

FONTHILL UNITED CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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ANNUAL REPORT 2017

In Memoriam

*Those of our Fonthill United Church family
whose lives we celebrated in 2017*

Peter Dochstader	January 20
Gordon MacBean	March 23
Brown Irvin	April 10
Eleanor Cumming	May 18
Clarice Jacobs	June 12
Stuart Logan	August 8
Mary Aggiss	August 12
Robert Crysler	November 3
Evelyn Black	November 29
Isabella Miller	December 27

*In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.*

FONTHILL UNITED CHURCH
2016 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2017

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1.0 Opening:

John McGregor welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Rev. Dr. Garry van Bruchem opened in prayer and then read the "In Memoriam".

Moved by Bob Laing and seconded by John Donald that Gail DeKoning be the recording secretary.

Carried

Moved by Rich Miller and seconded by Marian McDonald that supporting adherents be given voting rights on temporal matters.

Carried

2.0 Minutes of the 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting:

Moved by Bill Laing and seconded by Betty Garner that the Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried

3.0 Committee & Church Group Annual Reports:

Minister: Garry thanked the congregation for allowing him to take his Sabbatical and vacation together and for the interest in hearing about it after he returned. He said he will be sharing his learnings with the after church Study Group. He said that he has been in touch with Barbara and Brenda Peszle who said that they miss our church family. They are at St. John's United Church in Hamilton doing their field placement for their Master of Divinity degree but continue to be in touch. Garry thanked the Pastoral Care Committee for today's lunch and also thanked the five members who took the course for Pastoral Care. He said he was disappointed that our Syrian Family still hasn't arrived in Canada and that it will be very important when they do arrive to share the gift of hospitality. He presented Marion Egerter with the M&S Enthusiast Certificate for her many years of dedicated service. It was signed by the Moderator of the United Church of Canada, the Right Rev. Jordan Cantwell.

Pastoral Care: Marleene Kretchman gave us an update on the newly formed committee and thanked them and Harland Young for helping to make the Shepherd Visitors and the Pastoral Care Committee one group. She also thanked Jack Gray for his commitment to and writing of cards. She said there has been so much care from this congregation through the Shepherd Visitors group throughout the community and this will continue.

Syrian Refugees: Lyn Taylor said we were still waiting for our family of 4 with twin boys. She was last in contact with them in mid-December and said the family was very eager to start their new life with us. She said the internet connection isn't always available so has not heard from them for a while. She asked if anyone has connections with the Government to please ask them to help speed up the process.

Moved by Lois Ritchie and seconded by Marvin Myhre that all committee reports, except the Financial Report be adopted as presented.

Two questions pertaining to the committee reports were raised.

There was a question asked if the Communion Tea would continue at Lookout Ridge. Garry said that this year it was just a Christmas Party but that he would be happy to conduct a communion service if people would come to it.

It was asked what the hold-up was for the Syrian Refugees. Lyn replied that everything is in place and she has no idea except that the Government has made other countries a priority trying to catch up with their refugees.

Carried

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4.0 Financial Report:

Jim Bradley recapped another positive year. He said even though we have a deficit of \$5,000, it is still very positive. He said what made a difference is the amount of money from the U.C.W., House Tour and Men's Club. He said that \$2,700 was transferred from the Memorial Fund and \$2,300 from the Enduring Gifts Fund so we can start the new year without a deficit balance carried forward. Envelope givings were down \$536 from last year but we are still averaging \$195,000 in income per year. We received a one-time grant from the Extension Council of \$16,000 of which \$4,200 went directly to the Operating Fund. \$18,000 was transferred to Outreach and M&S from the Operating Fund. Rentals increased by \$2,000. Out of the \$9,300 raised by the House Tour, we gave \$500 each to the Pelham Syrian Refugee group and Pelham Cares. We made \$11,000 from the Solar Panels and the rest of the loan of \$25,790 will be paid off in 2019 so we will have \$10,000 in solar income going directly to the Operating Fund. Jim said 2016 was a positive year because of the strong commitment from the congregation. The 2016 total receipts were \$199,315 compared to 2015 of \$196,970. 2015 expenses were \$205,704 and 2016 expenses were \$204,324 so virtually the same. The 2017 budgeted expenditures are being set at \$215,062 with \$184,850 in revenue. We have to follow normal accounting practices and can't include any money that is not guaranteed to be received. Salaries have increased slightly for 2017 and expenses are increasing because the church is getting older and things are more expensive to repair or not available at all. A deficit of \$30,212 is projected for 2017 which is less than 2016. Bob Laing thanked Jim and his committee for all the work they do on Finance and Property. Jim thanked the people who organize and work on the Flea Market, House Tour, U.C.W., the Men's Club and the Finance and Property Committee for their contributions.

Moved by Bruce Stayzer and seconded by Janet Hamilton to adopt the Financial Operating Fund Statement for 2016. **Carried**

Moved by Bill Laing and seconded by Steve Bronn to adopt the budget for 2017 with expenditures of \$215,062. **Carried**

Jim said the retrofitting of the sanctuary lighting is being done by Mills Lighting of Hamilton and 10 fixtures need to be replaced. One fixture was replaced and the feedback has been very positive and the rest should be completed by the end of February or early March. He said that Lyn Taylor will cover the cost as a memorial gift, in memory of her husband Lance.

John McGregor thanked Jim and his committee.

5.0 Election of Officers:

Brian McDonald presented the following list of nominations for the 2017:

5.1 Nominations for Council

Jim Bradley (Treasurer)
Gail DeKoning (Secretary)
Ron Dowd
Betty Garner (UCW rep.)
Janet Hamilton (Worship Chair)
Marleene Kretchman (Pastoral Care Chair)
Sheila Laundry (Presbytery rep.)
Brian McDonald (Vice-Chair)
Marian McDonald (M&P Chair)
John McGregor (Chairperson)
Richard Miller (Past-Chairperson)
Keith Rae (Trustee rep.)
Joan Rigg
Garry van Bruchem (Minister)
Harland Young (Presbytery rep.)

Brian called for further nominations. There being none, he declared nominations closed and those named, elected.

5.2 Nominations for Niagara Presbytery Representative

Harland Young, Sheila Laundry, Pat Tooley

5.3 Nominations for Niagara Presbytery Extension Council

Jim Bradley

5.4 Nominations to Board of Cave Springs Camp

John Donald, Alvin Penner

5.5 Nominations for Town Square Manor Representatives

Tove Bowman to first year of a third 2-year term, Diane Rawsthorn to second year of a second 2-year term.

