



WINFIELD UNITED CHURCH

Ministry Annual Reports of 2020

In Memorium

Joan Taylor † March 13, 2020

Ken Phipps † April 19, 2020

Pat McCoubrey † October 11, 2020

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God

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Ministers Report

What Joan Learned in 2020

I think I wrote my annual report three times before I finally decided to just tell you the things I need to tell you. 2020 was a year like none other and it deserves a new minister's recollections to be unique and special. I thought I would share with you the things I learned these past 12 months since my arrival in your midst in January.

Firstly, I learned that Traffic Circles are an amazing feat of engineering and I figured out how to navigate them! These interchanges were a new experience for me but I quickly came to see how efficiently they move traffic through a busy intersection... everyone has a right of way at some point... yield on the left and enter on the right. A very good method that I believe also applies to being the new minister in a new pastoral relationship. Everyone needs a turn to enter the circle and be noticed. We all come with our own thoughts and ideas and experiences. We can live together with diverse viewpoints and theological understandings. We may disagree from time to time but we live together and care for one another. And I am grateful for the opportunity to be the ministry leader of an amazing group of people from so many different walks of life.

I also learned about Fruit. I am so grateful for all the fruit that you gifted me with. I have eaten more cherries and apples the last six months of 2020 than ever before, and I am just so grateful. And there was soup when I was sick, delivered over my balcony and turkey meals at Christmas. You shared your homes

and hospitality with me in so many ways. We broke bread together and shared stories and got to know one another. Because when you get to know the minister in good times, it is easier to know the minister in hard times.

And then in March, COVID came... and I learned a whole lot of other things about ministry I didn't think I would ever need to know. I learned that we can be community with a building and without. I learned with help from talented others, that we can put a worship service together with a new format and lovely recorded music and click the link and meet up on Zoom... for many, many months. I learned to unmute my microphone. We miss our building. We miss who we see there and being able to hug and drink coffee and commiserate with one another but we have discovered that Zoom is a very good substitute. As the new minister with only ten weeks in the building, I got to know you all because of your willingness to participate on Zoom. I believe we have all gotten to know one another better because of our intentionality on Sunday mornings. I am so grateful.

I experienced the grief of losing a parent with the death of my father shortly after my arrival in January. Families in our congregation also experienced death and loss of loved ones and the presence of COVID made this rite of passage almost insurmountable. We were not able to do the things we know how to do when a beloved member of a community dies. Families waited for memorial services and we did our best to provide a virtual service that brought extended relatives and friends together where grief and loss were acknowledged, because community care and concern, exercised with intention knows no bounds. And we will hug one another again and weep with those who weep in real time and space.

2020 was a remarkable year. It saw so many changes for all of us because of COVID. We know we have work to do going forward. We will have conversations and dream about the future and get back to the work of being Winfield United Church in ways that are sustainable and life-giving to us. Thank you all for welcoming me into your midst. This past year has been far from perfect but we have learned we are adaptable and flexible.

Peace to you all,

Joan

Church Council Report

Council members:

Jane Vatkin Past chair

Sandra Bogardis. Chair

Mae Husk. Treasurer

Mary Jo McQuad. Secretary

Penny Gamble and David Geen acting chairs Trustees

Members at large: Fran Schultz, Bev Edwards Sawatsky

Pacific mountain region: Gary Munroe

Chairs of all ministry teams

Joan Kessler minister Ex-officio

Vacant

Finance

Resignations

Spiro Vouladakis

Be Kind, Be Calm, and Be Safe

How many times in 2020 have you heard Dr. Bonnie Henry say these words ? Covid came into our lives in 2020, everything changed, our lives were turned upside down.

In 2019 we did not have a full-time minister. Together, we got through that year and rejoiced with the calling of our new minister Joan Kessler.

In 2020 we entered the pandemic. Today we are thankful to be alive and pray for better times ahead as we move into 2021.

Your council continues to meet monthly via Zoom. We have a safety team in place to ensure safety for all. We are still looking for a finance person. Once again a big thank you to Mike for preparing our budget.

Let's take a moment and reflect on 2020 and look at a few ways life has changed.

