S - \$7000
- b) D.I.G. - \$2000
- c) World Vision foster child - \$37/month

8. Visioning for 2015

a) stained glass window repair - Project has started to repair six windows, estimated at \$3000, covered by Memorial Fund.

b) ecumenical - Sandra Smith proposed inviting speakers from various religions to facilitate learning and the breaking down of barriers. Sandra spoke eloquently about this initiative and asked for feedback. Supported by those present. Reverend Takouhi noted that she knows an Iman who will come to speak to us.

c) Fundraising - Jim Earl spoke to the need to cover busing and registration costs for our youth attending conferences and programs. This is to be a pastoral charge initiative shared with Portland.

Motion by Jim Earl, seconded by John Carley, that Elgin United Church be challenged to raise \$1000 for transportation and registration of our youth, to attend conferences and programs, in partnership with Portland United Church. CARRIED

9. Closing Remarks - Chair Sandra Smith

It is renewal time for The Observer at \$20 (group cost). Please see Sandra if you wish to receive it.

10. Closing Prayer - Reverend Takouhi thanked Sandra Smith for her leadership and service prior to closing the meeting in prayer.

Motion to adjourn at 1:55PM by Paul Simpson.

## **2015 ANNUAL REPORT FROM ELGIN COUNCIL CHAIR**

As I started collecting my thoughts for this my final report as Elgin Council Chair, the first thing that came into mind was the opening line from Charles Dickens' Tale of Two Cities: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." This really sums up the last two years for me.

At the beginning of my term, Howard became ill with what they thought was lung cancer. At Rev. Takouhi's insistence I did not step down as chair. She said, "we will help you" and everyone did. That first year with doctor's appointments, tests and finally a diagnosis and then Howard's passing, Elgin council and congregation stood beside and behind me to get the business of Elgin United tended to and help me get through the worst time of my life. The second year I was grateful for the activities, meetings, etc., and shoulders to cry on and shoulders to lean on. My heartfelt thanks to everyone. I love you all.

Not all that I wanted to accomplish got done, i.e. following the visit from the Moslem Imam with a visit from a Jewish Rabbi. I hope that will still come to pass. Also visits from, for example, people of First Nations and LGBT communities. I truly believe the only way we can achieve peace is to get to know people of other religions, races and life choices and learn that they are not all that different from us. After all Jesus did not set out to start a new religion. He was born and raised a Jew. He came to teach us to love one another. He never followed that lesson with an "except".

This past Thanksgiving, I tried to thank everyone I could think of that contributes to the fantastic community of faith we have in Elgin and I hope I did not leave anyone out. It is amazing how many we count on to make our worship and other activities what they are, and if you think what you do does not count, THINK AGAIN.

We may be relatively small in numbers but like the small pebble thrown into a pond, we can make a difference in our small pond which will radiate beyond our boundaries. We are welcoming, supportive, willing to help, not afraid to change for the greater good and reflect God's love through our actions. What's not to love?

God bless you all.

Sandra Smith

## **ELGIN UNITED CHURCH MEMBERSHIPS AND SACRAMENTS - 2015**

The Membership and Sacraments committee distributed communion to the congregation about twelve times in 2015 - generally the first Sunday of each month. In addition to having only three servers, which began in 2014, two other recommended procedures were adopted. The first was to alternate intinction with communion being served to congregants. The second was to have only gluten-free bread for intinction, which helped to simplify the distribution. In general, these have resulted in better service to the congregation.

Our report would not be complete without our sincere thanks to everyone who assisted this past year - both those who served so willingly, and those who took over when we were unable to be here. We could not have done it without you!

Respectfully submitted

Roberta McKinney

## **ELGIN UNITED CHURCH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT 2015**

This year our Christian Ed. Program has been enhanced with the aid of audio visual technology to support our facilitator, Charalee Smith, in developing lectionary video based themes for our young people of the church. Although we have a small group of varied ages, and meet sporadically, our children are very receptive to the many biblical avenues available on the internet as well as some of the traditional practices of sharing God's word and His love for all.

In Lent, they focused on the "Jesse Tree" Fundraiser in support of our World Vision foster child, Betseba Dadiweni, in the ALOR community of Indonesia. Many thanks to those who supported this mission outreach. This is our 27th year for Foster child sponsorship. The EUC Council indicated that it will assist in the financial responsibility of supporting our Foster Child from donations made to the Memorial Fund.

Our children are a very important part of our church family, and are involved in our church activities by singing in our Praise and Worship time together or solo's, ushering and assisting with special Sunday services. Some of our youth attended the Youth Event in Glenburnie in March, the "Spring-A-Vanza event at EUC in April, Geocaching in June ending with supper at Inverary United Church, Four Rivers Presbytery Youth Gathering at Trinity United Church in Sept. and the Bay of Quinte Conference Youth Fall Retreat in Belleville in October. These were several opportunities for youth across Eastern Ontario to gather in a Christian setting and share life's experiences and challenges.

We welcome young and old in our community to worship with us and learn about God's love, love for each other, the church and the Bible and to develop faith foundations through prayer, songs and Bible stories. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Earl  
Recording Secretary

## **ELGIN UNITED CHURCH SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

I had resigned this chair, at which time Marilyn Benn took over. However, Marilyn left our church, and here I am again.

We weren't as busy this year. Our fund raisers included a Pork Dinner, Fish Fry and the famous Feast of Stephen.

We catered to the Masonic Annual Dinner, the Grain Farmer's annual dinner and 2 CPHC lunches.

Joanne McLean  
Chair



## 2015 Elgin Music Annual Report

Music Director: Margaret Ross  
Pianists: Margaret, Dave Irwin, Charalee Smith & Karen Earl  
Organists: Margaret, Charalee & Dave

Margaret provides service music leadership from the piano & organ, and accompanies/directs the choir. Dave, Charalee and Karen are alternates accompanists. Margaret also serves as alternate for Dave.

### Senior Choir:

<u>1st Sopranos</u>	<u>2nd Sopranos</u>	<u>Altos</u>	<u>Tenors</u>	<u>Basses</u>
Michelle Knapp	Mary Carbino Karen Myers Marion Steacy	Karen Earl Charalee Smith Sandra Smith	John Carley Jim Earl	Frank Allen Gordon Earl Adrian Overdulse Tom Walton

We welcomed Tom to the choir on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We invite everyone who enjoys singing to consider joining our choir. Rehearsals are on Thursday nights, September through June, from 7:30 to 9:00 pm, to provide anthems and choral support for service music.

Choir Director for Joint Choirs: Dave Irwin  
Librarian / Resource Persons: Jim, Charalee & Karen E.  
Soloists: Alex Price, April Price, Charalee Smith, Tom Walton, Michelle Knapp, Karen Earl, Rasa Krokys, Rev. Takouhi, & Jim Earl  
Young Singers: Ella Price and Marcie Mayfield.  
Percussion: Sandra, Rasa & Shaun Seaman  
Guitar: Sean Price, Tom Walton  
Flute: Jaime Burt  
Trumpet: Dave Irwin – Remembrance Service

Quartet – Soul Purpose: Michelle, Charalee, Karen E. & Jim, with Margaret

### Sunday School Music Program:

Charalee provides a music component in her curriculum.