Brian called for further nominations. There being none, he declared nominations closed and those named, elected.

6.0 Other Business: None.

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7.0 Expressions of Thanks:

Keith Rae thanked us all for attending the annual meeting. He also thanked the following people and their groups for keeping the church running:

Louise Stayzer – Greeters
Bruce & Louise Stayzer – Ushers
John McGregor and Ralph Watters – Sound System
Beryl West – Lay Readers
Helen Wismer – Communion
Keith Rae – Collection
Dora Drennan – Coffee List
Marleene Kretchman – Pastoral Care and also for lunch today
Rich Miller – everything he does around the church
Virginia Haun, Patrice Walker and Janet Hamilton – Flowerbeds
Rich Miller, Jim Bradley and Keith Rae – Lawn control
Jim Bradley – Building Maintenance and Finance
Garry van Bruchem – Great Sermons and ministry

In Harland Young’s absence, Jim Bradley presented flowers to recognize:

Beryl West – acknowledging her contribution to the Worship Committee, for setting the communion table, lighting candles on Sundays and candles for Christmas Eve, assigning lay readers and taking her turn, and seeing that all things are ready before worship. Beryl does this with sacred devotion.

Patrice Walker – She was given the flowers earlier in the week in recognition of her as a valued member of our church community and for all the extra things she does.

Bob and Pat Laing – in recognition of Bob’s contribution to Fonthill United over many years: as Chair of Trustees, Chair of the Search Committee that convinced Bill to come to us, serving as Chair of Council in years past, heading up the parking lot project, singing in the choir, and with Pat, donating the grand piano “for the enrichment of the music ministry at Fonthill United Church.”

8.0 Adjournment of Annual Meeting:

Moved by Brian McDonald and seconded by Marian McDonald that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

John McGregor,
Chair of Council

Gail DeKoning,
Secretary of Council

Church Council Membership 2017

Jim Bradley (treasurer)	Gail DeKoning (secretary)
Ronald Dowd	Betty Garner
Janet Hamilton	Marleene Kretchman
Sheila Laundry	Brian McDonald
Marian McDonald	John McGregor (Chairperson)
Richard Miller (Past Chairperson)	Keith Rae
Joan Rigg	Garry van Bruchem (Minister)
Harland Young	

Church Committees

Ministry Committees:

Worship & Membership: Janet Hamilton (Chair), Helen Wismer, Beryl West, Bill Outred.

Pastoral Care: Marleene Kretchman (Chair), Sheila Laundry, Joan Rigg, Joyce Teather, Sharon Middleton.

Administrative Support Committees:

Finance & Property: Jim Bradley (Chair, Treasurer), Ken Brydon, Ralph Watters, Keith Rae, Ron Kretchman, Richard Miller, Brian McDonald, Stephen Bronn (to May 2017).

Ministry & Personnel: Marian McDonald (Chair), Ron Dowd, Diane Rawsthorn, Sandra Harding, Richard Miller, Keith Rae.

Board of Trustees:

Bob Laing (Chair), Lyn Taylor (Secretary), Keith Rae, Marvin Myhre, Bruce Stayzer.

Other Group Representatives

Niagara Presbytery: Sheila Laundry, Harland Young, Pat Tooley

UCW: Trudy Pickersgill (Co-President), Fran Dennis (Co-President), Dora Drennan (Treasurer)

Town Square Manor: Tove Bowman, Diane Rawsthorn

Cave Springs Camp: John Donald, Alvin Penner

Membership Statistics

	<u>December 31, 2016</u>	<u>December 31, 2017</u>
Total Membership, Resident & Non-resident	183	181
Non-resident Membership	4	4
Resident Membership	179	177
Activity in the year:	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Received by Profession of Faith	0	4
Received by Certificate or otherwise	0	2
Removed by Death	7	6
Removed by Certificate or otherwise	66	2
Submitted on behalf of the Membership Committee		

Minister's Report

Fonthill United Church had another very good year in 2017. In this report I want to mark some of the highlights of the past year and look ahead to some of the things we can anticipate in 2018.

In addition to our usual Sunday services we held five special services this past year. On Good Friday it was our turn to host neighbouring United Churches (Central Welland, Wesley, and Fenwick) for a service that included the joint choirs for a service rich in sacred music. In April we celebrated the 175th anniversary of our congregation. A past minister, the Rev. Dr. Gordon Crossfield delivered the message which was followed by a congregational lunch. In November we hosted the Fonthill Legion and Cadet Corps for the Remembrance Day Service. And in December we had two special services: the Choir performed the annual cantata under Bill Outred's direction, and on Christmas Eve the church was filled, mostly with people from the community, for the beautiful Candlelight Communion service. With special services such as these we have the opportunity to welcome those we don't see most Sundays, and invite them to be part of our church community.

During this past year we were engaged in God's mission in many ways. As we have done every year we financially supported the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church and donated to several local charities. In addition, when we learned of the famine in Africa, the congregation donated to make a substantial contribution through the Canada Foodgrains Bank and that helped to save lives. After the success of the Christmas House Tour, Council allocated some of the proceeds to help the Rohingya refugees fleeing persecution in Myanmar and some to support the work of Cave Springs Camp in Niagara. Our biggest mission challenge this year was to sponsor a refugee family of six from Syria who are now living in Welland. This has involved many people who have given much of their time and energy to help this family. The report of the Pelham Syrian Refugee Constituent Group is elsewhere in this report. As the year came to a close we collected coats and winter wear for adults and children which our neighbouring church Central in Welland, distributes locally. In all these ways, Fonthill United has made a positive difference in the lives of more people than we can know.

Every Sunday we look forward to worship. On days when people might otherwise be alone with their thoughts, we have the opportunity to gather with friends and neighbours, to be inspired by beautiful music, to hear the Word read and preached, and to respond in prayer and sacrament. In worship we sense that God's spirit is among us. On many Sundays, a discussion group met after worship. We explored the theory and practice of meditation last winter, and in the fall we studied why it is that disturbing violence is found in some places in the Bible. In an era in which religion is sometimes used to justify violence, this has become an important issue.

