

Central United Church

Annual Report 2017



CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH

Our Mission:

**With open hearts and hands, we embrace all people
with the love of God through Jesus Christ
so that all may know and follow Him.**

Our Vision:

**We prayerfully seek to build God's Kingdom from the
heart of the city by celebrating in dynamic worship,
nurturing caring relationships, making disciples,
and discerning and responding compassionately
to the diverse needs of people.**

Our Values:

**Hospitality
Compassion
Courage
Authenticity**

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2016 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – FEBRUARY 26, 2017

General

The congregation gathered in the Gymnasium for lunch prepared by members of our Filipino community.

Diane Scheibner, Chair of the Board, began by thanking the Filipino folks for providing such a wonderful lunch and then called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. She stated that the purpose of the meeting was to:

- approve annual reports
- approve 2016 financial statements
- approve 2017 operating budget
- elect Elders to the Board
- elect congregational representatives to Calgary Presbytery
- provide updates on significant events from 2016

Rev. Wayne Lewry led the meeting in an opening prayer.

Moved by Lee Patterson, Seconded by Pat Gault, that voting will be by show of hands. Carried.

Moved by Norm Barnecut, Seconded by Vivian Sampson, that Lori Bazin be elected recording secretary for the Annual Congregational Meeting. Carried.

Moved by Cristl Porter, Seconded by Bill Moore, that voting privileges be extended to contributing adherents. Carried.

Diane asked everyone present to please sign the Roll Call. Sheets were circulated and subsequently collected by Colleen Roberts.

2016 Congregational Meeting

Diane asked if anyone had noted any errors or omissions in the Minutes of last year's Annual Congregational Meeting, which were distributed along with the Annual Report. With no comments or questions, a motion to adopt those minutes was called for.

Moved by Dorothy Miller, Seconded by Ron Miller, that the Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting for Central United Church, held on February 21, 2016, be adopted as circulated. Carried.

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Nominations

Lori Bazin, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, explained that our Constitution provides for twelve Elders plus Lifetime Elders, but does not mandate a full slate. She indicated that for most of the past year, the Board had been functioning well with ten Elders. A few weeks ago, **Teresa McDowell-Hood** resigned for personal reasons. Lori thanked Teresa for her contributions to the Board. She then reported that effective today, **Brad Oneil** is stepping down from his role as Chairman of the M&P Committee. He will remain on the Board and we thank him for all the time and effort he has dedicated to Ministry & Personnel.

Lori announced that three individuals had agreed to let their names stand for nomination to the Board of Elders: **Darren Berg, Edie Lee and Ron Voth**. Lori reminded the meeting that any persons who may be nominated from the floor today would be deemed as recommended members of our Board rather than elected members, which provides an opportunity for review with the nominee of both what is required and what is expected of anyone serving in this capacity.

She also reported that **Bob Hindley's** term had expired and he had agreed to stand for re-election for another three-year term. As directed by the Constitution, Lori called three times for further nominations and hearing none, declared that nominations cease.

Bob was declared re-elected and Darren, Edie and Ron were declared elected for a three-year term to the Board of Governing Elders.

Lori then explained that according to the United Church Manual, it is the duty of the local church to elect representatives from the congregation to the Presbytery. Sandra Child has been acting as our Presbytery Rep for the past several years and Lori thanked her for her time and effort in that regard.

As Central has a large enough congregation, we can have more than one representative. Lori reported that we have two individuals who have agreed to let their names stand for nomination as Central's Presbytery Representatives: **Bill Moore and Kimberly Farley**.

Moved by Lori Bazin, Seconded by Rob Rosin, that Bill Moore and Kimberly Farley be elected to serve as Central United Church's Representatives on Calgary Presbytery. Carried

Sandra Child then stepped up to the microphone and expressed her disappointment about the way things were handled with respect to letting her know her services were no longer required. She indicated she was not given enough notice, that she had spoken to her Presbytery commissioner, and that her feelings were hurt. Scott Hunt asked why the matter was handled in such a way and Lori attempted to explain that Sandra was never properly elected in the first place and the Board was intentionally taking steps to align all our policies and practices with the United Church of Canada's Manual. Diane further said that she had contacted Presbytery and learned that a Presbytery Representative should be elected for a two-year term and could only serve two consecutive terms before having to step down, and that Sandra had served in this capacity for much longer than that. Diane later apologized to Sandra for not giving her more notice.

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Adoption of Annual Report

Diane asked if there were any questions with respect to the 2016 Annual Report. She explained that there was an error in the Presbytery Report and those who had picked up the Annual Report last week could now pick up the corrected Presbytery Report for inclusion in their copy. Anyone who picked up an Annual Report today will have the correct report in their copy.

As there were no questions, Diane called for a motion to adopt the Report.

Moved by Earle Allen, Seconded by Brad Oneil that the Central United Church 2016 Annual Report, excluding the Financial Report and Budget, be adopted as printed. Carried.

Outreach and Congregational Activities

Diane reported that the Staff, Board and Congregation have been involved in a lot of exciting and productive things:

Communications

In early 2016, Kathy brought a very comprehensive report to the Board outlining the need for improving and updating our communications. Since then she has networked to gain expertise in designing our new website as well as doing a stellar job of trying to get us to participate in Social Media to promote Central and our activities. You can read more about that in her Communications Report in the Annual Report.

Evolving out of that initial meeting it was deemed that there was a need for a committee to be established to identify certain key elements of the Sunday morning service. Thus, the –

Visioning Committee

Gary Gerber was asked by the Board to provide leadership in describing the current worship experience. He selected a committee based on regular morning attendees, which was then supplemented by Valerie Cade when she offered to facilitate the process.

Take time to read that report in the Annual Report, paying special attention to the five words that describe our current worship experience: Spiritual Presence, Inspiring, Accepting, Hopeful and Authentic.

These five words apply to both morning and evening services.

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Congregational Engagement

Flowing from the work of the Visioning Committee came another committee which was to develop a process to connect with both members and adherents, at first to update our Congregational Database. Quickly it was determined that a better use of this endeavour was to engage with individuals and to explore their hopes for Central's future.

This is a huge undertaking which will take quite some time to complete, the details of which can also be found in the Annual Report.

Remits

For the past few weeks, there has been an insert in the Sunday bulletin directing us to the United Church website to learn more about the Remits. The Board and Sandra Child have attended several workshops in the last year trying to understand the remits. Diane thanked people for their responses and questions about the remits and assured the meeting that the Board is prepared to respond to the remits by the June deadline.

Diane then shared information about things not covered in the Annual Report:

1. Canada 150 – Meet Me At The Intersection

We received an initial grant from the Calgary Foundation to create an audio-visual presentation about our intersection, based on Doug Coates presentation "MEET ME AT THE CORNER: THE STORY OF AN INTERSECTION, Seventh Avenue and First Street West". We have met with Kelly Brothers who find 'world class stories' and tell them with 'world class people'. We are currently finding additional grants and sponsors to cover the cost of this project. The targeted date for this presentation is the beginning of July. This amazing committee and advisors consist of: Michel Berdnikoff, Kerry Longpre (retired from the Calgary Foundation), Lorne Simpson (Architect, retired), Doug Coats, Harry Sanders (Historical Society), Darryl Cariou (City of Calgary) and James Reid (Architect).

2. Business Plan Committee

Resulting from the Congregational meeting of November 27, 2016, there were a number of people who volunteered to participate in creating a business plan for Central. This was first thought to be needed for inclusion in the completed JNAC report. As pointed out earlier, it is no longer a requirement but deemed to be critical to guide the Congregation as we create, or realign with, policies and processes.

Valerie Cade volunteered to facilitate this process and under her guidance, several sub-committees were established:

Finance and "Fun-raising", Facilities, Worship Experience, Populations, Staff and Leadership

There has been a tremendous amount of work done by these groups and we will soon see some of the fruits of their labour. For example, the "Fun-raising" sub-group already has a list of possible events to hold here to bring in revenue from outside sources. Although difficult to predict exactly how much revenue that will be, you'll see there is a line item in the 2017 Budget estimating some \$25,000 revenue from such events.

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3. Block Development

For years, we have been talking Block Development and we will again this year. The difference being that we now have a new neighbour – Triovest, founded by the Mannix family. The Courts accepted their offer to purchase the lots beside us that were up for judicial sale. Triovest are now positioned to do a comprehensive development of the block spanning from 1st Street to Centre Street.

The Congregation's investment in 1988, purchasing the former Canadian Bible Society Building in the middle of the block, has positioned us to play a significant role in that development. We stand the chance of getting back far more than the actual square footage of our properties in the finished development. What will not be rolled into the development is the Sanctuary, but what can happen is that the Sanctuary will be restored to its original glory.

Now that we are much closer to seeing development happen, it is time for Central to access the most expert representation available to advance, protect, and promote our interests. To this end, some of the Board have met with one of the top Real Estate Lawyers in the city. This will come at a price. We have also met with the managers of the St. Andrews Regional Ministry that has a fund for the purpose of assisting congregations in hiring expertise for development purposes. We are working on a Memorandum of Understanding where they will give us the seed money to hire the experts needed for us to proceed.

We will also soon receive the Retainer Letter from the law firm. To this end we need a motion to designate signing authorities on behalf of the Congregation.

Moved by Ron Voth, Seconded by Brad Oneil, that Bob Hindley and Diane Scheibner are appointed and authorized as joint signing authorities as we engage representation and move forward with development opportunities on the block. Carried.

JNAC (Joint Needs Assessment Committee) Update

Because of the serious deficit, the work of the committee was suspended at a Congregational Meeting in November 2016. A request was made for volunteers to be part of a Committee to develop a Business Plan to deal with the deficit so that we can move ahead with staffing the Order of Ministry vacancy resulting from Michael Ward's retirement. Several people came forward offering to be part of that team.

Several things have happened since last November.

- a. We received significant bequests, as reflected in the Financial Report.
- b. The Business Plan Committee has begun the work of developing a Business Plan.
- c. Wayne Lewry made the difficult decision to retire effective June 30, 2017.

The combination of these three items has meant that the JNAC can complete the report to present to Presbytery without the requirement of having a finished Business Plan. Therefore, we had a Congregational Meeting the end of January at which time the JNAC was re-instated.

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We have since had two meetings and are now reviewing a draft job description for the Order of Ministry position we need filled. As soon as we have that completed, we can present the final report to the Board for its review before presenting it to the Congregation and then, ultimately to Presbytery.

The whole process is quite complicated and time consuming and very frustrating for those who are anxious for their new leader. If we don't have the position filled by July 1, there are options for Pastoral leadership in the meantime. We can look at getting an Interim Pastor to fill in and/or get Pulpit Supply for Sunday preaching.

There are exciting, and sometimes even scary, times ahead. Thanks to the staff for their perseverance over the last year. It is tough to wait for a new leader and to embark on a seemingly unmarked path. We are experiencing what those before us have gone through and, like them, trust God to take us to a level we could never have achieved on our own.

This topic prompted much discussion about the uniqueness of our recovery ministry and the possibility of keeping Wayne on in some capacity; perhaps part-time or contracted to assist in the evening service. Diane reminded the meeting of Presbytery's policy and Terri Mullin requested that the Board seek some kind of special exemption. Diane agreed that the Board would follow up on this matter with Presbytery.