- We now have church zoom services. We don't meet in person, we don't have coffee together, we don't hug but we see each other, we chat and we are kind to one another.
- our committee meetings continue on zoom. We plan and make decisions and stay calm when we struggle.
- Our thrift shop closed, opened and closed and opened. The volunteers stepped up, made plans, stayed calm and kept everyone safe.
- our church was well-maintained and our yard looks good. The property team met the challenge and volunteers stepped forward.
- some of our programs like holy conversations, circle of peace, and a book study, continued on zoom, . Healing pathways continues from a distance.
- pastoral care continued with telephone calls, cards to say hello, birthday cards, outside visits and shopping for some.
- Joan, our new minister, joined us in January 2020. What a way to start a calling. She too, stepped up to the challenge and has done a wonderful job of ministering to us over a very difficult year.

These are just a few examples of how we have gotten through this far in a pandemic. With togetherness, hope, prayers, and

remembering every day, that Love does live here at Winfield United Church, we will get through this. We don't know what 2021 will bring, but remember we are never alone.

We, your council, want to say thank you to everyone of you for all your hard work and dedication this year. It really does take a village!!

HOPE IS BEING ABLE TO SEE THAT THERE IS
A LIGHT, DESPITE ALL OF THE DARKNESS.

~ Desmond Tutu

Respectfully submitted with love and hope.

Sandy Bogardis, Council chair

Ministry & Personnel Report

2020 began with great enthusiasm and excitement as we welcomed our new Minister Joan Kessler to Winfield United Church. A well-attended, and thoughtful, covenanting service was held March 8th to welcome Joan's Ministry among us.

Michelle Howe, our Youth employee resigned her position as of March 15th. Michelle was finding it increasingly difficult to commute from her home in Armstrong. She did however commit to continue with the monthly Eat-Play-Love, Saturday Night Program, until the end of June. Unfortunately, circumstances prevented this from happening.

From then, 2020 became a very unusual year. The National Church along with Pacific Mountain Region recommended that due to the Covid19 Pandemic all United Churches refrain from in-person services until further notice. As we now know, our current restrictions are likely to be with us for an extended time! Crisis brings opportunity! By March 22, with Verena's skill and 'know how', combined with Joan's adaptability, we began our first Zoom service. Over the subsequent weeks and months these two with the invaluable help of others [musicians, readers, technicians], etc. have been able to keep the congregation connected and informed. For many folks, this new way of 'being-together' has enriched our Church Family's interconnectedness. Fortunately, unlike some other congregations we have not found it necessary to 'lay off staff'. Suzanne Warren has adapted to all the new 'protocols' for cleaning the building. Over the summer Suzanne kept our

gardens and yard looking cared-for. Thank you, Suzanne!
Verena, as Office Manager, has been hugely impacted by the new situation, we found ourselves in. Her skill and expertise have been invaluable in organizing the Zoom services and meetings for our busy congregation. Thank you, Verena! Joan, never previously living in BC, arriving in early January 2020, to a congregation that recently had an unexpected change of leadership, must have been fraught. Finding, within weeks, usual day by day personal contact with congregants impossible, truly bewildering. But Winfield United Church Congregation is Blossoming! She works tirelessly to keep us inspired and connected. We are all truly Thankful. Thank you, Joan!

Respectively submitted by
Norrie Cochrane and Eleanor Geen - Co-Chairs

Living Legacy and Memorial Fund Reports

Members:

Mike Schwartzenruber

Penny Gamble

Jane Vatkin

Rev. Joan Kessler is an ex-officio

Living Legacy Fund Report

At 2020 year-end, there was \$52,144.87 in the account.
There were no withdrawals from this account in 2020.

Memorial Fund Report

Sadly, there were three deaths in the Congregation in 2020; Joan Taylor, Ken Phipps, and Pat McCoubrey. There were several donations made to the Memorial Fund in their memory. Plaques have been put on the Memory Board in the front hall for Joan and Ken, and one will be ordered for Pat when the Church re-opens.

At the end of December, there was \$5930.21 in the Memorial Fund.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Vatkin

Trustees Report 2020

Trustees:

David Geen – Chair

Joan Kesler – WUC Minister

Penny Gambell

John Greenough

Gordon Rutherford

Last Spring I personally realized it was blatantly unfair to expect Penny, with her extensive, continuing, Community and Grandmotherly responsibilities, to have to continue as Acting-Chair of our Trustees.