Last year the Pastoral Care Committee took up the work of the former Shepherd Visitors and in 2017 it completed its first full year of work. The members of this committee took the pastoral care course in 2015 and since then, they have been making calls and visits. Every month they meet with me so we can keep each other informed. I tell them about the people I visited that month and that helps them to follow up on whatever care is needed. We welcomed some new members into the congregation in spring and since then, we have attracted others who attend regularly. With the building expansion in east Fonthill in a rapidly growing region, we can expect that people searching for a new church home will find us.

During the past year I had the opportunity to refresh my knowledge of theology by attending three continuing education events. These included the annual Toronto Festival of Preaching and a special three day event to explore the significance of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation for today. I'm grateful for the time and the opportunities I had to do this.

Looking ahead to 2018 we can anticipate that we will have to adapt to some changes. The United Church of Canada is restructuring its governance and that will have an impact on us. All of the proposed remits we studied in 2016 have been passed, and after General Council meets in July, the changes are expected to be enacted, beginning January 1, 2019. This means Niagara Presbytery and Hamilton Conference will cease to exist and there will be a new “Regional Council.” United Church congregations will be named “Communities of Faith” and there will be an assessment requiring us to support the new decision making structure. We don’t yet know how as “communities of faith” we will be required to govern ourselves, but it is likely that we will need to re-write our Constitution.

For the past 11 years, Fonthill United has benefitted from being in partnership with Fenwick United Church to share summer services and pastoral care when one of the ministers is on vacation, study leave or sabbatical. This coming summer, Fenwick’s minister, Rev. Alan McLean expects to complete his appointment at Fenwick United so the Fenwick congregation is already looking for a minister to serve them on a part-time basis. The United Church congregation in Attercliffe Station is also looking for a part-time minister so the two churches are teaming-up to find one full-time minister to serve them both. I have been told that the Fenwick congregation intends to honour its partnership with Fonthill United, to share a music director, secretary, and continue joint summer services.

My report concludes with some expressions of thanks: first to Bill Outred. In the year past, Bill has demonstrated a generous sharing of his musical gifts with us and professionalism in his vocation as church musician. The choir is reaching new levels of excellence under his leadership and his music has always been able to raise our spirits to touch the sacred dimension of life. Bill is fulfilling his calling and he has been a joy to work with. Second, I want to thank Patrice. Every day I am glad for all that she does for me and for the church, often doing more than duty requires. Her dedication is exemplary.

Two members of Council retire this year, and I want to acknowledge their contribution to the work of Fonthill United. For the past three years, John McGregor served as chairperson because I asked him to, but he has indicated that he would like to go off Council in 2018. Harland Young has served much longer than that. Harland was on Council when I came to Fonthill 12 years ago and over the years, he and I have had many conversations about the church and our living the Christian faith in today’s world. In addition, Harland has served Niagara Presbytery making his contribution to the Property Committee, Pastoral Relations Committee, Pastoral Oversight Committee, and to at least one Joint Search Committee.

Finally I want to thank everyone who supports the work of Fonthill United Church. It is because of your financial support that we were able to continue God’s mission in our community and in the world. And it because of your faithfulness and devotion that we have such a wonderful sense of community. I believe that God calls us from lives of isolation into relationship and I see that being lived out every week.

Your minister,
Garry van Bruchem

Mission and Service Fund and Local Mission

Mission and Service Support (8%)

In 2017 Fonthill United Church contributed 8% of offering income to the United Church of Canada Mission and Service Fund in the amount of \$14,411.08. On many Sundays we heard a “Minute for Mission” to learn about the mission work supported by this fund.

Local Mission Support (2%)

In addition, in 2017 we contributed 2% of offerings to make donations of \$300 each to the following local charities for a total of \$2700: Cave Springs Camp, RAFT, Habitat for Humanity, Pelham Cares, Women's Place, Hope Centre, Bethlehem Place, Community Care, and Brock Chaplaincy. In 2018, local mission support will be decided at the discretion of the Council. Council is open to hearing proposals from congregational members about local mission projects that warrant church support.

Extreme Hunger Appeal

In May of this year, the United Church of Canada alerted congregations to the famine in four African nations due to drought brought on by climate change, and by war. Millions of people were threatened by starvation. Fonthill United made a special appeal for donations, allocating \$500 from the memorial fund. In a few weeks a total of \$6464 was raised and sent to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. This amount was matched by the Canadian government.

Harvest Suppers

Twice a year, volunteers from Fonthill United go to Central United Church on Sunday evenings to put on a free supper for those who want it. They set up tables, cook the dinner, serve it, and clean up afterward. The cost of the meal is paid for by the church.

Mission Support from the House Tour

Following a very successful House Tour, Council allocated two grants of \$1,000 each. One grant went to meet the needs of the *Rohingya* refugee population in Bangladesh who were fleeing persecution in Myanmar. The other grant went to *Cave Springs Camp* for their Legacy Hall Project to build a year-round facility to continue the work of the camp for the next generation.

Coats for Kids

In December, Fonthill United Church supported the work of Central United Church in Welland to collect snowsuits for kids and winter wear for adults. Two carloads of winter wear were picked up for distribution in Welland.

In addition to supporting a Syrian Refugee family, these are some of the ways Fonthill United Church was engaged in God's mission, meeting the needs of God's people. Together we made a significant difference in the lives of God's people. Thank you to all who supported these missions in 2017.

Pastoral Care Committee

It has been a most gratifying year for the Pastoral Care Committee, having been in touch either by a phone call or a visit with everyone in our church family.

We continue to meet with Garry, usually on the first Wednesday of each month, to share concerns and to keep abreast of needed visits or support if required.

On average, 16-20 visits or calls are made each month by the committee, in addition to weekly or monthly pastoral visits by Garry. Paul Owen continues to visit weekly at Lookout Ridge. I would especially mention Jack and Jean Gray who faithfully send cards when required. In this way, they too provide pastoral care, as do so many in our congregation who care for each other in many ways.

Thanks to those who continue to serve on the Pastoral Care Committee:

Sheila Laundry, Sharon Middleton, Joan Rigg, Joyce Teather, Garry van Bruchem.

