

ST. THOMAS UNITED CHURCH 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

MINISTERS: Rev. Roslyn Campbell and Rev. Jan Craig (until June 30, 2011)
Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins (as of August, 2011)

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY: Pat Shier

YOUTH LEADERS: Andrew Taylor-Kerr and Kevin Leitch

MUSIC TEAM: Pam Bazinet, Barb Robertson, Erin MacLean-Berko, Dick Worton,
Stephanie Blakely (until June 15, 2011), Kari Orosz, and Kloria Wen (as of Aug. 15, 2011)

ORGANIST: Kari Orosz

OFFICE MANAGER: Jane Wittstock (until June 30, 2011)
Sandra Dusoswa (as of August 1, 2011)

CARETAKER: Ferdinand (Ferdie) Justo

TREASURER: Betty Smith

OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Thursday 8:30am – 3:30 pm Fridays 8:30am - Noon

OFFICE PHONE: (403)241-0366
Office Fax: (403)547-5556
Email address: stthomas@shaw.ca
Web Site www.stthomasunited.ca

MAILING ADDRESS: 100 Hawkwood Blvd. NW
Calgary, Alberta T3G 2S9

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda: for Annual Meeting, February 2011 (handed out with order of service Feb. 12, 2012)

Minutes of February 6, 2011 Annual General Meeting...	2
Minutes of April 3, 2011 Congregational Meeting...	... 3
Unified Board 2011...	
Executive Council Report...	7
Staff Reports...	7
Committee Reports.....	8
Calgary Presbytery Report...	20
Financial Statements...	separate sheets

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
St. Thomas United Church / February 06, 2011

The Annual Meeting as a Service of Worship commenced at 10:00 am and was called to order by the Chair, Ruthann Watson.

Motion to Extend Voting Privileges to Adherents

Motion that voting privileges be extended to those persons who are not members of this congregation in regard to the building, property, finances, and other secular matters that concern the life and work of the congregation.

Carried.

Approval of the Minutes from the February 7, 2010 Annual General Meeting

Motion by Hugh Johnson for approval of the minutes of the February 7, 2010 Annual Congregational Meeting.

Seconded by Marjorie Aucoin.

Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes - None

Receiving the Annual Reports / Review of the Work of the Church in 2010

Motion by Lori Weller that we receive the annual reports of St. Thomas United Church as they have been presented.

Seconded by Linda Miller

Carried.

Approval of the 2010 Financial Statements

Motion by Greg Hyatt that the St. Thomas United Church Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2010 be approved.

Carried.

The Affirming Congregation Motions and Discussion

Motion #1: Following a year of discussion and study and based on the results of a congregational survey, Marjorie Aucoin moved that the congregation of St. Thomas United Church become an Affirming Congregation within the United Church of Canada. Seconded by Roger Anderson.

Carried. (Vote by secret ballot – 143 total votes cast: in favour 95%, opposed 2%, abstained 3%)

Motion by Hugh Johnson that the ballots of the previous vote be destroyed. Seconded by Giselle

Scott-Woo.

Carried.

Motion #2: Judy Booth moved that St. Thomas United Church approve the following additional sentence in the second paragraph of the present Faith Statement

We strive to accept each other as we are and welcome the ministry and participation of all persons regardless of age, gender identity, health, race, sexual orientation, differing abilities, religious or ethnic background, or economic circumstance.

Seconded by Mary Taylor.

Carried.

Motion #3: Because the congregation of St. Thomas has heretofore voted in favour that we are an Affirming Congregation, Karen Kavanagh moved that the following Affirming Statement, Affirming Action Plan, and current Marriage policy be approved by the congregation and inserted into all documentation. Seconded by Margo Shuttleworth.

Carried.

Ruthann thanked the members of the Affirm committee for all their work through the past year.

Presentation of the 2011 Budget

Motion by Greg Hyatt to approve the St. Thomas Operating Fund Budget as presented. Seconded by Randy Porterfield.

Carried.

Proposed Amendment to St. Thomas Bylaws: Signing Authority

Motion by Greg Hyatt to amend Section 10.12 – Signing Authority, of the Bylaws of St. Thomas United Church to read as follows:

All cheques drawn on a St. Thomas United Church bank account shall be signed by two authorized signatories, selected from a list approved by the Executive Council of St. Thomas United Church. Seconded by Marjorie Aucoin. Carried; unanimous.

Presentation of the Nomination Report

Acceptance of the Nomination Report as presented in the Annual Report.

Recognition of Those Giving Leadership in 2010 and 2011

All those who had served the church as a member of one of the many committees or ministries were asked to stand and were acknowledged for their contributions and commitment.

Meeting adjourned by the Chair with the Closing Responses and the Blessing.

Ruthann Watson – Chair Executive Council

Heather Worton - Secretary

Attachments:

1. Order of Service
2. List of Attendees
3. Minutes of February 7, 2010 Annual Congregational Meeting
4. St. Thomas United Church 2010 Annual Report
5. St. Thomas United Church 2010 Financial Statements
6. St. Thomas United Church 2011 Budget for Operating Fund

St. Thomas United Church Congregational Meeting

Sunday, April 3, 2011

As chair of St. Thomas Executive Council, Ruthann Watson welcomed those present and outlined the purposes and procedures for this meeting.

Heather Worton was appointed as secretary for this meeting.

JOINT NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE:

Peggy McDonagh presided over this part of the meeting.

The JNAC members were introduced by Peggy and thanked for the work they have done on this report.

Members present: Andrea Mendritzki (co-chair), Roger Anderson, Daniel MacDonald, Joanne Pennington, Stu Robbins, Tom Sherwin (Secretary), Dennis Watson, Bill Dickson (Presbytery), Peggy McDonagh (Presbytery)

Members unable to attend: Michelle Archer, Lori Smith (co-chair), Carrie-Faye Wong.

Andrea Mendritzki gave a brief history of the process, explaining the formation of the committee, the mandate of the committee, and the activities taken to complete the tasks of the committee. She also gave instructions to the congregation that they would be voting on the Recommendations of the JNAC, not the report. (Page 5 of the report).

Copies of the report were made available for those needing them.

Peggy clarified that only members of this church could vote. The five possible actions with this vote were outlined: (to adopt, to amend, to pose alternatives, to send back to committee, to take no action). The Executive Council has made a recommendation to accept. If adopted, the recommendations and the report will be sent to Calgary Presbytery for further action.

Andrea read through each recommendation. There was an opportunity for questions, comments and discussion.

Motion by Greg Hyatt, seconded Pauline Watson that St. Thomas United Church adopt the recommendations of the Joint Needs Assessment Committee.