Financial Report

Bob Hindley, as Chair of the Stewardship & Finance Committee, referenced pages 61 & 62 of the Annual Report and reported the following:

- The Total Receipts for 2016 were \$519,649 which was about 14% less than 2015 and 12% below budget.
- 2016 Offerings were \$407,148 (excludes rentals & specified gifts) which was about 19% less than 2015 and 16% below budget.
- 2016 Rental Revenues were \$81,761 which was about 18% more than 2015 and 19% above budget. In April 2016, we started receiving rental income for the Vanderlinder building – thanks to Colleen Robarts for managing facility rentals.
- The Total Disbursements for 2016 were \$604,633 which was about 12% less than 2016 and 0.5% more than budget.
- The 2016 Operating Deficit was \$84,984 which was \$1,958 more than 2015 and \$70,733 more than budget. This is our fourth year with operating deficits in the \$80,000 to \$90,000 range – and this year it is with one less pastor.

Bob thanked the staff for their ongoing attention to containing expenses. He thanked **Newton Hislop** for his countless volunteer hours which have resulted in significant savings in heating system and building maintenance costs. Thanks to **Norm Barnecut** for volunteering his time which saves on costs associated with pipe organ maintenance. The meeting also acknowledged Bob as he assists Norm in this regard.

Bob then expressed his appreciation for all members, attendees, and visitors who gave generously throughout 2016 in terms of time, talent and treasure.

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Referencing pages 63, 64 & 65 of the Annual Report, Bob talked about Available Funds at year-end 2016 compared to year-end 2015; the repayment of the Northwest Conference loan; bequests and memorial donations; and the Balance Sheet. He then provided the following assessment of 2016:

“In previous years, I have commented on how Central has demonstrated resilience when dealing with such things as a fire, a flood, a heating system failure and a pipe organ failure. Resilience will continue to be important as we continue to deal with an uncertain local economic situation and the ongoing transition in our leadership.

For the past few years, we have been continually reducing our expense budgets and expenditures in response to declining receipts. However, this is not preferred as an ongoing approach and there is very little opportunity to continue doing this. I think we really need to start addressing the revenue side of the equation with innovative ideas and by attracting new members.

Fortunately, bequests and memorial donations received over the past few years have provided some interim relief in terms of available funds. As we learned a few years ago, we can't always count on there being bequests to cover our operating deficits.”

Bob acknowledged and thanked the collection counters – **Olga Field, Dorothy Miller, Bill Moore and Ron Voth**. He also expressed appreciation to **Roberto Montagni**, our Treasurer, for monitoring expenses and for keeping the reporting and books in order.

Bob shared that the Finance Committee had been shocked to learn of the death of their colleague and committee member, **Tony Cole**, last August. Tony served faithfully on the committee for many years. His friendship, wisdom and expertise are sorely missed.

Bob concluded by saying that the 2016 Annual Financial Reports were reviewed and submitted by the Finance Committee – **Roberto Montagni, Frank Sparks, Ron Westcott and Bob Hindley** – presented to the Board of Elders and officially reviewed by an external accountant last Friday.

Moved by Bob Hindley, Seconded by Norm Barnecut, that the 2016 Financial Statements of Central United Church be adopted by the Congregation of Central United Church. Carried.

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2017 Operating Budget:

After providing an overview of the budget process, Bob summarized the proposed 2017 Operating Budget as follows:

- Offerings budget was reduced to \$400,000 (2016 budget was \$487,000 and actual was \$407,148).
- Total Receipts budget was reduced to \$532,000 (2016 budget was \$586,500 and actual was \$519,649).
- Disbursements budget was reduced to \$568,300 (2016 budget was 600,751 and actual was \$604,633).

Bob commented that the 2017 Operating Budget has a planned deficit of \$36,300. This should be a manageable amount and is a significant improvement over deficits in recent years. The budget is premised on continuing with the current single pastor model. Most line items have been budgeted at levels consistent with the 2016 actuals. Most of the reduction in the disbursement budget relates to a counseling services contract that was not renewed for 2017.

The Receipts Budget for 2017 has a new line item called Event Revenue. As was mentioned earlier, some members of the Business Plan Team are actively identifying potential “fun-raiser” events and identifying event leaders with a goal of raising at least \$25,000 in 2017.

As a number of people had been asking staff why we didn’t prepare and distribute the usual stewardship package and faith promise card at the end of last year, Bob explained:

“Early last fall, we decided that we would coordinate the stewardship package with the timing and contents of the completed JNAC report and that the stewardship package would complement the ‘way forward’ as identified in the JNAC. With the suspension of the JNAC late last year, this plan fell apart. We haven’t forgotten about the stewardship package and are still assessing our options.”

Bob mentioned that the request for a special year-end donation resulted in an additional \$30,000 which was greatly appreciated.

He concluded by stating that the 2017 Operating Budget was prepared by the Finance Committee, assisted by Staff, and reviewed and accepted by the Board of Elders.

Moved by Bob Hindley, Seconded by Bill Moore, that the 2017 Budget be adopted by the Congregation of Central United Church. Carried.

General Questions/Comments

As there were no further comments or questions from the floor, Diane thanked those people responsible for today’s lunch, those who had helped to get things set up, and those who will help to clean up and return the tables to their appropriate rooms when we are finished. She suggested that people should see Colleen for further instructions.

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Other Business

Ratification Motion:

Moved by Lori Bazin, Seconded by Terry Mullin, that all accounts, contracts, bylaws, proceedings, elections, appointments and payments of monies by the Board of Elders or by the Officers of the Board for the period from our last Annual Congregational Meeting to date, as the same are set forth or referred to in the Minutes of the Board of Elders be, and the same are hereby approved ratified and confirmed. Carried.

With no other items of business, Diane called for the meeting's adjournment and thanked everyone for attending.

So Moved by Lloyd Farley, Seconded by Cindy Talman. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:35 p.m.

***Respectfully submitted,
Lori Bazin***

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STAFF IN 2017

PASTOR (JANUARY – JUNE)	WAYNE LEWRY
GUEST PASTOR (SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER	DR. PETER RALPH
CONGREGATIONAL CARE COORDINATOR	LORRAINE ANDERSON
MUSIC, WORSHIP & COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR	KATHY SEIBEL
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR.....	COLLEEN ROBARTS
CHILDREN’S MINISTRY.....	MARY LANSDALL
CHILDREN’S MINISTRY EVENING	MEGHAN LANSDALL-COLE
MAINTENANCE (VOLUNTEER).....	NEWTON HISLOP
RECOVERY MINISTRY.....	BRAD ONEIL / PETER SHERIDAN / BILL MOORE
TREASURER / BOOKKEEPER	ROBERTO MONTAGNI
PRINCIPAL ORGANIST / ACCOMPANIST	ALENA NAUMCHYK
TECHNICAL TEAM LEADER	JUSTIN AZEVEDO
SUNDAY CUSTODIAN	SHANNON GLADUE

BOARD OF ELDERS IN 2017

MICHAEL ADAMOWICZ	MEMBER
EARLE ALLEN	LIFETIME MEMBER
LORRAINE ANDERSON	MINISTRY
NORM BARNECUT	MEMBER
LORI BAZIN	BOARD SECRETARY
DARREN BERG.....	MEMBER
BOB HINDLEY.....	FINANCE CHAIR
EDIE LEE	MINISTRY & PERSONNEL CO-CHAIR
JOHN PATTERSON	MEMBER
DIANE SCHEIBNER	BOARD CHAIR
MARIVIC SOLIS DELA CERNA	MEMBER
RON VOTH.....	MINISTRY & PERSONNEL CO-CHAIR

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GROUP LEADERS IN 2017

AARON'S JOURNEY	CLAYTON & ANNAMAY LAPOINTE
BOARD OF ELDERS CHAIR	DIANE SCHEIBNER
COLLECTION COUNTING	COLLEEN ROBERTS
COMMUNICATIONS	KATHY SEIBEL
CONGREGATIONAL DATABASE	EDIE LEE / KATHY SEIBEL
EUCHRE SOCIAL GROUP	KATHY SEIBEL / ROB ROSIN
FAITH & FAMILY NIGHTS	COLLEEN ROBERTS
FEASTING ON THE WORD	RON VOTH / MICHAEL ADAMOWICZ
FILIPINO FELLOWSHIP	MARIVIC DELA CERNA
FLOWER MINISTRY	JUNE ST. LEWIS
JOINT NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE	DIANE SCHEIBNER
MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL CHAIRPERSONS	EDIE LEE & RON VOTH
PARABLES IN THE PARK	BILL MOORE
PRAYER MINISTRY	CARLA BOWEN
PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES	SANDRA CHILD / KIMBERLEY FARLEY / BILL MOORE
STAMPEDE BREAKFAST	PETER SHERIDAN
STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR	BOB HINDLEY
THE REST OF THE STORY	BILL MOORE
TRANSITION TEAM	TERRI BERG / KIMBERLEY FARLEY / ANGEL MANGAY-AT / BILL MOORE
VOLUNTEERS COORDINATOR	VIVIAN SAMPSON
WORSHIP PLANNING TEAM	KATHY SEIBEL

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THE MINISTERS REPORT



As most of you are probably aware, 2017 was a transition year in the life of Central United Church. Your second long-term minister, **Rev. Wayne Lewry**, retired in May. I take this opportunity, on your behalf, to thank him for his many years of service to God and the ministry here at Central. We wish him well in his future endeavours, with prayers for a healthy and productive retirement.

During the period of time that you were without a called or appointed minister, you, as a faith community, “stepped up to the plate” and with the help of a goodly number of pulpit supply ministers, carried the ministry forward with passion, determined to continue offering hope and renewal to all who crossed the threshold of our church. I thank each and every one of you!

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our stellar staff who, with tireless commitment, worked with you, as a team, to continue the work to which we have been called. Our staff includes: **Lorraine Anderson** (Congregational Care Coordinator), **Kathy Seibel** (Music, Worship Planning and Communications Director), **Mary Lansdell** (Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator), **Colleen Robarts** (Office Administrator), **Roberto Montagni** (Accounting), **Justin Azevedo** (Technical team Leader), **Shannon Marshall** (Sunday Custodian), **Brad O'Neil and Peter Sheridan** (Celebrate Life Recovery Ministry) and, finally, **Fely and Lito Guevarra** (Jan-Pro Cleaning Systems). I am filled with grateful thanks for their strong commitment to the ministry of Central and to helping me “settle in” as your Transition Team Minister.

And speaking of transition, I was asked by **Diane Scheibner**, as Chair of your Board of Elders, to consider an appointment for a two-year period to engage in a process of re-imagining the future ministry of Central by reviewing the mission statement and helping the community create a sound governance model to stabilize the work of ministry to which we have been called. And, when I find time, to preach riveting, engaging and brilliant sermons every week! Wish me luck!

After a number of coffee dates with Diane, chatting about Central, I felt called by God to spend the next two years with you and so I agreed to come. My appointment commenced on January 1, 2018.

Thank you for your warm welcome of me. I look forward to all the challenges and “God moments” we will share.

Blessings,
Rev. Linda C. Hunter

CONGREGATIONAL CARE REPORT



Greetings All!

