

St. Paul's Eastern United Church

2015 Annual Report

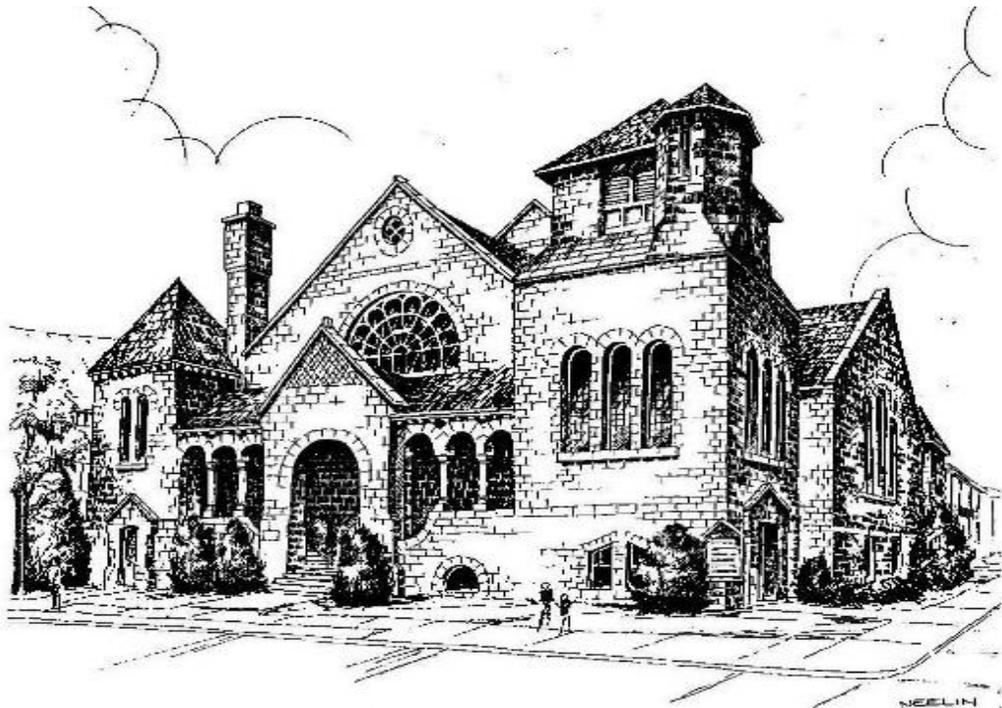


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PASTORAL LETTER FOR 2015 REPORT

“Your soul knows the geography of your destiny and the map of your future. Trust this side of yourself. It will take you where you need to go but it will also teach you a kindness of rhythm in your journey.” John O’Donohue from *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom*

This was a year in which I was given permission by the church to follow my own soul, to become restored and to listen to the voices of our First Nations brothers and sisters who are part of our journey as a people. I am very grateful for the months I had on a sabbatical so that I could take part in a pilgrimage with other pilgrims along the south shore of Nova Scotia, to listen to the ocean, be embraced by the forests and the path before me. It gave me an opportunity to read and experience our First Nation’s culture and stories, to create new friendships outside of the circle of the church and to spend time canoeing, swimming and learning some new skills in renovating an old building. I am grateful to the many people on the sabbatical team who very ably sustained the life of our congregation during my absence, who organized and led worship, continued the pastoral care of the church and kept the administration, work of Council, care for our property and outreach of our church running smoothly. The Council also so this as a time that our congregation could grow in self-confidence in your own amazing abilities to provide leadership for our vibrant ministry here. I hear that you were also affirmed by how you embraced this opportunity for learning and growing as leaders.

Life was busy again in our congregation as our church as we continued to grow as an inter-cultural church. We have been building our relationship with Odawa Native Friendship Centre as well as with our Eritrean friends, Tsegawit. In March we became involved in advocacy work for 510 Rideau St, an aboriginal drop-in who lost their City funding and helped them to raise their voice of injustice. As a result, several churches along with some of our own members have pledged their support with funds and volunteer time. The Outreach reports speaks to this. Our hall has been busy with activities aboriginal youth, children’s art camps, cooking classes, pow wows, comedy nights, political rallies, dance classes as well as for social activities for our own congregation. We were able to host the Faith and the Arts God Monologues again during the Fringe Festival in June along with some other productions. Shouts Sisters held a concert last April in support of the Community Laundry Co-op which drew a good crowd. In the fall we were invited guests to a Harvest Supper sponsored by Odawa and paid for by a generous man from the Hindu Community. What a joy to hear the sacred drumming and singing that welcomed us. We continued to wrestle with how our relationship with Odawa affects our needs for change in our own church building and saw a number of beautiful improvements to our space in the hall. A group appeared in October which is willing to help us in this time of discernment called the Square Foot Ministry Project, part of Faith and the Common Good. They are a group funded by the Trillium Foundation that has sought out the 4 churches in Sandy Hill to be part of a pilot project to discern how to utilize every square foot of our space to serve our neighbourhood. They have access to studies and funding through local foundations. Although we met with Andrew Hurrell and Bob Richards from Edge in both October and in December, a decision has not yet been made whether we will participate in this pilot project. Our process would be a model for re-purposing sacred space in other regions of Canada.

We continued our ecumenical relationships as we shared in the Healing Ministry services with St Joseph's Catholic Church, attending the Black History month service at the Ghanaian Methodist Church, taking part in the World Day of Prayer in March, through our partnership with the Open Table and through our membership with Multi-Faith Housing. The Church Crawl held in early September was again a lot of fun as we opened our doors to newly arriving university students. The Sandy Hill Seniors Network organized by Helen Smith also touches many lives in our community. Our newest venture in partnering with Refucare Ottawa in order to sponsor a Syrian Refugee Family began in December and we continue to learn the supportive role that we need to play. It is a learning experience for all involved.

There were moments of celebration and change within our own congregation. Throughout the year we continued to be blessed with the commitment of Rev John Moor, our VAM (Voluntary Associate Minister) who was also recognized for 50 years of service to the United Church. We are blessed to receive his breadth of experience, his stories, his wisdom, his compassion and especially his homemade communion bread. He has served well as the Chair of the Trustees. In June we thanked Kelsey Gracequist, a UOttawa student, for her faithful work with the children in the Sunday School. Helen Smith continued in her faithful work as a Licenced Lay Preacher and volunteer Chaplain at the General Hospital and we celebrated Michelle Robichaud's achievement of completing the Lay Preachers course. We have been blessed by her leadership in worship and were delighted when she offered to be the Children's Ministry Co-ordinator, organizing Sunday School and engaging our hearts and minds through the children's stories in worship each week. There will be more detail of staff changes in the other reports. I continue to be impressed by the dedication of those who have taken on leadership roles in our congregation whether it is serving on Council, organizing Evergreens each month, welcoming people to worship, receiving and counting collections, creating the PowerPoint, running the elevator or preparing nourishment each Sunday morning. Each person is a valued member of our faith community, whether you have been here for 95 years, have come to worship as a tourist in our city, or are searching for a family of faith in which you feel you can grow and belong. Henry Nouwen, a well-known spiritual writer has said, "hospitality means primarily the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them a space where change can take place."

Thank you all for sharing with me another year as pilgrims of Christ's way, as seekers of truth, deep peace, authentic relationships of love and as people who listen deeply to the leading of the Spirit, even if it's into the most surprising of places. May wonder and love guide all your days.

Yours in Christ's service,

Laurie (Rev Laurie McKnight-Walker)

In Memoriam 2014

Douglas Arthur Wilson
Amy Kathleen McCaughey
Ron George Black
Alice Stevens

Congregational Statistics for 2014

Number of Persons under Pastoral Care (Members & Adherents)	111
Baptisms	1
Marriages	2
Burials	5
Communicants Received by Profession of Faith	0
Communicants Received by Transfer	0
Communicants Received by Adult Baptism	0
Communicants Removed by Death	4
Communicants Removed By Transfer	0
Communicants Removed By Council	0

Directory of Officers and Staff at Dec. 31, 2015

Ministry Team

Rev. Laurie McKnight-Walker, Minister

Paul Grose, Organist & Music Director

Kelsey Gracequist (Jan.-June)

Michelle Robichaud, (Sept.-Dec.)

Christian Development

Rev. John Moor, Voluntary Associate
Minister

Support Staff

Stephen Anderson, Administrator

Greg Bennett, William Potts-Halpin,
Custodians

Church Council

Patrick Wilmot, Co-Chair

Nancy Thornton, Co-Chair

Michelle Robichaud, Secretary

Grant Gilliland, Property

Derek Carlisle, Grant Gilliland (alternate)
Presbytery

Wendy Bergeron, Ministry & Personnel

Wayne Mac Whirter, Treasurer

Michelle Robichaud, Secretary

Rev. John Moor, Trustee

Helen Smith, Pastoral Care

Thomas Stow, Youth Rep.