Motion carried.

The JNAC committee is officially disbanded. Appreciation for their fine work was expressed by the congregation. The report will be sent to Presbytery.

SEARCH COMMITTEE:

Ruthann Watson resumed the chair. A list of members was proposed for a Search Committee. The opportunity to add members from the floor was provided. Two names were added.

Motion by Dennis Watson, seconded by David Robertson that nominations cease.

Carried

Instructions were given that only members of the church could vote on this motion.

Motion by Dennis Watson, seconded by Lori Weller that St. Thomas United Church and Calgary Presbytery accept a Search Committee consisting of the following members, with the addition of two representatives of Presbytery: Marjorie Aucoin, Judy Booth, Andrea Mendritzki, Barry Mingo, Cathy Rivard, Stu Robbins, Ryan Sanderson, Cindy Smallman (later, it was realized an error had occurred, and Cindy Smallman, ineligible to be part of the Search Committee because she was not a member of St. Thomas, withdrew from the committee.)

Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Ruthann Watson, Chair

Heather Worton, Secretary

ST. THOMAS UNITED UNIFIED BOARD – 2011

100 Hawkwood Blvd. NW T3G 2S9

(403) 241-0366, fax (403) 547-5556

stthomas@shaw.ca

* designates resignation in 2011

bold denotes new in 2011

MINISTERS: *Rev. Roslyn Campbell
***Rev. Jan Craig**
Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins

Staff Kari Orosz
Staff Dick Worton
Staff *Roslyn Campbell
Staff *Stephanie Blakely
Staff Erin MacLean-Berko
Staff **Kloria Wen**

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chair Ruthann Watson
Vice-Chair
Past Chair Stu Robbins
Treasurer Betty Smith
Secretary Heather Worton
Presbytery Rep Hugh Johnson

BUILDING AND PROPERTY

Co-Chair *Ray Larison
Co-Chair Elvin Dorscher
Co-Chair ***Cindy Smallman**
Co-Chair **David Blackadar**
Outreach Coord *Rick Barry
David Vermeulen
Trent Hunter
Richard Pon
Hal Tonkin
Computers *Jane Wittstock
Staff **Sandra Dusoswa**
Staff

TRUSTEES

Chair David Gray
Dennis Gidley
Elaine Taylor-Kerr
Carrie-Faye Wong
Staff *Roslyn Campbell

STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Chair Greg Hyatt
Treasurer Betty Smith
Barry Mingo
Wayne Pennington
Envelope Steward Jo-Anne Hyatt
Counting Coordinator Derek Fenty
Staff *Roslyn Campbell

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Kristin Raugust
Staff/Newsletter *Jane Wittstock
Staff/Newsletter **Sandra Dusoswa**

STEWARDSHIP

Chair *Andrew Major
Angela Waleski
Mark Wagner
Maureen Dodd
*Chris McPhee
Denis Chalifour
Staff *Roslyn Campbell

Digital Arts Sub Committee

Chris McPhee
Hal Tonkin
Kristin Raugust
*David Shuttleworth

WORSHIP

Chair Cathy Rivard
David Robertson
Diane Luke
*Joanne Larison
Drina Nixon
Staff *Roslyn Campbell
Geoffrey Simmins
Greeter Sheila Campbell
Greeter Linda Miller

Sound/Audio Ad-Hoc Committee

Chair *David Robertson
John Robertson
Hal Tonkin
John McCrea
Brian Shewan
Denis Chalifour
Don Mills
Bob Ford

Music Team

Chair Elaine Taylor-Kerr
Pat Robbins
Ron French
Staff Pam Bazinet
Staff Barb Robertson

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

Co-Chair *David Smith
Co-Chair **Maureen Dodd**
Dennis Gidley
*Roger Anderson
Hope Cochran
*Suzanne Wheeler
Carrie-Faye Wong
Kristin Raugust

MISSION & OUTREACH

Chair Karen Kavanagh
Linda Dick
David Vermeulen

Inn From the Cold Rachel Murray
Gwen Campbell
*Merilyn O'Bryan

PASTORAL CARE

Chair Marjorie Aucoin
Jan Mingo
Betty Thompson
Roger Anderson
Healing Ministry Daryl Fenty
Prayer Shawls Charlotte Cormier
Funeral Receptions Beth Phillips
Kathleen Stonehouse
*Anne Gannon

Staff ***Jan Craig**
Student **Kelley Warner**
Friend To Friend Coordinators (PC Visiting Program)
Liz Smith
Barb Cousens
Dorothy Muir

And a multitude of visitors!

WIN (Welcoming & Integrating Newcomers) & **Ask Me** (part of Pastoral Care)

WIN Members Linda Miller
Sherrill Knight
Roger Anderson
*Robin Taylor
*Joanne Pennington

Newcomer Contact Sherrill Knight
Fiona Craig
Elaine Gray

Ask Me Coordinator Sherrill Knight
Ask Me Coordinator Roger Anderson

And a multitude of hosts!

AFFIRMING GROUP (sub group of Pastoral Care)

Chair Marjorie Aucoin
Stu Robbins
Pat Robbins
Karen Kavanagh
Judy Booth
Anne Gannon
Rachel Murray
Fiona Craig
Wanda Veer
*Roslyn Campbell
Consultant – Deer Park Bryon Delarue

FAITH FORMATION

Chair *Mary Taylor
Lynn Tait
Krista Strayer
Members at Large Sandra Glass
*Wes van der Lee
Dale Bergeson
Staff Pat Shier
Staff ***Jan Craig**
Nursery Coordinator *Lisa Sanderson
Kerrie Goodfellow
Library Winona Anderson

COMMUNITY FORMATION

Chair Christal Reed
Nonie Johnston
Bob Ford
Donna Swalm
Brian Shewan
Staff Pat Shier

Wednesday Night Dinner Sub-group

Coordinator Wanda Veer

YOUTH ADVISORY

Chair Elaine Taylor-Kerr
Roger Anderson
Correspondence Susan Harrington
John Latter
Wendy Atkinson
Joan Robertson
Staff Andrew Taylor-Kerr
Staff Kevin Leitch
Junior Youth Rep Ryan Sanderson
JY Leader Deyelle MacDonald
JY Leader Brittney Whittaker
JY Leader Matthew Taylor-Kerr

UCW

Past President Margaret Blakely
President Lois Shewan
Treasurer
Secretary *Loeta Black
Programme Convenor Marilyn Barry

REPRESENTATIVES

Observer Rep Marilyn Whittle
Archivist Bill Cousens

JNAC (struck June-2010, disbanded April 3-2011)