Let me begin by saying Thank You to all who have stepped up to the plate to volunteer in this Ministry of Care.

It was a privilege to be in the pulpit several times this year. Given the opportunity to begin and end the New Year to deliver the morning message is something I will always treasure. Thank you for allowing me to serve you in this way.

We began offering Celebration Sunday this year. Our first one was in October. This is part of our Morning Worship Service, whereby the congregation has an opportunity to share what they have celebrated in that particular month. It could be the birth of a child, a birthday, a new job or home, beginning school, graduating, becoming a senior citizen, anniversary, discovering the joy of reading the bible. The list is endless, really of what we can show gratitude for. It has been a wonderful way to connect with each other in a meaningful way.

Our Stephen Ministry gathered together once a month. We recently studied the book "Speaking The Truth In Love" by authors Ruth N. Koch & Kenneth C. Haugk. We also used this time to support one another in our experiences in caregiving.

Our Care Corner came into being this year as well. I was inspired by Colleen when she had a card for Justin & Chrissy congratulating them on their marriage. We are endeavoring to have a card there as often as possible, to give each of us a chance to express our joy, sorrow, concern, gratitude, etc. in a community-minded way. Sometimes you will find a Stephen Minister Trainee at the table. This is a great way to meet the team individually.

Easter and Christmas Cards were sent to those who preferred that to receiving lilies, roses or poinsettias. Lee Patterson generously donated her time and talent to make the Easter Cards for us. She took a well- deserved break from doing the Christmas ones this year. We are grateful for you, Lee.

I would be remiss if I did not also mention that **Lee Patterson** made prayer shawls and scarves for various members of our church family. I was privileged to receive a shawl and am reminded every time I see it in my office, of the love and caring that went into creating it, and with my favourite colours in mind as well. It often beckons me to pray. In fact, I am wearing it at this moment. Lee has been seen knitting hats as well, while patiently waiting for John on Sundays after the service.

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Nancy Rowell continues to faithfully and cheerfully call people on their birthday. Many are blessed by your dedication to connecting with our families with this meaningful act of thoughtfulness. Thank you, Nancy

Our Children's Ministry, for the fourth year, lovingly created and sent Valentines and Christmas Cards to our seniors in the congregation. They brought joy, surprise and delight to many.

Our Visitation Team this year included **Kerry Birkett, Jeanie Delroy, Fay Milk, May & Don Nauffts, Lee & John Patterson, Roy Porter, Vivian Sampson, Jose & Tessie Velsaco, Ron Voth and Mikey Winfield**. Many people have commented on how much they enjoyed the visits that they received. Kenneth Haugk, the founder of Stephen Ministries reminds us that 90% of caring is just showing up.

It is my honour to announce that **Maegan Lansdell-Cole** has officially become a visitor on behalf of Central. She and I had a delightful visit with **May & Don Nauffts** in the summertime. Welcome, Maegan. You are a natural and we are so grateful for you.

Thank you so much to all who have been part of the team this year. Visiting over the phone continues to happen on behalf of Central. I often hear of how much the person initiating the call is blessed by their experience. We all could benefit from encouraging words, whether they are verbal or written.

We have a great group of people who are involved in all the various aspects of the funeral receptions that are held here throughout the year. The guests have felt welcomed and well looked after. Thanks to each of you for sharing your gifts of hospitality. We are blessed. Thanks very much to Vivian Sampson for recruiting people to help in these areas. This year, all funerals related to our Central Family took place at various funeral homes throughout Calgary. We are saddened to have lost 52 people this year.

We said goodbye to **Brigid Carty, Ann Proden, Margaret Russell, Jeanette Veale, Emely Vidad, Wayne Smith, Earke Clarke, Bill Hallett, Carl Rollock, Curtis McLean, & Mae Lansdell**. Each one contributed to the life of Central in their own, unique way. They are missed.

We also said goodbye in a different way to **Pastor Wayne Lewry**, who retired in June. It was a privilege to work alongside Wayne in ministry. He, along with his wife Marilyn & son David, brought so much wisdom and experience to our recovery community. You are missed. We celebrate with you & Marilyn and you as you continue on your faith journey. We love you.

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There were **6** children and **5** adults baptized in 2017. This is such a joyful time and we thank God for each family and individual who experiences this visible enactment of the gospel—a sign or symbol of God’s grace and salvation in Jesus Christ.

Our Chapel began being used before the service for prayer.

It also has many lovely plants that are well cared for by **Lynn Tizzard**.

Our pre-service coffee time was moved into the Fellowship Lounge and has worked well in that location. It has been made more inviting by having small tables set up for people to relax and enjoy.

Our pews contain many individuals who serve in a caregiving capacity in one way or another. They are often unseen, quietly doing good, kind deeds without any need for recognition and who choose to be that way. To each of you, we give our thanks and appreciation for all that you are and do on behalf of Central.

I am so grateful to the wonderful colleagues that I have the privilege of working alongside, particularly these past 6 months. Thanks so much to **Colleen, Kathy, Mary, Roberto and Shannon** for reminding me of what teamwork is all about. I love you all.

How blessed we are to welcome our Transition Minister, **Rev. Linda Hunter**. I look forward to working alongside this amazing woman of God.

It is always a privilege to serve each of you in this ministry of caring. My hope is that all will continue to find Central a safe, caring, compassionate and loving place to worship our Creator. May you all find your own place to serve and create community, here and on the fringes.

It is a privilege to serve each of you in this area of ministry. My hope and prayer is that you will continue to find Central a safe, caring, compassionate and loving place to worship our Creator as well as find your own place to serve and create community, here and beyond Central’s walls.

Peaceing life together with God’s grace,

Lorraine Anderson
Congregational Care Coordinator

MUSIC, WORSHIP & COMMUNICATION



Like most years, 2017 has been filled with highs and lows, but Pastor Wayne's retirement came as a huge surprise and shaped my entire year. My responsibilities increased dramatically, and I felt over my head for much of the time. My faith was certainly tested throughout the year, and I questioned if I would be able to 'hang in there' until we would be able to move forward with a Transitional Minister. Thanks to a lot of prayer, and the support of the congregation and our ministry team - Mary, Lorraine and Colleen, I ended the year with a renewed hope for our future and my role in it. Praise be to God!

Although I have always collaborated on putting the worship services together, in 2017 the Board changed my job title from "Director of Music" to "Music, Worship and Communications Director" to more accurately reflect what areas I am responsible for. I am very grateful to Ron Voth and Edie Lee for putting together my new job description - not an easy task!

My report is in three sections and will highlight what has happened in 2017:

MUSIC

1) **Choirs**

Leading worship on two Sundays every month, the **Sanctuary Choir** is open to anyone who would like to join and is often an entry point into Central. We are a very supportive group, and always end rehearsals by praying for concerns that have been expressed.

The **Possibility Singers** is open by audition or invitation and is a much smaller choir that usually sings more difficult contemporary music once a month and at the early Christmas Eve service.

Voices of Central, also known as the Christmas Choir, is comprised of Sanctuary Choir members augmented by other singers from the congregation and community. We rehearse for one hour per week beginning in mid-October until the Christmas Musical presentation during the morning service in December. "Christmas! We Remember, Rejoice, Worship", was performed to a packed house on December 17, 2017 with narrator Bernie Van De Walle.

A huge 'thank you' to Choir Librarian and Gown Administrator, Barbara Cassley, Social Coordinator, Sandra Child, and Diana Howell for their tireless work behind the scenes keeping the choir organized.

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2) **Bands & Instrumentalists**

Heartsong, rehearses monthly and leads worship twice a month during the morning worship service. We are very grateful to add the very capable Ruben Agbisit on guitar. Thank you to **Ernie Webster, Scott Hunt, Terri Berg, Kimberley and Lloyd Farley and Danny Pablo (as well as Ruben)** for their dedication throughout the year.

The Cracked Pots continue to bring down the house every Sunday night at the Celebrate Life Recovery service. In June I was thrilled to get back to singing with the band approximately once/month. Thanks to members **Mary Lansdell, Dennis Bishop, Tim Pearson, Wane Summers and John Reid** for their faithful service bringing such amazing music! Once again the Cracked Pots masqueraded as a country band and entertained everyone on the Mall at Central's Stampede Breakfast.

Instrumentalists are hired as needed throughout the year, with the majority being hired for the Christmas musical. The choir raises funds to help offset the cost by having a concession at concerts that are held at Central, particularly the Sled Island Festival at the end of June. Throughout the year there are also many times that a single trumpeter is needed - thank you to congregation member **Mike Routledge** for stepping up.

3) **Technical** (includes sound, projection, stage lighting and video recording) Thanks to our Team Lead, **Justin Azevedo** and team members **Rob Rosin, Darren Berg, Wayne Robello, Doug Jenik and Kyle Marley** for serving in this ministry. This is a great place to volunteer - training is provided.

Other thank you's in the Ministry go out to:

- Organ stewards, **Norm Barnecut and Bob Hindley**, who, together with organ technician Jason Barnsley continue to look after our magnificent pipe organ
- Organist / accompanist, **Alena Naumchyk**, for providing the beautiful Preludes, Offertories and Postludes throughout the year as well as accompanying the choir throughout the year
- **Niko Setiaputra**, for providing several rousing Preludes throughout the year

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WORSHIP

When Pastor Michael retired at the end of 2015 I brought together people to help plan worship services for special services and seasons. This year, in addition to working on special services and seasons within the church year (i.e. Lent, Easter, Advent, Christmas, etc.), our team was given the task of filling the pulpit from June until we had a transitional minister, which turned out to be the end of the year! During that time, our congregation was treated to 10 different preachers with many different styles. We were especially grateful to Dr. Peter Ralph who did the lion's share of the preaching in the fall.

Our theme for Lent / Easter was "Journey To the Cross" and **Ron Voth** facilitated a study group on "Animate: Practices" on Sundays.

The Advent season once again featured a presentation by **Lloyd Farley** with **Niko Setiaputra** on piano. This year the "pageant" was called "The Sensational Congregational, All Play, Imagination Pageantation" and involved the whole congregation!

With Christmas Eve being on a Sunday, we decided to have the Family Service in the regular 10:30 am service time. Called "Scratch Nativity", everyone was given a paper bag with a costume for one of the characters in the Nativity story when they arrived - Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds, Wise Men, a star, sheep, donkey - everyone played a part!

The team in 2017 was comprised of **Kathy Seibel, Colleen Robarts, Lorraine Anderson, Lloyd Farley, Mary Lansdell and Peter and Sharon Ralph**. Throughout the year, beautiful thematic displays for each 'season' were created by **Colleen Robarts**.

We are excited to have Reverend Linda Hunter joining our team and we are continuing to as a Worship Planning Team in 2018.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Ministry reaches the congregation and our community through media in order to inspire, inform, and invite participation in the life, mission, and purposes of the Church through worship projection, church website, social networking and other advertising.

1. Internal Communication

Bulletins, brochures, posters, group emails, MediaShout (our projection software) and other printed material is mostly used to communicate with those in the pews as well as people who use our church for meetings. This is primarily looked after by Colleen, who is always researching and trying fresh ways to make materials attractive.