Jackie Potvin Worship

Geoff McGuire, Member at Large

Rev. Laurie McKnight-Walker, (Ex Officio)

Committees

Ministry & Personnel

Wendy Bergeron, Heather Oudit, Betty
MacKenzie

Property

Grant Gilliland

Pastoral Care

Helen Smith, Marg Bennett, Heather Oudit,
Betty MacKenzie, Jacques Renaud

Kitchen & Coffee

Kaye Blais, Betty Mackenzie, Heather
Oudit, Helen Link

Evergreens

Heather Oudit

Open Table Liaison

Brenna Manders

Trustees

John Moor, Marg Bennett, Nancy Thornton,
Eugene Lang, Grant Gilliland, Laurie
McKnight-Walker, Wayne MacWhirter
(Church Treasurer), Nick Stowe

Volunteers

Counters

Derek Carlisle, Thomas Stowe, Brenna
Manders, Diane Pepall, Cameron Pulsifer,
Grant Gilliland, Frank Duern, Alison
Roberts, Jacques Renaud

Worship Committee

Bernice Aye: Communion Organizer
Louise Reid, Jackie Potvin, Linda Paul

2015 Congregational Annual General Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2015, from 12:30-1:30 pm

In attendance:

- The Rev. John Moor (Chair)
- Dorothy Armstrong
- Patrick Wilmot
- The Rev. Laurie McKnight-Walker
- Betty MacKenzie
- Grant Gilliland
- Wayne MacWhirter
- Jacqueline Potvin
- Kay Blais
- Heather Oudit
- Paul Grose
- Lily Grose
- Marg Bennett
- Derek Carlisle
- Linda Paul
- Susan Mowers
- Wendy Bergeron
- Bernice Aye
- Martha Milne
- Frank Duern
- Geoff McGuire
- Nancy Thornton
- Thomas Stow
- Jacques Renaud
- Greg Bennett
- Brenna Manders
- Helen Smith
- Heather Oudit
- Linda Paul
- Susan Mowers
- Michelle Robichaud
- Stephen Conaroe

Martha Milne/Geoff McGuire

BE IT RESOLVED THAT adherents be allowed to vote at this meeting.

CARRIED

Wayne MacWhirter/Betty MacKenzie

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Rev. John Moor be confirmed as chair for this meeting.

CARRIED

Grant Gilliland/Susan Mowers

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Michelle Robichaud be confirmed as recording secretary for this meeting.

CARRIED

A. Opening Prayer

The Reverend Laurie McKnight-Walker led those assembled in an invocation prayer.

B. In Memorium 2014 (p. 4 of the 2014 Annual Report)

The names of those the congregation lost were read aloud: Nicholas Stevens, Robert Morris, Douglas Young, Carl Link, Margaret MacFarlane, Morris Wilson, Lloyd Wilcox. This reading was followed by a moment of silence for others we have lost this year. John shared some of his memories of our lost members.

C. Review of 2014 Annual Report

John began by thanking all of the authors and giving a special thank-you to Stephen Anderson for putting the Annual Report together.

Wayne MacWhirter/Bernice Aye

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes for the 2013 AGM be adopted.

CARRIED

D. Pastoral Care

- Derek wanted to thank the Pastoral Care team for visiting him in the hospital. Laurie visited the night of her birthday. Derek named the entire team in his thank you. An unnamed family would like to thank the pastoral care and the congregation for their help in the family's time of need.
- No questions on Sandy Hill Senior's Network (p. 15)
- Elders and long-standing members were noted (p. 17-18)

E. Church Council Report

Helen noted that the report missed the formal work by Bernice on Mission & Service Fund.

F. Mission and Service

- Bernice Aye spoke on initiatives such as Laurie's jam sales, calendar sales, the Community Laundry Coop, and how we gave money for the children at Odawa Native Friendship Centre.
- Bernice wanted to thank the congregation for our contributions of time and money. She also spoke about Stewardship. She encouraged the congregation to also consider giving for global initiatives because "Somebody supported somebody else and you can see the butterfly effect".
- John mentioned that he will be leading service on May 31, as his 50th anniversary. He thanks M&Service fund for his ministry.

G. Ministry & Personnel

Wendy expressed deep appreciation to Heather and Betty for looking after staff. Wendy also spoke about the sabbatical plan. She promised to share the plan with whole congregation when it is complete.

H. Property

- Grant had no further comments.
- Wayne made a comment on property. Grant has put a lot of time into the property. The congregation gave a round of applause for Grant's work. Grant mentioned that the church is very busy and spoke about Odawa events open to our congregants.

I. Partnership with Odawa

There were no questions about this report.

J. Worship Team

There were no questions about this report.

K. Christian Development

There were no questions about this report.

L. Evergreens Report

The group meets every third Tuesday of the month.

M. Stewardship and Administration

Wayne had a comment: talking about stewardship, he was reminded of Doug Young. When Wayne started here, Doug was Chair of Church Council. He went to Wayne saying that he had to lower his contributions due to changed circumstances. He taught Wayne that “You look at what it’s doing to the Church, not what it’s doing for you.”

N. Board Of Trustees

- John thanked his team and spoke about the balance sheet. The Trustees switched to RBC and have increased our assets around \$100,000 in 5 years.
- Wayne ran through the statement found on p. 39.
- Laurie had a question about Funds. Laurie was under the impression that the McLaughlin and Keenan Estate interest was for use in the Flower Fund only. Laurie thought that 2 years ago we had folded the funds into one. Also, the sale of manse is interest only with regard to presbytery direction. Imbedded within the two estates are major capital. Laurie requested that the Trustees clarify the estate funds and what they are for.

O. Financial Report

John said that he was leaving the operating budget out of the motion.
There were no final questions.

John Moor/Grant Gilliland

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of March 22, 2015 and all of the Reports received for the 2015 Annual Report, be received and adopted.

P. Proposed Budget

- Wayne led the discussion. He mentioned that it incorporates the cost of Laurie’s sabbatical, staff holidays and sick leave, but does not include what will happen with Odawa
- Wayne explained the new funding model regarding housing allowances for Laurie, at her request.
- Wayne mentioned that our books have been reviewed by Presbytery and they are in good shape. From now on, that certification will be included in the Annual Report.
- Wayne has been told that he does not forecast. Wayne is looking to include pledges in the budget for 2016.

Wayne MacWhirter/Helen Smith

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the budget be adopted.

CARRIED

Helen Smith/Susan Mowers

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the goal for M&S be \$10,000 for 2015.

CARRIED

Q. Election of Church Officers for 2015-2016

- Co-chairs Nancy Thornton and Patrick Wilmot will replace Helen Smith
- Outreach: Chair – Patrick Wilmot
- Wayne is standing as trustee, treasurer of Trustees
- Derek is standing for Presbytery Representative
- Jackie Potvin is standing for Worship and Music

Martha Milne/Thomas Stow

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposed nominations be approved

CARRIED

Discussion followed as to whether Thomas should also be named as Lead Counter. It was decided to not include that title, since it is not elected.

R. Expressions of Appreciation:

- A big thank you to Laurie for leading us.
- A big thank you to Helen Smith for all her work and for serving as Chair.
- Thank-yous also went to Stephen Anderson; Grant Gilliland for his work on property; Wendy and her M & P team; Paul, since we have the Best choir and best music in the city; all the Coffee Hour people; Derek, for all the cards for Christmas; Greg Bennett, for all his years of service; and “All of you”, for being such a cohesive and caring group. John said, “We are small in number but mighty in power. Thank you to all of us for each other.”

S. Adjournment

Moved by Grant Gilliland.

T. Benediction

Wayne led in closing the meeting with Ameni.

PASTORAL CARE

We continue to lead monthly worship at The Edinburgh Retirement Residence, where with the support of the recreation personnel, our services are well attended. Rev. Laurie was assisted by Marg Bennett, Jacques Renault, Derek Carlisle, Heather Oudit and Helen Smith.

Heather Oudit continues to send out birthday greetings to the children and youth of our congregation, as well as to our older members. Derek Carlisle continues to arrange for Christmas greetings, with pictures of the church, both building and congregation, to past members and friends, reminding them of their continued places in our hearts.

After a year-long break, Helen Smith has resumed leading services for the day-away program at The Good Companions Seniors Centre.

Rev. Laurie continued to lead a service every second month at the Peter D. Clark Long Term Care Home.

Lily Grose took the Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program under the sponsorship of the Pastoral Care team of our congregation and is applying to be a member of the visiting team for the Ottawa Hospitals.

During the sabbatical absence of Rev. Laurie, the congregation provided pastoral care to the family of Amy McCaughey on the death of their mother.

The Benevolent Fund which is accessed only by Rev Laurie enabling many different individuals to be supplied with Metro gift cards, some bus passes and other needs of both church members and people in the community. Helen took on this responsibility during Laurie's sabbatical.

A number of members of the church assist Helen Smith in visiting church members throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted by Helen Smith

OUTREACH

A committee to oversee the outreach work of the congregation was formed in 2015. It consisted of Wendy Bergeron who coordinates the Christmas gifts for children of the Odawa Friendship Centre, Bernice Aye who coordinates the Minutes for Mission, Helen Smith who coordinates fund raising and volunteer work with aboriginal people, well as the Sandy Hill Seniors Network; Michelle Robichaud who will inform us about the work of the MultifaitH Housing Initiative; and Cecile Planchon who agreed to apply for student volunteers as needed and to call any meetings required. Rev. Laurie McKnight-Walker continued to sit on the board of the Community Laundry Co-op.