Gathering Song: Alex and Ella Price, and Marcie Mayfield provide youth leadership, supported by the choir.

### Soloists and Groups who support our summer music program:

Rasa Krokys & Sarunas Veselka	Rev. Takouhi
Tom Walton	Marianna Bell
Alex and Sean Price	Michelle Knapp
Jim Earl	
Accompanist: Margaret	

Special Services & Occasions:

- April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Good Friday, Joint Choir Cantata, 7:30 pm Elgin – ‘Come, Touch the Robe’
- April 12<sup>th</sup> – Joint Low Sunday Lay Service, Joint Choir, 10:00 am Elgin.
- April 24<sup>th</sup> – Margaret was accompanist for a PUC concert raising funds for Pancreatic Cancer
- May 10<sup>th</sup> – Mother’s Day: Men’s Chorus.
- June 6<sup>th</sup> – A/V Concert presented by Margaret and Friends, Including Sole Purpose.
- June 21<sup>st</sup> – Father’s Day: Ladies Chorus.
- June 28<sup>th</sup> - Joint Picnic at PUC (rain); Worship Songs with Charalee & Margaret playing accordions.
- November 29<sup>th</sup> - Ecumenical ‘Spread The Light Of Christ’ Community Advent Celebration:
  - Singing led by the choir.
- December 6<sup>th</sup> – Westport Knox Presbyterian Advent Candlelight Service, 7:00 pm: Michelle & Jim were members of this Ecumenical Choir. Soul Purpose made a guest appearance.

Audio/Visual Team: Appreciation to Brian Blowes, Randy Cannon & Tim Hodgson who enhance our music.

Choir Parties: June 18<sup>th</sup> & Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> at home of Margaret Ross and Brian Blowes.

Music Director:

- Salary: No change
- Holidays: March 22<sup>nd</sup> & September 27<sup>th</sup>

Committee Meetings: None.

Thank you to all singers and musicians for contributing joyfully to our music ministry.

Jim Earl, Chair

**ELGIN UNITED CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**JAN 01, 2015 TO DEC 31, 2015**

	2014	2015	2015	2016
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
<b>INCOME</b>				
Current Offerings	\$63,399.00	\$65,000.00	\$58,322	65000
Hall Usage	\$1,575.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,500	2500
Interest Earned			\$269	250
Committee Fund Raising (page 2)	\$22,239.00		\$14,008	20000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$87,213.00</b>		<b>\$75,099</b>	
<b>OFFERINGS TO BE DISPERSED</b>				
World Day of Prayer	\$233.00		\$0	
El Salvador Funds	\$869.00		\$0	
Food Bank	\$1,130.00		\$1,803	
Dental Issues Group	\$1,454.00	2000	\$1,024	200
Mission & Services	\$6,334.00	7000	\$6,020	7000
Heifer International	-		\$251	
Syrian Relief	-		\$1,880	200
<b>TOTAL TO BE DISBURSED</b>	<b>\$10,020.00</b>		<b>\$10,978</b>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$97,233.00</b>		<b>\$86,077</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>GENERAL</b>				
EPPC Assessment	47200	48000	\$47,400	48000
Insurance	4165	4200	\$4,639	4700
Heat & Hydro	13421	12000	\$8,950	10000
Telephone	652	550	\$738	800
Bank Charges	80	100	\$106	100
US Exchange	-8		\$0	
Postage & Office Supplies	574	500	\$268	400
Offertory Envelopes	274	275	\$183	200
Music Director	5830	5850	\$5,610	5850
Bursary	200	150	\$250	250
Education	0	100		
Dues & Subscriptions	62		\$62	
Observer	-22		\$1,278	
Outreach			\$1,178	1200
Vacation Bible Group & Youth Group	44	100		
Picnic	128		\$138	150
Benevolent Paid	710	900	\$1,555	1000
Conference	303	300	\$365	500
<b>MAINTENANCE</b>				
Janitor	5127	5200	\$4,260	2600
General Maintenance & Repair	720	800	\$313	1000
Grass & Snow	2796	2500	\$1,278	2000

<b>COMMITTEE</b>		
Paidouts (Page 2)	<u>12934</u>	<u>\$9,952</u>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>95190</b>	<b>\$88,523</b>
<b>OFFERINGS DISPERSED</b>		
World Day of Prayer	223	\$0
El Salvador Funds	869	\$0
Food Bank	1130	\$1,803
Dental Issues Group	1454	\$1,024
Mission & Services	6329	\$6,020
Syrian Relief	-	\$2,180
Heifer International	-	\$251
<b>TOTAL OFFERINGS DISBURSED</b>	<b>10005</b>	<b>\$8,847</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$105,195.00</b>	<b>\$97,370</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>-\$7,962.00</b>	<b>\$11,293</b>

## ELGIN UNITED CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT

### COMMITTEE REPORT

	2014	2015
	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>
<b>MUSIC (below budget)</b>		
Fund Raising	\$562.00	0
Expenses	<u>\$368.00</u>	<u>177</u>
	\$194.00	-177
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>		
Offering	\$69.00	
Jessie Tree		770
World Vision	-\$444.00	444
Expenses	<u>\$61.92</u>	<u>61.92</u>
	-\$313.08	\$264.00
<b>AUDIO VIDEO</b>		
had fund raising events which after paying expenses and technical expenses netted \$828 therefore didn't use any of the allocated budget but supplemented our income	\$747.00	\$828.00
<b>SOCIAL COMMITTEE</b>		
had fund raising events which after paying expenses incurred netted \$2791 therefore did not use any of the allocated budget, but supplemented our income	\$7,290.00	\$2,791.00

**ELGIN UNITED CHURCH  
TREASURER'S REPORT**

**BANK BALANCES  
AS AT DECEMBER 31**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Benevolent Fund	\$1,200	\$1,072
G I C's	\$16,548	\$16,816
Current Account	\$30,498	\$12,727
<b><i>Included in the Current Account Balance</i></b>		
Building	\$13,437	\$14,784
Memorial	\$13,151	\$9,273
Operating	\$3,910	-\$11,330

**OUR GOALS FOR 2016**

Our 2015 goal for DIG was \$2000 and we raised \$1342 (includes AV portion)  
We will leave our goal for 2016 at \$2000

For 2015 goal for M & S was \$7000 and we raised \$6020  
We will leave our goal for 2016 at \$7000

We didn't set a 2015 goal for the Food Bank but we raised \$1803

We also raised \$1880 for Syrian Relief \$275 for Youth Transportation  
and \$250 for Heifer international

**PORTLAND UNITED CHURCH**

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**February 22, 2015**

**Gathering Place of the Church**

**PRESENT:** Duncan & Jane Pickard, Lynne & Doug Evans, Dave & Jean Sherman, Gary Petro, Larry Cochran, Rev. Takouhi, Norma Cummings, John & Linda Noble, Bruce & Jan Haskin, Vicky Zwiers, Betty Hoogenboom, Brad & Katy Gibson, Carol & Dave Irwin, Will French, Dawn Lawson.