Reading, this time **digesting**,

1. The Congregational Board of Trustees Handbook 2004 (upgraded 2017)
2. The United Church Manual 2019
3. The Model Trust Deed
4. Bylaws-introductions to governance in the United Church
5. Incorporated Ministries-December 2019;

there was no **choice!**

The responsibilities of our Trustees are complex and unique. On one side the careful business decisions -building-insurance, mortgage-repayments, full-liability-coverage, and on the other, open-ended responsibility **of holding all the property of the congregation for the use and benefit of the congregations as part of the United Church.** Church Council assigns responsibilities to Committees: Finance, Building, Ministry and Personnel, but if a situation arises where these committees are

not acting to effectively preserve the value of church property (Real and Personal as defined in the Model Deed), into the future, Trustees have the responsibility to seek an appropriate solution. The first sentence in Bylaws provides the United Church “way” ...**works best when applied in a spirit of open conversation!**

Since accepting the role of Trustee Chair last summer, I realize I have been the **silent-observer**, being a Corresponding-member to Church Council, attending each of our Sunday zoom services, carefully reading all Joan’s emails to us; and getting ongoing input, via my wife, from her involvement in Transition Committee and Ministry and Personnel.

Trustees, meeting on February 11th, 2021 were positive in their expectation that the Congregation would collectively work its way successfully through our financial stresses secondary to Covid19. We will soon be asking the Congregation to appoint a 5th Trustee (presumably a lady) and will be working with Pacific Mountain Region Council to bring the land-title-deed up to date.

Mortgage Balance as of December 31, 2020:

\$ 11,882.45 renewed January 05, 2020	interest rate \$4.25%
\$ 37,599.05 renewal date February 05, 2023	interest rate 4.69%
\$ 57,368.83 renewal date January 5, 2022	interest rate \$4.05

Total mortgage loans remaining January 1 st 2021	\$ 106,850.33
Total amount paid on loans in 2020	\$23,590
Total interest paid on loans in 2020	\$5,113

Term Loan through TD Canada Trust

Canada Emergency Business Account	\$ 40,000.00
Payable December 31, 2022	- 30,000.00
Forgiven	- 10,000.00

If not paid by December 31, 2022 it becomes interest bearing of 5% payable by December 31, 2025

Worship Ministry Team Report

Members:

Jeannette Buchholz,
Arlene Erickson
Karen Gibbons
Joan Kessler (Clergy)
Louise Miles
Anne Nightingale
Gordon Rutherford
Jim Taylor
Elaine Towgood (Secretary).

The Worship Ministry Team (WMT) met 6 times during 2020, once in the sanctuary as usual, twice in the church parking lot, once on Towgood's lawn, and twice in the sanctuary with chairs socially distanced. The role of chairperson rotated between the members.

The Covid-19 pandemic presented many unique challenges for our church community and the WMT. Our main concern was how to provide a safe worship experience when we were prohibited from using our building and later, when we were limited to the number who could be in the building. Zoom was the chosen platform for the virtual services and the WMT gradually learned, with the help of Verena Velten, how to make it work for our community.

January to March 15:
Regular worship services.

We were delighted to welcome our new minister, Joan Kessler, to our congregation at the beginning of January! She had barely arrived when the Covid- 19 pandemic struck and restrictions were thrust upon us. Not only was she new to the congregation but suddenly she had to adapt her worship leadership to a virtual format! Thank you Joan for doing it so well!

March 22 to September 13:

(Covid-19 Restrictions) Worship virtually on Zoom only.

Although most of our congregation were able to use Zoom and participate in our services, we were concerned that there were some who were not able to join in.

September 20 to Nov. 15:

A combination of Zoom and in person with limited numbers.

- Our building had to be set up to assure the precautions would be followed:
 - Hymn books, leaflets, coat hangers removed and chairs spaced 2 meters apart.
 - Lines painted on the driveway to indicate distancing while lining up to get into the building.
- We learned how to
 - Reserve a chair if we wanted to attend in person, sanitize our hands and wear our masks in church, resist the temptation to sing the hymns or to hug or shake hands with another, to bring our own coffee and/or water.
 - Serve communion in the church while observing social distancing.

Nov 22 to Dec. 24:

Back to Zoom only. Still no way found to include the non-Zoomers.

Special Services:

- Eat, Play, Love Family Service on January 26 and February 23.
- Ash Wednesday Service on February 26th at 9:30AM in the Matthews Room.
- The Covenanting Service with Joan on Sunday, March 8 at 2:30 PM.

Pulpit supply was provided this year by Bob Thompson, Doug Martindale, Jim Taylor, Don Sawatzky, and Adam Jones. Thank you to Jim for coordinating the pulpit supply and to all five gentlemen for leading those services.