A group of teens/ young adults from Montreal and Seaway Valley stayed in the hall during Worshiplude in February.

The congregation continues to sponsor the Sandy Hill Seniors Network. This group meets each Tuesday afternoon for tea or coffee at the TAN and conversation and on the last Wednesday of every month for lunch and a short talk at the church. The group is open to any senior and does not charge for the refreshments, being open to voluntary contributions to cover costs.

Right Relations, a group of people from a variety of faith communities, has been meeting for over a year, to exchange information about ways in which the different faith communities have been working on establishing relations with aboriginal peoples. Rev. Laurie McKnight-Walker, Grant Gilliland, and Helen Smith attend regularly. Upon the failure of funding for the drop-in at 510 Rideau run by Odawa, a group based in this organization, led by Manuela Popovici, Joyce Hardman, and Janyce Elser, started a program to raise funds to reopen the drop-in and to arrange for volunteers to assist at the drop in. Wendy Bergeron, Helen Smith, Grant Gilliland, and Helen Smith have done volunteer work here.

In 2015 our council applied to Ottawa Presbytery for funds from the Street -Related Ministry fund to run the Odawa Bannock bus in the winter of 2016 and were successful in receiving these funds in December and transferring them to Odawa. The bus was to begin operations in January.

The Odawa Food Bank continues to operate several times a month out of our church and our congregation continues to contribute food towards this endeavour.

In the late fall of 2015 a Sandy Hill-based group called Refucare Ottawa partnered with our church to apply to sponsor a Syrian refugee family now living in Lebanon. Their brother is a student at Carleton University and lives in Sandy Hill so is able to assist in the settlement of his brother's family. His brother has a wife and three young children. The United Church of Canada is the SAH (Settlement Agreement Holder) and we as the congregation are the immediate contact for the sponsoring community group. We will be establishing a Trust Account in order to facilitate the financial transactions and provide a Charitable Donation number. We anticipate the family arriving in Canada during 2016.

Submitted by Helen Smith

Open Table Report

“Eating and hospitality in general is a communion and any meal worth attending by yourself is improved by the multiples of those with whom it is shared” Jesse Browner

The Open Table is a free, home-cooked community meal for students and young adults that happens twice each month at locations near the University of Ottawa and Carleton University. All of the food is generously provided by church partners from Ottawa and surrounding areas.

Carleton – Trinity Ottawa (1230 Bank St.). Doors open at 5:30pm. Meal begins at 6:00pm

uOttawa – Centre 454 (454 King Edward Ave). Doors open at 5:30pm. Meal begins at 6:00pm

These gatherings, alongside their website and social media, are portals to many activities taking place in local churches, the local community and beyond. If you’re looking to meet new people, to explore Christian spirituality or access pastoral support, feel free to pull up a seat and join us.

The Open Table is supported by the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Ottawa Presbytery of the United Church.

St. Paul’s-Eastern provides the main course once a year and the dessert once a year. Emily Sams is the coordinator for the U Ottawa meal at Center 454 and is from Emmanuel United Church.

Submitted by

Grant Gilliland

Elders at Dec. 31, 2014**Dorothy Armstrong****Margaret Bennett****Kay Blais****Bettie MacKenzie****Wayne MacWhirter****Geoff McGuire****Life Elders****Enid Arscott****Jean Black****Jack Bray****Wil Wilson****Heather Oudit****Louise Reid****Helen Smith****Alice Stevens****Long-Standing Members of St. Paul's-Eastern United Church**

Researched and Compiled by Heather Oudit

The following list reflects official membership at St. Paul's-Eastern. Several of the people mentioned below would have joined the United Church as young people in their home towns and transferred to St. Paul's-Eastern at a later date. If we were counting years of membership in the United Church of Canada, we would have many more impressive numbers.

Name	Year of Becoming Member	Number of Years as Member (as of 2015)
Edith Woodburn	1930	85
Jean Black	1938	77
Jack Bray	1952	63
Margaret Bennett	1953	62
Helen Link	1966	49
Wil Wilson	1971	44
Carmel Lewis	1975	40
Kay Blais	1979	36
Helen Smith	1981	34
Heather Oudit	1985	30
Bob Walker	1987	28

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

To begin, I would like to thank the members of Council for their patience and support. Patrick Wilmont and I took on the role of co-chairs and with the help of Council most bumps were avoided or smoothed over.

As there are many informative committee reports to follow, I will leave details to the subject matter experts and will touch upon a few highlights and offer thanks.

During Reverend Laurie's sabbatical this past summer, members of the congregation revealed just how resourceful, creative and self-directed they can be. Many thanks to the Ministry and Personnel and Worship Committees for organizing all the details for services May to August. The results were seamless. We are blessed to have many talented people in our midst and their generosity is a credit to them and a benefit to all. Council was very happy for Laurie's return and pleased that her time away was restorative.

Given the busy summer, we did scale back on a few activities and did not participate in Doors Open in 2015, but do plan to take part this June. If you are able to volunteer it is an opportunity to be a host and possibly see our church in a new way. For some visitors their interest is the architecture, for some it is our musical programming, while others ask about our role within the community. If you can volunteer, you will surprise yourself with how much you know about St. Paul's- Eastern and any gaps can be filled by our expert church archivists.

Thanks once again to Louise and Richard for hosting our river side service at their cottage at the end of June. Thanks also to Paul and Patrick for their ministry. Though the morning was cloudy we were protected under the awning and the rain held off. The delicious potluck lunch and outdoor celebration is always a perfect transition into summer.

Our other annual celebration of nature is our walk in Gatineau Park which took place in early October. We were a merry group of about 15 and had a lovely morning walking around Pink Lake with Ewan and Patrick leading much the way. We wrapped things up with lunch just as the parking lot and trail were getting busy.

With the support of Odawa we were able to host Presbytery for the first time in a decade. In the fall, Odawa was offering a food preparation course and with the work of students and instructors, St. Paul's- Eastern hosted Presbytery November 10th, at very short notice. Typically, church members know months in advance when they are hosting a meal, whereas we had two weeks. In addition to the positive comments about the meal, visitors were also impressed by upgrades to the basement. Thanks to prior arrangements by our Chair of Property, Grant Gillard, there was a sturdy hand railing to help people walk up to the sanctuary for the meeting.

Thanks to the youth of our congregation for your enthusiasm and willingness to volunteer. As a Council we are very fortunate to have Thomas Stow as a member and for his role as the organizer for the counters.

Open Table continues to be a youth ministry supported by the congregation. With the leadership of Brenna Manders, we provide two courses to students/young people during the

academic year. The model of offering food and fellowship to University of Ottawa students once a month is now being replicated for Carleton students by churches in the area.

Though it is always tricky to identify individuals for fear of forgetting someone, I would like to thank Wendy Bergeron, Betty MacKenzie, Michelle Robichaud, Greg Bennett and John Moor for their service as they step down from roles they have had for some time.

As co-chair of Council I am aware of the work of Wayne MacWhirter as our Treasurer and the hours he spends on financial matters. I would also like to acknowledge Wayne for his work in ensuring our building is attractive inside and out. Through his efforts and organizational skills the church is beautifully decorated during Advent, has lovely flowers at Easter and our yard is such a joy over the summer. To Council, he is also the generous host of our December meeting and Christmas potluck, a tradition we all appreciate. Many others also contribute to the beauty and safety of our surroundings and I would like to say thank you.

Finally, I would like to name two other church members for their contributions, Bernice Aye and Derek Carlisle. Bernice's leadership in so many areas of service is integral to our understanding of Mission and Service in the United Church and to our celebration of communion.

Each Christmas, our Presbytery representative, Derek Carlisle, makes beautifully hand-crafted cards from his photos and addresses and organizes the cards for our signature. It is through his efforts that we stay connected to people far away. How nice it must be to receive a card from St. Paul's-Eastern with so many familiar names and good wishes. Other areas of our communication are also improving as our presence on the internet increases and our services incorporate more audio-visual aids.

Part of the experience in becoming more involved in a volunteer organization, like a church, is learning about all the people behind the scenes who get things done without fanfare or recognition. Over the year I have had a glimpse into a few mysteries. Each time I learn about a job someone has been doing for years I am struck by what a remarkable place St. Paul's –Eastern is. May we continue to show one another fellowship and support and share this spirit beyond our walls.

In closing, I encourage you to read our Mission Statement posted in the church and congratulate yourself for how you have contributed to our Mission in the past year and consider areas where we may have more to do. Please feel free to communicate your ideas and concerns to Council members in 2016.

Thanks to my co-chair for his 'can-do' attitude.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Thornton

and participating in the Sunday morning United Church worship for this event held at Dominion Chalmers United Church. During May I began reading books related to these topics which carried through the summer. I was also involved with annual student interviews for the Education and Students Committee of which I am the Chair as well as the final month for a discernment committee on which I am the Presbytery Rep. This was also the season to plant my flower and vegetable gardens, a task which kept me busy throughout the summer. I also had an unexpected house guest for the months of May and June, my step grandson, Cade Walker, from Haliburton.