Respectfully submitted,

Marleene Kretchman, Chair of Pastoral Care Committee

Chair of Council's Report

During the last year, Church Council met nine times. As the year progressed, Council dealt with a number of highly varied situations such as:

- Fenwick United Church declining to join us for joint services
- an update in January from Lyn Taylor concerning the status of our sponsored refugee family
- a Council decision to rework the lights in the sanctuary according to a proposed schedule
- a decision to have the next few Council meetings at 1:00 pm
- our minister to continue with discussion groups of about 10 people on a variety of topics, each lasting about ten weeks
- a dedication service for the new lighting, in memory of Lance Taylor
- our organist, Bill Outred was granted his request for an adjusted summer vacation
- Fonthill United Church and Fenwick United Church again joining for summer services with a month at each church
- a family of six Syrian refugees arriving September 26, and our privately sponsored family expected to arrive by the end of 2017
- a large amount of work was carried out on our building and grounds with the improvements sure to show come spring
- the UCW held their annual Roast Beef Dinner for an appreciative, and well-fed, crowd
- Glynn A Green Public School asked if our church could be their evacuation site in case of emergency - their request was approved
- the House Tour was a huge success, with much effort by all involved
- a letter of thanks was received from the Royal Canadian Legion thanking us for hosting their Remembrance Day service
- the candlelight communion service closed out the Fonthill United Church year, with a close to capacity attendance
- the badminton club now has 14 members!

The above list gives some idea of the variety of tasks that occupy our committees and Council. If you are interested, newcomers to the committees are always welcome; just speak with our minister or chair of any of the committees.

Submitted by John McGregor,
Chair of Council

Board of Trustees Report

Board of Trustee Membership: Bob Laing (chair), Marvin Myhre, Keith Rae, Bruce Stayzer, Lyn Taylor (Secretary), Rev. Dr. Garry van Bruchem.

This was a quiet year for the Board of Trustees. There were no major issues requiring our attention. The Insurance Policy was renewed with Sheehan & Rosie Ltd. for another year, expiring in June 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Lyn Taylor, Secretary

Worship and Membership Committee Report

The Worship and Membership Committee of Fonthill has been working like a well-oiled machine. Things just happen, everything just goes together! This, of course, is not quite true; they happen because the members of our congregation care. The functions required to keep our services on time, the doors unlocked and locked, someone at the door to greet you, the sanctuary looking beautiful, the candles for the Candlelight Christmas Service there, coffee, tea and biscuits waiting so we can share in fellowship appears as somewhat of an enigma. Behind the scenes, people who are not necessarily on the committee itself perform these functions and more.

Louise Stayzer sits down every New Year and puts together a list of greeters who, in turn, also accept the responsibility of opening the church. Of course, Garry has always got there ahead of us and performs all the perfunctory jobs.

Virginia Haun, with the help of Ralph who follows orders very well, decorates the sanctuary all year and we appreciate their work.

John McGregor and Ralph Watters operate the sound system. They do not allow those of you who wish to sit at the back of the church to doze off; they make sure that you too can hear the sermon.

Dora Drennan makes sure someone is preparing the coffee and tea so we can share a time of fellowship after every Sunday service.

Patrice Walker, who is known to be quiet, creates a big bang in our church; she prepares reports, puts the Grapevine together, answers our questions, and every Sunday we have a professional bulletin. And who folds those bulletins every week? Thank you Fran, Doreen and Jack!

I can't say I know who performs all the functions that are required to make our worship services run smoothly and that is the mystery that this congregation has created. Thank you to everyone who contributes and makes our committee's work easy.

We have not met on a regular basis this year and yet, our communication and dedication is strong. Helen Wisner is still finding persons to help serve communion, and under Beryl West's diligent efforts, it always runs smoothly and our supplies never run short.

Bill Outred deserves all the accolades he gets. When two parts such as our choir and their music director work so well together, it shows, and every service is enriched with beautiful, meaningful music.

We are blessed to have Garry van Bruchem as our minister. He has been preaching in this church for 12 years and still he presents us with something new every week. I try to listen to the responses of the congregation and have found that most sermons have moved the members. His tireless effort to provide sermons that teach, comfort and are thought-provoking is a testament to his commitment to us and our faith. Response to the discussion group has been very well received and has allowed members to engage in conversation.

With the growth in Pelham, Garry has continued to make visitors welcome. He has also come up with some very inviting signs on our outside board. You never know what will move someone to walk into our church. Please speak to the new arrivals in the community and invite them to join us; sometimes all it takes is a friendly invite.

We once again shared services with Fenwick United and it has always been successful. A welcome back lunch was hosted in September and everyone seemed happy to be able to share in the fellowship.

In April we celebrated the 175th anniversary of our congregation. The Rev. Dr. Gordon Crossfield, a previous minister at Fonthill United, was the guest preacher, and a joint choir provided the music. Invitations went out to past members and those who have moved out of the area, and we received an enthusiastic response; the church was full and everyone enjoyed a wonderful service which was followed by a congregational lunch.

In November, we hosted the Remembrance Service for the Royal Canadian Legion. They appreciated our efforts and hope we will do this service together in the future. After the service, a lunch was served and the fellowship continued.

The Christmas Candlelight Service and Communion was well attended this year and it is always a pleasure to see so many families unite for Christmas and come together for the service.

In 2017, we celebrated 2 weddings and held 10 funerals.

Respectfully submitted by,
Janet Hamilton, Chair

Friendship Group Report

The Friendship Group met twice in 2017:

March 21 members and friends attended the March 5th Sunday matinee performance of “My Fair Lady” by the Port Colborne Operatic Society. 19 of the group joined together afterwards to enjoy the evening meal at Swiss Chalet, Welland.
Committee: Bob Laing, Pat Laing, Dora Drennan.

December After the church service on December 10, 21 members and friends attended the Christmas time gathering for dinner at Swiss Chalet in Welland, with all of us seated together at a long table in the back room.
The arrangements were made by Virginia and Ralph Haun.

Anyone wishing to be on the calling list for the Friendship Group is asked to please contact Virginia Haun.

Pat Laing, Secretary

Town Square Manor

Town Square Manor is a life lease apartment building located at 55 Town Square in Fonthill, consisting of spacious one and two bedroom units. The nine member Board is made up of three residents and two from each of Fonthill United, Holy Trinity Anglican and Fonthill Baptist churches. This Board operates as a non-profit. In consultation with Cannon Greco Management Limited, the Board controls finances, sets policy and procedures, and oversees a part-time staff.