Because of the Covid-19 restrictions, we were not able to hold our usual special Easter services to celebrate Palm Sunday or Easter Sunrise. The same restrictions limited Advent and Christmas services to whatever could be done on Zoom.

Décor:

Jim Taylor spearheaded the sanctuary décor this year, usually with assistance from members of the WMT but sometimes doing this on his own. Thank you, Jim.

Music and Choir:

Mae Husk led the choir with an anthem in January before Covid restrictions prevented singing in groups. When we initially went to virtual services, Verena found music on YouTube for the services. Later, music leadership was provided by our own pianists and soloists either in person or pre-recorded. Elaine Towgood with help from Sharon Hartwick, provided the piano music. Vocal leadership was provided by Mike Schwartzenruber, Melanie Faber, Reg Houghton, Jim Taylor and Verena Velten. Sofie Hartwick, Ken Armstrong, Karen Gibbons

on oboe and Sharon Hartwick on harp each shared their musical talents for many of the meditations.

A special thank you to Verena Velten who, with her computer expertise, made our Zoom services happen. Not only did she put together the different parts of our services, some pre-recorded and some in person, but she also spent many hours recording our musicians and “layering” the recordings to produce the virtual services we witnessed. Thank you to Mike who also contributed to this.

Thank you to all the members of our church community for your willingness to adapt to what was a very different form of worship. Many of us had never even heard of Zoom before the pandemic but now are willing and able to join in. The WMT is concerned that we still have some who have not been able to take part in our Zoom only services. We miss you and are looking forward to a time when we will, indeed, be back to all gathering together in person.

Respectfully submitted: Elaine Towgood

Thrift Shop Ministry Team Annual Report

Co-ordinators:

Jeannette Buchholz, Norrie Cochrane, Melanie Faber, Karen Gibbons, Anne Nightingale, Donna Schreyer.

Thank you to Anita Baker who has retired as a co-ordinator after many years of being an important part of the Team.

Alternate Co-ordinators:

Trudy Cowger, Karen Stead, Elaine Towgood.

Mandate:

To help the Winfield United Church and the wider community, financially and in other supportive ways.

Covid-19 Hours of Operation:

- Mon, Wed, Fri – Sorting staff only to sort donations that have been isolated for 72hrs.
- Tues, Thurs, Sat – Shop open and donations accepted from 10 AM – 2 PM.

Many extra hours are put in by the volunteers in addition to the above.

- Shop was closed from Mar 17 to July 2 due to Covid- 19 restrictions.
- Shop was closed for the Christmas break from Dec 21 with reopening tentatively set for Jan. 18, 2021 depending on the Covid situation.

Thanks to the Volunteers and Custodian:

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers who so cheerfully support the work of the Thrift Shop. Your time and efforts are much appreciated! Many thanks to Suzanne who helps to keep our shop clean.

Finances for 2020:

Totals Sales: \$50,555.25
Expenses: \$3,119.23

Support Given to Groups and Organizations:

Monetary: *

Boys and Girls Club – Lake Country	\$250
GESS Bursary	\$750
Kelowna Women’s Shelter	\$150
Lake Country Citizen’s Patrol	\$ 250
Lake Country Food Bank	\$1,000
Lake Country Lodge Christmas Gifts	\$400
Youth Counseling and Family Services	\$200

* Due to our 15 week closure and reduced receipts, our monetary donations had to be greatly reduced for the year.

Outreach:

Lake Country Food Bank Thrift Shop
Canadian Diabetes Society – excess goods
All Are Family – clothing
Refugee Family – winter apparel
Persons in need – clothing
GESS – grad dresses and 1 man’s suit
Lake Country Food Bank – diapers, food, etc that were donated to us.

Lake Country Manor – items they need that were donated to us.

Vernon Hope Society – clothing for street people

Local schools – gift cards for needy families

Lake Country Optometry – eye glasses

L&O Jewelry

Supporting the Environment:

- We recycle the following items: cardboard, paper, plastics, glass, metal, light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, batteries, electronics, electric appliances, paint.
- We cut unsaleable cotton clothing into wipes, and fleece into Swiffer pads.
- We buy environmentally friendly cleaning supplies.