June: The highlights of my time in June included the 10 day 234km walk along the south shore of Nova Scotia called Camino Nova Scotia which was sponsored by the Atlantic School of Theology. Each day included about 8 hours of walking, sleeping overnight in various churches, participating in the community of pilgrims, and of course, caring for our feet. I was also delighted to be able to visit with a former parishioner Dr Bob Walker in Chester who showed me terrific hospitality. Our pilgrimage concluded with a wonderful feast overlooking one of the beautiful bays of Halifax at the Atlantic School of Theology.

In the last week of June I rented a cottage near Bobcaygeon so I could visit the Curve Lake First Nation and learn more about the Ojibway people. I was able to spend a few days visiting there which included visits to their Museum and Art Gallery, a visit with Elder Daisy Whetung, and an afternoon with the Bay of Quinte Conference youth event at the Curve lake campground. I was delighted to meet with an Ojibway Elder there whose sister lives in Sandy Hill, who shared some fascinating creation stories with the youth when they returned from their canoe trip. I continued reading about our Canadian history from an Aboriginal perspective.

July: It was less structured as my kitchen was being renovated so that I had to be away from home. I spent time helping to renovate a cottage in Norway Bay (I began to master the art of mudding walls!), enjoying canoeing, walking and swimming. There was plenty of time for self-care and for visiting my family in Kingston and supporting my mother in her home.

I was privileged to meet with Tom Louttit, one of the Elders for Odawa Friendship Centre and through him was invited to take part in a sweat lodge at Moose Creek which was a profoundly healing and spiritual experience (and very hot!). At the end of the month I visited Kitigan Zibi First Nation in Quebec to discover that community and visit their welcome centre. I had hoped for more engagement in that community but summer was their slow season and few people were available. A trip to Victoria Island at the end of July to welcome the River Walkers on their Sacred Walk to bless our historic rivers was very rewarding. Each of these experiences helps to build new friendships with people who are committed to living into the healing of our relationship with First Nations people who are seeking to save our earth.

August: In August which included some of my vacation time, I was thrilled to take part in a Wild Women Canoe Trip in the Temagami Canoe Region just beyond North Bay with a group of 12 women, diverse in age and background. Meeting the canoeing challenge was a real esteem builder, not so much with portaging. My time in nature, whether hiking, canoeing, swimming, reading, gardening or just being, was both healing and inspiring for me.

So **thank you** for this time for being more active, learning, travelling, resting and spending time with my immediate and extended family. I felt ready to be re-engaged with our faith community as we worship God and listen for the Spirit's leading in the ever-changing landscape of our community with the unique challenges of developing our partnership with the Odawa Native Friendship Centre in the heart of our nations' capital.

With gratitude for the generosity of our faith community.

Rev. Laurie McKnight-Walker

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2015 Annual Report – Ministry and Personnel

2015 was characterized by a number of staff changes, and a period of rest and renewal for our devoted Minister.

Under Reverend Laurie's leadership, we continued to deepen our relationship with the Odawa Native Friendship Centre in a spirit of reconciliation and friendship, culminating in an inaugural joint meeting in December between the Odawa Board of Directors and the SPEUC Church Council. This relationship with our indigenous brothers and sisters has led to a model of partnership that is being followed with great interest by the national church. Laurie also continues to work tirelessly to support and encourage members of our congregation and to provide love and services on our behalf to street people in Sandy Hill.

We were blessed by another year of musical inspiration under the leadership of our Music Director, Paul Grose. Paul's musical talents and commitment to excellence have revitalized the ministry of music as a key element of worship at St. Paul's-Eastern United Church.

We bid good-bye to a number of staff members in 2015. With the departure of Stephen Anderson as Office Administrator/Bookkeeper in December, we are welcoming a new staff member, Bruce Peterkin, who will take over the office support duties on an interim basis while we review the current model for providing secretarial and bookkeeping support. After more than 10 years on the job, our Caretaker, Greg Bennett, decided to take a well-deserved retirement. We are grateful that William Potts-Halpin was available to assume the Caretaker duties on an interim basis until such time as we are able to staff the job permanently. Our Children's Ministry Coordinator, Kelsey Gracequist, was unavailable to continue in this capacity as of September 2015 due to her increasing university workload but we were blessed by Michelle Robichaud's interest in taking on these key responsibilities to deepen our children's knowledge of the bible and Christian teachings. We wish all our former staff members well in the next phases of their lives.

2015 was also a well-deserved year of renewal for our minister as she took her three-month sabbatical in the summer months from May to August. Laurie took this time to deepen her knowledge of native spirituality and the issues flowing from the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. She was also able to take time for personal relaxation, reflection and growth. One of the highlights of Laurie's time off included a 10-day 234-kilometer pilgrimage walk along the south shore of Nova Scotia called Camino Nova Scotia, which was sponsored by the Atlantic School of Theology. Each day included about 8 hours of walking, sleeping overnight in various churches, and participating in the community of pilgrims. The Ministry and Personnel Committee was involved with Laurie in planning and implementing her sabbatical and provided support throughout the three-month period, with the active involvement of the SPEUC Sabbatical Planning Team, composed of Helen Smith, Michelle Robichaud and Wendy Bergeron. Although there is no doubt that we missed Laurie, we took her absence as an

opportunity to foster the development of congregational lay leadership. We extend our gratitude to our Voluntary Associate Minister, Rev. John Moor, our Lay Worship Leaders, Helen Smith and Michelle Robichaud and to Grant Gilliland, Paul Grose, Bernice Aye and Patrick Wilmot for their leadership during Laurie's absence and to the choir members for their continuity in nourishing our souls through the ministry of music.

2016 will also mark changes in the composition of the Ministry and Personnel Committee. Wendy Bergeron and Betty MacKenzie are stepping down after a number of years of service. Heather Oudit has agreed to continue for one more year in order to provide continuity for the incoming Committee members. As current Chair of M&P, I would like to publicly express my gratitude to Heather and Betty for their unflagging support and their hard work.

Submitted by

Wendy Bergeron, Heather Oudit and Betty MacKenzie

The members of the 2015 M&P Committee

Property Report 2015

The biggest change this year was the rental of the hall, Sunday School room, kitchen and parlour full time to Odawa Native Friendship center. The Tsgawit continued to use the Hall Friday evenings as available and the Sanctuary on Sunday afternoons. The AA group continued to meet on Sunday evenings.

Odawa paid \$3500/ month for the first 3 months and then \$3000/month for the last 9 months. The hall is used mainly for youth activities and fundraisers. Odawa also covered the cost of refinishing the hall floor in March, replacing the old carpet at the north entrance off Daly Street, the stage with interlocking flooring and the complete painting of the hall in colours of the medicine wheel. To increase the lighting I had the plywood removed from the doors opening into the parlour and the painted/broken glass replaced with pebbled glass to maintain privacy for meetings. With the increased needs for electrical plugs in the nursery area new plugs/ circuits were added at the expense of Odawa. They also added their own fridge in the kitchen.

The room next to the elevator is continued to be used for the Odawa food bank.

The staircase at the south end going from the kitchen area to the sanctuary was also rebuilt with new railings and carpet.

Due to complaints about the new chairs purchased last year we bought some more of the white chairs to be used in the choir room and whenever we have our Sunday social time and seniors groups meeting.

As we consider the future of the building I have had an engineering study of the building structure completed by the MMM GROUP of engineers. It is available upon request. I also tried without much success to get a quote on doing the next phase of the roof.

My goals this year are to get a quote on finishing the roof and possibly some pointing done on the stone. The stairs outside the south Cumberland Street entrance should be replaced as some of the wood is rotten and the screws and nails will no longer hold and the paint will not stick. We also need to look at having the bathroom space enlarged with increased use possibly looking at renovating the kitchen area, including better heating and ventilation. The sound system in the sanctuary needs to be updated with hearing assistance for the hearing impaired added. I also would like to see the old tables in the hall be updated to new plastic folding tables. I also would like to consider having the lighting in the hall changed to LED (fluorescent style) fixtures.

Respectfully submitted

Grant Gilliland

Property chair.

SPE-Odawa Native Centre Partnership Report 2015

Members of the Working Group from St Paul's-Eastern United: Nancy Thornton, Nick Stowe, Alison Roberts, Stephen Conroe, Grant Gilliland, Rev Laurie McKnight-Walker (ex-officio)

Our Vision: Working with the Odawa Native Friendship Centre fulfills a vision of achieving Right Relations with our Aboriginal brothers and sisters as well as becoming more of an Inter-Cultural Church. In the fall of 2013 we were approached by Morgan Hare, the Executive Director of the Odawa Native Friendship Centre to see if we had any space for their programs. Our downtown location is desirable for reaching out to the Native population that lives downtown and in Vanier.