2. External Communication

a. Signage

- i. The old, worn and outdated sign in the alley was updated to include worship times, phone number and website.
- ii. Temporary signage continues to be placed on 7th Avenue between the Chapel and egress stairs and is used to advertise many special events and services such as Lent / Easter, Stampede Breakfast, Thanksgiving, Advent / Christmas, including the Christmas musical and Christmas Eve services

- b. **Website** - The saying goes, “You only get one chance to make a first impression.” Years ago, a church’s first impression was its physical front door. Today, the first threshold someone may cross is your website. In fact, it is estimated that more than 85% of people check out a church’s website before they attend. Jerod from ChurchJuice states, “Building and maintaining a website isn’t easy, especially when many churches are underfunded and understaffed. Yet a website is the first contact many new people will have with a church and it’s a place regulars go to find information. A communicator’s goal is to remove barriers from people getting the information they need.”

Keeping the website up-to-date as well as incorporating fresh, new innovations is a huge job, and is one area that I feel woefully inadequate. I certainly do my best, but I definitely need more training so that the website can be even more impactful.

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- c. **Social Media** - Anyone remember “and they told 2 friends, and they told 2 friends, and so on, and so on ...”? Social Media is the 21st century way to engage with people who may rarely, if ever, set foot in a church. One ‘Like’ or ‘Share’ reaches all of your friends, and potentially all of their friends as well. Pretty good return for just one or two ‘clicks’! We are active on four of the platforms:
- i. Facebook (@CentralUnitedCalgary)
 - ii. Twitter (@centraluc)
 - iii. Instagram (@centraluccalgary)
 - iv. YouTube (Central United Church Calgary)

And finally, I’d like to give a huge thank you to **Colleen Robarts**, who continues to offer me immense support - together we make a great team!

Congratulations if you made it to the end of my report! You can be glad that I’ve only scratched the surface in these ministry areas. If you want to know more, or would like to become involved in any capacity, please let me know - I’d love to talk with you!

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Seibel

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT



Fourteen Teenagers and Youth and forty-seven children aged twelve and younger attended Sunday School in 2017.

Prior to the Sunday morning service, there is a Sunday School Sign-In and Registration at the back of the Sanctuary. During the morning service, a short Children's Time Scripture lesson is presented. The lesson is child focused and follows the scripture, theme or celebration of that particular Sunday. Children's Time provides an opportunity for Sunday school to be part of the morning service. Following the morning service Children's Time, the teens, children and volunteers leave the Sanctuary and go to the Gym for Sunday school. In the Gym there is continued sign-in, then a prayer and a welcome song. Then it is downstairs to Room 3 for some music time, followed by a Bible story. In the classrooms, there is a craft and a snack. Parents arrive to pick up the children after the service. Teens do not have to wait for parents.

All of the children, teens and youth create **Stair Art**. On various Sundays, their art is displayed on the front stairs of the church. The main purpose of the Stair Art is to proudly show-off our children's beautiful creations. Another purpose is to help make our church look welcoming. The Stair Art shows that our church is open, our church is alive and that our church celebrates our children, our families and our members. Giant hearts, sparkly crosses, advent fires, and Christmas stars will continue to adorn the stairways of our church.

The annual Love Project is also a group activity. Sunday school makes Valentine's Day cards and during a February morning service the children and teens distribute the Valentines cards to the Congregation. Then, the Sunday school led the Congregation in singing a special song. The Love Projects are always a wonderful presentation and a great opportunity for the children to interact with the congregation and to encourage community and love within the Church. There will be more Love Projects in the future.

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Another wonderful group tradition of Sunday school is making Christmas, Valentines, Father's and Mother's Day cards. During the morning services, the Children or a member of the Ushering team gives the cards to the intended congregational members. The cards are also distributed to people receiving flowers from the church, shut-ins, and people in the hospital and in hospice care. Making the cards provides an opportunity to discuss the spirit of giving. It is also a great experience for the children to show they care and to be a part of our helping community. Making the greeting cards are cherished project.

The Sunday School Music Ministry includes Christmas carols, hymns, new Christian music and fun children action songs. **Niko Setiaputra** is the Sunday School Accompanist and he makes it possible for Sunday school do musical presentations in the morning service. All of the songs are presented in sing-a-long style, so that the children are leading the congregation in song. Raising our voices together in music is a great intergenerational activity and a special way for Sunday School to share in worship, joy and faith.

The teens and youth of are committed to the sponsorship of Two World Vision Children, Misigana and Diego. This is their sixth year of sponsoring Misigana and they are into the fourth year of sponsorship for Diego. This is a financial commitment of \$80.00 a month or \$960.00 a year.

To support their World Vision sponsorship commitment the teens and youth host fundraisers. 2016 included Manna Muffins, Blessed Bagels Brunch, Christmas Cookies and Donuts for Dads. They raised \$1,025.00. All of the money raised went to the World Vision Children. The youth also enjoy how their fundraisers give them an opportunity connect with the congregation and they are always humbled by the support and generosity of our community.

Introducing and encouraging the teens and youth and children to participate in the services and other opportunities in the church is important. This year they participated in reading scripture during services, they assisted in several interactive services and they were singing and dancing for the Palm Sunday Service, the Christmas Pageant, and the Christmas Musical.

Another highlight for the teens and youth was **Bill Moore's** and **Clare Burk's** fabulous presentation on Communion. Celebrating the history, purpose, traditions and set up for Communion and then sharing Communion with the teens and youth. This was wonderful intergenerational teaching and learning experience.

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The **Aaron's Journey Legacy Project** created by **AnnaMay and Clayton LaPointe** is also significant. Volunteers fill and distribute backpacks to homeless and street people in the downtown area. Through a funding project, the teens and youth were able to donate \$1,000.00 for the purchase of hand hotties, granola bars, feminine hygiene products, socks, small candy canes and word search and/or Sudoku books. Three teens participated in packing the backpacks.

The teens and youth expressed an interest in furthering their faith journey and decided that they would like to do a scripture study. It is wonderful that **Hannah-Jane Abugan** has taken on the leadership for the **scripture study**. They watch a video of the Sunday scripture. Several discussion questions are presented to encourage dialogue. They talk to each other and ask each other questions and they listen to each other. The scripture study is helping to develop their interest and understanding of scripture. It is encouraging the group's development and is supporting their faith exploration. The scripture study is not only helping the teens and youth to learn the scriptures, but it is also giving them language, developing their ability to speak the scripture and communicate Gods word!

The Children's Activity Table is a quiet activity area for the children at the Celebrate Life Recovery Service. Some Sundays there has been one child and other Sundays there has been fourteen children. The activity table is appreciated for assisting parents with their children during the service. Along with entertaining the children, it also encourages the children's understanding of church and their comfort level, trust and openness within the church.

Maegan, one of our teenagers runs the Activity Table. She has been inviting the morning service teens and youth to assist at the Activity Table. Hannah-Jane, Moises and Josh helped out in 2017. The Morning Teens and Youth will continue to be encouraged to volunteer for the evening Children's Activity Table.

During the months of July and August, seventy Summertime Children's Busy Bags were created. These bags were filled with quiet activities, a toy and a treat for the children who attended services.

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Sunday school is blessed to have such wonderful Volunteers. Much gratitude goes to: **Lee Paterson, Niko Setiaputra, Linda Barrette, Aileen Lie, Rina Tugade, Mary Jane Abugan, Bill Moore, Clare Burk and Darren and Terri Berg.** Many thanks go to the muffin bakers, cookie makers and those who donated Sunday school treats and art supplies. I also want to recognize **Lloyd Farley** for creating a couple of delightful service presentations that highlighted the children and teens. Thank you all for sharing your love, talents and time with Sunday school! It is a privilege to support and appreciate such generous people.

For budget information, please refer to the Budget Section of this Report.

The Children, Teens and Youth of Central are wonderful. They make it easy for me to make my commitment to them; to create a Sunday school that meets the needs of our families and that will engage the Sunday School participants in their faith journey; celebrating their relationship with Jesus; encouraging their trust in God's word and love!

Thank you Central for your love and support!

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lansdell

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OFFICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT



Wow, where has 2017 gone! It seems like yesterday that I was preparing the 2016 Annual Report and now we are back to do 2017. 2017 has been a year of ups and downs here at Central. We said good-bye to **Pastor Wayne Lewry** who retired in June and we spent the rest of the year in anticipation of finding our Transition Minister who was finally announced in December.

With the leaving of Pastor Wayne, **Dr. Peter Ralph** helped us by filling in to deliver the message for most of the fall. During the summer we had a few visiting ministers filling in. It gave us a chance to experience different way of peaching after having Pastor Wayne and Pastor Michael who gave the message at Central for many years.

With Pastor Wayne's retirement, we had a wonderful celebration to say good-bye to him, both in the morning and in the evening. Many stories told, many tears shed, and lots of food was eaten and a good time was had by all. We will miss Pastor Wayne & Marilyn and the rest of the family.

Central is still very busy during the lunchtime and Saturday mornings with all the recovery meetings that happen at the church. As recovery is important to us, we want to help accommodate these meetings as much as we can. Just to name a few who meet here are Overeaters Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Al-Anon, and Alcoholics Anonymous. One of the newest ones who have joined us is All Addictions Anonymous. We still have our regular weekly rentals with Jazzercise, Weight Watchers, TransCanada Harmony Choir, Reposl Choir & Tai Chi. Sled Island Festival, Calgary Folk Festival, and Historic Calgary Week still use our facilities for some of their events. A new group who rented our facilities was Cowtown Opera Society who had their Christmas Concert with the HeeBee JeeBee's. We hope that in time we will be used more for concerts and other events as we keep spreading the news of what a great venue Central is.

One thing new in 2017 was the arrival of COBBS Bread. Every second week we receive bags of day old bread and rolls from Cobbs bakery which we put out on Sundays for people to take, as much or as little as you want or need. It has been a great partnership. Therefore, some Sunday mornings when you come to the Fellowship Lounge and see a mound of bread please help yourself, as it is very tasty bread and we would like to make sure it is not wasted

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One of my many jobs is overseeing the Offering Counters. We have a group of wonderful people who count your offering every Monday morning. Thank you to **Ron Voth, Joan Patterson, Dorothy Miller** and **Olga Field**.

I would like to offer a big thank you to **Olga Field** and **Joan Patterson** who come in on Friday mornings to fold the bulletins and help with special mail outs and any special projects that come up, like collating the Annual Reports and the Stewardship Packages, as well as bagging up the bread we receive from Cobbs Bakery. You both are greatly appreciated.

Shannon Gladue still works as our Sunday Custodian along with the help of **John McIssac** and **Roy Porter**. Also, **Fely & Lito Guevarra**, who are our contract custodians, continue cleaning our building and helping with room set up whenever necessary. In addition, I cannot forget **Vivian Sampson**, our Volunteer Coordinator who comes and in helps wherever needed, making sure that the pews have offering envelopes, connection cards and pencils. All are a true blessing to Central.

I would also like to say a thank you to the wonderful staff I work with. **Kathy, Lorraine, Mary, Roberto, and Shannon**. You all make this place a great place to be at and when I am having a bad day you all encourage me, pick me up and give me the strength to go on. These people will always be family to me.

With all the changes that has been happening, I am really looking forward to seeing what 2018 and God will bring to Central with our new Transition Minister Rev. Linda Hunter.

Wishing you all the best.