Special Thanks:

- Thanks to the members of the church Property Team, Bill Pullan, Gordon Rutherford and Dave Reid for their help in keeping our shop running efficiently over the year.
- Thanks to Neale Stead for installing the plexiglass shield at the cash counter.
- Thanks to our minister, Joan Kessler, for helping the Saturday staff.

Monthly Staff Meetings:

We meet (usually) on the first Monday of the month to review our previous month and to bring forth suggestions and concerns. These meetings are open to anyone interested in joining the staff or those curious about how we operate.

Being a part of the Thrift Shop Team is a win-win situation, truly a nurturing experience for both the volunteers and for the community we support.

Respectfully submitted by

Jeannette Buchholz

Property Team Report

Team members:

Bill Pullan

Gord Rutherford

David Geen

Another year has come and gone.

Work done last year as follows

1. Repaired wall inside church thanks to Dave Reid
2. Fixed roof on shed
3. New gravel on south road
4. Lawn mowing. Thanks to Greg Faber
5. Weed control. Thanks to Suzanne
6. Irrigation blowout. Thanks to David Geen
7. Fire inspections. Thanks to Gordon and Trudy

Projected for 2021

1. Re-look at wall inside the church
2. Main sign
3. Irrigation system
4. Children's church shed roof
5. Garden tractor repair

Looking for new members to help look after church. Gordon and Bill would look after the grounds and sheds but would like someone to look after the inside of the church.

Respectfully submitted

Bill and Gordon

Pastoral Care Ministry Team

Coordinating Team Members:

Joan Kessler, Sandra Bogardis, Fran Schultz

Cards: Mae Husk

Additional Area Reps:

Jane Vatin, Trudy Cowger, Elaine Towgood, Jeannette Bucholz, Sharon Hartwick, Bev Edwards-Sawatsky, Gary Munro

Who knew last year at this time the challenges we would all face in every aspect of our life? When it became apparent that there was no “business as usual” within our church family, the Pastoral Care Team had to adjust to the new normal.

Pre Covid, a few of our team members gathered at the Manor monthly to commune with resident members. We sang, shared stories and laughter over coffee and goodies. When the lockdown hit this stopped, but some of our members became personal shoppers for those in need, so the connections continued.

When the church closed its doors to services and Zoom became our way of attending church, a few congregants did not have access to this technology. To bridge this gap to some extent, some of us met monthly for conversation and coffee at the little café in Holiday Park. Of course this all came to an abrupt halt with the fire.

Joan has had a very busy year supporting family members grieving the loss of loved ones. She also continues to minister to several congregants with life altering health challenges. We are blessed with her perseverance and resilience in these difficult times.

Prayer shawls continue to be distributed, with many recipients saying they “ feel the love “ each time they use their shawl. Many thanks to those loving hands who craft these gifts.

To the area reps who have faithfully stayed connected with congregants through phone calls, you are the engine that keeps Pastoral Care running. You have helped us all stay connected.

Special thanks to our talented card maker Mae Husk, whose efforts have brightened the day for many of us.

As a whole church community, we are all called to be attentive to the needs around us.

Hopefully we will soon be able to gather with hugs and high fives, meet for coffee and know that what we have survived has made us stronger.

Thank you for your continued support.
Your PC team,
Joan, Sandy and Fran

Refugee Ministry Team Report

2020 was a very different year for the WUC Refugee Ministry Team and with our involvement with the Central Okanagan Refugee Committee (CORC) . Due to Covid19 we were not able to welcome any new refugees to Canada until December 14, 2020 when Fiacre Ngabire, Evelyne Mukeshimana's husband and the father of Jack, Josh and Elijah arrived, to be reunited with his family. The Al Rhayel family of four and the Al Hammad family of five had been approved by Immigration Canada to settle in Canada just prior to Covid19 and they still await flight approval to come. CORC's sponsorship responsibilities to the 21 refugees we welcomed in 2019, has been completed as of October 2020.

All of our sponsored families have remained healthy throughout the pandemic. The children all integrated well into their schools, their parents attended English classes, some have acquired jobs and drivers licenses. Victor Malouhi is doing well at UBCO in engineering and Mahar Mwozak has relocated to Ontario where he has friends and a greater possibility to find work in his career, as an actor.

All fundraising activities for CORC had to be cancelled for this year. Private donations and a generous \$74,000 bequest from Carol Taylor's estate has ensured CORC's ability to support the two families we are awaiting.

WUC in March, 2020 signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with First United and Rutland United that spelled out

CORC's relationship with each of these congregations and the congregations' relationship to CORC. Our National church office has given us feedback that they will be using our MOA template as the prototype for other congregational joint ventures.