Meetings: As our relationship with Odawa has grown over the past year, our Church Council and the Odawa Friendship Centre Council have approved exploring a partnership in order to share and transform our space to accommodate both groups for our programs

Hall Rentals: The Odawa Food Bank continued to be open two days a week in the room beside the elevator and our parlour was used for a weekly healing circle until the spring. Our hall has also been used for a variety of activities by Odawa, including: Culture Nights on Saturday evenings, a comedy night, for several political rallies and educational meetings of the Ontario Federation of Friendship Centers, memorial services for community members, a two day Pow Wow to bring in the New Year 2015/6. In the winter/spring the parlour was used by Reach Up

North, an entrepreneurial computer training program for Aboriginal youth. They had also received a grant from the Street Related Ministries Grant from Ottawa Presbytery. The drop-in program, which operates out of 510 Rideau St used our hall in the summer when there was a heat alert. Clients were very appreciative of the cool space and welcoming atmosphere. In the fall a training program for cooks/servers was held by Aboriginal Experiences to help their clients, some of them living in local shelters, find employment. Odawa hired a youth worker who developed a variety of programs held in the hall to engage the local youth. The former Sunday School room was used by Odawa as their office space for a variety of employees.

Social: Members of Odawa of the Odawa Board joined us for a chili dinner in the fall. It was an excellent evening of feasting, conversation. On October 25th our congregation was invited to a Harvest Feast prepared by Odawa chefs after worship. They welcomed us with prayers and sacred drumming. The funding was provided by the Hindu Association of Ottawa. As a Christmas outreach, our congregation was invited to purchase a gift for a child named by Odawa as being in need. Many members brought presents of clothing, toys, gift coupons and money to support this outreach project, as well as food for the food bank.

Congregational Impact: The Odawa Native Friendship Centre rents the downstairs of the church for their programs and offices. We are both open with each other and share space for choir practice, bible study, Christmas decorating, special events, etc. Sunday is reserved for Church use. Hopefully it is an opportunity for mutual learning.

Submitted by Grant Gilliland

Worship Team Report for 2014

The **worship team** which helped with planning for this past year was provided by Bernice Aye, Louise Reid, Jacqueline Potvin and Linda Paul. Laurie worked closely with our Music Director, Paul Grose in choosing appropriate hymns and anthems to create thematic worship services throughout the year. Rev John Moor continued as our Voluntary Associate Minister, assisting at Holy Communion and in leading worship when Laurie was away on bereavement leave in January, summer vacation and study leave in the spring and fall.

We served **Holy Communion** at the beginning of Lent, Palm Sunday, Pentecost Sunday in June, World Wide Communion Sunday in October, the first Sunday of Advent and on Christmas Eve. Bernice Aye organized the Communion Services all year with help from many members of the congregation and with Val Johnson and Betty Mackenzie taking the lead for set-up on some of the communion days. We varied the styles of serving Communion between coming forward to stations and being served in the pews. Bernice tried to organize servers according to the diversity of people: students, families, Council members, seniors, for example. Rev John Moor faithfully baked the bread at home and shared in leadership at the Table each Communion Sunday. Baptism was celebrated when requested.

We continue to use the **Common Lectionary for our liturgy**, following the seasons of the year, with other readings during the summer and on other special Sundays. Musical leadership in worship was enhanced at various times throughout the year as various people were invited to sing solos, such as Irene Grose on violin, piano and organ, Wil Wilson on violin, guitar by Frank Duern, guitar and flute from Rev Laurie, percussion by various choir members. The Time for the Young and Young at Heart was ably led by Kelsey Gracequist each Sunday, tying in with the theme of worship. Her gentle and sincere manner and creativity are appreciated.

Special services throughout the year: recognizing Scottish heritage end of January by wearing tartan;

Black History Month Service on February 23 with planning and leadership help from Bernice Aye and Rose McClaren; Palm/Passion Sunday in April; Asian Heritage Sunday June 1; the annual River Service at Louise and Richard cottage at the end of June with Tim Yearington as our guest speaker who shared with us the meaning of the Medicine Wheel; welcome back service and BBQ on September 21 for students; September services honouring the Season of Creation; Royal Arch Masons on October 19th led by Rev John Moor their Chaplain; Remembrance Day service on November 9th; Anniversary on November 16th; wonderful gospel service with the *The Hallelujah Gospel Chorus* November 23 under the direction of Stephanie Yaskew, arranged by Frank Duern;

Christmas Cantata, *Love's Pure Light* by Lloyd Larson led by Paul Grose, our choir, Sue Mower and her son Thomas Stow as narrators on December 14th.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was co-led with Jericho Road Coffee House since Wednesday was their regular meeting. Ray Demarais, their main leader, was invited to share leadership in Holy Communion and they provided some readers, candle lighters, special music, including one impromptu version of Silent Night sung in Burundi. We also purchased battery operated candles for safety.

The **guest speaker at our Anniversary Service** held on November 16th was Rev Dr Tom Sherwood, former University Chaplain who gave a very engaging sermon/presentation on theme of young adult spirituality, especially those who claim to be SBNR (spiritual but not religious). An excellent lunch was catered by the Ottawa Mission cooks-in-training program and was well attended by the congregation.

There were two **Café Style worship services** held in the hall to provide a more relaxed conversational style of worship and sharing of food. These were held on the last Sunday in April and October when we felt that more students would be around. Many thanks to our custodians Greg and William and all those who helped with reconfiguring our worship space in the hall.

In order to provide the use of **PowerPoint** in our worship services in the sanctuary, Grant Gilliland purchased a

high lumens projector which has worked very well for our space which was paid for from our Memorial Fund. Grant also assisted in creating the Powerpoint and ran the projector during services sometimes with the help of Michelle Robichaud. The inclusion of PowerPoint began in August and continued through the fall with positive feedback from congregation. We also have been blessed by the gifts of Patrick Wilmot, a new member, who has **regularly taped our worship services** so that they will be available for our web site.

Each **Christmas** our sanctuary and hall are decorated for the season by an enthusiastic team of people who then enjoy a **pot-luck meal and carol singing**. This year we invited our friends from the Odawa Native Friendship Centre to join us for the pot-luck dinner which was successful for our first time doing such an event. The 'packing' up party is held in January. Thanks to Wayne McWhirter for taking the lead on this again and encouraging all ages of people to get involved.

We also provided **worship in the community** at several different institutions which is included in the Pastoral Care report. Several choir and church members helped out with some of these services.

We continued to have **ecumenical participation** sharing in three Healing Services held at St Joseph's Catholic Church in October. Maundy Thursday service did not occur this year at All Saints Anglican Church since they busy in their discernment process regarding closing their church building. A special men's choir which was formed and led by Cynthia Taylor from St Joseph's Catholic Church performed at a Variety Night at their church on April 5th as they celebrated the history of the Oblate Order. This was also a fundraiser for St Joe's Supper Table. In order to celebrate our shared history with All Saints Anglican Church over many years, our choir sang a hymn for them during their special farewell service held on September 18th. Our participation was appreciated and noted in the Image Newspaper.

Many thanks are owed to Louise Reid, Betty Mackenzie and Dorothy Armstrong for their input on the purchase of a set of reversible **paraments** (two pulpit paraments and one table runner) in blue/white which were purchased from the Memorial Fund for the Advent/Epiphany season.

Rev Laurie presided at three **weddings** this year: in May at the Chateau Laurier; in November at the Museum of Nature and at Southminster United Church because the couple wanted a centre aisle. Of course the wedding for my daughter Jessica Walker and her fiancé Micah Garten at

Temple Israel on August 2 was a real highlight for myself and my family. Micah's father, Rabbi Steve Garten presided at the ceremony in the synagogue.

There were also several **funerals/ memorials/celebrations of life** for members and one non-member which Rev Laurie presided at in local funeral chapels with two services being held in our own sanctuary. The choir provided leadership at a few of these funerals which provided tremendous expressions of comfort and love. Our hearts feel the loss of these beloved church family members who served our church and community so well.

Another highlight of the year is that **Michelle Robichaud** continued in the **Lay Preacher's Course** organized by Ottawa presbytery and ably delivered her first sermon on February 16th, again on June 15th. Her support committee includes Wendy Bergeron, Geoff McGuire and Rev Laurie. She has been finding it to be stimulating and rewarding as there is a lot of material to learn and opportunities for learning.

A highlight for me was attending the **Festival of Homiletics**, an international preaching conference at Minneapolis, Minnesota from May 19-23 along with a number of my Ottawa colleagues. Thank you for this opportunity to learn and praise God with folks from all over North America.

Of course my **gratitude is extended** to you who participate in our worship life each week, bringing your prayers, your voices, willingness to learn and grow, your gift for hospitality, especially making newcomers and travellers feel welcome. A special thanks to those who so faithfully provide nutritious refreshments for our

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coffee hour each Sunday and for the kitchen committee who keep it well stocked, clean and organized. This is an important ministry of hospitality for our congregation. Thank you all for your service and love.

Submitted by Rev. Laurie McKnight-Walker

Christian Development Report 2015

Christian education for our children on Sunday mornings continued under the leadership of Kelsey Gracequist, a second year student studying linguistics at UOttawa until the end of June. She provided a story for the Young and Young at Heart portion of the worship services which supported the liturgical theme. The number of children who participate on a Sunday morning varies between one and six children or more when there are visitors. Kelsey and Edward formed close relationships with the children. She used the Fusion/Multi-Age materials to prepare her lessons and activities. Children continue to gather at a small table at the back of the sanctuary to draw or create prior to the story.