In 2017, Tove Bowman served the first year of a third two-year term as a Board member and Diane Rawsthorn served as Chairperson in her second year of a second two-year term.

Town Square Manor is an excellent facility which offers much for the seniors of Fonthill. Anyone wishing further information might check out the website: www.townsquaremanor.ca or contact Harland Young-Life Lease Sales at 905 892-0927.



Finance Committee Report

Detailed statements for all accounts and funds are included at the end of the annual report.

Prior to any adjustments, as at December 31, 2017 a deficit of \$6,383.20 was evident in the Operating Fund. This amount is favourable when compared to the projected deficit of \$30,212 and is well in line with the deficit of \$5,009 incurred in 2016. On paper this is viewed as most positive, however, included in total revenue of \$208,133 is approximately \$9,800 in one time income sources including memorial gifts of \$4,400 and a gain on investments of \$5,400. If these funds had not been received, the operating deficit would have amounted to \$16,100. Potential new revenue sources will be the focus of our committee as we move into 2018, simply because operating deficits should only be permitted for a limited time.

As in the past, we have covered the deficit in our cash position by a transfer of monies available in the Memorial Fund, Enduring Gifts Fund and the Solar Panel Fund. Please note these transfers totalling \$6,383.20 are included in the total revenue figure of \$208,133 mentioned above.

Some financial highlights are as follows:

- Operating revenue from all sources was down \$3,809 from 2016.
- M&S and Outreach contributions amounted to \$18,013, the same as last year.
- The House Tour contributed \$9,583 after donations of \$1,000 each to Cave Springs Camp and the Rohingya Relief Fund.
- Major repairs to the property, paid from Operations amounted to \$3,823.65.
- Donations from the UCW and Men's Club amounted to \$6,000 and \$1,000 respectively. A Special Thanks to both of these groups for their long time support.
- A decision was made early in the year to collapse mutual funds held and reinvest those funds into GICs. It was felt fluctuating markets added some risk to the capital invested and we are adverse to accepting any risk on these funds.
- A decision was made to "write down" the book value of the solar panels to the balance of the loan outstanding. This is in keeping with accepted accounting depreciation guidelines and our long held practice of not valuing any fixed assets on the balance sheet. This is strictly a bookkeeping entry and does not impact our cash position.

Expenses in 2017 were \$3,809 higher than 2016 and the bulk of this was due to mandated increases in overall compensation and benefit costs. Overall we maintain expenses are closely monitored and controlled. The focus in 2018 will be on revenue generation. Overall we maintain that Fonthill United Church does enjoy a very stable financial position with cash reserves of \$305,611.

Projections for 2018 call for member contributions of \$175,000 versus actual gifts of \$178,648. The reduction reflects current information. Following our 10% commitment to M&S and Outreach, total Operating Fund revenue is projected at \$186,790, which is \$21,343 below 2016. \$16,183 of this variance is offset by the one-time gifts and year-end fund transfers mentioned above. The balance is due to adjusted income streams based on current circumstances. Expenses are projected at \$219,098. Some expense categories have been increased to reflect the colder weather this year such as heating and snow removal. Increase in compensation costs stem from United Church guidelines on salaries. Based on the above, we project the deficit in the Operating Fund at \$32,308 for 2018. We appreciate this amount is higher than actual results over the past few years and as mentioned previously, when completing the budget we follow accepted accounting principles.

Members of the Finance and Property Committee include Keith Rae, Ken Brydon, Ralph Watters, Rich Miller, Ron Kretchman and Brian McDonald and it is a privilege to be able to join these individuals to serve Fonthill United. They provide excellent support throughout the year and devote many hours to ensure any and all decisions taken are well founded.

A special thanks to Patrice Walker for her continuing support and for all she does around the church. Thanks are also extended to the committees responsible for the Flea Market and Christmas House Tour. These two events contributed approximately \$14,000 to operating funds in 2017. Not only would it be difficult to replace the financial support from these events, we could not replace the fellowship they generate for all members.

In conclusion, “Thanks” to all members of Fonthill United for your continuing support in so many ways. It is because of your contributions, our Church will remain a strong presence in the Fonthill Community for years to come.

Jim Bradley,
Chair of Finance & Property Committee

Property Committee Report

The Property Committee has been very active over the past year and we are pleased to report these projects were completed in 2017:

- Thanks to a generous donation from Lyn Taylor, we were able to complete the update of the sanctuary lights. This project had been in the works for some time and since completed, lighting has improved significantly.
- Work scheduled for the roof over one year ago was finally completed in August. Since then, no leaks have been identified which is a first in many years.
- Two trees located on the median in the parking lot were removed in December. Weaker spots had been identified in both trees from which larger limbs had fallen and the risk of not removing them was increasing. At the same time, trees along Canboro Road were trimmed.
- New hardware was installed on all main doors.
- A new alarm monitoring panel was installed in the church entrance. The old panel included very early technology and any repairs were expensive as no parts were available.
- Key gas valves in the heating system were replaced.

In addition to the above, numerous repairs and improvements were completed such as fixing the outside kitchen vent, repairing the metal shield over the entrance to the lower level, etc.

Generally the church property is in a good state of repair, however, and as mentioned before, the property is aging which can drive up the cost of repairs.

Once again the level of volunteer work to maintain the property is very significant. We do want to extend a “Special Thanks” to Keith Rae, Rich Miller, Ralph Laundry, the Hamiltons, Virginia Haun, John Rigg, Fred Newell and Patrice Walker who worked tirelessly on the lawns and gardens over 2017.

A Special Thanks is also extended to Wilton Boyd for his advice and counsel on any repairs or improvements we consider for the operating systems throughout the church.

We continues to monitor all rental enquiries, and rental income has remained consistent over the years. In the event you are aware of any group looking to rent space, please pass the name on to Patrice in the church office.

Your continuing support to Fonthill United is sincerely appreciated.

Jim Bradley,
Chair of Finance & Property Committee

Ministry and Personnel Committee Report

The M&P Committee consists of 6 members, 3 men and 3 women. They are Chair, Marian McDonald and members Ron Dowd, Sandra Harding, Rich Miller, Diane Rawsthorn, and Keith Rae.

At the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2017 the M&P Committee for 2017 was appointed and the members were named as above. Ron Dowd continued as a Committee member to lend support to the new Chair. For that, Marian was very grateful.