Respectfully submitted
Colleen Robarts

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BOARD OF ELDERS REPORT

We had one Board Member whose term was renewed in 2017, **Bob Hindley**. We also had three new Board Members elected at the Annual Congregation Meeting, **Ron Voth, Edie Lee** and **Darren Berg**. Three members resigned from their positions, **Brad Oneil, Gary Gerber** and **Teresa Hood**.

Remits

As a result of significant changes recommended by the 42nd General Counsel of the United Church of Canada 2015, each congregation is required to vote on Remits to effect these changes. The deadline for voting on four of the Remits was June 20, 2017. The Board cast the votes as follows:

Remit #1 – Three Council Model - Yes

Remit #2 – Elimination of Transfer and Settlement - Yes

Remit #3 – Office of Vocation - Yes

Remit #4 – Funding a New Model - Yes

The deadline for voting on Remit #6 – One Order of Ministry is February 2018 and will be dealt with before the deadline date.

Seventh Avenue Development

Acting on the motion passed at the Annual Congregational Meeting held February 26, 2017, Central has officially entered into an arrangement with Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (“BLG”). **Bob Hindley** and **Diane Scheibner**, having been elected to be Central’s representatives on dealings with regard to the Seventh Avenue Development, have both signed the Letter of Engagement. Meetings have been held with the lawyers discussing strategy moving forward. Triovest, owners of much of the property on the block, have secured the buildings situated between the church and the Vanderlinden building (previously the Canadian Bible Society).

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Retirement of Pastor Wayne Lewry

Addressing concerns presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting held on February 26, 2017 about the possibility of having **Pastor Wayne** continue to serve in some way at Central, after his retirement, the Board sent the following motion to Calgary Presbytery:

“Moved by Gary Gerber, seconded by Darren Berg, that the Board of Elders recommends that special dispensation be extended by Calgary Presbytery to Rev. Wayne Lewry to enable him to continue his work exclusively with the evening recovery services at Central United Church after his retirement July 1, 2017.” Carried unanimously.

Presbytery gave our request careful consideration and responded with this motion:

Moved by John Den Hoed, seconded by David Crawford: That Calgary Presbytery reiterates the Presbytery Policy Disengaging from Pastoral Relationships, and will not grant special dispensation or exemption from the policy regarding Rev. Wayne Lewry, Ordained Minister, and Central United Church. Motion carried.

Collaborations

We spent much of the year in meetings and discussions with the St. Andrews Regional Ministry group pursuing the possibility of accessing funds to cover some of the costs of obtaining legal assistance with issues around the block development and expenses associated with much needed upgrades to the church. **Bob Hindley, Brad Oneil, Diane Scheibner** and **Michel Berdnikoff** represented the Board in these discussions. Even though the end result was to not pursue our request, it was a very productive time building connections with their group.

Collaboration was formed with **Rev. Julia Kimmett** of Okotoks United Church, also long-time staff member at Central. She agreed to provide guidance and support assisting the Board and staff deal with pressures surrounding **Pastor Wayne’s** retirement and the uncertainty of where we were headed. She was such a blessing to us all. She also provided us with a draft of the policies and processes being established at Okotoks and Dewinton United Churches for us to review and use as we see fit.

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We also continued to work with a variety of people and agencies to advance our Canada 150 project. The end result was to have a presentation created by Kelly Brothers and to be delivered before the January 2018 deadline. Thanks to **Michel Berdnikoff** for his leadership in this project.

Celebrate Life Recovery Gathering

With the retirement of **Pastor Wayne**, the Board needed to insure the Sunday evening Celebrate Life Recovery gathering had the necessary leadership in place to carry on through our time of transition until we have a permanent Order of Ministry in place. **Peter Sheridan** and **Brad Oneil** presented a proposal for providing that leadership to preserve this ministry.

“Moved by John Patterson, Seconded by Darren Berg, that the Board of Elders generally accept the proposal from Pete Sheridan and Brad Oneil as a bridging solution for the evening service, acknowledging that they will work with the Interim Minister when he/she starts so that all may move forward with a heart for reconciliation and open to God’s guidance.” Carried.

Policy and Procedures

We have known for some time that any policies and procedures that were in place were outdated and need to be re-examined. An extensive review will occur under the leadership of the Transition Team and the guidance of the Transition Minister. In the meantime, an offer was extended to all Staff and Presbytery Representatives that they were invited, but not compelled, to attend all future Board meetings. Their presence has been a tremendous asset.

Another thing that we rectified was having **Sandra Child** continue to represent the Congregation at Presbytery. We had incorrectly acted on what was a recommendation, not a policy that Presbytery Reps only serve three, 3-year terms. **Sandra** has been such a loyal representative; it was inappropriate she not continue to serve in that role and she continued to do so in 2017.

Architectural Services

Considering the type of upgrades required at the church and the amount of time before we can see the benefits in participating in the development of our block, the Board entertained a proposal from Songer Architecture Inc. of Lethbridge, Alberta. **Elizabeth Songer (Beth)** has extensive experience working with churches and theatrical sites to provide for the highest and best use of the facilities. Expect to hear more about this project as she establishes a ‘Scope of Work with Compartmentalized Fee and Suggested Schedule’.

“Moved by Bob Hindley, seconded by Ron Voth, that the Board of Elders approves Songer Architecture Inc. to proceed with the Investigation and Analysis phases from their proposal dated May 11, 2017 and not exceed the quoted amounts therein.” Carried.

Darren Berg will serve as the contact person and liaise with **Beth** throughout this project

*Respectfully submitted,
Diane Scheibner
Chair, Board of Elders*

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JOINT NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The Joint Needs Assessment Committee comprised of **Sue Brodrick** (Presbytery representative), **John Pentland** (Presbytery representative), Central United Church representatives **Michael Adamowicz, Lori Bazin, Alice Cabagan, Kerry Gladue, Newton Hislop, Bill Moore, Heather Morigeau, Brad Oneil, and Diane Scheibner** completed their task and presented their final recommendation.

A Congregational Meeting was called and **Sue Brodrick** presented the recommendation:

“The Joint Needs Assessment Committee recommends that:

- one full-time Order of Ministry position be filled with an Intentional Interim or Transition Minister, to be appointed by Calgary Presbytery to Central United Church for a period of up to two years based on the following criteria:
 - there are major changes in the demographics of the congregation or in its surrounding community
 - the congregation is struggling to deal with the loss of a beloved minister [*soon to be two*]
 - the congregation’s finances are proving inadequate to support congregational life
 - disagreements and tension permeate congregational life and block effective decision-making;
- a Transition Team be formed to work with the Intentional Interim or Transition Minister;
- no other positions are seen as needing to change at this time; and
- the Joint Needs Assessment Committee be disbanded.”

The following motion resulted from this meeting:

Moved by **Sandra Child**, Seconded by **Lee Patterson**, that the congregation of Central United Church accept the Joint Needs Assessment Committee’s recommendation. Carried.

The Committee was disbanded and actions commenced by Presbytery and the Board to secure the best person to facilitate our time of transition.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Scheibner

Chair, Joint Needs Assessment Committee

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL REPORT

Edie Lee and **Ron Voth** accepted the roles of Co–Chairs for the Ministry and Personnel (M and P) Committee in July, 2017. We are both new to the Board of Elders, but as long-time members we hold Central near to our hearts.

Since we are new to this shared role we have been on a large learning curve. We took “M and P 101” at the October 28 Learning Day, sponsored by Calgary presbytery. We learned a lot, plus were provided a line on numerous resources. We discovered that the M and P Committee has a dual function: it is consultative and supportive. The M and P Committee oversees the working relationships between our paid leaders, our volunteers and our church members and participants. The M and P Committee is intended to provide staff with opportunities both to explore work related concerns and to encourage professional development. It provides a conduit for communication between the Board of Elders and staff members. The M and P Committee elevates relevant issues to the Board of Elders for their consideration and required decision making.

Our work to date also has been informed by the report from the Ad Hoc Group commissioned by the Board of Elders at the April, 2017 meeting and tasked with assessing how we might improve communication between the Board of Elders and the staff. The Ad Hoc group included **Kathy Seibel, Lorraine Anderson, Colleen Robarts, Ron Voth and Edie Lee**. The report identified several areas for consideration including having timely access to information and the importance of role clarity.

As we began to meet with staff members, both collectively and individually, we learned that since Pastor Wayne’s retirement, staff members have taken on an enormous amount of work to keep the church functioning. This often took individuals above and beyond previous ‘regular’ duties and was fueled by their passion for Central and its work. At times these workloads have felt unsustainable. We believe we are fortunate to have these dedicated people serving us. We have met with many of the staff and are planning to get together with those whom we have not yet connected. Our intention is to keep lines of communication open.

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Some of our work to date has been in preparation for the arrival of our eagerly awaited Transition Minister. In consultation with staff members and the Board of Elders, we began to rewrite job descriptions to reflect current position responsibilities. The following Job Descriptions have been reviewed and updated:

- Office Administrator
- Congregational Care Coordinator
- Music, Worship and Communications Director

We are currently creating an updated Job Description for the Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator.

We wish to thank **Brad Oneil** for his work as previous Ministry and Personnel Committee Chair and for sharing the resources he had accumulated during his period of service.

The next year will hold many changes for our church. And also, many opportunities! We look forward to serving the staff and the congregation during this exciting time.

*Respectfully submitted,
Ron Voth and Edie Lee*

AARON'S JOURNEY REPORT

We were very fortunate again this past year to have held a successful golf tournament in August that we hosted at Forest Heights Golf Course in Sundre, AB. We raised \$4485.50 through the golf tournament and a missing golfer donated \$1000.00, bringing our total to \$5485.50. We also had some other donations come in to help us fund the 400 bags that we distributed in December. Thank you to Mary Lansdell and her youth group for the \$1000.00 donation to help fill out the bags this year. It was greatly needed and appreciated. Due to certain circumstances we changed up who the bags went to this year. We decided on the following groups: 50 bags for Fresh Start, 50 bags for Sunrise Native Addictions Centre, 12 bags for Avenue 15, 30 bags for Alcove Ladies Centre, 75 bags for the Dream Centre, 83 bags for Simon's House and 100 bags for the streets through Calgary Recovery & Central United Church. This is quite a large project for us to undertake. It takes approximately \$6000.00 plus to fill this many bags, as well as buying the cinchpaks. We were very grateful for being able to fill 400 bags.

This year in the bags we put the following items: handmade face cloths, knitted and fleece neck-warmers, flashlight, puzzle book, pencil, t-shirt, socks, personal hygiene items for the women's bags, band-aides, pens, Kleenex, candy, candy canes, granola bars, combs, nail files, toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, chap stick, nail clippers, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, soap, creams, gloves, toques, hand-warmers, journal books in the treatment centre bags, hacky sacks Ave 15 bags. Each year we try to add something different. Overall there are approximately 30-33 items in each bag. We also added in a Christmas letter and a card with a quote on one side with I know "I'm somebody" on the other side of it. On Nov 18th we gathered in the Dining Room at Central United Church and put the bags together.

God loves us all equally and with Central United Church's help and our friends, we were very grateful to receive all the help with donations and the volunteers that showed up to help fill the bags for distribution. We can only hope that, God willing, we will be able to repeat this all over again in 2018. Our wish is to touch more young lives out there on those cold, lonely streets they call home and let them know that someone cares. Bless you and Thank You again for your support!