**Chair:** Cam McKay

**Recorder:** Cheryl Stoddard

Quorum Obtained

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Cam McKay called meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Cam conveyed to Rev Takouhi our thanks and that we are very fortunate to have her as our Minister.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Rev Takouhi offered a prayer and remembered those who had passed away in the last year. A candle was lit in their Memory.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:** No additions requested. Moved by Katy Gibson and seconded by Jan Haskin that the Agenda be accepted as is. All in favour, **Carried**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** (Page 57/58): Moved by David Irwin and seconded by Duncan Pickard that the Minutes be approved. All in favour, **Carried**.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Decoration Committee:** Cam gave a big Thank you to Lynne Evans for Chairing the Decoration Committee since she took over from Lois Mowat.

**Historical:** The issuance of the Photo Book to be added to their report.

**Cases of Caring:** Lynne Evans requested funds from the Community Luncheon donations occasionally. Carol Irwin assured her that Cases of Caring is on the list of recipients from donations received by the Fundraising Committee.

**Motion to Adopt Committee Reports:** Moved by Norma Cummings and seconded by Jan Haskin. All in favour, **Carried**.

**Financial Report:** Duncan Pickard reviewed the 2014 Financial Statement and 2015 Budget. He advised that offerings are not matching expenses and consideration should be given to increasing individual offerings by 5%. The result of such increase would mean that we would no longer have to dip into our investment funds.

Larry Cochran offered a “Job Well Done” with our thanks to Duncan Pickard.

**Motion to Accept Financial Report:** Moved by Norma Cummings and seconded by Katy Gibson, all in favour, **Carried**.

### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:**

*Chairperson:* Katy Gibson has put her name forward as Chairperson. Cam McKay asked for nominations from the floor, three times. There were no nominations from the floor, therefore Katy Gibson will become Chairperson.

*Vice Chair:* No Nominees.

*Chair, Sharing and Caring:* Betty Hoogenboom has put her name forward as Chair, Sharing and Caring Committee. Cam McKay asked for nominations from the floor, three times. There were no nominations from the floor, therefore Betty Hoogenboom will become Chair, Sharing and Caring.

*Outreach:* No Nominees. However, Dawn Lawson, an adherent, has offered her help on this Committee.

*Decoration Committee:* No Nominees.

*Ministry and Personnel:* No Nominations Required. Jan Haskin has agreed to act as a Member. Larry Cochran is Chairperson of this Committee.

Cam McKay moved that Nominations be closed.

**New Business:** *Pastoral Charge Visioning Committee.*

*Required: 2 volunteers each from Elgin and Portland PLUS incumbent.*

Larry Cochran, Duncan Pickard and Dawn Lawson have volunteered.

**Fund Raising:** Norma Cummings reported that the 2015 Fundraising Committee has already started with the Berry orders, monthly Mini Bake Sale, and Community Luncheon. Fundscrip is ongoing and to-date has raised over \$1200.00.

Upcoming events as follows:

Soup Café on March 14<sup>th</sup>; Vendor Sales Event including a light lunch on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>; sale of Easter Chocolates from Lanark Village; Good Friday Cantata in Elgin; April 24 project by Janet McKeage fundraiser for Church and Cancer Society (50/50); and, a Studio Tour Luncheon on July 5.

**New Ideas:** Gary Petro suggested that Fundscrip should extend beyond the Church to include friends and relatives by word of mouth. This would increase number of Fundscrip Members and will increase our income from this fundraiser.

**Community Involvement Goals for M&S and D.I.G.:** Discussions entered into.

**Motion** by Duncan Pickard and seconded by Bruce Haskin the M&S goal for 2015 is \$14000.00 combined with UCW. All in favour, **Carried.**

**Motion** by Duncan Pickard and seconded by Jan Haskin the D.I.G. donation will be \$1,500.00. All in favour, **Carried.**

**Motion** by Duncan Pickard and seconded by Larry Cochran that Council will review the funds in the General Mission fund and determine which initiatives will be supported and the amount of support to be allocated.

All in favour, **Carried.**

**Closing Remarks:** Cam McKay commented that he has put in six years on the Council Committee, firstly as Vice Chair and recently as Chair. He advised that it has been his honour to service. At this point, the Chair was handed over the Katy Gibson who expressed a big Thank You to Cam. Katy shared that Portland United Church has been her home and family since the age of 5 and will continue as Chairperson to move forward into the future.

**Closing Prayer:** The meeting was closed in prayer by Rev Takouhi.

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## **FROM THE CHAIR OF PORTLAND UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL**

**“Church is not an organization you join; it is a family where you belong, a home where you are loved and a hospital where you find healing”**

Nickey Gumbel

Yes, you have seen this before in my newsletter article but it is so true that I wanted to add it to my Council Chair Report. I want to thank everyone for their support on my first year as Chair. As I was reading through reports from the past year, I came across a report that Larry Cochran had submitted on behalf of worship and in it he said that Portland United Church was definitely an Excited Church and he is so right.

Thank you to the “Fun-Draising” committee who have put on many events to raise money for our mission projects, the food bank, DIG and for the general running of our church. Both Norma and Carol have resigned from this committee and we thank Lynne Dimma for volunteering to be on this committee but she is going to need help so if you would like to help Lynne please speak to me.

I want to thank ALL the committees of our church for the hard work that has been done this year, there are just too many to thank individually and I am afraid of missing someone. I truly appreciate your dedication.

Finally thank you to Rev Takouhi, for your awesome spirit, inspirational sermons and for the love you show not only to your congregations but to the larger Church and the communities around us. And of course your hugs that get us through from one week to the other.

In closing again, I want to express the gratitude that I have to God for giving us this wonderful church family.

Katy Gibson

## **2015 PORTLAND UNITED CHURCH TRUSTEE REPORT**

The Trustees of Portland United Church continued to monitor the operations of our Church. We are primarily tasked with ensuring proper Insurance is in place and handling financial bequests and investments. Through the generosity of former and current members over the past years, Portland United Church continues to have a current Investment Fund of approximately \$140,000. In 2015, we received \$500 toward Investments. At the request of Council, the Investment Fund supported expenses within our Church of \$8,000. Trustees and Council's Treasurer have engaged in a number of meaningful conversations around financial stability. The Trustees were pleased to see Council keep their 2014 commitment of no new projects without first securing the necessary funding.

Insurance on the Church continues to be carried by The Bay of Quinte Mutual through Rideau Insurance in the amount of \$775,000. Directors and Officers Liability continues to be carried by Hub International through the United Church of Canada.

As well, in 2015, the Portland Trustees moved that Council begin, in 2016, directing an annual amount of \$4,000 annually from the Investment Fund toward general operating expenses and \$3,000 annually from the Investment Fund to support youth activities in the local area. The Trustees feel confident that \$7,000 per year of withdrawals from our Investment Funds are sustainable.

The Portland Trustees continue to work with the Elgin Trustees to oversee the Manse as a rental property. Though there were no meetings of Joint Trustees, designated Trustees continued to meet re the Rental of the Manse. Please see the enclosed Joint Trustees Annual Report to the Official Board.

Portland United Church Trustees include Keith Haskins, Sheila McKeage, Pamela Cairncross, William French, Doug Bond and Bruce Haskin. The trustees' treasurer is Pamela Cairncross. All trustees are members of Portland United Church.