On June 21, World Refugee Day, Rev. Joan Kessler planned a wonderful service that included conversations with Mohammad and Angham AlShahoud, Anas Qartoumeh, and Thadee Wakana and his daughter Nadia Gahimbare. Joan asked them what it has been like to come to Canada and what they long for, that they left behind in their homeland. Dielah, Thadee's second youngest daughter read beautifully, a paraphrase of Ruth 1: 1-18. It was a very moving service and each of the new Canadians appreciated telling their stories and felt both honoured and welcomed.

In December CORC had short notice about Fiacre's arrival. Two days in fact, to present a Covid19 quarantine plan to immigration, arrange pick up at the airport without a welcoming committee allowed, and he was able to safely isolate in Don and Bev Edwards studio above their garage. On January 2, 2021 after completing the quarantine, an amazing family reunion occurred. They hadn't been together in over four years.

Winfield United continues to support CORC in so many ways financially, warmly welcoming newcomers, furnishing their homes and providing a new community where they can feel safe and cared about. The Thrift Store is amazing in finding and supplying so many of their material needs. Earlier in December, Manse Binkley generously made it possible for the Burundi family to purchase a safe and reliable car. He has made this possible for several of our refugee families over the last several years. We are so appreciative of his support.

[Please find attached](#) the 2020 CORC year end treasurer's report.
the financial statement has been presented to WUC Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Refugee Ministry Team
Gordon Rutherford & Bev Edwards-Sawatzky

Spiritual Nurture Team Report

Ad Hoc Team Members: Arlene Erickson, Fran Jasiura, Sharon Hartwick, Verena Velten (Chair), Margaret Kyle (secretary), Rev. Joan Kesler (ex-officio)

Goals and Mandate of the Spiritual Nurture Team from the WUC Constitution:

In conjunction with Ministerial leadership, the Spiritual Nurture Ministry Team fosters an environment where *all* ages can explore their faith, discern their spiritual gifts, and share them.

In 2020 we welcomed Rev. Joan Kessler into our midst and were looking forward to working with her and getting to know her. We have appreciated and been thankful for her leadership, friendliness, and involvement in planning events that support the above goals. The Spiritual Nurture Team met several times in 2020 by Zoom as we had been doing already in 2019 due to the nature of the group. Because of the COVID19 Pandemic which began in March that made it impossible to plan face-to-face gatherings or any children/youth activities, it was decided to disband the team in September. The members agreed to become an ad hoc group that would meet to offer feedback should Rev. Joan Kesler ask for it.

Some of the activities that occurred in 2020 are:

Book Study: In September Joan facilitated a book study for four Thursdays via Zoom. The book, [*Me & White Supremacy*](#), by Layla F. Saad was reviewed as a “bracing, highly useful tool for any discussion of combating racism.” We examined the topics of white supremacy, white fragility and tone policing among others. The work offered in this study changed our views of

what it means to be Anti-Racist, the way we relate to people of color, and the way we talk about race with other white people. Since the completion of the study, we have continued to share articles related to the work of becoming Anti-Racist.

Holy Conversation: Gatherings continued every Wednesday from 2:30 pm to 4 pm in the Mathews Room until early March, and then transitioned to Zoom. Those who participated enjoyed the deep, free form conversations about life, spiritual topics, Sunday service Reflections, and sometimes the next week's scripture or theme. A core group of 9 to 12 people usually attend, but conversations are open to anyone. Ask Verena at the church office for the Zoom link.

Circle of Peace: This contemplative small circle service was held Tuesdays at 4 pm to 4:45 pm. It began with the traditional format of a weekly theme, with time for reflection, silence/meditation/lectio divina, prayer, singing and connecting, led by an alternating team of leaders including Rev. Joan Kessler, Rev. Bob Thompson, Donna Schreyer, Mary Jeffrey, Fran Jasiura, and Sharon Hartwick.

After COVID restrictions, Circle of Peace resumed as an open invitation weekly Zoom gathering led by Sharon Hartwick and Rev. Joan Kessler. The Zoom format was simplified to include a check-in, sharing & reflection on inspirational writing, a heart-centring meditation or contemplative centring activity flowing into voiced prayers to send love to family, friends, community, and world situations.