Co-Chair Andrea Mendritzki
Co-Chair Lori Smith
Michelle Archer
Tom Sherwin
Joanne Pennington
Carrie-Faye Wong
Dan MacDonald
Stu Robbins
Presbytery Rep Peggy McDonagh
Presbytery Rep Bill Dickson

JOINT SEARCH COMMITTEE (struck April 3-2011)

Chair Marj Aucoin
Barry Mingo
Stu Robbins
Corresponding Sec. Ryan Sanderson
Recording Sec. Andrea Mendritzki
Judy Booth
Cathy Rivard
Presbytery Rep Rev. Karen Holmes
Presbytery Rep Stutt Pottruff

STAFF

*Roslyn Campbell (minister)

***Jan Craig** (minister)

Geoffrey Simmins (minister)

Pat Shier (children & family ministry)

*Jane Wittstock (office manager)

Sandra Dusoswa (office manager)

Kari Orosz (organist & junior choir accompanist)

Barb Robertson (teen choir accompanist/director)

*Stephanie Blakely (teen choir director/accompanist)

Pam Bazinet (adult choir director)

Dick Worton (orchestra)

Kevin Leitch (youth leader)

Andrew Taylor-Kerr (youth leader)

Erin MacLean-Berko (children's choir director)

***Jessie Negropontes (children and family ministry)**

Kelley Warner (diaconal ministry student)

Kloria Wen (teen choir accompanist)

Ferdinand (Ferdie) Justo (caretaker)

ANNUAL REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Yearly Thoughts from the Chair

One more note from the Chair...

As you read the reports of committees and groups, you'll see that they reflect the ways that this congregation strives to put faith into action. We talk a lot about outreach at St. Thomas. It's a concept that has many different meanings: evangelism, social justice, community involvement, being a good neighbour, and so forth. Outreach means more than a warm smile at the door. It means ensuring that our worship services meet the needs of those new to church, those new to our denomination, and those who have been coming for years. It means a warm building, a roof that doesn't leak, thought provoking spiritual growth programs, accessibility, inclusiveness, food, folks, and fun.

None of this happens by accident – well, some of it does! But mostly, it all comes together because of people who feel called to serve. For some, serving means frequent meetings or practices. For others, it means cooking, or gardening, or teaching, having a laugh, or comforting. Some of us serve by our presence – sharing insights and learning from others.

During my term as chair of Executive Council, I've had the privilege of seeing the dedication, skill, and faithfulness of your church leaders. They're a rather modest group, not usually prone to divulge the depth of their commitment. But it's there – you can see it in the life of our congregation. I've said it before – being part of church leadership is a ringside seat at the running of a congregation. Many of our discussions are more than “nuts and bolts” – they involve what it means to be a faithful, caring, and inclusive community, sensitive to the needs of those around us. Those are the discussions that challenge us to examine our faith and to see ourselves as people of God.

My sincere thanks to everyone for their support, guidance, and caring, over the past three years. I'd also like to thank my husband, Cam Six - himself a former EC chair, for walking this journey with me.

Prayers and best wishes, Ruthann Watson

STAFF REPORTS

Ministry Staff

The year 2011 was accompanied by transition and adjustments for staff and the myriad of people involved in the ministry team. We missed Deborah's grace and compassion, but welcomed Jan who brought her wisdom and insights. While Jan was settling in to her work with Faith Formation and Pastoral Care, Pat was preparing for her sabbatical. Away for March, April, and May, Pat learned about how to re-engage parents to be the spiritual leaders of their families. During that time, Jessie looked after children and family ministry. And we anticipated Roslyn's

impending retirement. Her fun and touching send-off in June was about the same time we learned that Jane, the office manager, was moving to the States and that there would be more new faces in fall.

The new faces included Sandra, who took on the role of Office Manager starting in the summer, and Geoffrey, who joined us as our supply minister—initially to December, and then extended to June 2012. These new faces were accompanied by some returning staff members. Jessie returned to take on a new role with faith formation. This included working with Kevin and Andrew to organize and administer a confirmation program, which saw nine youth confirmed in December. Kelley Warner joined the congregation as a student in pastoral care, as part of her requirements for training in diaconal ministry through the Centre of Christian Studies in Winnipeg. Gingerly at first, but with increasing enthusiasm and mutual confidence, we formed a cohesive team.

The staff of St. Thomas greatly appreciates the support, energy, talents, and leadership of the volunteers who have helped us in 2011. You have made our work rewarding, enjoyable, and spiritually rich. Many of you have assumed leadership roles, some of which have required hours of dedication to be sure jobs were done. The Joint Needs Assessment Committee finished its report and a Search Committee began its task of finding ministers to meet the needs identified. Others worked towards St. Thomas becoming an affirming congregation. The Ministry and Personnel Committee (our Human Resource department) worked hard to secure staffing. With fewer staff throughout 2011, people from the congregation stepped forward to help in areas they had not before, and it has been a blessing to us.

Other churches would ask how we were doing with all this change, and with confidence and optimism, we were able to say that the congregation is supportive, healthy, dedicated, open, and that *it was going well*. We know people are missing Roslyn, Deborah, and Jane, the comfort in that they know us and how things work, what goes where, when things need to be done... and their friendship. However, Geoffrey, Sandra, Pat, Jessie, and Kelley, along with the Youth Leaders, Kevin and Andrew, have created a cohesive team to minister with you, care for you, and join you on your faith journeys. For staff it has been a year of transition, and a year of spiritual growth.

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Ministry and Personnel Committee had a busy 2011. In January, Rev Jan Craig joined us part-time to help with our pastoral care ministry, following Rev. Deb Lannon's resignation in December 2010.

Pat Shier, our Designated Lay Minister for Ministry with Children and Families, started a three-month sabbatical in March, and Jessie Negropontes took over some of her duties during that time.

Roslyn Campbell retired from her ten-year ministry with St. Thomas at the end of June. In August, Rev. Geoffrey Simmins was appointed as Supply Minister to work 15 hours a week. Pat Shier agreed to temporarily increase her hours, and Jessie Negropontes joined us again to help with confirmation, and children and family ministry.

Kelley Warner, a diaconal ministry student, is doing her pastoral care field placement at St. Thomas from September to April 2012, which is a big help to the ministry team.

Jane Wittstock, our Office Manager, also resigned the end of June, and Sandra Dusoswa took over this position in August.

In the music area, Kloria Wen was hired as accompanist for the Children's Choir in September.

Many many thanks to all the staff and congregation who have helped each other during this transition year.

We have two new members on our committee this year – Kristin Raugust and Carrie-Faye Wong. I would like to thank Suzanne Wheeler, who resigned from the committee this year, and David Smith, who resigned as Chair, for their hard work.