Respectfully submitted

AnnaMay and Clayton LaPointe

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BIBLE STUDY FOR BEGINNERS

In June, a new Bible Study was launched ... 5:00 on Sunday afternoons!

Regardless of your spiritual understanding, everyone is welcome to join our small group of drop-ins for a 45 minute study. This is a Bible study with the primary focus for those in a Recovery program. The scripture we study is the same scripture that will be referenced in the message during the evening gathering.

It has been frequently stated that the 12-Step and 12-Promises are sourced directly from the Bible. Through this study, we reference the Life Recovery Bible (NLT) and establish that bond between our Recovery and the Bible as a reality.

The study is also intended to develop a basic understanding of the Bible. We realize that selecting passages from the Bible that tie in to Recovery, without much of the background or character development, is not always much help in furthering a complete understanding; however, the stories of personal struggle in the Bible are very much reflected in our individual Recovery in the 21st century.

Everyone is invited to come check out this different perspective.

***Respectfully submitted,
Bill Moore***

EUCHRE

Like to eat? Like to laugh? Want to meet new people?

On either the 1st or 2nd Saturday every month, church members, friends, friends of friends and co-workers get together for a pot-luck dinner and cards at our house. Pot-luck dinner begins at 6, with cards to follow - around 7 pm. Euchre is an easy to learn trick-taking card game and, although the game is played with a partner, you don't need a partner to come. The number of players vary from 8 - 22 and 'newbies' are always welcome. we have training from 5 - 6 PM! To be added to the email notification list or for more information, please contact Kathy at kseibel@centralchurch.ca

***Respectfully Submitted
Kathy Seibel & Rob Rosin***

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FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT

Have you joined us on one of these nights? If you have, you know what it is all about and how much fun we have.

What is **Faith and Family Night**? It is a chance to get together as a church family and enjoy sporting events at a reasonable cost. Usually put on with Shine FM and the Calgary Stampeders, Calgary Roughnecks, or Calgary Hitmen.

In 2016, we were able to see the Calgary Roughnecks, Calgary Hitmen and the Calgary Stampeders. On average there have been anywhere from 20 - 50 people who attend from Central and we are joined by many others from other churches in the city. At the last Stampeders game there were over 1900 people just from area churches.

If you haven't been to one, think about attending as they are a lot of fun meeting a group of friends for a night out.

Respectfully submitted
Colleen Robarts

FEASTING ON THE WORD BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Feasting on the Word is a lectionary based Bible study that has been going on at Central for the last 6 years. We meet after church on Sunday morning from noon until about 1 pm. The group is led by volunteers using a curriculum supplied by the church. I would like to thank Michael, Clare and Bill for their help over the last year. By following the lectionary our classes explore scripture used in the morning service, hopefully enhancing our Christian faith. We also discuss the message we just heard from our minister. That's the nice, wordy, description of our class. But we have fun! We have become a small community, enjoying each other's company. Every adult coming to the session will have their own life experiences and perceptions. While we talk about the scriptures, we learn from each other. Come and join us and see what you think! The class is a drop in, so attendance is not mandatory each week. If you start coming, you may just enjoy it enough to return! We warmly welcome anyone to come by and check us out.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ron Voth

FILIPINO MINISTRY OF CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH

Challenges and opportunities are the two main core lessons we have had for this year. The year took off with so much eagerness and excitement but was interrupted with air pockets in the middle of the flight. The landing may not have yet been so smooth but it was able to course through the right path, making sure that the vision is focused only one – serving God. The sudden departure of Pastor Velasco generated emotions, apprehensions, unanswered questions -- particularly in fulfilling some activities that would require the presence of a Minister. Though it may have temporarily dampened the spirit of the members, it also motivated them to continue with the work just as Paul exhorted in 1 Timothy 6:12, “Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” The group managed to continue with the work that has been started, to the point of crafting new techniques and style in managing creative activities that will keep the group energetic, more faithful and dynamic.

The membership of the core families that have been with Central dates to more than a decade ago and this is one of the strong points of the Filipino Ministry. Though some of them come and go, there is still a steady number of regular members and worshippers.

TGIF Chapel Service

During the early part of the year, the group felt the need to further improve everyone’s spiritual health by having closer communication with God through a chapel service every Friday of the month; which started in March. From March till October (except for the month of May which was led by Pastor Wayne), Pastor Velasco led in providing the sermon during the service. However, with his departure in October, the group was faced with a challenge and thus, other members in the Filipino Ministry came forward to fill in the void. For the last quarter of 2017, the Filipino Ministry re-assessed and figured out another way of conducting TGIF.

Weekly Bible Study

The feeding of the soul is given more energy by allotting more time in learning God’s word through a careful study of the Holy Bible. Previously, Bible lessons are prepared ahead of time. However, some changes were done. The group created a shopping list of relevant topics that are hardly discussed, even during preaching. This was done to provide a livelier discussion that would stir everyone in their thinking considering that these topics are more pertinent to Christian living.

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Yearly Retreat

Camp Kasota has been the venue for this yearly get-together of families. Fun, group dynamics, fellowship and food kept the group motivated during the entire duration. Members, together with some guests, gather together to enjoy nature, study the Word through group discussion and are recharged spiritually and physically at the end of the retreat. There are activities designed for adults and children; and for the entire family as well.

Outdoor Fellowship

Aside from regularly convening indoors, the group went around surrounding parks and lakes to gather for fellowship, followed with some group games. This is one way of having a closer camaraderie outside of the Church. In 2017, the group went to different Calgary Parks to hold worship services during the summer. It also culminated in bowling which provided fun to both the young ones and the young at heart.

Youth Ministry

Since the teenagers also need to have spiritual feeding, they convene bi-weekly. They stress the importance of having a good Christian foundation based on what the Holy Bible describes. Though the group may be small in numbers, it has not affected the quality of their fellowship.

Hosting Lunches

One cultural trait of the Filipino is their hospitality. This is displayed significantly when the Filipino Ministry hosted lunches for the entire congregation particularly during Thanksgiving and Christmas. During the Christmas lunch, the group even displayed their dancing skills.

During this year, the group realized that nothing is permanent except change. These changes are always for the better. It gave everyone the opportunity to venture into new things, experimenting with different techniques that will enhance and make the group more dynamic. By combining these, Central Church will continue to see more Filipinos actively involved and eventually, the flight will be smooth sailing.

Serving All In Christ,

***Respectfully submitted,
Marivic Solis-Dela Cerna***

FLOWER MINISTRY

It is truly a privilege to be able to serve in God's house. Central United Church has been home to me for many years. When I enter the church doors, I am among family, whether it be the choir, Feasting on the Word, Steven ministry or the new faces on Sunday mornings.

Being the flower ministry coordinator includes, but is not limited to, arranging for members to bring flowers for the Communion Table on Sundays, donating money towards purchasing poinsettias and roses at Christmas in memory or in honour of loved ones, purchasing Easter lilies and Mums for moms on Mother's Day and single carnations on Valentine's. This has been rewarding. We are so blessed to have people in the congregation who are so faithful and willing to deliver these flowers to hospitals, nursing homes and shut ins.

Flowers on Sundays are given to people in the congregation who are celebrating their birthday, anniversary, who are sick, have lost a loved one, as a thank you, or to say we love you and are thinking about you. These flowers have been a blessing to those who have received them.

I would like to say thank you to everyone who has donated their time and money to this ministry. Your act of kindness has brightened many lives. "God loveth a cheerful giver" 2 Corinthians 9:7. Thank you to Mary Lansdell and the Sunday School children for their beautiful, inspiring cards that they made for Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, and Mother's Day.

We are always looking for volunteers to deliver flowers on Sundays after church but especially at Christmas time, Mother's Day and Easter. I would like to encourage you to be part of this ministry. You will surely be blessed. Only a few hours one Sunday could be life changing.

Sign-up sheets for flowers for the Communion Table are in the library. If you are able to bring flowers any Sunday, please put your name on one of the sheets.

Again, it is truly a blessing to serve in this area. I look forward to great things for 2018. My prayer is that we continue to be a blessing to others. God blesses us so that we can be a blessing.

May the peace and love of God continue to reign in our hearts.

Blessings always,

Respectfully submitted,
June St. Lewis
Flower Ministry Coordinator

OUR ~~100~~-101-YEAR OLD PIPE ORGAN

Any hundred year old who has undergone major surgery is going to be grumpy for a while. And extreme weather changes don't help either. 2017 was a year for some major rejuvenation of our pipe organ. Some regulation will be required through 2018 as the wood and leather settle back in. The organ is largely made of wood, leather, screws and wires. Of course, there are pipes that are made of various metals and wood make the actual sounds.

I would like to thank the work-bee team that removed a lot of pipes, cleaned and stored them until it was time to put them back after **Jason Barnsley**, organ builder, had rebuilt primary chests at his shop. It was a diverse group that worked well together and then came back for more work. Removal of the pipes provided a workspace for other work and an opportunity to repair failing pipes.

The good news is that the organ now works quite well (most days) for our immediate needs, even though it is not anywhere near being in concert condition. The less good news is that the organ still has major components that have not been refurbished and could fail at any time; and the organ reserve funds are depleted. Hopefully the instrument will perform satisfactorily for a while with just the maintenance budget and some TLC.

My thanks go to **Bob Hindley, Ron Voth, Gordon Kelso, Bill Moore, Newton Hislop**, and the young guys, **Martin, Bobby and Jason** - who did some heavy lifting.

*Respectfully submitted,
Norm Barnecut*

PARABLES IN THE PARK

2017 brought the seventh edition of Parables in the Park, our most unique ministry combining spiritual discussion of a parable and fellowship while experiencing God's mountain playgrounds!

This summer was one of the hottest on record and so one would think - an excellent hiking season - they'd be wrong however! Prior to this year, I believe we only had to cancel one hike, in 2016, due to vacations of key people resulting in a lack of vehicles for carpooling. This summer was indeed frustrating as there were three cancellations ... an avalanche warning, countless bear warnings and one as the result of poor air quality (smoke as the result of so many fires).

We did manage three hikes in all, one city and two in the mountains. Early on, we had a leisurely city walk along the south escarpment of Glenmore Park Reservoir. Later in the summer, there was a more challenging hike on the Galatea Lake Trail (to Lillian Lake) and a short mid-week hike to Troll Falls, both in Kananaskis Country. In all, there were 18 participants.

Looking forward to a great time of hiking and fellowship again next summer!

***Respectfully submitted,
Bill Moore (Resident Hiker)***

RECOVERY MINISTRY REPORT

It gives us a great deal of pleasure and delight to report to the congregation on the last 6 months of the Celebrate Life Recovery Service, commonly referred to as the “Recovery Service.” We have long been known as the “Recovery Church,” and nothing has changed in that department.

We were nervous and concerned about taking the service over, and wondered to ourselves if we could meet the Board of Elders expectations of us. We have worked hard, and this past 6 months has just flown by with great support from the Board, the Transition Team and the congregation.