Toot Suite Recorder Consort continued to meet on Monday afternoons until March. Players included Ramine Adl, Sally Bassett, Melanie Faber, Karen Gibbons, Bev Gordon, Ruth Johnson, Marg Kyle, Mary, Christine Thorpe and Elaine Towgood. Bob Thompson and Ken Armstrong were welcomed

into beginner sessions. The ensemble was working on a program to perform at Prime Time at the Lake Country Senior's Centre when the pandemic halted rehearsals. Hopefully, Toot Suite players will be able to meet and share their love of music in the Fall of 2021.

Healing Pathways is an energy-based approach to healing endorsed by the United Church of Canada. More information on the program and training of practitioners can be found at www.healingpathway.ca. In-person sessions were held by appointment until early March at the Church, then transitioned to 'Distance Sessions' during Covid restrictions for the balance of the year with the team of Sandy Bogardis and Sharon Hartwick. We are hoping to resume our in-person sessions and invite others interested in joining the team to a practice circle in the Fall of 2021. Practitioners are trained to be a heart-centred, loving presence, and to use techniques in an intentional manner to facilitate and support the healing process of an individual, for physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual well-being. Healing sessions do not always involve physical contact between the practitioner and the receiver, the practitioner may simply work in the bio-energy field around the body or include distance techniques when people are not able to be in the same location.

Aramaic Prayer Circle: We appreciate that Joan holds the space for silent prayer in every service, inviting each person to pray the words that have the most meaning for them. For some of us, that is the Lord's Prayer in Aramaic, the spoken words of Jesus in his native language.

Aramaic Prayer Circle Dances continued as planned on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12:30- 2pm, until the pandemic hit in March. We gathered, chanted, danced and prayed with 5-8

'regulars'-- mostly from Vernon -- on January 23 and February 20, 2020. Led by Sharon Hartwick and Fran Jasiura, leadership was also shared by a few of the participants. We can see us dancing the Aramaic prayer again when we next gather.... and know that from gathering to gathering it lives on. We are looking forward to this.

HeartMath Workshop: Plans to host an introduction and begin a practice circle to learn heart-centred meditative techniques to build inner and group coherence was begun by Sharon Hartwick in the first months of 2020 and on hold until we can gather again.

Eat, Play, Love (EPL) Saturday and Sunday: We held two Family Night gatherings: An "Animal Christmas" on January 18, and a "Love and Kindness" evening on February 8, featuring the Amazing Race. Fazznight, planned for March 14 got canceled/postponed due the Covid-19. Two Eat Play Love 'mentoring-themed' service were held on Sunday, January 26 and February 23 with lots of positive feedback. These Intergenerational (all ages) Sunday services began with a three-way opening -- lighting candles, movement prayer, and song -- and closed with a gratitude circle. Leader, Michelle Howe, also began to incorporate this type of opening and closing in the once-a-month Saturday evenings. The planning group met on January 29 to plan upcoming events. However, a meeting called by Sandy Bogardis in February with two representatives of Eat Play Love planning group, worship team, M&P, and council showed there were also some people in the congregation who were not happy with having a once per month Sunday morning Intergenerational service planned by the EPL Team. This was followed, for various reasons, by resignations of key members of the planning team in February: Michelle Howe, Spiro Vouladakis, and Julie Elliot. Then the

pandemic came upon us and because of church closure for gatherings, no more events were conducted in 2020.

Pro-Vision Fund to support Eat, Play, Love events:

We received a grant of \$6120 in 2019 from the Pro-Vision Fund of the Pacific Mountain Region of the United Church (formerly BC Conference) to help operate and promote all things Eat, Play, Love because of, in their words, “the importance of this ministry.” Of the grant, \$2,804.17 was used in 2019, none was spent in 2020, leaving \$3,315.83 remaining that could be used in the future for such events. None of the grant needs to be repaid to Pacific Mountain Region.

Church Library: The church library contains such categories as: Contemporary Spirituality; Women’s Stories; Biblical Study and Bibles; Being Church; Inspiration and Prayer; Grief and Dying; Health and Well-Being; and Children’s Books. People take out books by recording their name, book title, and date signed out in a binder that is on top of the library shelves and recording the date upon return. In 2020 the library was looked after by Christine Grant-Armstrong.