Faithfully submitted by Maureen Dodd, Chair

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

In the 2010 Annual Report I wrote “2011 will be a year of transition for the Worship Committee,” and it certainly has been.

From January to June, “Worship Service Leaders” (members of our congregation) partnered with our Minister, Roslyn Campbell, to help lead Sunday services. After her retirement, that leadership continued through the summer, with a handful of St. Thomas members leading worship through the months of July and August. They shared their experiences, talents, and personal reflections. Many, many thanks to all those who stepped from the “pews to the pulpit” this year. Your gifts have been greatly appreciated.

In September we were joined by our Supply Minister, Rev. Geoffrey Simmins, and through the fall we explored the themes of Open Hands, Open Hearts, and Open Minds.

This year has seen a number of Guest Speakers, and I would like to thank those who helped to make this possible. Christmas Eve saw a move from four services to three: Children and Families (6:00 pm) Christmas Through Music (8:00 pm) and Candles and Communion (10:00 pm).

Worship on Sunday would not be the same without the many candle lighters, tone bowl ringers, scripture readers, communion servers, greeters, “ask me” people, and the folks who have coffee/tea and goodies ready after the service. Thank you to all.

The Worship Committee works hand in hand with the ministry team of St. Thomas to ensure that the worship needs of the congregation are met. Services are planned on a quarterly and yearly basis bringing together the talents from Music, Communications, Children and Youth, Pastoral Care, Stewardship, Mission & Outreach, and Faith Formation.

This year there were:

New Members:	10 (7 transfers, 2 adult baptisms, 1 Confirmation – from Historic Roll)
Confirmations	9, 1-reaffirmation
Baptisms	5 (2 adult)
Weddings	3
Funerals	4
Transferred out	4

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Rivard

BUILDING & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

2011 has been a busy year for the committee. We had several projects on the go. The construction of the outside storage shed was completed and the old inside storage areas were added onto the pie room to enlarge that storage room, which was badly needed. Also a coat closet for the Mountainview Hall was added. The front of the church lawns took on a greener look this summer with help from the new underground lawn sprinkler system that was installed. The trees and bushes around the yard took on a new look thanks to the pruning work of Cindy Smallman. The flooring in the narthex, main floor bathrooms, hall, and the carpet portion of the Sunday school area were all upgraded and the toilets on the main floor were all changed out to more water efficient ones. The fire alarm control system became obsolete so had to be changed out which required running new wiring from the furnace room main

panel to the front entrance control panel. New fans were installed in the Mountainview Hall and the lounge to try and keep these areas more comfortable to use in the summer. The parking lot holes were repaired and deteriorated parking stalls lines were repainted so they could be more easily seen which helps to make for more orderly parking. These projects, plus many more small repair and replacement jobs, were completed thanks to the work of the committee and other church family members. So a great big thank you to David Vermeulen, Ray Larison, Richard Pon, Trent Hunter, John Robertson, Hal Tonkin, Brian Shewan, Bob Ford, Cindy Smallman, Richard Sillitto, Ron French, Glen Clark, and Bill Roske for all their help. If your name has inadvertently been missed from this list, an apology is extended and a great big thank you also.

Globealive got started on the installation of the cell phone transmitters on the church roof this fall with the completion of inside work in October. While their contractor was doing the work they were kind enough to let us use their scaffolding so we could have the stained glass window repaired at the same time. So also thanks to Hume Construction for that. The outside work has progressed slowly due to equipment delivery problems but should be completed early in the New Year.

Pending fund availability and budget approval for 2012, it is planned to start changing out the ballasts and tubes in the fluorescent lights to a more energy-efficient type. We also plan to replace the main projector in the sanctuary so that we'll all be able to see the front screen more clearly.

Respectfully submitted by Elvin Dorscher

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank the generous St. Thomas congregation, who freely gave of their time, talent, and treasure over the past year.

In particular, we'd like to thank our retired members: Andrew Major, who stepped down as our hard-working Chair, as well as Chris McPhee and Roslyn Campbell. Their wit and wisdom will be missed.

In the Fall of 2011, the Stewardship Theme was "Renovation and Renewal." We challenged the congregation to help St. Thomas continue its work and prepare for the future during this transition year.

The small but mighty Stewardship cadre of Denis Chalifour, Angela Waleski, Mark Wagner, and Maureen Dodd thank all who responded to this challenge, and look forward to an exciting renewal as new staff are called to St. Thomas.

Respectfully submitted by Maureen Dodd

LEGACY GIVING COMMITTEE

Our Mandate:

- The definition of a Legacy Gift is a gift to the Church, or other charity (such as bequests in wills, gift annuities, insurance, securities etc.) from a donor's estate or accumulated assets and not their income.
- Legacy Giving is a long-term stewardship strategy that will complement the congregation's annual-giving stewardship strategy since more than 99% of the money from Legacy Gifts is deferred - that is, the gift comes to the Church upon the donor's death.
- As specified in the Legacy Giving Policy of St. Thomas, this committee is responsible to:
 - (i) develop and promote a Legacy Giving Program for the congregation;
 - (ii) provide information to interested members and adherents about the Legacy Giving Program;
 - (iii) arrange a Legacy Giving Information Session for interested congregational members every two or three years;
 - (iv) be a resource to members and adherents who wish to make a Legacy Gift;

- (v) work with the Regional United Church Financial Development Officer and keep them informed about any finalized Legacy Gifts or donors who wish to meet with them to discuss or arrange a Legacy Gift;
 - (vi) write “thank you” letters to those who make a Legacy Gift;
 - (vii) write acknowledgement letters to executors, lawyers, etc. where appropriate;
 - (viii) report annually to the congregation and regularly to Executive Council;
 - (ix) keep a permanent record of donations to the Fund;
 - (x) receive applications for financial assistance from the Fund in accordance with the operating guidelines and in accordance with policies and procedures established by the congregation;
 - (xi) make disbursement recommendations to Executive Council regarding the financial assistance applications received by the committee;
 - (xii) review any restrictions on any proposed Legacy Gift in accordance with the Gift Acceptance Policy contained in the Policy, and make recommendations to Executive Council for final decision making on acceptance of such Legacy Gifts;
 - (xiii) annually review the Policy so that any recommended changes may be presented to Executive Council and then the congregation for approval according to the amendment guidelines in the Policy;
 - (xiv) ensure that all the Legacy Gifts are celebrated and their donors recognized in appropriate and faithful ways ensuring that individual wishes are respected.
- The Fund is separate and distinct from all other church funds. Money from the Fund is not to be used to cover regular and ongoing operational requirements of the church, but rather it is to be used to expand the ministry and mission outreach of St. Thomas United Church.