Please be in touch with any of your trustees with questions or concerns.

In Christ,

Will French

## **PORTLAND UNITED CHURCH CHOIR REPORT- 2015**

For the Portland United Church family, this year was alive with lots of music from a dedicated, fun-filled group of singers. As the person who tries to bring all the diversities of these happy music makers into an harmonious experience, I can honestly say, "It's a blast!" There are many Thursday nights when Carol and I try to stop laughing on the ½ hour ride home. Sundays for the most part are serious moments but that often is questionable. Isn't this what praise is all about? If you can't be joyful in the arms of a Christian community, then why belong? To the Choir, Thank you for being the people you are and for the joy you bring. Your music is such a spiritual blessing.

Lent gave us the opportunity to become more introspective and focus on music which was more contemplative. Using short repetitive musical responses and known favourite Hymns, this season proved quite meaningful and led us into a Holy Week which certainly prepared us for a Glorious Easter Season. As in the past both Choirs helped in leading Holy Week services and Elgin was the host church. These musical times together have proven to be so inspiring and I'm sure both choirs feel the energy and joy when we come together.

Summer services allowed the choir to take some Sundays off and thanks to the wealth of talent within and out the group services were full of Music Ministry. Soloists, duets, men's and ladies' choruses and instrumentalists all contributed to a very musical summer. While away both Brian and Claire French and Margaret Ross efficiently provided music leadership. They remain a gift and most welcome part of our music family.

Many of our choir members spend extra hours rehearsing with other groups and using their gifts to help the communities around Portland. This year, without adding extra rehearsal time our choir put on a Seasonal evening in early December. It was both secular and sacred in content and a relaxed entrance into the Christmas Season. The Christmas season is busy and what with all the activities around us our Church was full and the Food Bank benefited as well as the on-going missions of P.U.C.

Christmas Services were very well attended and joyfully celebrated with not only the choir's contribution but soloists Janet McKeage, Rasa, Sarunas, Reegan Hoogwerf and Allison Gibson. Throughout the year lives have been celebrated and much of the music has been led by faithful choir members. As always the family feeling generated by this choir of caring people makes each service and rehearsal a visible reflection of what is essentially Christian. Thank you for your ministry.

Below are listed Choir members. They remain a constant and dedicated part of this PUC family. Sheila McKeage, Vicky Zwiers, Carol Irwin, Rasa Krokys, Brontie Smith, Bonnie Tackaberry, Anita Cox, Helen Smith, Joan Kelly, Katy Gibson, Margaret Martin, Cam McKay, Morley Hennig, Duncan Pickard, Doug Bond, Darragh Elliott, John Noble, Dave Irwin



## **PORTLAND PEALERS**

(or "Portland Bell Choir," by which we are often referred!)

As our hands go up and down, and back and forth, when ringing the bells, so does our membership. Having said that, we soldier on and are always thrilled when someone expresses an interest in joining us. This year we were so pleased to welcome Jane Pickard as a new-comer, and Brontie Smith and Helen Smith back to the Pealers.

It is our usual practice to work on Christmas pieces from September to December, and a variety of other pieces from January to May or early June. This year we played some old favourites, learned new bells from music written specifically for three to six players, and began to learn "Jericho," which we hope to perform for the congregation before too long.

The Portland Pealers accompany the choir on occasion, and endeavour to bring our music to the congregation as often as we can. We appreciate the warm welcome we receive when we play for others. Although we feel that we are primarily playing hand bells for fun, it makes all the practicing so much more worthwhile when we can perform as a choir.

If you feel the "tug" of wanting to learn to play our beautiful set of hand bells, there is a place for you! Just talk to any of our choir: Brontie Smith, Helen Smith, Peggy Bond, Jan Haskin, Bruce Haskin, Katy Gibson, Jane Pickard, Cathy Ryan or Norma Cummings.

Jan Haskin

## **Sharing and Caring Committee, Portland**

As the newest member of our team this year has been a learning experience for me. We have 12 members of caring people who deliver our newsletter personally to each home of our congregation. Many newsletters are also mailed to those who have moved away and this allows them to know what is happening in Portland United.

It is with sadness that we miss our dear members, Vivian Perrin and Eleanor Theriault, who will always be remembered.

Our newsletter goes out twice a year. Many people enjoy a visit with one of our friendly team while delivering the newsletter, but also at anytime we are just a phone call away. If you would like to join our team just give one of us a call.

Blessings,  
Betty Hoogenboom  
613 402-7707  
Sharing and Caring Committee Chair

Your Sharing and Caring Committee Members are: Olga Baker, Shirley and Eldie Bryden, Norma Cummings, Bruce and Jan Haskin, Carol Irwin, Carolyn Long, Louise Martin, Sheila McKeage, Jane Pickard, Went Sharpe, and Vicky Zwiers.

## **Portland United Church Property Report for 2015**

Thanks to Daniel Elliott, our LED Christmas lights again brighten our wintery evenings from Calvin Baker's memorial spruce tree.

Through the winter of 2015, Barry Weaymouth did a commendable job of shoveling snow and ice from our walkways and stairs, esp. early on Sunday mornings when it seems much snow fell. It was again a challenge at this time of year to keep up with the necessary supply of 'ice-melt' to keep the walkways "less than lethal". My snow blower found occasional service clearing snow banks and opening a trail around to the emergency door. Mainly it cleared the drain from the back patio and reduced the risk of flooding the Gathering Place with spring meltwater.

Rob Dunfield and crew cleared the parking lot, esp. on Sunday mornings.

Steve Thorley repaired and refinished the final 8 pews during February. He miraculously completed this task just before a disastrous fire consumed his shop and contents. One pew was refitted to accommodate 2 wheelchairs. Elsie can now rest in peace that her wish has been fulfilled.

Thanks to Dave Irwin and the organ technician, the problem with the pedals has been resolved and our renowned Classic organ has a new lease-on-life.

This past summer, George Wicks kept our lawns in trim both here and at the Cemetery.

Mark Herlehy, brick and stone mason of Westport, has expertly restored several deteriorated sites in our façade's brick matrix. This periodic restoration should fulfil the next decade.

On a perfect (hot) summer's day for treating the last neglected section of our parking lot, George and I broomed on a coat of enviro-friendly sealant. Frank can now rest in peace that his wish has been fulfilled.

We owe much appreciation to R. Bedore and Son for their meticulous raking of many more than 100 bags of autumn leaves from our prolific trees. Approx. 30 bags now protect our septic tank and pump from frost – a prep-for-winter custom that is being emulated around the village.

Those bags of leaves will be removed come springtime.

Our most recent PUC test of our well water by Exova at end of November was, as always, 0 – 0.

Carolyn Mustard has kept the place in neat order from week-to-week and adequate supplies of paper products (towel, toilet and tissue), soaps and assorted garbage bags are maintained.

Fire extinguishers have received their annual November check-up and certification. Smoke alarms are tested monthly and batteries replaced according to protocol.

A diverse supply of batteries is maintained for various sound systems equipment, emergency lights, smoke detectors and clocks.