Throughout the year the M&P Committee met formally and informally. The first formal meeting was on May 18, 2017, when time was taken to work with Bill Outred and update his contract. Members also discussed the term of office for M&P members. They talked about receiving input from church members to guide deliberations, explored all aspects of confidentiality, and reflected on how the committee would bring recommendations to Council. At this meeting Rod Dowd and Keith Rae announced that they will be retiring from the Committee at the end of the year.

In June 2017 the Committee gave support to our Music Director, Bill Outred to take his vacation and an additional leave of absence for 5 weeks during the summer. The committee communicated with the M&P Committee of Fenwick United Church to discuss the hiring of a supply organist for the summer. Bill helped us to identify Cathy Sturt as his replacement. The cost of his leave and of the supply organist was covered by each church.

In preparation for the budget submission for 2018, Marian and Diane took time in October and November to meet with Secretary/Bookkeeper, Patrice Walker to update her role description and talk about how M&P can help her meet her needs. During an interview with Diane in November, support was given to Patrice to take website training. In January 2018, the committee will receive and discuss ideas to update the role description of the Secretary/Bookkeeper position.

The entire Committee met on November 23, 2017, with Bill Outred and Rev Garry van Bruchem. At this meeting role descriptions were updated, performance reviews were undertaken, and staff shared their reflections on the success of their goals set for 2017. They also shared their goals for 2018.

As an M&P Committee lending support to three paid staff members, M&P members are very happy with the manner in which the Minister, Music Director and Secretary/Bookkeeper work together. They are a congenial group who are happy in their employment, and support each other.

At the conclusion of the November meeting, a motion was made to increase the employee Cost of Living allowance by 1.5%. Their Christmas bonus became \$100.00 each.

Special recognition and thanks go to Ron Dowd (Chair, 16 years) and Keith Rae (member, 6 years) for their outstanding support and contribution to the work of the Committee. They will be missed greatly. We look forward to welcoming Alvin Penner on the team following the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Marian McDonald
Co-Chair, M&P Committee

Choir Report

The choir has 20 members who love to sing. Each week we present two anthems which are usually related to the theme of the sermon. Several members have also sung solos and duets throughout the year. The choir joined other United Church choirs at the Good Friday service held at Fonthill, and the carol service held at Wesley. We also sang at the Lessons, Carols and Cookies service on December 6. On December 17, the choir presented a Christmas cantata of anthems selected by Bill Outred, which beautifully told the Christmas story. Bruce Morrith greatly added to this service with his cello accompaniment to the hymns, some of the anthems, and the prelude and postlude he played with Bill. The choir enjoyed a pot luck dinner in February, and a year end BBQ at the Dowds'.

Fonthill United is very fortunate to have Bill Outred as our choir director and organist. Each Sunday the congregation is privileged to listen to beautifully played preludes and postludes and occasional solos that Bill sings. The choir enjoys his leadership and the wide variety of music he challenges us with each week. The choir is always looking for additional members. If you like to sing, come out to choir practice on Thursday nights at 7:00 pm. You will be glad you did.

Submitted by,
John Donald, Choir President

Choir Financial Statement

Fund Balance at January 1, 2017:	\$1,314.54
Donations received	500.00
Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
Fund Balance at December 31, 2017:	<u>\$1,814.54</u>

United Church Women's Report

The UCW have again had an opportunity to come together in "Christian witness, fellowship and service."

In service, we are pleased that our members still come when called; whether hosting dinners, luncheons, funerals, bake sales, visiting members when necessary and in general, helping others when approached.

Our monthly meetings are open to all in the congregation. We invite everyone to come and visit, even if unable to commit to every month. The meetings are a great way to socialize, discuss issues, learn something new, and meet old and new friends.

We are pleased to be able to financially support the Hope Centre, Women's Place, Brock University Chaplaincy, Open Arms Mission, Fonthill United Church, and one time, the Red Roof Retreat.

As always, we would like to thank and acknowledge the congregation as a whole for your support in coming to our aid whenever asked. We know we could not have done our work without your help; this includes the many men of the congregation, Garry, Patrice and Leslie for all the extras you do. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Garner, UCW Secretary

United Church Women - Treasurer's Report 2017

Balance at January 1, 2017: 1,126.24

Receipts:

Offerings for 2017	1,029.60	
Receptions	900.00	
Flea Market	7,126.00	
Bake Sales & Dinners	2,186.10	
Use of Kitchen	125.00	
Lessons, Carols & Cookies	300.00	
Miscellaneous	60.00	
In Memoriam	40.00	
Total:	11,766.70	11,766.70
		12,892.94

Disbursements:

Mission & Outreach *	3,000.00	
Church	6,000.00	
Dinner & Receptions Expense:		
Roast Beef Dinner	597.18	
Anniversary Lunch	284.00	
Niagara Presbyterial Dues	150.00	
Coinage Fees	16.48	
Purchase of New Freezer	428.27	
Lessons, Carols & Cookies	185.24	
In Memoriam	196.96	
Miscellaneous	433.47	
	11,291.60	11,291.60
Balance at December 31, 2017:		1,601.34

* Mission & Outreach disbursements:

Brock Chaplaincy	100.00	
Hope Centre	1,200.00	
Open Arms Mission	550.00	
Red Roof Retreat	100.00	
W.D. & Relief Fund	500.00	
Women's Place of South Niagara	250.00	
Christian Children's Fund	300.00	
	3,000.00	

Respectfully submitted by Dora Drennan, Treasurer

Fonthill United Church Men's Club

The first 3 months in 2017 saw the following activity after the traditional 8:00 am breakfast:

January 21, 2017: Business meeting.

February 18, 2017: MPP Sam Oosterhoff spoke on Carbon Tax vs. Cap and Trade System.

March 18, 2017: Sandra Harding of our congregation spoke on the Brain Injury program.

The annual Men's Club Spaghetti Supper was held on Friday, April 23. Ticket sales were 95 compared to about 125 in 2016, but there were many compliments paid to offset the lower attendance. On June 4, John Sands came to give a concert which, while enthusiastically received, attracted a modest number of people.

There was no activity in the fall as President Marvin Myhre had suffered a serious medical setback. However, the Club donated \$1,000 to the general fund of the church as approved by email consensus in December.