We want to take this opportunity to thank **Diane Scheibner** and the Board of Elders for their continued support and attendance at the evening service. You have no idea how much that means to us. We want to thank everyone on the “Trusted Servants” team including **Shannon Gladue, Bill Moore, Lenora Giesbrecht, Roy Porter, Johnny McIsaac**, and the many others that readily volunteer to help us in the service and many events that we host. Also, I would like to thank the staff for their hard work and support of our ministry, Colleen, Kathy and Lorraine. It would be difficult to do our work without their great support. There is one other group that really adds to the evening service and that is Guy, Mary and the Cracked Pots. Their music is so uplifting; we know many come just to hear them.

Bill Moore has been a great support, providing insight on the scripture we present each week and hosting a weekly Bible study where people can come and dig in to the scriptural meaning of that week’s message.

Our numbers of attendees have continued to grow steadily; we are pleased with the weekly attendance.

The Pancake Breakfast was another resounding success and we are so grateful for the many volunteers who pitched in to make this such a special event.

We hosted an event called “**Nothing Short of a Miracle**” that was a huge success, and brought some 300 people into the church who went away with a whole different attitude about people with addictions. We are considering doing that type of event a couple of times a year. We have a some other events that we want to host, and we will announce then in due course.

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We are looking forward to hosting a men's retreat this year and teaching some others how to organize it so that it will continue to be hosted year after year. These provide a great opportunity for the fellowship to grow, for both morning and evening congregations to get together to meet each other and develop friendships.

Our goal is to keep the evening service a place where people can come to experience God's radical, relentless and unconditional love and feel comfortable no matter where they are on their spiritual journey. We welcome people from all walks of life and from all other faiths.

I want to once again thank everyone for their support and assistance and we look forward to another year of great fellowship, sharing God's Word with our experience, strength and hope.

Respectfully submitted
Brad Oneil & Pete Sheridan

PRAYER MINISTRY

Psalms 17: 6-8 says, “I call on you, O God, for You will answer me; give ear to me and hear my prayer. Show the wonder of Your great love, You who save by Your right hand those who take refuge in You. Keep me as the apple of Your eye, hide me in the shadow of Your wings.”

How reassuring it is to know that God our Higher Power will answer our prayers whether they are for others or ourselves. The prayer support that we offer each other at Central makes a difference. It reminds us that we are not alone and that others have our back and most importantly that God/ Higher Power has our backs. We have the opportunity to provide that prayer support to each other through the confidential prayer line, prayer requests in the bulletin and concerns brought forward during the week. We also engage in prayer in small groups, before the morning service, after the morning and evening services, during the services and when visiting people in hospitals and care centers.

I have appreciated the prayer support I’ve received through this ministry as 2017 threw some tough stuff my way. I know that the prayer support I received made a difference in my life and the lives of my family members. I have also had the honour of praying with others and for others. Even though I may not know the outcome, I know that prayer to God/our Higher Power changes things because of who our God / Higher Power is.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the prayer ministry, please contact the church office. Or if you would like to share how prayer and the prayer ministry has impacted your life, that would be awesome as well.

***Respectfully submitted,
Carla Bowen***



PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Well, here it is folks! My very first contribution to our Central United ACM report. I have served alongside Bill Moore and Sandra Child as one of your presbytery representatives for close to a year now. It has been a challenging year of learning, growth and studying different things in 'The United Church Manual'. I feel humbled to serve in this way. I have met many wonderful people from other United churches and have had the opportunity to be involved in important discussions and decisions face the United Church of Canada in the future. As a part of this group, I have also had the opportunity to discuss with other presbyters about how they 'do church'. This has been a blessing, as we are going through our transition. It creates excitement for what is to come.

It would seem that not only are we in transition at our beloved Central United, but also the United Church of Canada is also in a transition. For the most part, it is business as usual, and most of us will not notice the changes that occur. I started attending meetings in March 2017 and have been able to attend all but one to date.

As a presbytery representative, I am also asked to sit on a Commission. I chose to represent Central by sitting on the Ministry of Personnel Support Commission. This Commission oversees three working units: Education & Students, Pastoral Relations and Pensions Convenor. This committee meets as required and I was able to attend all but one meeting to date.

Here are the highlights of what has been going on this year in Presbytery.

We voted on Remits 1, 2, 3 and 4. All the voting was done by secret ballot at the March 21st, 2017 Presbytery Meeting. All votes were to be in by the end of June 2017 by presbyteries and pastoral charges (churches). All four remits were approved by a majority of the 84 presbyteries and 2136 pastoral charges of the United Church.

Remit 1 – Three Council Model: Current system has four courts, or levels, of church decision-making. Propose to reduce to three courts to create a workable church structure in the face of a declining volunteer base and financial resources. The proposal does not simply remove one of the existing courts, but replaces both of the current middle courts with a new Regional Council.

Remit 2 – Elimination of Transfer and Settlement: This has been optional since 2009. Today new Ordinands and Diaconal Ministers are free to find their own placements / pastoral charges.

Remit 3 – Office of Vocation: Will consist of paid staff at General Council Office to deal with procedural and administrative matters and a Board responsible for making decisions. This will ensure greater consistency in practice across the church.

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Remit 4 – Funding a New Model: A consistent, revenue-based assessment formula would replace over 30 different formulas now in place across the country..

For more information on the remits you can go to: <https://www.gc42.ca/remits> or <http://www.united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/remit-implementation>.

At the June 20th meeting we shared food and fellowship at St Matthews United Church. The evening began with a scrumptious dinner prepared by Robert McClure United Church catering and deserts and beverages provided by the women of St Matthew's United Church. We gathered in the sanctuary for worship. At 7 pm we gathered in the sanctuary of St Matthew's for worship. Worship included a Celebration of Becoming an Affirming Presbytery. It was a very special service. I am so thankful to have been able to be a part of it.

At the October meeting, we listened to a presentation by the Local and Global Outreach Committee. Here are some of the outreach initiatives that some of our sister churches are talking about:

- Talking Stick Ceremonies – Scarboro United
- Blanket Ceremony – Scarboro United
- Farmers Market and Emergency Pantry – Robert McClure United
- Habitat For Humanity – Robert McClure United
- Recovery Church – Central United
- Wellness Centre – Wild Rose United

We also had the privilege of hearing a presentation on Flourishing Congregations. Dr Joel Thiessen of the Flourishing Congregations Institute Research Centre at Ambrose University, presented a very thought-provoking study on the indicators of a Flourishing Congregation. The research centre asked the question: What makes churches thrive? People are asking the question “What’s wrong with the Church?” The Institute changes the question to: What’s right with churches?”

The results of the study: Flourishing Congregations seem to have a combination of Five Traits:

1. Clear Self-identity
2. Committed Leadership
3. Desire to Grow
4. Hospitable Community
5. Vibrant Spiritual Life.

Joel spent time expanding on each of the five traits, and welcomed questions and comments.

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In November, we met in Table Groups to discuss more on upcoming remits and boundaries for a new council model. Discussions are on going.

In December we did not have a meeting, but a wonderful Christmas dinner (which I unfortunately had to miss) hosted by Woodcliff United Church. I heard wonderful things about the hospitality, meal and service.

I look forward to continuing as one of your representatives this coming year.

May grace and blessings be in your path,

***Respectfully submitted,
Kimberley Farley***

It is with a sense of joy and deep gratitude that I write this report. I was reinstated as one of your 3 presbytery representatives serving with Kimberley Farley and Bill Moore. Kimberley and I serve on the Personnel Support Commission, which meets at various churches at the discretion of the chairperson. Usually these meeting are held once a month. This commission deals with: the concerns of Ministry personnel, change of pastoral relations, receiving JNAC reports.

One thing that has changed at Central is that the presbytery reps are now able to attend the Board meetings with the Board members and staff members. It is wonderful to hear from these people and work on decisions together.

I attended the Learning Day a few months ago and in the morning attended the workshop on Autism which will help me in my job at Bishop Carroll High School. In the afternoon I attended the workshop for Directors with other Board members. Central was well represented at this event and those in attendance were able to choose a morning and afternoon workshop that was of special interest to them.

Kimberley and I were at the Personnel Support Commission meeting in December 2017 when it was announced to those in attendance that Reverend Linda Hunter would be coming to Central effective January 1, 2018. We look forward to her first Sunday January 7, 2018.

May I serve you with an open heart and mind and listening ear.

***Respectfully submitted by
Sandra Child***

TRANSITION TEAM REPORT

In late June, the Transition Team was assembled, including: Terri Berg, Angie Mangay-at, Kimberley Farley and Bill Moore. Following summer vacations, the Team met during the last week of August to gain an understanding of the tasks that lie ahead.

When we started, we had no idea who the Transition Minister would be, let alone timing, although the best guess seemed to be that Presbytery would assign someone by year-end.

First up, we reviewed the “Guidelines for Transition Teams”, a “how-to” kind of publication produced by the United Church of Canada. Broadly speaking, the Transition Team is responsible for assisting the Transition Minister in preparation for the coming of a full time minister. Simply stated, this involves the review of every church policy and procedure, ensuring compliance with United Church of Canada standards. Every church’s mission, vision and values are different but policy and processes should be somewhat standard.

First up, we prepared a position description for the Transition Minister. This entailed interviewing and comingling the input gained from each of our staff members. We wanted to know from them, looking ahead for the next two years, what they expected from a Transition Minister. In doing so, we examined six specific areas: worship planning, preparation and delivery; administrative and committee meetings; pastoral care; Christian education; community, presbytery and conference ministry needs; special interim work. What the team found really inspiring was the focus and vision that each person had of their specific area of expertise. In assembling their ideas, the team was truly grateful for their openness and confidence in looking ahead, readily sharing their ideas for ministry.

Concurrent with the development of a position description, was the cobbling together of information. Our church has very limited documentation of procedures such as building rental agreements, wedding and funeral processes, day-to-day operating guides, maintenance records, Board and Trustee governance. The development of these documents would be a part of an expanding list for later. Items that we could assemble would include key persons contact information, position descriptions of the staff, minutes from both Transition Team and Board of Elders meetings, various congregation feedback (from questionnaires and the recent telephone survey) and, Annual Reports for the past couple of years.

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The whole purpose of our work in the final 3-4 months of the year, was to gather together topical documentation so the Transition Minister could “hit the road running”, transforming our church into a model that any full time minister could settle into with some degree of ease.

When Reverend Linda Hunter was finally announced, we were in good position to present her with all of the information we had gathered so that she could be in the best possible position when starting her journey at Central. We all very much look forward to working with her over the upcoming period, as our church is readied for the next chapter, a full time minister.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Berg; Kimberley Farley; Angel Mangay-at & Bill Moore

USHERS & GREETERS

“Love each other with brotherly affection and take delight in honouring each other” (Romans 12: 10 New Life Living Testament Paraphrased)

Our ushers and greeters abide by this while welcoming you to Central United with a smile, a handshake or a hug. We miss Pat Gault not being here to guide us these past few months, but his work has taken him out of town, as well as Calgary.

We are always looking for those who wish to get to know members as a greeter. If you are interested, please call the office at 403-269-3701. It will change your life.

Respectfully submitted
Vivian Sampson.

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VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR REPORT

Volunteers are the backbone of Central United Church. By becoming a volunteer, you have the opportunity of learning new skills and making new friends. Volunteering is also a good way of honing your skills while looking for employment.