We have enjoyed comfortable conditions for services and meetings through the heat waves of July and Polar Vortices of January, thanks to our new heating A/C system and with some help from the old baseboard heaters in the Gathering Place. Ongoing refinement of our state-of-the-art heating and cooling system might be achieved with some modification of cold air return.

Along with the many mundane tasks of maintaining our church home, we look forward to the main project this coming summer of replacing our fascia and eaves troughing. With the financial security provided by a dependable metal roof on our Sanctuary, we can plan on dealing with necessary upgrades systematically from year to year. For example, we can plan on further refining to our heating system, completing the Lexan on our Sanctuary windows and adding more insulation to the ceilings of our Friendship Room and Sanctuary as advised by Energy Audit. Planning keeps our treasurer happy.

Doug Bond, Property Chair

### **PORTLAND UNITED CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND REPORT**

During recent years, our Memorial Fund has been dedicated to updating and improving our sound and recording system, particularly in our sanctuary. This is an on-going project that began with a generous donation of new speakers by Merv Mills in Memory of Claire. Subsequently we have improved our sound system and extended beyond our Sanctuary. Improved and more microphones do better justice to voice and music. An enclosable desk now houses our sophisticated electronics at the back of the Sanctuary. Pairs of speakers now share voice and music from the Sanctuary to those in the Friendship Room and the Gathering Place. Thanks to generous donations, Memorial Funds have allowed us to link our sound and sight system with Wi-Fi sound and sight to the Gathering Place and video recording in the Sanctuary. Culminating this project of several years, we now have a functioning hearing-assist system for those of our members who would benefit. Special thanks must be given to William F. and Sons and Brad G. for skillfully putting these technologies to work every Sunday. Further to gracing our Sanctuary is a beautiful candle in memory of Marie Sharp and a custom-made display case for our Memorials Book.

D. Bond, Chair, Memorial Fund

## **PORTLAND UNITED CHURCH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT – 2015**

This past year has offered many opportunities for the children and youth of our congregation, as well as their leaders, to grow in our faith and our walk with Christ. Connecting with one another each Sunday through the upstairs service, as well as our downstairs lesson time has provided a community of learning that continues to focus on developing an understanding of what God asks of us as Christians, how we can serve Him, and how we can relate to God in our everyday lives.

Sunday School Volunteers over the course of the year have included: Peggy Bond, Sue and Callum Peebles, Katy Gibson, Kim Hoogwerf, Claire, Emily and Pauline French, and Jan Haskin.

Some of the Sunday School and Youth activities throughout 2015 have included:

- Palm Sunday processional and Easter activities
- Sharing Mother's Day and Father's Day wishes with the congregation
- Youth participation in the Bay of Quinte Conference Annual Meeting
- Youth events with the Four Rivers Presbytery
- Vacation Bible School (organized by Rev. Takouhi and volunteers from the congregation)
- Participation in Family Sundays through scripture reading and ushering
- Fall Youth Retreat in Belleville
- Sharing of music with the congregation during morning worship and evening concerts
- Christmas pageant and luncheon with the congregation
- Christmas gift bags for the Food Bank
- White Gift Sunday
- Financial support of our foster child, Koto, from Guinea through the Plan Canada program

We thank you for your support of the Sunday School through words of encouragement and friendship, as well as support of our local mission initiatives for the Food Bank this past fall. Mission work will continue to be a focus throughout the upcoming year, and we will keep you updated on our plans as they unfold. We ask that you continue to keep each of these children in your prayers, as they grow stronger in faith day by day. We pray that God's love will be made visible in their lives, and that they will always feel the warmth and support of their Church family as they grow in Him.

Submitted by Pauline French

**PORTLAND SUNDAY SCHOOL TREASURER'S REPORT – 2015**

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

<b>Opening Balance: January 1, 2015</b>			<b>1,056.75</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
By Envelope	93.75		
By Donation	50.00		
Loose Givings	75.90		
Food Bank Jars	443.60		
Transfers from PUC General Fund	160.00		
RBC Bank Interest	.11		
	<b>823.36</b>		
<b>Disbursements</b>			
Supplies		153.47	
Food Bank Jars		443.60	
Plan Canada (Foster Child)		468.00	
		<b>1,065.07</b>	
<b>Closing Balance: December 31, 2015</b>			<b>815.04</b>

December 31, 2015

*Jan Haskin*, Treasurer



## **PORTLAND UCW ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

It was another busy year for our UCW. We lost three of our long time members, including our President, Connie Ginder. We welcomed two new members, Lynne Dimma and Vicky Bedore. Connie Cochran accepted the position of President and Lynne Dimma as Secretary.

Our events this year included:

- Audrey Sheldon memorial lunch January 3
- Jim Halladay memorial lunch February 28
- St. Patrick's dinner March 20
- Vivian Perrin's Memorial lunch June 12
- Betty Halladay's Birthday celebration June 21
- Annual Pie sale June 26 where we sold over 150 strawberry rhubarb, blueberry, raisin and cherry pies
- John Bossert memorial lunch June 30
- Armenian Lunch July 11 where we assisted the guests with beverages and setup
- August 8 Lunch at the Portland Community Hall for the Big Rideau Lakes Association 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Thelma Good memorial lunch August 10
- Eleanor Thériault memorial lunch August 29
- Apple pie sale September 25 where we again sold over 150 pies
- Connie Ginder memorial service October 10
- Our annual Christmas Luncheon was held at the Crossroads Tea Room in Perth on December 17 where we were joined by a few members of the congregation

These social events generated enough funds to meet our M&S goals, help with church expenses and provide support to area mission work such as Portland Food Bank, Cases of Caring, Brockville Interval House, World Development and Relief, Smiths Falls Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Campaign and the Four Rivers Presbytery UCW Bursary Fund. We also purchased a new refrigerator for general use in the kitchen.

Cheryl Stoddard sent out many greeting cards. We appreciate her beautiful work in creating our cards.

Peggy Bond did a superb job again this year as Treasurer and she also sells and distributes the calendars, cookbooks and pewter ornaments. We don't know what we would do without Sheila's organizational skills for all our catering and fund-raising dinners.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues and we are grateful to the Portland/Elgin congregations for their contributions of shawls. We have added the Izzy Dolls to the craft projects contributed that are being sent to the children of the Syrian refugees being welcomed into Canada.

The members of the executive attended the Fall Rivers Presbytery Fall Rally in Gananoque in September and the Four Rivers Presbytery Executive Meeting in Smiths Falls in October.

We are blessed with responsive members of the congregation that step in and help on a regular basis. With our small membership we couldn't do any of the catering or fund-raising events that we count on every year without them. A big thank you to you all!

We welcome new members. Please come and join us. We have a wonderful fellowship in Christ and have a great time.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Cochran, President

### **FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT – 2015**

It has been a difficult year, as we had to say good-bye to a number of our church family members. They will be missed.

The following is a recap of the number of cards we have sent out on behalf of the Church and UCW.

Sympathy Cards	12
Get Well Cards	6
Thinking of You Cards	9
Thank you Card	1
Birthday Cards	3
Christmas Cards	5

If you wish a card to be sent to someone please let me know, as I don't always hear all the news of what's happening in our community. You may contact me by phone or email as follows.