It is appropriate to indicate that, since the end of the year, the Men's Club held a meeting on January 20, 2018 to determine its future, with notice of meeting having appeared in the November Grapevine. Marvin was unable to resume his duties as president and had retired. At the meeting, it was noted that Dickson Cross became the first president in 1987, followed by Gordon Thompson in 1989 and John Clipsham in 1991 or thereabout. Marvin took on the presidency since January 1997 and the appreciation for his leadership was marked by a DVD gift of the popular science series, Planet Earth 2, and a second DVD entitled The Human Planet.

Due to the general feeling that no one wanted to assume the leadership and that it was perhaps time to call it a day, it was approved, regretfully, that the Men's Club be disbanded. Also it was approved that the balance of funds in the account be transferred to the General Fund of the church. This amount was later confirmed as being \$1,197.32.

The Men's Club has had a long and happy history of fun, fellowship, exploring important issues and celebrating life in general.

Submitted by,
Marvin Myhre, Keith Rae, Richard Miller and Harland Young

Men's Club Financial Report

Fund Balance January 1, 2017: 1,046.19

Receipts

Men's Breakfasts	250.00	
Spaghetti Supper	1,050.20	
John Sands Concert	818.00	<u>2,118.20</u>

Expenses

Men's Breakfasts	99.50	
Spaghetti Supper	386.26	
John Sands Concert	359.19	
Donations	100.00	
Transfer to Operating Fund	1,000.00	<u>1,944.95</u>

Fund Balance at December 31, 2017: 1,219.44

Submitted by Harland Young, Treasurer

“Homes for the Holidays” Christmas House Tour Report

The 14th annual ***“Homes for the Holidays”*** Christmas house tour took place on November 18. Virginia Haun, Carolyn van der Sluis, Dora Drennan, Sharron Bradley and Patrice Walker organized the event.

Local designers decorated six houses and provided table centerpieces for the refreshment area in the church. Virginia Haun decorated the Narthex, stairs and exterior of the church. We welcomed back Vermeer’s Garden Centre and Flower Shop, Cox Home Furniture, Le Village, Log Cabin Gift Shoppe, Mary Luska Interiors and Fashions, and Hamiltons of Pelham. Rice Road Greenhouses and Garden Centre provided table centerpieces. Other supporting sponsors included Sobeys, Sweet Thoughts, Fonthill & District Kinsmen, Century 21 Real Estate and Community of Lookout Ridge.

Tickets were sold (in record numbers!) by our church secretary and participating decorators. All congregational members were called and encouraged to participate in the bake sale and the response once again was overwhelming. As well, congregational members and students from E.L. Crossley, Notre Dame and Centennial volunteered on the day to either host in homes, or staff the kitchen, bake sale table, and refreshment areas.

The true reasons for the success of this fundraiser lie in the co-operation and support that the decorators give to us, the beautiful homes on display, and the many, many volunteers who host in homes, bake scones and cookies for the bake table, work in the kitchen/refreshment area on the day, sell tickets, post flyers, etc., etc.

The Committee extends its sincere appreciation to all who contributed – it was indeed a community effort that ensured the ***“Homes for the Holidays”*** House Tour and Bake Sale were successful.

The next tour is scheduled for November 17, 2018.

Ticket Sales & Donations	\$ 9,400.00
Bake Sale	<u>\$ 2,108.10</u>
Total receipts	\$11,508.10
Expenses	<u>\$ 794.29</u>
Net proceeds	\$10,713.81

From the proceeds of the House Tour, \$1000 was donated to Cave Springs Camp and \$1000 to the Rohingya Relief Fund.

Respectfully submitted by Virginia Haun and Carolyn van der Sluis



Pelham Syria Refugee Committee Report

In some ways it is hard to believe we began our journey to sponsor two Syrian Refugee families three years ago. In other ways it is frustrating at how long this process has taken. Having said that, the accomplishments in 2017 give us much to celebrate.

Originally our fundraising goal was set at \$50,000. However this was increased first to \$55,000 and then to \$60,000 as we got a better handle on the financial requirements. I am delighted to report that as of December 20, our fundraising goal was exceeded. With the help of the four churches involved, Glynn A. Green School, Gainsborough School, local citizens and community groups and the very generous donation received by an old friend of Rev. Alan McLean, we have raised \$64,976.36. Keith Rae has done a great job leading this part of our efforts with the help and support of the entire committee. In particular we need to recognize Janet and Violet Zanutto who led the effort with Glynn A. Green, Wendy Vahrmeyer who led the fundraising in Bethany Christian Reformed Church, Elizabeth Abraham who led the fundraising in Pelham Community Church and Rhonda Baker who led the fundraising in Fenwick United Church, and Stacey Hall who led the efforts at Gainsborough School. Every member of the PSRCG played a role in the fundraising efforts and they all deserve our thanks.

The family we were originally matched with in June of 2016 has not yet been approved. During the course of the investigations there were some questions that required clarification. That process is currently in progress. As we understand it from the Immigration Office, the Security Check has been launched and the Eligibility Assessment is also in progress but no processing time has been given to us. The family however has said they were told a decision should be made in February. We continue to await further information.

In August of 2017 we were approached by our Sponsorship Agreement Holder (The United Church of Canada) and asked if we would consider sponsoring a family of six. We were told there would be some challenges but the committee unanimously voted to proceed. The Alhamoud family arrived on September 26, 2017. They were originally from Homs, Syria but came to us from Jordan where they had fled to live with family. We didn't have much time to prepare for their arrival but it is amazing what can be done in such a short time. The hardest task was finding a place for them to live. Lin Zavitz did an outstanding job looking at several options and finding a well-located, comfortable rental apartment in a duplex in Welland, close to transportation, Day Care, and within walking distance of the Heritage Council where Hamd and Hala attend English classes. Heidi TeBrake and Gail DeKoning led the efforts to furnish the home with help and support, cleaning and setting up from several of the Committee Members.

Duncan McNaughton, Keith Rae, Rhonda Baker and Lyn Taylor went to the airport to greet the family and accompany them to their new home. They were exhausted on arrival after a very long flight and completely overwhelmed. They did not speak a word of English but Paul Owen had made a welcome sign for us to hold up for them in both English and Arabic. This sign is still displayed on the wall of their living room today. Gail DeKoning and Sharron Bradley, with help from Sheryl Johnston, had prepared a meal at their new home, which was ready on their arrival. Much care was taken to ensure the food was familiar and all Halal ingredients respecting their beliefs.