2011 Activities:

- The Legacy Giving Committee is a newly formed group at St. Thomas having been established in 2010.
- Activity was limited in 2011 with our initial Legacy Giving Seminar having been hosted in November 2010.
- Ongoing communication with the Financial Development Officer of the United Church to discuss Legacy Giving.

Planned 2012 Activities:

- Conduct ad-hoc meetings of the committee to determine how best to promote Legacy Giving at St. Thomas.
- Host a second Legacy Giving Information Session for the congregation.

Committee Membership:

- Roslyn Campbell (Resigned)
- Denis Chalifour
- Dennis Watson
- Stu Robbins
- Margaret Blakely
- Barry Mingo
- Andrew Major

Respectfully Submitted by Andrew Major

MUSIC TEAM

The music team consists of 6 staff members plus the music leadership team. The staff members are responsible for music selection, running the weekly practices, and ensuring their choir/orchestra presents music in church on a regular basis. The music leadership team assists with coordination between the musical groups, with the Ministers, and with the Church office. They also gather congregational input on the programs, perform the annual performance reviews, and recruit new staff as needed.

The music staff this year have been Kari Orosz (Organist, Children’s Choir accompanist), Pam Bazinet (Adult Choir director), Dick Worton (Orchestra director), Barb Robertson (Teen Choir director), Stephanie Blakely (Teen Choir accompanist January to June), Erin MacLean-Berko (Children’s Choir director), and Kloria Wen (Teen Choir

accompanist August – December). We were sorry to lose Stephanie but respect her need to have more time with her growing family. We were pleased to welcome Kloria.

The Children's Choir is for children in grades 1 to 6. They practice Thursday evenings between 6:00 and 7:00 from September to April and share their music in Church at least once per month. The Teen Choir is for youth in grades 6 to high school and beyond. They practice Wednesday evenings between 7:00 and 8:30 from September to May and share their music in Church once or twice a month. The Adult Choir is for anyone who has decided they are too old to sing with the teens. They practice Thursday evenings between 7:15 and 9:30 from September to June. They sing at one service every Sunday between September and June. The Orchestra is for anyone who plays an instrument regardless of skill level. They practice from September to April between 7:00 and 8:30 on Monday evenings and play in Church once per month. The Strummers are an informal group of folks who like to play strummed instruments and sing. They meet Thursday evenings between 6:15 and 7:15 and participate in Church services as they feel ready.

Highlights from the year include the Adult Choir singing at Twelfth Night, two performances at Scenic Acres Senior's residence by the Children's Choir, Joy of Song service, St. Thomas Performs (a talent show organized by the Barb Robertson and the Teen Choir), the Stampede Service created and presented by the Strummers (with help from Roslyn), the Children and Teen Choirs' presentation of 'All I Want For Christmas' and the Adult Choir's presentation of 'The Living Light' on Christmas Eve.

Several people have provided assistance with the music program throughout the year. The music leadership team consisted of Pat Robbins, Ron French, and Elaine Taylor-Kerr. Elizabeth Griffiths recruited musicians to share their talents at services where there is no choir or during the offering. Maureen Sheasby maintained the music inventory records. Several people helped file music and with music selection. Parents of Junior and Teen Choir members have assisted with costumes, props, snacks, the sound system, etc. Several people accompanied services when Kari was away. Thank you to all of the staff and volunteers.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Taylor-Kerr

MISSION AND OUTREACH

The objective of the Mission and Outreach Committee is to educate and inspire our Congregation to participate in local and global mission and outreach projects as a response to God's love. This is accomplished by:

- 1) Providing a broad range of service opportunities so that active hands-on involvement in mission and outreach grows from year to year.
- 2) Fostering a charitable atmosphere within the church community so our children and youth develop a vision of perpetuating and expanding our ministries.
- 3) Educating and inspiring our congregation to embrace "seeking justice and loving kindness" into everyday life.

During 2011, the fund raising for CARZ was completed and all of the projects were funded. CARZ – Canadians Assisting Roan, Zambia, is a Calgary group operating under the umbrella of the St. Thomas Mission and Outreach Committee working with churches around Alberta. It was formed to raise funds for projects that were identified by the Zambian Youth Exposure Tour in August 2008. During the course of just over 2 years more than \$30,000 was raised to help build chicken barns and stock them with chickens. This business is flourishing and they are considering starting a pork business with the money they have raised. They have also received funds to start an agricultural cooperative and purchased land, seed, and tools to plant crops. They have had their first harvest and it provided 43 families with food and seed for next year. Sewing machines were also purchased and a tailoring business started. The final project was a three-room school for which the foundation and walls are already completed. Last Christmas season donations from the congregation as well as the Advent Bear money and 50% of the loose Christmas Eve offering went to finish the school by providing a roof, doors, windows, and school equipment. Now that the school is completed, the CARZ Committee is finished and Roan, Zambia should be completely self-sufficient.

The Committee was once again delighted by the number of initiatives that were undertaken or supported by the congregation of St. Thomas. Below is a brief description of some of the activities:

Local Projects

We hosted five Inn's From The Cold at St. David's United Church, where we provided dinner, overnight accommodations, and breakfast to over 75 people.

The Veterans' Food Bank has received about four carloads of food which the congregation has donated and the veterans have been greatly appreciative.

During this year, we continued our support of the "All Roads Lead Home" families. This organization provides support to families who have just moved from homelessness into stable housing. We adopted our first family in May of 2010. That family is a single Mom with two daughters 12 and 14 years old. We have been providing rides to the grocery store, medical appointments, hospital visits, coffee and conversation, and assistance with programs and tutoring for the girls. We will be continuing to support this family for about another year, depending on their needs. Just before Christmas last year, we also adopted our second family, which was a single mom with nine children. We have helped them with furniture for their home, kitchen supplies, a computer, a monthly good food box, and assistance with getting the support they needed. In May, we were no longer able to contact them and mail addressed to them came back so they have moved and we are no longer supporting them.

Global Projects:

Child Haven International

Our Mission project for this year is Child Haven International. It is a Canadian charity started in 1985 that has built eight homes in India, Bangladesh, Tibet, and Nepal. Inspired by the ideals and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, Child Haven creates homes for orphaned and destitute children and women. Child Haven provides food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, and education for over 1000 needy children and 150 women. They do so regardless of gender, race, caste, colour, culture, or religion. The children are not westernized but taught about their own cultures. Child Haven also cares for many seniors who live in the homes and are like grandparents to the children. Child Haven depends upon donations from individuals.