Cheryl Stoddard  
Chair  
612-284-0258  
cstoddard@ripnet.com

**PORTLAND UCW FINANCIAL REPORT 2015**

**Balance**

**\$ 2 602.31**

Income

Offerings	\$ 772.60	
Funeral receptions	2,355.00	
Memorial donations Audrey Sheldon	225.00	
Memorial donations Connie Ginder	75.00	
St. Paddy's dinner profits	940.00	
June pie bee profits	1,422.25	
Sept. Apple pie bee	1,815.00	
Armenian donation	200.00	
Rideau Lakes Association luncheon	873.00	
Presbytery soils workshop luncheon	120.00	
GIC interest	102.50	
Calendar sales (5)	25.00	
Ornament sales (3)	30.00	
Interest	<u>.64</u>	
	<b>\$ 8,955.99</b>	<b>11 558.30</b>

Outgo

Cheque to church	\$ 3,000.00	
Mission and Service fund	2,400.00	
World Dev. & Relief	200.00	
Portland Food Bank	500.00	
Cases of Caring	150.00	
Smiths Falls Salvation Army	300.00	
Brockville Interval House	100.00	
4 Rivers Bursary Fund	200.00	
Native People's Retreat	50.00	
Christmas Gifts	250.00	
4 Rivers Presbytery dues	90.00	
Life Memberships - Eleanor & Vicky	120.00	
Fridge	1,443.00	
Table risers	35.56	
Sheila for kitchen supplies	170.00	
Jim Halladay's reception expenses	34.40	
Calendars ( 20)	76.84	
Flowers for Connie Ginder's funeral	141.25	
Cheques printed	9.01	
Bank charges	<u>16.00</u>	
	<b>\$ 9,286.06</b>	<b>\$ 2 272.24</b>

Peggy Bond

## PORTLAND UNITED CHURCH HISTORICAL REPORT 2015

We started the year with freezing rain on Sunday Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, with an extremely small congregation, though a good choir and Clint Halladay leading the worship. We ended the year with closed doors on Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>. But boy did a lot happen in-between.

Of course most Sunday worship services were led by Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian - Petro, but other services were lead by:

- Clint Halladay Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>.
- David Irwin & combined choir, April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Catherine Oxenford-Grant, April 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Mark Bee, May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Rev. Kathleen Walton, Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, & 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Lynne Dimma, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, offering a Taisé service.
- Rev. Tom Walton, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, we had the pleasure of some guests at some services:

- June 14<sup>th</sup>, Paul Sales, United Church of Canada's financial development officer for Quebec and Eastern Ontario spoke to us.
- July 12<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Marvin Caldwell spoke for Heifer International at a joint service in Elgin.
- Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, we enjoyed a guest organist, Henry Farmer.

Besides our regular Sunday mornings we had services on:

- Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.
- Fri. Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, June 12<sup>th</sup>, & Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, at Maple View Lodge.
- Fri. March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm at Emmanuel Anglican for World Day of Prayer.
- Sun. Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 3 pm the annual cemetery service at the Portland Cemetery.
- April 2<sup>nd</sup>, a joint service in Elgin for Holy Thursday.
- April 5<sup>th</sup>, a sunrise Easter Service at 6:30 am on Leggett's Hill followed by a hot breakfast at PUC.
- July 26<sup>th</sup>, instead of a morning service, an evening service at 7 pm.

4 Rivers Presbytery had a vibrant youth program. Events included:

- Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, at PUC a "Pizza as a Prayer" attended by 31 youth and leaders.
- March 27<sup>th</sup> at Glenburnie with the theme "Use the Noodle God Gave You."
- April 25<sup>th</sup>, at EUC, spring-a-vanza bowling with 28 youth and 4 adults.
- June 27<sup>th</sup> geocaching in Inverary.
- Sept 19<sup>th</sup>. in Smiths Falls.

Unfortunately we lost far too many treasured members this year. They were remembered on Sunday Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, All Saints Day, with lighting of candles.

However, we also celebrated new members:

- Anita and Peter Cox on April 5<sup>th</sup>, Janice Borphy, Roger and Vicky Bedore on June 7 and Lynne Dimma on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Special musical evenings:

- April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Good Friday a combined choir Cantata in Elgin 7:30 pm.
- Fri. April 24<sup>th</sup>, a Music for Life concert raised \$2000 split between PUC and Ottawa Hospital Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research.
- Sun. May 17<sup>th</sup>, Agua Viva concert raised money and instruments for Cuba.
- Thursday Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, Jesus, Jazz and Hope concert benefitted Syrian refugee fund.
- Sat. Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, a seasonal celebration of music included offerings from the choir, Beth Cairncross on trumpet, the Portland Pealers, Claire French and her flute, Rev. Takouhi and Choughik singing Silent Night in Armenian, and a duet by Reegan Hoogwerf and Allison Gibson. Funds raised were split between the Portland Food Bank and PUC. Allison and Reegan also sang at the Christmas Eve service.

### Fundraisers:

- Fundscrip first Sunday of each month.
- Baking Sundays.
- Bingo for Mission Work, Fri. Feb. 6 hosted by Pam and Beth Cairncross.
- frozen berries.
- soup cafes held on Sat. March 14<sup>th</sup> and Sat Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Easter Chocolates.
- Silent Auctions in the Friendship room.
- UCW Paddy's Day Gourmet beef Stew and Chili dinner Fri. March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Sit, Talk and Shop home party products Sat. March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Sunday School Lenten jars.
- UCW pie bee and sale Fri. June 26<sup>th</sup> & apple pies Fri. Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>.
- We hosted a tea room lunch July 5 for Rideau Lakes Studio and Garden Tour.
- Scrabble Tournament, Book Sale & Bbq, Sat Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup> for PUC and Food Bank.
- Sat. Aug 8<sup>th</sup> the UCW provided lunch at the community centre for Rideau Lakes Association 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- Christmas card workshop presented by Cheryl Stoddard, Sat. Nov. 14th.
- Pampered Chef Party Sat. Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Outreach:

- We continued the community luncheons on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, with a variety of people hosting, pay by donation, with any profits going to the Dental Issues Group (D.I.G.)
- We have our Prayer Shawl ministry.
- Support of the Portland Food Bank, the Community Clothing Co-op and D.I.G.
- Support of Cases of Caring with the Tea Room and Bake sale June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Support of Mission & Service and Minute For Mission readings 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

### Reaching out to understand Islam:

- On May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3 pm in Elgin, the true Spirit of Islam was shown.
- On Wed. May 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm., Imam Mohamad Jebara (the cycling cleric) visited Portland United Church while on his travels promoting organ donations.
- Support for 4 Rivers Presbytery settling Syrian refugee families.

### DVD nights:

- Fri May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Armenians: A Story of Survival.
- Fri. June 19<sup>th</sup>. Images of the Armenian Spirit.
- Fri. July 17<sup>th</sup>. The Armenian Genocide.

#### We hosted 4 Rivers Presbytery Workshops:

- Sat. Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, Budgeting with Paul Sales.
- Sat. Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Good Soils, Building Communities of Hope with Rev. Valerie Michaelson and Rev. Judy Oatway.