Rev. Joan Kesler and the members of the Ad Hoc Spiritual Nurture Team are open to new ideas, feedback and discussion. Please contact any member of the team if you would like to be involved in any way.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Kyle, Secretary

ENVELOPE SECRETARY REPORT

Annual Contributions by Amount

Under \$100.00.....	1
\$100-499.....	12
\$500-999.....	11
\$1000-1499.....	11
\$1500-1999.....	3
\$2000-2499.....	3
\$2500-2999.....	3
\$3000-3499.....	1
\$3500-3999.....	4
\$4000+.....	5
Total	54

This is an annual snapshot of those donors who receive tax receipts of their monetary support for our church. This is but one reflection of the monetary stewardship that happens to keep our doors open. There are many who give anonymously and many who donate without recompense i.e. supplies and labour to support our mission and vision. The tracking of the taxable donations is the role of the Envelope Secretary who works with the Treasurer to arrange or ensure the following

areas are well planned, tracked and executed in a confidential manner:

1. Counters weekly for all the monies received (offering, Thrift Shop, fundraisers, rentals, weddings etc.)
2. Weekly bank deposits
3. Work with the treasurer to ensure accuracy of records
4. Confirm donation details, record and track donations for tax receipting purposes at year end
5. Present for audit the tax receipt details
6. Produce and distribute eligible tax receipts by no later than Feb. 28th each year

Donations can be made by cheque or cash (weekly or monthly) and also available is the PAR (Pre- Authorized Remittance) which comes directly from your bank account as you stipulate through a PAR form that is then given to the Treasurer. To have your donations automatically withdrawn from your bank account (PAR) or to make a change to PAR please contact Treasurer, Mae Husk: maehusk@shaw.ca or 250-766-3245

Respectfully submitted

Arlene Erho

Transition & Visioning Team Report

In early June, a Transition and Visioning Team was struck by Council. Team members are Don Sawatzky, Karen Gibbons, Margaret Kyle, Fran Schultz, Eleanor Geen, Gary Munro, Adam Jones, Verena Velten and Joan Kessler.

The question that guided our time together was “What might our church community become after COVID?” We talked about how the move out of the building and onto Zoom has changed our congregation and our sense of space. The committee explored the following areas related to our mission and ministry:

Building Usage: We looked at the church building and its physical space. We wondered about building maintenance, rental group usage, congregational events and Sunday services. The closure of our building due to COVID back in March had us asking the questions around how we use our building and for what gain. We wondered what upkeep and expenses will look like in the near and distant future and how this reality will impact and shape our mission and outreach. We also considered what property redevelopment on the back lot might look like? A community garden? A meditation park? Senior or low-income housing?

Note: A property redevelopment committee has presently been created to explore some of these possibilities and is expected to report back to Council in the Spring of 2021.

Finances: The necessary closure of the Thrift Store due to COVID and the reliance on the Federal Gov’t Wage Subsidy program had us wondering about our budget and financial

viability. We are grateful for the steadfast givings of the congregation. We also acknowledged how much we depend on the Thrift Store to meet monthly expenses. The imminent need of a Finance Committee was also discussed.

Outreach and Communication: We considered our current communication strategies and wondered how we can utilize social media, signage and other advertising to reach the wider Lake Country community. Outreach initiatives geared towards young adults (UBCO) and children and families need to be developed. The other idea that generated excitement and possibilities was to host a coffee time in the Matthews Room for Thrift Store customers and other neighbors looking for some fellowship. This would be considered post-COVID. We also contemplated undertaking the work of becoming an Affirming congregation within the United Church of Canada that sees an intentional course of study undertaken to make our church inclusive of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Mission Statement: A mission statement, we came to realize, is a very organic thing, always moving and shaping mission and our sense of purpose and wellbeing. From our discussions surrounding our hopes and dreams, we wrote the following statement:

Winfield United Church strives to be a progressive, open-minded, and open-hearted community of faith, where all are welcome on the journey. We look to Jesus's teachings and example in seeking a fresh and inspired experience of Christianity. We celebrate the mystery of life, creation, and the Spirit of God in our humanity. We live with respect in Creation by being good stewards of the environment in our practices. We work to be a community grounded in care and concern for one another, respecting

differences while working together for justice, compassion, and peace. – February 16, 2021

The Team has enjoyed the spirited discussions and dreaming about the future of Winfield United. We have brainstormed many different ideas together and invite the congregation's feedback and input. We are most grateful for the opportunity to serve in this way and are looking forward to 2021 and what it has in store for us.

Respectfully submitted,

On behalf of the Transition/Visioning Team

Rev. Joan Kessler