We are raising \$10,000 to build a new home for children on land recently purchased by Child Haven south of Mumbai (Bombay), India.

Continued support of Nyeme Gbilimou, our foster child in Guinea, Africa.

Our Christmas-time project was to adopt families for the holidays. This year we adopted three families including our All Roads Lead Home family. The congregation generously supplied grocery store gift cards and gifts for each member of the families.

In 2012, the M&O Committee will continue to facilitate congregational efforts in a number of projects including continuing with Inn From The Cold, All Roads Lead Home, the Veterans' Food Bank, and fund raising for Child Haven International.

Current Committee members consist of Gwen Campbell, Linda Dick, Elaine Gray, Karen Kavanagh, Rachel Murray, Cindy Smallman, and Swee Wong

We want to sincerely thank past members of the M&O Committee: Marilyn O'Bryan and David Vermeulen.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Kavanagh, Chair

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In 2011, the Youth Advisory Committee consisted of two staff members plus 6 volunteers. The staff members are responsible for planning and running a Sunday morning and a Friday evening program for youth in grades 7 to 12. The program runs most Sunday mornings and Friday evenings between September and June. The Youth Advisory Committee acts as a sounding board for the staff and assists in planning, finding volunteers, and communicating with the congregation. They also gather input from youth and the congregation on the programs, perform the annual performance reviews, and are a part of the committee to recruit new hires as needed.

The focus of the Sunday morning program is on spiritual development and exploring social justice issues. The youth attend portions of the church service regularly and also have discussions in the youth room. They planned and ran two Church services this year. They also participated in other services through serving communion and reading scriptures. They created videos to request help from the congregation for their outreach activities. The youth attend

Pathways at St. Andrew's one Friday night most months. Pathways consists of sharing a simple meal, attending a youth oriented worship service, having a discussion on faith or social justice topics, and having a social time.

Friday evenings are mostly a time for fellowship and volunteer service. Friday night activities have included Pathways, swimming, bowling, games night, movies, mini golf, tobogganing, sailing, roller blading, skating, attending performances of youth group members, making sandwiches and cookies for Alpha House, organizing a sock drive, Christmas caroling at the homes of senior members of the congregation, etc. The annual sleep over is always a big hit. Our youth leaders planned an event called 'The Amazing Race' and invited other youth groups to come and participate. The Youth Retreat at Kamp Kasoda, sponsored by Calgary Presbytery Youth Council, was well attended by St. Thomas Youth.

As Junior Youth group for children in grades 5 & 6 is held the third Friday of each month between September and June. They play games, do crafts, have a snack, and get to know each other better. Ryan Sanderson, Deyelle MacDonald, Brittany Whittaker, and Matthew Taylor-Kerr led this group in 2011.

This year, the staff members have been Kevin Leitch and Andrew Taylor-Kerr. The committee consisted of Roger Anderson, John Latter, Susan Harrington, Wendy Atkinson, Joan Robertson, and Elaine Taylor-Kerr. Thank you to all for their dedication to the youth program at St. Thomas

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Taylor-Kerr

COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL ARTS TEAM

In 2011, the Communications Committee focused on maintaining the following goals:

- Provide communication channels for St. Thomas news and information through newsletters and the website
- Provide an enhanced worship experience through the use of projected text, graphics, and videos
- Design and distribute promotional material to enhance the image and awareness of St. Thomas United church within the community

Members of the Communications Committee included Chris McPhee (Web Expert), Kristin Raugust (Chair), Jane Wittstock (former staff), and Sandra Dusoswa (staff)

The Digital Arts Group is a subcommittee of the Communication Team and had the following members: Dave Shuttleworth (former creator), Hal Tonkin, Kristin Raugust, Chris McPhee, Elaine Taylor-Kerr, Greg Hyatt, Gary Tickner, Mark Wagner, Brian Shewan, Dan MacDonald, and Jeff McLean

Committee activities in 2011 included:

- Preparation and distribution of monthly newsletters (staff)
- Placement of advertisements in the Hawkeye Newsletter and the Calgary Herald
- Recruiting new presenters for Sunday morning PowerPoint
- Weekly web updating
- Coordination of Christmas give-aways
- Preparation, design, proof-reading, and presentation of PowerPoint presentations during Sunday worship services

Our plan for 2012 includes the following initiatives:

- Prepare and distribute monthly newsletters
- Prepare and deliver PowerPoint presentations during Sunday worship services.
- Design and print Christmas take-aways and other printed material as requested such as posters for events
- Explore additional ways to leverage the stthomasunited.ca website, Facebook, and twitter to share information about the church
- Work with other committees to help address their communication needs

Respectfully submitted by Kristin Raugust

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

Open Hands, Open Hearts, Open Minds truly describes our St. Thomas congregation. This year has proven that we all pull together no matter what. Our church family understands that pastoral care is the responsibility of every one of us so everyone steps up and I am so proud to be part of St. Thomas.

My deepest thanks and appreciation go out to our remarkable Pastoral Care Team. We could not have the strong Pastoral Care program we have at St. Thomas without every single one of you on the committee and in our specialized sub groups. To our WIN/Ask Me group and prayer shawl knitters – a huge thank you for your specialized accomplishments. To our AMAZING visitors and our Friend to Friend co-ordinators – Liz Smith, Barb Cousens, Dorothy Muir, and formerly Susan Harrington – your gifts are priceless. You have no idea how important you all are. Finally, to the Affirming Ministry group – yeah, we did it! Thank you all so much.

To our INCREDIBLE congregation whom we call on regularly for pastoral care endeavours – you are the perfect model of caring and compassion and we are indebted to you. My hat is off to everyone for jobs well done – you are why our Pastoral Care program is so successful. With huge gratitude, I thank you all for the volunteer work you so selflessly give. Our congregation honestly gets what it means to be Pastoral Care – making a difference in our community of faith.

To our ministry team: Geoffrey Simmons, for stepping in whenever and wherever necessary and sharing your passion and caring. Pat Shier, for engaging so splendidly in Pastoral Care – we appreciate your talents very much. Kelley Warner, for coming to St. Thomas for your Pastoral Care year as a diaconal ministry student – your enthusiasm and observations are bonuses. Deborah Lannon, Roslyn Campbell, and Jan Craig for significant contributions and important participation over the last many years. A huge thank you to all of you – it is a pleasure working with you.