#### Some special happenings:

- We purchased 4 Hearing Assists for those who have difficulty hearing.
- Tues. Feb. 24, we hosted a Webinar, 7 - 8:30, Stories of Transformation, the changing ministry of the church.
- Sun. May 3<sup>rd</sup>, we dedicated a Christ Candle in memory of Marie Sharp.
- The EDGE workshop, Dare to Dream Sat. Mar 7<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by 4 Winds Pres.
- Sun. May 10<sup>th</sup>, we honoured Eleanor Thériault & Vicky Zwiers with UCW Life Memberships.
- Wed. June 10<sup>th</sup>, rang the church bell for the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UCC.
- Some of us took a bus to a marvellous outing "Jesus, Jazz & Wisdom", held at Emmanuel United Church, Ottawa, on July 12<sup>th</sup>.
- June 28<sup>th</sup>, our joint Picnic at Hanna Park was rained out and moved to PUC.  
A separate service was held in Elgin led by Larry Cochran.
- Rev. Takouhi represented the presbytery at General Council in Nfld. Margaret Martin was also elected to be a representative but was unable to attend.
- Sun. Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, we blessed backpacks at the morning worship service.
- Participation in a fall youth conference retreat Oct. 23-25<sup>th</sup>.
- Sun. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday School concert "A Child is Born" followed by a well attended soup and sandwich luncheon.
- Reegan Hoogwerf signing the Lord's Prayer during service July 12 and Dec. 24.

#### Odds and Ends:

- Weekly Spiritual focus.
- Venturing Into Biblical Education (VIBE) on Wednesdays.
- Vacation Bible School (VBS) June 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- A new pastoral charge web site at [www.eppc-ucc.com](http://www.eppc-ucc.com) or [www.eppc-ucc.ca](http://www.eppc-ucc.ca).
- Newsletters both spring/summer and advent.
- Two covenanting services were held this year, Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup> and Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Visits by the Pastoral Care Team with a new chair, Betty Hoogenboom.
- Visit by the 4 Rivers Presbytery oversight committee.
- Connie Cochran's tasteful decoration of the church sanctuary and more.
- A series of sermons on the Lord's Prayer.
- Wonderful music weekly from an enthusiastic choir.
- Ringing of the hand bells by the Portland Pealers.
- Advent readings and candles.
- White gift Sunday Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Christmas gift bags replaced the sock and mitten tree.
- Christmas Eve Communion Service, packed full of special music was at 6 pm .

Indeed, 2015 was a busy year. The fellowship of the Portland United Church family supported each other through hard times and times of grief. We also shared many happy times and laughter. We pray for each other, share with each other and care for each other. May it ever be so.

Peggy Bond

## 2015 PORTLAND COMMUNITY LUNCHEONS REPORT

The monthly luncheons held at Portland United Church on the fourth Tuesday of each month have continued throughout 2015. The luncheons have been organized by various teams with Carol Irwin doing the schedule co-ordinating. This system offers quite a variety of tasty fare and friendly faces. Usually about 30-35 people attend.

The luncheons provide fellowship and a good meal to anyone who wishes to attend. The cost is only by donation "as you are able", but even so there is frequently a profit which helps support our commitment to the Dental Issues Group.

We thank everyone who helped in any way with the meals this past year and we do look forward to sharing food and fellowship in 2016.

## PORTLAND FOOD BANK - 2015

Well, we made it to the end of the year with the help of a number of generous individuals, businesses and, of course, the wonderful family at Portland United Church. I don't mind telling you that I was more than a bit concerned during the summer that we would run short. Thank you all for your generosity and support!!

Build a Mountain of Food was a great success surpassing last year's totals. This year we collected 1180 pounds of food and \$5,862.00 in cash, gift cards and cheques.

We are presently providing assistance to 13 households in our area. Our numbers are down which is a good sign.

The following breakdown will give you an idea of our costs and donations for 2015:

Groceries	\$ 3900.66
Gift Certificates (for Bread & Dairy Products)	\$ 3816.85
Good Food Boxes (CRCHC)	\$ 1985.00
Bank Fees	\$ 114.73
Office Expense/Misc	\$ 157.24
Mileage	\$ 120.00
Total Expenses	\$10,094.48

Total 2015 Donations \$11,389.05

Cheryl Stoddard  
Coordinator  
Portland Food Bank

**PORTLAND UNITED CHURCH CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

This was a very active year for the cemetery committee, completing the replacement of the road fence, having a successful cemetery service, and Queens University completed the Archaeogeophysics report. From these documents we will be able to correct and update our cemetery map.

We had (3) burials this year.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the upkeep of our cemetery, from spring cleanup, maintaining the flowers, and the fence project.  
A special thank you for the financial donations.

Financial Statement

Opening Balance		\$ 8,975.68
Receipts:		
Bank Interest	\$ 4.17	
Interest from Public Guardian	141.13	
Donations	1,430.00	
		\$ 1,848.30
Expenses:		
Grass cutting	\$ 1,100.00	
Road fence chain and paint	636.41	
Grass seed	14.41	
Bank fees	10.00	
Signs for cemetery service	29.27	
		(\$ 1,790.09)
Balance		\$ 8,760.89

Blaine Tackaberry  
(Chair person for cemetery committee )



## PORTLAND UNITED CHURCH FUN-DRAISING - 2015

Raising money for the church, as well as for the wider church (near and far) is an on-going challenge for most churches but Portland continues to meet the challenge as we try to help our own church and share with others. Some of our events raised funds just for PUC's General Operating Account while others either shared funds with community groups or they were the recipients of all of the funds. Fun-Draisers can be large or small events as every dollar counts.

Our on-going and "easiest" fund raising project for the church is the FundScrip Retail Card Program. We hope more people will become regular users of this program as the use of these store cards provides additional funds to help with general church expenses. Using these grocery store, gas and restaurant cards, etc. for your everyday purchases and for gifts, can raise hundreds of dollars for your church without costing you an extra penny.

We have had a variety of other fund raisers during 2015:

We all enjoy the results when Carolyn Long hosts an event. Whether it is a concert or luncheon we know it will be done with class! We feel as if we are really going "out" for a special event. We love our music and whenever Dave and the choir are involved – sometimes with Marg Ross and special guests – we know we are in for a musical treat. The Classical music Concert with Janet McKeage, Rasa and Dave; the Agua Viva Concert; and "Jesus, Jazz and Hope: The Light Ahead" concert were all amazing and brought many new faces into our Sanctuary. The Seasonal Music Concert the choir hosted was a delightful way to bring us in to the Christmas season.

The soup cafés, silent auctions, bake sale for Cases for Caring, home-sale party product events, baking Sundays and berry sales were fueled by Carol's enthusiasm and energy. I'm sure the Soup Cafés will be repeated as they were very much appreciated by many.

We had a fun time during the Bingo for Mission Work with Pam Cairncross and a creative time during Cheryl's Stoddard's Card workshop and we certainly enjoyed the Easter Chocolates – some of us more than others! **Many hands** pitched in for the Scrabble, BBQ and Book Sale day.

Our Community Luncheons – although really an outreach program – continue to raise funds which go to support the Dental Issues Group (D.I.G.)