In September we were delighted when Michelle Robichaud offered to take on the role of Children's Ministry Co-ordinator especially given her theological training. She used the Narrative Lectionary Children's Curriculum from Spirit and Truth Publishing. We appreciate her faithfulness to the children and her creative and spiritually engaging children's stories shared during worship.

Several members of our church continued to be involved in learning about the issues affecting our First Nations and Inuit people and the church's role in the Residential Schools in the months prior to the Truth and Reconciliation Ceremonies. Many programs, breakfast meetings, Right Relations meetings, TRC planning meetings, including a sharing circle led by Jen Hayward of Odawa at our church were attended by our church members. Through the guidance of Helen Smith children and church members created decorative hearts which were part of the Heart Garden which was planted on church lawns and at Rideau Hall to bring healing during the Truth and Reconciliation events held May 31 to June 3th. Several members participated in the walk from Gatineau to Parliament Hill and attended the special events over that week.

A bible study/prayer group of 3 -6 devoted people met throughout most of the year on Wednesday mornings each week. In the first half of the year we used the lectionary readings for the coming Sunday as our focus for reflection and prayer. Materials from the Fusion Congregational Life pack were used again for this study group as well as for worship preparation. They took a hiatus during my sabbatical. Once September came the study was based on the Narrative Lectionary making use of their small group materials from Spirit and Truth Publishing. The fall focused on key passages from the Old Testament. Leadership was provided by Rev Laurie as well as some of the lay members.

Michelle Robichaud completed her studies to become a Lay Worship Leader and was licenced by Ottawa Presbytery at their April meeting held at Bells Corners. She offered very creative worship leadership during Lent and during my sabbatical receiving a lot of positive feedback from the congregation. Wendy Bergeron and Geoff McGuire as part of her support team gave her feedback and encouragement.

Derek Carlisle approached our Council and expressed his desire to pursue his call to ministry. Council supported Derek by asking Ottawa Presbytery to set up Discernment Committee for Derek. Council appointed Rev John Moor and Laurie Clifford to represent Council on this committee and Derek chose Nancy Thornton and Presbytery appointed two members. Due to health reasons Derek withdrew from the process in June and will reconsider in the future.

The Queen's 123rd Annual Theological Conference held in Kingston in October 19th -21st was attended by Helen Smith and Michelle Robichaud. Rev Laurie was part of the planning team for this conference whose theme was: Religion and Violence: Finding Good News in a Violent World.

In October, Rev Laurie began attending a monthly gathering at Temple Israel, the Reform Synagogue, with a small group for inter-faith discussions of our scriptures.

Grant Gilliland and Rev Laurie attended the Canadian Network of Biblical Storytellers learning event "Go Tell" in Richmond Hill, Ontario. held in October to continue developing their skills in the art of telling scripture 'by heart'. It is hoped that other people might learn to develop this art as well to enhance our worship life.

Evergreens Report 2015

The Evergreens met regularly this year at various restaurants in the area, on the third Tuesday of each month. We had an average attendance of 15. Our numbers are small but we feel that the fellowship we share is meaningful as we are regularly joined by past members and friends of our congregation we don't see regularly, and we are able to renew and strengthen our friendships.

We thank our faithful members for their contributions to "The Looney Bag" which is passed around at each lunch and we were able to make a number of small donations to various good causes throughout the year. We also thank those who cheerfully provide rides to members.

While most of us who attend the luncheons are retired, please remember that anyone who is free for a noon lunch is more than welcome to join us.

Evergreens Financial Report:

Opening balance:	\$ 81.32
Income and Interest:	\$277.26
Donations: UC Relief fund to Nepal	\$100.00
Odawa Christmas Angel Fund	\$ 40.00
Refucare Ottawa	\$180.00
Gift Lunch	\$ 29.00
Balance:	\$ 9.58

Heather Oudit

Convener and Treasurer.

2015 Year in Review – Ottawa Presbytery Meetings

Orleans United Church hosted the **January**, 2015 meeting of Ottawa Presbytery. Chair David Lee thanked Bruce Peterkin for his hard work as provisional Presbytery Secretary during November and December, 2014 and welcomed David Sherwin as interim Presbytery Minister during 2015. He reviewed the work of presbytery during the fall of 2014 and looked ahead to its work in the spring of 2015. Presbytery acknowledged the retirement of Rev. Dr. John Montgomery from MacKay United Church. Al Bowker spoke appreciatively of Rev Montgomery's ministry at MacKay. Rick Balson, President of Montreal and Ottawa Conference, brought greetings from the Conference and spoke about the forthcoming final report of the Comprehensive Review Task Group. Myles Frosst gave a presentation by the Diversity Ministry Team in the absence of the Chair, Jenni Leslie, who was at home with the flu. Myles informed the court that Ottawa Presbytery has been invited to host the annual conference of Affirm United. Nicole Beaudry gave an update on Ministries in French at the General Council level. She noted that Rev. Caroline Penhale of Eglise Grace United and Mr. Felix Bigirimana of Eglise Unie St. Marc have been elected to represent the francophone community on the Executive of General Council. Bob Richards, a consultant with the EDGE Network for New Ministry Development and Ministry Renewal, gave a presentation on 'Loving Your Neighbourhood.' Jamie Scott, the United Church General Council Officer for Residential Schools for the past 12 years gave a comprehensive update on the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Woodroffe United Church hosted the **February** meeting. Whit Strong led the court in a remembrance of the life and ministry of Rev. Geerlof Lokhorst, who died in December 2014 at 91 years of age. Chair David Lee noted that the final report of the Comprehensive Review Task Group was expected to be published in March that the Presbytery would be scheduling informal sessions to discuss it before the April Presbytery meeting. David Stafford, Co-Chair of the Pastoral Relations Ministry Team, led presbytery through a review of the new national compensation model for ministers. The new model eliminates Housing Allowances in favour of a new Cost of Living allowance that is included with the minister's salary in the overall compensation package. Anne Montgomery and Rick Balson gave an update on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Closing Events planned for May 31 to June 3. David Illman-White gave an update on the finances of Centre 507. As reported in the local press, the Centre's government funding has been cut suddenly; the potential loss could be as much as \$350,000 from its annual budget of \$650,000. Five of eight full time staff will have to be laid off, and many programs will have to be cut. Centretown United Church is responding to these cuts by organizing an emergency Town Hall meeting on Wed., Feb. 18th. Teresa Burnett-Cole, a member of the national Theology and InterChurch InterFaith Committee gave a presentation on the United Church's work on the issue of doctor assisted death. Norma McCord gave a presentation on refugee sponsorship. Jenni Leslie spoke about the annual conference and AGM of Affirm United, which is to be held in Ottawa in the summer of 2016. Carolyn Insley informed the presbytery that she is planning to start a presbytery prayer group that would meet monthly to focus on presbytery prayer requests and share stories about the working of the Holy Spirit. Steve Clifton gave an update on the work of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team and thanked all the congregations and volunteers who assisted with Worshiplude 2015. Nicole Beaudry spoke to the court about the General Council's initiative to implement a week of prayer for the Democratic Republic of Congo, in solidarity with our ecumenical partners, with a focus on the women and children of the DRC who are subject to violence and abuse, including rape as a tactic of war. Nicole also gave a brief presentation in French on "la priere – pourquoi prier?"

Kitchissippi United Church hosted the **March** meeting, a program meeting that focussed on Climate Change. Chair David Lee introduced the topic and the guest speaker: Dr. John Stone of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Dr. Stone spoke of the science on climate change, emphasising that it is not a hoax, it is a threat that must be addressed seriously and quickly. A panel comprised of Charles Hodgson, a full-time volunteer with Ecology Ottawa, Carla Van Delen, minister at Richmond United Church, and Kari Munn Venn, a policy analyst at Citizens for Public Justice discussed various responses to the threat of climate change, then the presbytery broke into three discussion groups to talk about: Local Action and Advocacy, Theology and Spirituality, and Presbytery, Conference, General Council and Beyond. After their discussions, the groups each reported back to the whole presbytery.

Bell's Corners United Church hosted the **April** meeting, which was taken up with 12 Proposals in response to the final report of the Comprehensive Review Task Group. These 12 proposals dealt with all the issues addressed in the Task Group's report and more, including the structure of the denomination, financing the work of the denomination, relations with Aboriginal ministries, ecumenical relations, Ministries in French, and a College of Ministers. The presbytery also debated and passed a motion on its own response to the threat of climate change, committing to a two pronged approach: advocacy in the public sphere, and developing a five year plan to reduce carbon emissions from our own buildings by 25%. Presbytery also agreed to send forward Proposals to both Montreal and Ottawa Conference and the General Council urging them to take action against climate change as well. Finally, the presbytery formally accepted the invitation of Affirm United/S'Affirmer Ensemble to host its 2016 summer conference and AGM.