Pastoral Care is what we are passionate about as we uphold our goals for 2012:

- Strong Friend-to-Friend program – a network of visitors
- Healing Ministry Program
- Health Education Programs
- Drumming Circles
- Food support to families during times of emergency, bereavement, or illness. Pastoral Care maintains a freezer of donated food.
- Good Food Boxes given to families in need
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Cards acknowledging life events sent regularly
- Plant and cookie tin deliveries at Christmas, goodie baskets at Easter
- Buddy calls
- Hymn books signed and given to members moving away
- Funeral receptions as requested
- Sunday morning coffee & tea
- Financial support and referrals to Care Connect & NeighbourLink
- Care network – arranging drives to appointments
- Blue Christmas service support
- Affirming initiatives going forward

Under **Welcoming Integrating Newcomers and Ask Me:**

- Welcome calls to all newcomers, newcomer bags, and continued regular contact.
- Greeting and welcoming duties
- Exit interviews

At present, the Pastoral Care committee members are Jan Mingo, Daryl Fenty, Beth Phillips, Betty Thompson, Charlotte Cormier, Sherrill Knight, and Roger Anderson. I salute Anne Gannon and Kathleen Stonehouse – Anne for her many years of devotion to the committee and continued service with our Healing Ministry program and Kathleen for her continuing contribution in helping arrange funeral receptions. **We welcome new recruits and new ideas to improve our congregational care anytime!**

Respectfully submitted by Marjorie Aucoin (chair)

AFFIRMING MINISTRY

Within the United Church of Canada, each congregation individually must officially vote on becoming an Affirming congregation. At our 2011 Annual General Meeting, the congregation of St. Thomas voted overwhelmingly that we become an Affirming Ministry. This signifies publicly that we are intentional in being fully inclusive, welcoming, accepting, and respectful of all people regardless of differences, whether that means sexuality, age, ability, colour, ethnicity, status, or economic circumstance.

Open Hands, Open Hearts, Open Minds – we consistently succeed in being warm, friendly, and hospitable as a church family. Clearly we have a passion for inclusion! One of the most important elements we found as we travelled our Affirming journey was that it allowed folks to open their own doors, to rejoice as they spoke their family's authenticity, and to honour all those who have ever felt marginalized. Our decision to go forward with this important ministry is a key achievement in conversations that need to matter in our society. Congratulations to our congregation who believe wholeheartedly in these values!

Our work has only just begun. The rainbow flag is displayed in the narthex and the Affirming logo is installed on our church building outside. We must continue to be intentional in our mission. Thank you everyone for your zeal throughout the past year and may this keen spirit carry on.

Our ad hoc team, under the umbrella of Pastoral Care, consisted of Wanda Veer, Judy Booth, Anne Gannon, Karen Kavanagh, Stu Robbins, Pat Robbins, Rachel Murray, our consultant from Deer Park, Bryon Delarue, and finally Deb Lannon & Roslyn Campbell (until their departures). Thank you all for a job well done.

Respectfully submitted by Marjorie Aucoin (chair)

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP (part of Pastoral Care)

Nine shawls were presented to new confirmands. Thank you to those in the congregation who so willingly joined in to help us have the extra shawls for these special days.

Prayer shawls were given to members of our congregation during times of stress.

Sixty plus premie caps were given to the Foothills Premature Nursery, as well as several to the Alberta Children's Hospital cancer wards.

A number of knitted sweaters, hats, and scarves left over from our Christmas sale were delivered to the downtown CUPS organization just before Christmas.

Our annual Christmas knitting sale was a resounding success and netted over \$700.00. We will keep you apprised of how we utilize these funds in the coming year.

Prayer shawl group members are Charlotte Cormier, Daryl Fenty, Loeta Black, Sharon Hanson, Joyce Cunningham, and Nayda Cole. It has been a very successful and rewarding year. Thank you to all who participated.

Respectfully submitted by Charlotte Cormier

HEALING MINISTRY PROGRAM (of the Pastoral Care Committee)

A total of 46 Healing Touch sessions were provided by the following Healing Ministry Program members: Daryl Fenty, Anne Gannon, Dale Bergeson, Suzanne Wheeler, Marguerette Kennedy, Helen Day, Marcia Nerbas, and Heather Johnstone. Of the session, 41 were offered at the church, 2 were hospital visits, and 3 were home visits. Sessions continue to be offered every Thursday afternoon and the fourth Monday evening of the month except for July, August, and the last two weeks of December. Home visits and hospital visits are available on request. The fourth Monday evening of the month is also a practice session for anyone in Calgary that has taken Healing Touch courses.

The following books were added to the church library to help educate people about energy-based healing modalities: The Uncommon Touch by Tom Harpur, God's Touch by Bruce Epperly, and The Healing Code by Alexander Loyd. The Guided Imagery for Pre-Procedure/Surgery CD continues to be loaned out through the church library to help prepare people for surgery or stressful procedures or treatments.

Six two-hour Health Education Programs were provided in 2011. Topics included: Aging Well With Optimal Nutrition, Unlocking Alzheimer's Disease: It's More Than Memory Loss, Supporting Others Without Drowning Yourself, Do I Need To Take a Supplement?, Enhancing Relationships With Adult Children, and Detoxification For Your Home – Supporting Your Health With A Healthy Environment. Attendance at these programs was less this year and ranged from 15-33 people, even with advertising in the Calgary Herald Swerve Magazine. Donations for the Health Education Programs totalled \$1,186.75. Expenses for speaker's fees and honorariums totaled \$1,430. This left a deficit of \$243.25 that has been absorbed by the Pastoral Care Committee.

Two two-hour Drumming Circles were offered in the fall of 2011 and were attended by 13-15 enthusiastic drummers. Income from these sessions was \$240. Marsha Read's facilitator honorarium was \$240.

Goals for 2012

1. To continue to offer Healing Touch sessions every Thursday afternoon, the 4th Monday evening of the month, and in-home and hospital sessions on request except for July, August, and the last two weeks of December.
2. To provide only four Health Education Programs.
3. To provide at least four Drumming Circles.
- 4.

Respectfully submitted by Daryl Fenty

JOINT SEARCH COMMITTEE

The JSC was struck at a congregational meeting April 3, 2011 once our Joint Needs Assessment Committee report was finalized. In late April our JNAC report was approved by Calgary Presbytery and representatives were named to our Joint Search Committee. Since then we have been working diligently towards finding and calling a team of two ministers for our congregation. We have had 35 meetings as of December 15, 2011. We examined almost 30 potential candidates, and conducted 7 telephone interviews and 9 in-depth personal interviews. We have been extremely pleased and impressed by the quality of ministers who expressed interest in ministry at St Thomas. Committee members are:

Stu Robbins
Ryan Sanderson
Andrea Mendritzki
Barry Mingo

Judy Booth
Cathy Rivard
Marjorie Aucoin
Karen Holmes (ministerial Presbytery rep from McDougall)
Stutt Pottruff (lay Presbytery rep from Scarboro)

We will continue to keep you informed as we work through the process. It is our expectation at this time that a call, when made, will be effective July 1st to permit the candidates time to provide sufficient notice to their current congregations.