Those that you see during the services are:

- ✓ Choir & Music
- ✓ Sunday School Helpers
- ✓ Greeters and Ushers
- ✓ Board of Elders
- ✓ Scripture Readers
- ✓ Technical Crew (Audio & Visual)
- ✓ Prayer Minister (both services)

Those that work behind the scenes are:

- ✓ Offering Counters
- ✓ Bulletin Folders
- ✓ Office Support
- ✓ Flower Delivery
- ✓ Hospitals and Care Homes Visits
- ✓ Church Decorating (Easter, Christmas, Stampede)
- ✓ Birthdays and Anniversaries Telephone Calls
- ✓ Sandwich Makers for the Drop-In Centre, and various events at the church
- ✓ Bible Study Leadership
- ✓ Annual Reports & Stewardship Packages Collation

Thank you to our Filipino Family for providing the wonderful dinners and entertainment throughout the year. Thank you to Roy Porter and John McIsaac for helping to keep the coffee going all Sunday long (i.e. pre-church, Fellowship meetings and recovery service.)

Thank you to Maegan Lansdell-Cole caring for of and entertaining the children of the evening service.

A big thank you to all who volunteered as an Usher and or Greeter all year round, especially during our Christmas Musical. You all are a true blessing to the church.

If you are interested in volunteering in any area around the church, please give me a call at 403-277-1013 or call the church office at 403-269-3701. God Bless

Respectfully submitted
Vivian Sampson

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STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Central's Receipts and Disbursements Statement for 2017 shows an operating deficit of **\$141,974** compared to a 2016 operating deficit of **\$84,984**. Total 2017 receipts were **\$435,406**, which was **16%** less than 2016 receipts and **18%** less than budget. Total 2017 disbursements were **\$577,380**, which were **5%** less than 2016 disbursements and **1.5%** over budget.

Thanks to all the members and adherents who contributed to our ministries and special appeals this year!

On the receipts side, offerings (envelopes, loose & visitors, non-receipted and recovery) were **\$342,846**, which was **16%** less than 2016. Rental revenues were **\$66,703**, which was 18% less than in 2016. Specified receipts were **\$25,857** down slightly from 2016. Specified receipts are generally unpredictable and are generally offset by corresponding disbursements in the same year. The 2017 receipts budget included **\$25,000** of revenue from new fund raising events. The new events did not happen.

On the disbursements side, the overall total of **\$577,380** was just **\$9,080** over budget. However, the details show that there were several offsetting variances. Staff costs were well below budget primarily due to the unplanned 6 month period with no full-time minister. Organ maintenance expenses were **\$10,684** over budget due to some major rejuvenation work (described elsewhere in the Annual Report) completed during 2017. Although not budgeted, the extra organ expense was funded using "restricted cash" designated as organ funds. A new expense was an unbudgeted **\$13,383** for Professional Fees paid for some expert strategic advice on potential opportunities for Central to benefit both now and in the future from the eventual redevelopment of our city block.

Thanks to staff for their diligence in helping to manage our operational expenses.

At the end of 2017, Central had available funds (deposits and cash) of **\$131,940**. This is a decrease from the 2016 balance of \$274,726 largely due to the operating deficit. During 2017, Central received official notice of 3 bequests that will significantly improve our cash reserve position.

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The financial statements include a column for the proposed 2018 operating budget.

The total receipts budget for 2018 is **\$496,000**, which is a 14% increase over actual 2017 receipts. The 2018 budget for offerings (envelopes, loose & visitors, non-receipted gifts and recovery) is **\$400,000**. This is equal to the 2017 offerings budget and is close to the actual offerings received in 2016. Hopefully, both Calgary and Central will experience some economic recovery in 2018

The 2018 total disbursements budget of **\$629,600** represents an increase of **\$61,300** relative to the 2017 budget and an increase of **\$52,220** relative to actual 2017 disbursements. Most of this increase relates to Professional Fees for an Architectural Study on the needs and opportunities for our building and for some additional advice on the opportunities related to block redevelopment. This investment in professionals is an essential element of a Board initiative to pursue external funding opportunities.

The 2018 operating budget results in a planned deficit of **\$133,600**. Hopefully, the deficit situation will improve as we renew our focus on transition.

Finally, the grateful thanks of this Committee (**Frank Sparks, Ron Westcott and Bob Hindley**) are extended to our Treasurer **Roberto Montagni, Colleen Robarts**, our ushers, collection counters (**Olga Field, Dorothy Miller, Joan Patterson and Ron Voth**) and all others who helped in the finance and stewardship area during 2017.

Respectfully Submitted
Bob Hindley, Chairperson
Stewardship and Finance

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RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS STATEMENT

		2017 BUDGET	2017 ACTUAL	PROPOSED 2018 BUDGET
RECEIPTS				
1	ENVELOPES	310,000	256,521	300,000
2	LOOSE & VISITORS	20,000	18,547	20,000
3	CONTRIBUTIONS NON RECEIPTED	35,000	35,436	35,000
4	RENTAL REVENUE	80,000	66,703	60,000
5	SPECIFIED RECEIPTS	27,000	25,857	26,000
6	EVENT REVENUE	25,000		10,000
11	RECOVERY OFFERING	35,000	32,342	45,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS		532,000	435,406	496,000
DISBURSEMENTS				
OUTREACH 100'S				
102	ASSESSMENTS	25,400	25,368	24,500
104	DISBURSEMENTS	15,000	16,089	16,000
108	RECOVERY	10,000	18,940	30,000
TOTAL 100'S OUTREACH		50,400	60,397	70,500
SALARIES & ALLOWANCES 200'S				
201	MINISTERS, MUSIC & PROG	194,000	176,356	201,000
202	SUPPORT STAFF	80,000	82,860	80,000
203	CONTINUING EDUCATION	2,500	717	2,500
206	REWARDS & RECOGNITION	1,000	0	1,000
209	CANADA PENSION	5,000	6,007	5,600
210	EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	4,500	4,547	4,500
211	UNITED CHURCH PENSIONS	12,000	9,741	7,500
212	WORKERS COMPENSATION	1,200	1,137	1,200
214	GROUP INSURANCE	18,000	12,450	5,000
TOTAL 200'S SALARIES & ALLOWANCES		318,200	293,815	308,300

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TEACHING		2017 BUDGET	2017 ACTUAL	PROPOSED 2018 BUDGET
300	GUEST MUSICIANS – AM SERVICE	11,600	9,182	10,000
205	MUSIC –PM SERVICE	10,000	9,850	10,000
301	MUSIC & SUPPLIES	3,700	2,244	3,000
303	INSTRUMENTAL GROUPS	800	178	800
306	SPIRITUAL FORMATION REG	500	453	500
307	WOMEN’S CONNECTION	1,500	1,465	1,500
308	FAMILY MINISTRIES	4,000	3,112	4,000
312	TECHNICAL MINISTRIES	5,600	2,165	3,000
313	HOSPITALITY	1,200	5,594	3,000
315	RETREATS & SEMINARS	1,000		1,000
TOTAL 300'S TEACHING		39,990	34,243	36,800
ADMINISTRATION & MAINTENANCE 400'S				
401	OFFICE SUPPLIES & SOFTWARE	20,000	24,316	25,000
402	POSTAGE	3,000	1,871	2,000
403	TELEPHONE	4,000	3,778	4,000
405	BANK & CREDIT CARD CHARGES	4,500	3,389	3,500
406	FUNDRAISING	6,000	5,570	6,000
408	WORSHIP SUPPLIES	1,500	3,936	1,500
409	UTILITIES	27,500	30,331	30,000
410	FLOWERS & DECORATIONS	2,500	2,156	2,500
411	INSURANCE	15,500	17,016	17,000
413	CHURCH MAINTENANCE	10,000	7,559	10,000
414	JANITORIAL	50,000	49,659	50,000
415	MAINTENANCE OF ORGANS	2,000	12,684	3,000
416	MAINTENANCE OF PIANOS	1,000	1,095	1,000
417	KITCHEN SUPPLIES	6,000	5,265	6,000
418	PROFESSIONAL FEES		13,383	45,000
420	I T	2,000	1,459	2,000
421	ADVERTISING	1,500	983	1,500
422	SECURITY	2,800	4,475	4,000
TOTAL 400'S ADMIN & MAINTENANCE		159,800	188,925	214,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS		532,000	435,406	496,000
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		568,300	577,380	629,600
DIFFERENCE		(\$36,300)	(\$141,974)	(\$133,600)

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CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash	\$131,940
Accounts Receivable	\$2,439
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$134,379
Property, Building & Equipment	\$790,744
TOTAL ASSETS	\$925,123
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	\$1,725
Deferred Contributions (Other)	\$21,945
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$23,670
Deferred Contributions (Roof)	\$75,886
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$99,556
NET ASSETS	
Invested in Property, Building & Equipment	\$714,858
Unrestricted	\$110,709
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$825,567
TOTAL	\$925,123

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LEGACY FUND

STATEMENT AT DECEMBER 31, 2017

		Opening 01/01/2017	YTD Activities FUNDS IN	YTD Activities FUNDS OUT	Closing 31-Dec-17	Net Change
FUNDS						
ATB	CASH ON DEPOSIT	60,364		31,578	28,786	-31,578
OAKEN	OAKEN	212,768		112,890	99,878	-112,890
PAYPAL	PAYPAL	294		196	98	-196
DEPOSIT	CASH TO BE DEPOSIT	1,300	1878		3,178	1,878
		\$274,726			\$131,940	(142,786)

BEQUESTS & DONATIONS

Special donations to the Legacy Fund and Specified Programs
have been made in memory of the following persons:

Carl Rollock
Margaret Russell
Ann Proden
Brigid Carty
Dodie & Bob Franssen
Mary Dickieson

Total Memorial Donations: **\$400**

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ADULT BAPTISMS FOR 2017

Bill Allen
Craig Fitzpatrick
Shannon Gladue
Janet Harder
Cindy Talman

INFANT BAPTISMS FOR 2017

Liam Jackson ~ son of Brett & Jennifer Jackson
Gavrillio Setiaputra ~ son of Niko Setiaputra & Aileen Lie
Sarah Maher ~ daughter of Michael & Corinne Maher
Logan Sullivan ~ son of Kevin & Cheryl Sullivan
Sloane Sullivan ~ daughter of Kevin & Cheryl Sullivan
Dyllan Wolf ~ son of Jonathan & Chelsea Wolf

MEMORIAM FOR 2017

Wayne Smith (d. 01/18/2017)
Earle Clarke (d. 01/22/2017)
Bill Hallett (d. 02/05/2017)
Carl Rollock (d. 03/19/2017)
Curtis McLean (d. 05/23/2017)
Mae Lansdell (d. 07/04/2017)
Margaret Russell (d. 07/21/2017)
Ann Proden (d. 09/26/2017)
Emely Vidad (d. 09/27/2017)
Jeanette Veale (d. 10/02/2017)
Brigid Carty (d. 11/17/2017)

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NEW MEMBERS FOR 2017

*Bill Allen
Craig Fitzpatrick
Janet Harder*

WEDDINGS AT CENTRAL 2017

*Pat & Niaomi LaBrash (m. 08/19/2017)
Patrick & Marla Arial (m. 11/04/2017)*