Shawville United Church hosted the **May** meeting. Presbytery celebrated a number of Milestones in Ministry, recognizing anniversaries of ordination and commissioning from 25 years (1990) all the way up to 60 years (1955). We acknowledged the retirements of Georgia Fitzgerald, John Montgomery, and Jamie Scott, and Sharon Moon gave a lovely tribute to Jamie's ministry as he leaves his work on Residential Schools for the General Council. Presbytery approved its Official Roll and set its criteria for quorum for the coming year. Anne Montgomery was elected Presbytery Chairperson for the coming year, and Phyllis MacRae was elected Chair-Elect. The full Nominations report for Presbytery was approved. Brian Cornelius was nominated – unanimously – for Moderator of the United Church. Jamie Scott gave an update on the TRC's Closing Events. David Lee gave a summary of the work of presbytery on the theme "Creation and Re-Creation in Community" and identified a number of ways in which the presbytery has created and recreated itself over the past year. The Presbytery recessed in order to reconvene as the Corporation of the Scrivens' Fund for its Annual Meeting.

Metcalf United Church, the home congregation of the new Chair for 2015 – 2016, Anne Montgomery, hosted the **September** meeting. During the opening worship, Ottawa Presbytery covenanted with its new Chair, its Executive and its Staff. At the end of the covenanting outgoing Chair David Lee vacated the Chair and incoming Chair Anne Montgomery assumed the Chair. Rev. Joe Burke led the presbytery in a remembrance of Rev. Mel Newman. The Presbytery Minister, David Sherwin, offered words of thanks to David Lee for his leadership over the past year and presented him with a small gift of appreciation. Anne Montgomery introduced herself and the new theme for 2015 – 2016: "An(other) New Song." Then Norma McCord gave a presentation about the new "Blended Visa-Referred Syrian Refugee List" that has been created by the Canadian government in response to the Syrian refugee crisis. David Lee, interim chair of Presbytery's Climate Change Initiative task group, gave a report on the work being done to put together a Federal Election Kit to assist church members to take an active role in the current election campaign. Kim Vidal and Nicole

Beaudry gave a report on their experiences as Commissions at General Council 42 in August. Brian Cornelius then reported on the decisions made by General Council on the proposals brought forward by, and in response to, the Comprehensive Review Task Group. Chair Anne Montgomery invited the presbytery to discuss informally the possibility of offering to make the presbytery a test site for experimenting with the new Three Council model approved for remit by the General Council. After a very short discussion the presbytery moved unanimously to offer to be an experimental test site. Presbytery was invited to a special celebration in honour of the creation of the new Bethel – St. Andrew’s Pastoral Charge, an amalgamation of the St. Andrew’s, Fitzroy Harbour, and Bethel, Kinburn, congregations. Presbytery was also invited a celebration of the ministry of Camp Bitobi, an ecumenical children’s camp near Gracefield, Quebec, established by the United Church, the Presbyterian Church and the Baptist Church, as the camp is closed and the property sold. The portion of the camp containing all the buildings is being sold to Dr. Fawzi Mankal, who will continue to operate it as a camp through the Misquah Recreational Group, a non-profit organization that provides residential summer programs for children and adults with special needs. Paul Sales, United Church Financial Development Officer for Quebec and Eastern Ontario, gave a brief presentation.

Rideau Park United Church hosted the **October** meeting. Rideau Park’s presbyters gave up their opportunity to introduce their own church to the presbytery in order to allow Pat Ashton and Lola Brown, presbyters from Trinity United Church in Kazabazua to introduce their congregation. Trinity, Kazabazua is too small to host a presbytery meeting, so this was an unique opportunity for the presbytery to learn about one of its smaller, Quebec congregations. Mead Baldwin, President of Montreal and Ottawa Conference, brought greetings on behalf of Conference and spoke warmly about the leadership Ottawa Presbytery has shown through initiatives such as Faith & Arts Ottawa, the Cracks Festival, and Worshiplude. He commended presbytery for offering to be a test site for regional experimentation. Hanna Strong, Caroline Penhale, Ruth Bryce, and Elizabeth Bryce spoke about their experiences as Commissioners to General Council 42. Maureen Stark provided information about Sue Martin, an indigenous woman who was holding a vigil on Victoria Island in support of a national inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Ms. Martin needs financial and material support and a number of United Church individuals as well as Glebe-St. James and Southminster United Churches have been involved. There was a brief update on the worship service held at Dominion-Chalmers United Church on May 31 to mark the closing of the TRC. Presbytery covenanted with Natalie Istead, a new Candidate for Ministry. Barbara Reynolds reported that a letter had been sent to the General Secretary of the General Council expressing the presbytery’s willingness to be a test site for the proposed new regional structure. Miriam Rawson, Executive Director of Matthew House, Ottawa, gave a presentation about Matthew House’s work with refugees and marginalized people. Carolyn Insley reminded the presbytery of the work of the prayer circle. Glen Stoudt gave an update on the Mission Support process. David Lee provided information about a large rally against climate change being organized in downtown Ottawa on November 29, the day before the UN Conference on Climate Change opens in Paris.

St. Paul’s Eastern United Church hosted the **November** meeting. Presbytery observed a Moment of Remembrance prior to the start of the meeting. Paul Dillman offered a tribute to the life and ministry of Rev. Angus MacDonald, a long-time member of Ottawa Presbytery who served as Chair of the Archives Committee for many years. Suzanne Le, Executive Director, and Sahada Alolo, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, of the Multifaith Housing Initiative, gave a presentation about the work of MHI in providing affordable housing for some of Ottawa’s most vulnerable people. Ed Barbezat, minister at Eglise Uni St. Marc, spoke about the rising violence in Burundi, where many of his francophone congregation were born. His congregation is organizing a March for Peace from the church on November 21 and he invited the presbytery participate and show support.

Hilary Merritt, the Presbytery Youth and Young Adult Minister, gave an update on Youth and Young Adult ministry in the presbytery. David Lee introduced Marie-Eve Leclerc, an organizer of the rally against Climate Change on November 29. Marie-Eve provided an overview of plans for the rally and urged everyone to attend. The rally is called “100% Possible,” and its theme is “A 100% Clean Economy is 100% Possible.” Carolyn Ruda, Stewardship Animator for Montreal and Ottawa Conference, presented the most recent Stewardship resources from the General Council offices. Charles Barrett, Chair of the Church and Society Ministry Team, reminded presbyters of the upcoming workshop titled, “Practical Advice on Sponsoring Syrian Refugees.” Paul Dillman, Chair of the presbytery Finance Ministry Team, presented the draft 2016 presbytery budget and the proposed congregational assessments. Presbytery approved the slate of Officers and Directors for 2016 and the audited financial statements for 2014 of the Church Extension Committee. Tom Insley, husband of Carolyn, told a Holy Spirit story in place of Carolyn, who was ill.

Aylmer United Church hosted the **December** meeting. David Sherwin reported that an estimated 25,000 people had participated in the “100% Possible March.” Presbytery was delighted to hear that Gail Christy had received the “Career Award” at Ottawa Citizen’s Advocacy’s annual Celebration of People Gala for her decades of service and advocacy for people with disabilities. Presbytery passed a motion authorising an annual contribution to the Social Justice Network of Ontario Conferences as moved by Charles Barrett. Presbytery approved it audited 2014 Financial Statements and 2016 Budget and Congregational Assessments. Presbytery also authorized the appointment of an internal three person audit committee to review the 2015 Financial Statements. Barbara Reynolds updated the presbytery on the disposition of the assets of Camp Bitobi. Presbytery decided to allocate its share of the proceeds to camping and children’s ministry, and adhere to its policy of placing 15% of all proceeds into the Presbytery’s New Ministries Fund. Presbytery also decided to donate \$20,000 to Rideau Hill Camp for the construction of a new waterfront building. Glen Stoudt led the presbytery through an updated motion on Mission Strategy grants. We were able to meet the requests of all applicants, primarily because we had fewer applicants than in the past. Norma McCord reported that nearly 30 congregations are engaged in refugee sponsorship work, a 100% increase since the spring. Barbara Reynolds gave a report on the work being done on the regional Council model and distributed a questionnaire for each presbyter to complete. Rick Balson introduced a similar questionnaire from the Conference Office and asked that it be completed by January 15, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

David

Rev. David Sherwin

Presbytery Minister

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Annual Report for the year 2015

For the sixth year I am pleased to submit this report to the congregation on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

The Trustees of the congregation are responsible for the real property owned by the congregation, the building itself and the land on which it stands, as well as the holding and management of investments of the congregation. During the year 2015 the Trustees continued to carry out the several responsibilities related to its mandate.

Membership

There was only one change to our membership during the year with the resignation of Nick Stow who provided wise counsel during his several years on the Board. We extend our thanks to him for his service.

The remaining members of the Board include Margaret Bennett, Nancy Thornton, Grant Gilliland, Wayne MacWhirter, Eugene Lang, and the Rev. Laurie McKnight-Walker, besides myself. Four of these joined the Board since I became a member in 2010.

Meetings / Consultations

We did not hold a formal meeting during 2015. Consultations did occur however between myself and our Investment Officer at RBC Dominion Securities, Mr. Luc Perron. This has involved several meetings at his office, along with numerous telephone conversations arranging the transfer of funds or the investment of cash holdings during the year.