We had prepared Orientation Binders in both English and Arabic which we gave them when they arrived but only went through the critical information on day one. The rest we reviewed over time. It included pictures and names of all the committee members so they would recognize us when we came to the door, Government Booklets from both the Federal and Provincial Governments which provides a great deal of information on Canada and Ontario.

In addition we had maps of the area, information about what to expect in school, what children can bring for snacks and lunches, the health care system, what their rights and responsibilities of citizenship are, policies on abuse, safety issues, information on what employers want, how to use the library, emergency information i.e.: how to call 911 and information on the local walk-in clinics and pharmacies. We also gave each of the family members a laminated card to carry with their name, address and phone number and instructions on what to say if they had to call 911. The laminated card came in handy when Hamd was out walking and got lost.

The family is settling in to their new home. Eryam, Faisal and Mohamad are enrolled in school and are starting to pick up the English language. Aseel is in daycare and loves it. She wakes up every morning saying “Daycare.” Hamd and Hala attend English classes at the Welland Heritage Council every day and starting in January, we have a retired Brock University professor who is tutoring the parents for one hour twice a week, one on one, which we hope will accelerate their learning process. We are starting to see some real progress.

Hamd and Hala have made friends from Syria at the Welland Heritage Council which has helped deal with their homesickness. They are gradually getting used to our customs and learning how our systems like health care and schools work. They are not fond of the snow to which many of us can relate.

Much time is being spent getting their medical and dental needs attended to which, after having no access to either as a refugee in Jordan and during the war in Syria, was a priority. We were able to find doctors who speak Arabic which has been very helpful and an Arabic speaking dentist, Dr. Malik at the Peace Park Dental office in Fonthill. Dr. Malik has generously offered many of his services free of charge. Hamd has had a job interview but it turned out not to be a good fit so he did not take the job. Although the job wasn’t right for him it was a good experience to go through the interview process and helps us to better understand his skills and capabilities.

Since their arrival in Canada, the family has been welcomed by the Mayor of Welland and attended a meet and greet at Fonthill United in November for members of all four churches and members of the community. This was very well attended.

The family is very grateful for the support of the PSRCG and the community overall. They have been made to feel very welcome. Whenever we visit, they are also eager to show us their hospitality.

This report gives you a bit of an idea of what is involved in sponsoring a family but it does not describe the hours of work that the committee has put into ensuring the successful settlement of the Alhamoud family. As co-chairs we would like to thank each member of the committee for their commitment to our initiative and for the time you have dedicated to making this a success. Special thanks to Ralph Watters and Patrice Walker who oversee our finances and monitor and prepare our financial reports.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lyn Taylor and Rhonda Baker, Co-chairs

PELHAM SYRIAN REFUGEE CONSTITUENT GROUP		
<u>2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENT</u>		
RECEIPTS		
	Donations - from churches	32,956.41
	Donations - from other sources	28,129.10
	Donation - automobile	3,661.00
	Bank interest earned	239.61
TOTAL RECEIPTS		64,986.12
EXPENSES		
	Clothing	1,346.71
	Bedding/Furniture	2,423.55
	Food and Supplies	1,126.64
	Medical	33.00
	Shelter / Utilities installation	919.79
	School	53.27
	Sundry	1,444.64
	Monthly support	2,911.60
	Transportation	47.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		10,306.20
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		<u>54,679.92</u>
<u>BALANCE SHEET - at December 31, 2017</u>		
ASSETS		
	Bank - chequing account	18,021.01
	Bank - savings account	28,151.66
Total Cash:		46,172.67
	Automobile donated	3,661.00
	HST Receivable	496.25
	Accounts Receivable	4,350.00
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>54,679.92</u>
LIABILITIES		
		0.00
FUND BALANCE (Equity)		54,679.92
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE		<u>54,679.92</u>

Cave Springs Camp

Once again, Cave Springs Camp has been blessed with a great year of serving the kingdom in many ways across Hamilton Conference. The past year has been spent refining practices while also looking ahead to the future of Cave Springs Camp. The summer programs were successful and our numbers are gradually increasing. We were blessed with a good financial year during a critical time, as we gear up for a big fundraising campaign. We have been continually developing and maintaining the infrastructure of the camp facilities with the gracious support of the Church community. We are striving towards a more inclusive atmosphere at camp with congregational support.

Like last summer, we did have to overcome a number of challenges. The summer began with our head cook quitting one week before the summer start date and this forced the staff to work hard to create “Band-Aid” solutions from week to week. They were successful in finding a qualified person to run the kitchen each week, but it was not an easy process. Despite these challenges, our Day Camp program continues to grow. Furthermore, we added an additional Bridge week camp. We have found this program to be an excellent transition into overnight camps, and it has increased our overall camper numbers.

This summer we have engaged in the process of figuring out what it would mean to become an affirming community. This is a pilot program for camps, and our experience will be documented throughout to see if this is something that we could pursue moving forward. Niagara Presbytery has done a lot to support the camp with generous donations from congregations, individuals and the extension council. Part of these funds is currently supporting the installation of a gender-neutral bathroom at camp. A lot of these contributions also helped to send kids to camp via our bursary fund, which regularly sponsors 10-15 campers to come to camp for a week—an experience they may not have been able to afford otherwise. We are also looking to the future with the blessings that we have received, consciously putting away funds to ensure the future impact of camp, and for expanding to new horizons.

We continue moving forward with plans to build a new year-round lodge to replace the old (very old) Craft Hall and are at the point of launching a full fundraising campaign. We have hired a full time fund developer to aid in this process and have redeveloped our Legacy Hall committee to gain the experience of several external individuals with vested interest in the future of Cave Springs Camp. Through this opportunity, our team has revisited the original plans to establish a vision that will lead Cave Springs Camp into the future. These refined plans will allow us to honour the mission and ministry of summer camp programs through sustainable programming. The process has also helped us clarify the significance and impact of Legacy Hall for the camp, church and the community. With this new purpose and vision our \$750,000 project has quickly become a \$2.5 million dollar project – a goal that we are confident we can meet. This project has jump-started our major capital appeal to fund the new building and we will seek assistance from all our partners in funding this project. Please expect to hear more from us in 2018 and be ready to respond as you have in the past—generously and prayerfully.

With our thanks and our prayers for blessing;

Alex Sillett

Board President, Cave Springs Camp