We thank everyone who was involved in any way with these fun-draisers and especially our congregation for supporting the activities – by helping, buying and most of all by ATTENDING and bringing friends and neighbours. THANK YOU! Not only did you help raise money for the church but also for the Portland Food Bank, CUBAbility (music instruments for Cuba), Pancreatic Cancer Research, Four Rivers Family Refugee Fund, Cases for Caring and Heifer International.

As 2016 continues we hope others will share their ideas and offer to help organize a function. The old adage "Many hands make light work" is especially appropriate.

Your Co-Chairs for 2015 were: Carol Irwin and Norma Cummings

Dec-15 **Portland United Church**  
**General Fund Income Statement Year over Year and 2016 Budget**

	2014	2015	Budget 2016
<b>REVENUE (# of Donors &gt; \$100)</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>General</b>			
<b>Sunday Givings Rev</b>	<b>63,697</b>	<b>70,283</b>	<b>73,000</b>
<b>Fundraising note 2</b>	<b>4,367</b>	<b>5,723</b>	<b>6,000</b>
<b>Finance and Admin Note 1</b>	(includes Investment Interest, Property use) <b>5,320</b>	<b>5,156</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>TOTAL General Revenue</b>	<b>73,384</b>	<b>81,162</b>	<b>84,000</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
<b>General Expenses</b>			
<b>Assessment Charge</b>	<b>47,200</b>	<b>47,400</b>	<b>49,200</b>
<b>Outreach</b>	(includes caring and sharing, and outreach) <b>587</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>1,320</b>
<b>Worship</b>	(Includes music, decoration and Worship) <b>10,802</b>	<b>8,063</b>	<b>9,030</b>
<b>On-Going Property Note 3</b>	(Property projects are in Building fund) <b>23,486</b>	<b>25,148</b>	<b>24,372</b>
<b>Finance and admin</b>	(Includes Envelope and PAR fees, Office and other) <b>564</b>	<b>1,090</b>	<b>1,350</b>
<b>TOTAL General Expenses</b>	<b>82,639</b>	<b>82,681</b>	<b>85,272</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>-9,255</b>	<b>-1,519</b>	<b>-1,272</b>
<b>Transfer from Investment fund</b>	<b>9,150</b>	<b>3,744</b>	<b>0</b>

1 In order to compare apples to apples HST Rebate and Property projects have been removed from 2014 to reflect new acct process

2 2014 was reduced by targeted givings \$2698 for AED, Freezer and Hymn books

	2014	2015	Budget 2016
<b>3 On-going Property Breakdown</b>			
<b>Elevator Exp</b>		<b>936</b>	
<b>Snow and Grass</b>		<b>3,030</b>	
<b>Recurring maintenance Exp</b>	<b>7,553</b>	<b>4,008</b>	<b>7,025</b>
<b>Custodian Expense</b>	<b>2,680</b>	<b>3,058</b>	<b>2,700</b>
<b>Insurance Expense</b>	<b>2,566</b>	<b>2,321</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>Hydro</b>	<b>10,540</b>	<b>11,659</b>	<b>12,000</b>
<b>Propane</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>On-Going Property</b>	(Property projects are in Building fund) <b>23,486</b>	<b>25,148</b>	<b>24,372</b>

**General Fund Highlights**

1. Multi yr conversion to new computerised system completed
2. Givings up 10% over 2014
3. Expenses were flat to last yr and budget
4. Investment income from the Long term investment fund stayed flat at about \$4,000
5. Draw down from Long term investments above were limited to \$3,744 compared to \$9,150 in 2014

**2016 Challenges**

Continuing to engage and grow congregational and community support for the church activities and missions

**PORTLAND UNITED CHURCH**

**Balance Sheet Comparison**

	Dec-14	Income & Transfer In	Expenses & Transfer Out	Dec-15
<b>ASSETS</b>				
General Chequing Account	11,009	137,323	138,662	9,670
Federal Sales tax Recoverable	771	637	771	637
Provincial Sales Tax recoverable	2,051	1,649	2,051	1,649
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>13,832</b>	<b>139,609</b>	<b>141,484</b>	<b>11,956</b>

**LIABILITIES and FUNDS**

General Fund	2,100	84,906	82,680	4,325
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**Designated Funds**

Benevolent Fund	1,552	1,783	2,498	837
Building Fund	3,060	3,646	4,586	2,121
Memorials Fund	4,089	4,435	6,133	2,392
M & S Fund	0	10,029	10,029	0
DIG Fund	0	2,219	2,219	0
Cases Fund	0	225	225	0
Food Bank Fund	0	5,457	5,457	0
1914-19 Mem. Window Fund	1,683	0	1,683	0
Choir Fund	549	350	0	899
Mission works	748	2,807	2,847	708
Bell Choir	50	0	0	50
CYAYA	0	160	160	0
Refugees Sept 2015	0	8,025	8,025	0
Gift Card	0	12,180	12,180	0
Cemetery	0	2,762	2,762	0
2016 Pre paid wedding	0	625	0	625
<b>TOTAL Designated Funds</b>	<b>11,732</b>	<b>54,703</b>	<b>58,804</b>	<b>7,631</b>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES and FUNDS</b>	<b>13,832</b>	<b>139,609</b>	<b>141,484</b>	<b>11,956</b>
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**Long Term Investment Fund**

	Dec-12	Dec-13	Dec-14	Dec-15
\$	123,778	140,694	141,790	140,764

**Overall Highlights**

1. Funds available to the General Fund ended the year up \$2,225 at \$4,325
2. Draw down from the long term investments for dedicated activities was 0 compared to \$7,500 in 2014
3. Total draw down from Long term investments was \$3,744 compared to 16,650 in 2014
4. Support for local missions, Benevolent Fund, DIG, Food bank, and Cases of Caring rose by 35% to \$11,146 in 2015
5. Support for Wider World Missions, Mission & Service, El Salvador and Syrian Refugees rose 42% to \$18,654 in 2015

Treasurer J. Duncan Pickard

**LATE ADDITION**

**A / V Dept. Report – Elgin United Church**

For 2015 the Elgin United Church A/V Dept. has been very active. We have sponsored several events which have raised funds for the A/V Dept. and the Dental Issues Group.

In-House Concerts ...

June 6 – Thank you for the Music  
July 3 – Abby Stewart and Turpin's Trail  
Aug. 8 – The Big Phat Horn Band  
Sept. 19 – Yukon to Australia

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*Once again we were also involved in a variety of off-site events.*

A Taste of Caribbean April 19, 2015. Hosted by A/V  
Sound system supplied for the Cemetery Service in June  
Sound system supplied for the Christmas Choir Concert at Knox Church, Westport.  
Sound system supplied for The Feast of Stephen at the Lion's Hall in November

As a result of a generous contribution, our Dept. was able to upgrade our mixing console this year. The new model provides a larger, more flexible, much more professional sounding platform for the musical events we produce here at the EUC.

Following our success this year, we look forward to serving our EUC congregation and the people of Elgin in 2016.

**Elgin Audio / Visual Dept.**

**Margaret Ross  
Brian Blowes  
Randy Cannon**

Tim Hodgson