Donations

During 2015 we were honoured by the legacy gift of approximately \$90,000. from the Lloyd Wilcox and Doug Young estates. In the past I have encouraged all members and adherents to include our church in their last will and testament. This type of legacy gift ensures, beyond ones death, the continuation of the individual's support of our work.

Future Support

From our investments, the Board, directed by the Council and/or the congregation, stands ready to support / reimburse the following ministry:

Housing Allowance related now to the Minister's salary package
Shortfalls re: givings / expenses (at June 30 and December 31)
Insurance premiums related to our buildings and contents
The Church roof repair / replacement, including the related engineering studies
Work with the Odawa community
Major repairs in and around the church building
(e.g. the organ in the past, the stairwell in the southwest corner of the basement)

As a “guardian of the gate” related to the investments, I am most pleased that in spite of the fact that we have drawn down significant amounts to fund various items of ministry, our prudent investment policy has resulted in significant gains in value. At the same time we have been able to support in a significant way the ongoing and emergent work of the congregation.

Appreciation

I extend sincere thanks to the other members of the Board since 2010, and to the congregation for your support. I also extend my personal thanks to our minister, the Rev. Laurie McKnight-Walker, to our Church Treasurer Wayne MacWhirter, to our investment officer, Luc Perron, and to the Property Chair Grant Gilliland.

I will be stepping down from the Board and as its Chair effective at the upcoming Annual Congregational meeting in order to reduce my growing load of volunteer positions here and beyond the congregation.

May God bless us all in the ministry that he has given to each one of us.

Re

M. John Moor

Rev. M. John Moor, Chair.

On behalf of the members of the Board:

Eugene Lang, Margaret Bennett, Grant Gilliland, Nancy Thornton,
Wayne MacWhirter, Laurie McKnight-Walker

TREASURER'S REPORT

St Paul's-Eastern continues to move forward to meet the challenges of our mission statement even though we have limited resources in an old building and small population base. We are blessed to have the guidance of our Minister, Rev Laurie McKnight-Walker, a dedicated Church Council, and a Board of Trustees all working to accomplish as much as we can within our resource capacity. Though our numbers may be small, it is because of you the members of this church that we are able to move forward in a positive and nurturing manner. It is inspiring to see new members and groups come and join us in our journey in a loving, welcoming and accepting place. The participation of our aboriginal brothers and sisters as well as other groups and individuals in utilizing all of our facilities testifies to our success in fulfilling our Mission Statement with the blessing of our God and Holy Father. Much has been accomplished in 2015 but there is still a lot of work to do to ensure that we are in a position not only to maintain but to improve our facilities to meet future needs of a vibrant, intergenerational, cultural and diverse community that works and shares with God has provide for us all.

St Paul's-Eastern's financial position at the end of 2015 is not known at this time. The employment of our administrator/bookkeeper was terminated in December. Church Council decided that the administrative and financial activities of the Church would be separated and two part-time positions would be created attempting to keep salary costs within the costs of the previous combined position. Consequently, Council approved the employment of a contractor to fulfill the duties of bookkeeper. The incumbent, Nancy York, started in January and it was discovered that our financial statements and recording procedures were not in accordance with those required by Canada Revenue Agency. This required that some of the processing will have to be redone for 2015 and the statement format revised to incorporate our Trustee holding into one set of statements for St Paul's-Eastern one for our Daily Operations and one for the Trustee Holdings. This will take time and the revised statements would not be ready until approximately late March 2016. There is no concern about missing funds or fraud, just the format of recording which has to be modified. Once completed, the statements will need to be reviewed by a registered accountant to confirm their compliance with CRA regulations and we will advise CRA of the error and the corrective action taken to remedy the violations. On completion, Church Council will review the Financial Statements and copies will be made available for your perusal.

Under the current format, the November, 2015 financial statements identified a shortage in our daily operation of \$14,780. This was attributable to the decline in givings through envelopes and Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) as compared to 2014 of \$19,000 and increase in our expenses due to major repairs in the building and equipment of \$12,000. Most of the shortage will be reduced with funds allocated from the Trustee investments at the end of the year. Some of the shortage in our givings is attributable to the loss of a couple of our dedicated church family members and departure of others. We will see people come and go due to the population base surrounding the church.

We did not have much success with obtaining an estimate of members projected givings to the church. In an attempt to identify potential income sources an average of the past two years givings will be used as a base for 2016 with projected revenue for rental of our facilities to groups and individuals. This is needed to identify projected income to determine if it will meet our projected expenses for the year. This will provide a more reliable estimate of our overall financial position.

Let us move forward into 2016 recognizing we have come a long way, climbed hurdles that were in our path but our future is looking good. We have a lot to be thankful for and I know the Good Lord will support and guide us on our journey.

Respectively submitted,

Wayne MacWhirter,

Church Treasurer

2016 Proposed Operating Budget

	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Budget	2016 Budget
REVENUE				
INCOME				
Offerings - Envelopes and PAR	117,907	125,914	107,000	107,000
Offerings - Loose	2,970	2,460	2,400	2,500
Offerings - Anniversary	2,130	1,426	1,200	1,300
Trustees Housing	21,540	8,431	3,300	8,000
Trustees Insurance		7,602	7,800	8,100
Trustees/Maint & Misc.	14,138	19,116	8,300	
Rental Income	20,200	23,968	45,000	42,000
TOTAL	178,885	188,917	175,000	168,900
EXPENSES				
<i>Ministry</i>				
Salary	42,397	43,018	65,945	68,265
Emp. Ben. & Taxes	13,309	13,516	14,028	14,231
Housing Allowance	21,540	21,540	-	-
Travel / Mileage	1,418	906	1,700	1,100
Basic Phone Expenses	360	360	600	600
CELR Continuing Ed	1,145	968	1,332	1,359
Supply Minister	965	1,727	3,270	1,546
Annual Conf Mtg	-	-	-	50
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Total Ministry	81,133	82,034	86,875	87,151
<i>Music</i>				
Salary	7,382	9,138	10,295	10,500
Emp. Ben. & Taxes	484	606	658	671
Supply Organists	2,070	1,275	1,000	1,040
Tuning & Repairs	3,926	8,155	1,500	1,880
Music Supplies	47	336	400	400
Continuing Education	-	-	300	300
Total Music	13,909	19,509	14,153	14,791
<i>Admin.</i>				
Salary	15,453	15,687	16,746	16,472
Emp. Ben. & Taxes	3,554	3,609	3,640	3,720
Telephone	623	531	550	400
Internet/Website	551	551	600	600
Computer/software	-	1,045	200	200
Advertising	-	-	200	200

	Printing & Supplies	3,642	2,433	2,000	2,000
	Postage	261	281	300	325
	Presbytery Dues	5,811	6,800	7,140	7,743
	Bank Svc Fees & Bags	637	735	600	400
	Payroll Processing Fees	260	263	275	275
	Staff Appreciation	325	375	350	350
	Miscellaneous	30	15	200	100
	Professional Fees				2,000
	GST/PST	1,347	1,385	1,500	4,000
	Total Admin	32,494	33,710	34,301	38,785
<i>Property</i>	Salary-custodian	13,092	11,658	10,938	9,413
	Emp. Ben. & Taxes	851	754	711	612
	Repairs & Maint.	11,376	8,883	10,000	10,700
	Utilities	2,823	3,124	3,300	4,100
	Heating	5,432	6,106	5,500	5,700
	Insurance	7,625	7,602	7,900	8,100
	Alarm & Security				
	Service	80	1,560	1,100	450
	Equipment Purchases	572	5,164	1,000	100
	Cleaning supplies	235	1,089	600	900
	Miscellaneous	507	407	250	250
	Total Property	42,593	46,346	41,299	40,325
<i>Activities</i>	Christian Development	2,855	2314	2200	2200
	Stewardship & Visioning	177	-	-	250
	Worship Resources	528	721	600	750
	Sanctuary Supplies	2,284	635	700	700
	Outreach/Pastoral Care	1,763	1212	1600	1400
	Benevolent Fund		1551	-	-
	Kitchen/Food Expense	298	367	325	325
	Lay & Youth Conference	697	270	500	300
	Church Celebrations	139	248	400	620
	Miscellaneous	15	0	-	150
	Total Activities	8,756	7,317	6,325	6,695
	TOTAL	178,885	188,917	182,952	187,747
TOTAL INCOME		178,885	188,917	175,000	168,900
TOTAL EXPENSES		178,885	188,917	182,952	187,747
BALANCE		0	0	-7,952	-18,847

St. Paul's Eastern United Church

We seek to be faithful to the call of God through Jesus Christ who reveals God's love for the world.

We are called to be an open, nurturing, loving church family, which invites people of diverse backgrounds to deepen their faith in God.

Rooted in our Christian heritage, we are called to renew ourselves and our community.

The Spirit calls us to work with others to make a difference in our neighbourhood.

We hear the Spirit's call to be good stewards of our gifts and of creation.

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Church Administrator: Bruce Peterkin

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Friday; 9:30 am – 12:00 pm,

Custodian: William Potts-Halpin

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Rev. John Moor Phone: 613-248-9003