Respectfully submitted by Marjorie Aucoin

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The St. Thomas UCW members meet regularly at 7p.m. on the third Monday of each month (except July and August) in the church lounge. The UCW purpose is to unite the women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service. This is achieved during the year with a variety of different programs, guest speakers, fundraisers, and potlucks.

Our programming for 2011 included a presentation from Daryl Fenty as she shared her passion for the healing touch ministry and how the program works to heal and rejuvenate. In February, John McMahon spoke about Habitat for Humanity and the Women's Build 2010. Shawna Fisher, mother of three small children, followed with her personal perspective on being a prospective Habitat home owner herself. As the weather improved we took a tour of the new Wellspring Calgary, Carma House facility, which now has ample space to house the programs that it offers to cancer patients and their families. In May, prior to our annual potluck in June, Winona Anderson gave us a tour of the St. Thomas Library where we learned how the Dewey decimal system works, as well as the array of wonderful books that we can access here at St. Thomas. Along with our June potluck, we invited Marney Armitage to introduce us to the world of labyrinths. We welcomed a greater attendance, enjoyed the delicious food, and then relaxed as we walked the portable labyrinth in the Mountainview Hall. Then in October, we opened the sanctuary up to members of the community who wanted to learn about identity theft from Constable Kathy Macdonald, who gave us a number of tips on how to protect ourselves in this electronic age. Our last guest speaker of the year was Claudia Frick Istvanffy, who took us through the different types of meditation and then helped us relax using a short body sensing and breathing meditation. Several members enjoyed the annual Symons Valley Dinner theatre in May. Our annual Student Union Ticket book fundraiser was successful once again raising \$950! We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting us again, and encourage you to use the coupons. Donations will be made in January to several worthy charities (watch the newsletter for the details). Last year's donations were made to ROAN, Women in Need, Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter, the National UCW, Wellspring Calgary, and the M & S Fund.

We continued to sell Fair Trade Coffee four or five times during the year. The income from this project allows us to supply St. Thomas with all the coffee used in the church during the year.

All women in the congregation are technically members of the UCW and welcome and encouraged to attend any meeting, especially when we have a potluck or guest speaker of interest. This is a social group and is a great way to get to know and support other women in the congregation on a more personal level.

Executive for 2012: President - Lois Shewan; Treasurer - Margaret Blakely; Programme Convenor - Marilyn Barry

Respectfully submitted by Lois Shewan

FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE

The Faith Formation Committee provides opportunities for our members, and the community, to explore and grow, on their journey of faith. We have programs for infants in the nursery, through the Sunday school and youth years, into adulthood and retirement. The committee consists of approximately six volunteers from a cross section of the congregation and the designated lay minister. Roles within the committee include chairperson (co-chair), a librarian, a nursery coordinator, and two members at large.

Programs offered in 2011 included:

“The Soul” study series	Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Hands series for children
Creating Crosses	The Gospel of Thomas discussion group
Religion in Life (Scouts and Guides)	Sweet Pea Beauty
Plugged-In Parenting	Let’s Celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas!
<u>The Lost Symbol</u> book study	Youth Confirmation
“I See God” Lent project	Unbinding the Gospel/Faith Journey Groups
“First Light” Lenten study group	Monthly Adult Bible Study
Lenten booklet of devotions	Prince of Egypt
Happiness Project	The Five Love Languages
Mindful Meditation (one in spring, series in fall)	The Five Love Languages of Children

Attendance this fall has been lower, which is not surprising during the transition between ministers, and a couple of children’s and one adult program were cancelled due to lack of attendance.

Sunday School:

St Thomas’ Sunday School program is for children ages 3 through grade six. Sunday School is a Bible story based rotation, focusing on a story for three weeks at a time. Through drama, games, art, science, and cooking, the meanings behind the Bible stories are explored.

The format for the youngest members of Sunday school was altered this year to provide a more consistent learning environment with one teacher instead of rotating through three different teachers for each story.

We are always looking for volunteers for teaching Sunday School. If you are interested, please contact Pat Shier or the church office. The lessons have been thoughtfully prepared and supplies pre-arranged to make the commitment simple and rewarding.

The entire Sunday School offering goes to CUPS One World Child Development Centre.

Nursery:

The nursery provides a safe and fun place for little ones from newborns to age 3. Our youth who provide childcare are paid \$10 per service and have Red Cross Babysitting Certificates as well as in-house procedure training.

Library:

Free lending library for books, videos, and games for all ages of children and adults. The library is located on the second floor. Requests and recommendations for new material are welcome.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the members of the Faith Formation Committee for your time, dedication, and input; Pat Shier, Sandra Glass, Dale Bergeson, Winona Anderson (Librarian), Kerrie Goodfellow (Nursery Coordinator). A special thank you to our past members: Wes van der Lee and Mary Taylor. Your efforts have been so appreciated. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Tait and Krista Strayer, Faith Formation Chairpersons

REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY

St Thomas continues to be involved in the work and organization of the wider church through its work in Calgary Presbytery, Alberta and Northwest Conference, and General Council. Roslyn Campbell, Jan Craig, Pat Shier, Hugh Johnson, and Stu Robbins were all members of Calgary Presbytery in 2011. Although Stu resigned as presbytery rep, he continues to serve the greater church as a member at large of presbytery for which all in the United Church should be grateful.

As a result of Stu's resignation, St. Thomas has the need and right of additional presbytery representatives. St. Thomas is entitled to one representative for each 100 resident members to a maximum of four. This is a great opportunity to get to understand the broader church and for St. Thomas to assist in the growth and development of the United Church in Calgary. Presbytery is the governing body of the United Church that most directly impacts St. Thomas. The more who participate the greater the influence of St. Thomas in the work of the United Church.

Various members of St. Thomas participated in presbytery by being members of Search and Joint Needs Assessment Committees. Hugh Johnson is the Chair of the Ministry of Planning and Administration, a member of the Executive Committee, and a member of the Conference committee on mission support grants. Stu Robbins is the Convenor of the Education and Students Working Unit and is a member of the Conference Education and Students Committee. Harold Black is serving as Chair of Ministry of Personnel Support. David Blackadar continues his work on the Campus Ministry Advisory Committee and is a key cog in their fundraising efforts. If you are interested in seeing what goes on in other churches there is always a need for presbytery representatives on all sorts of committees. It is a challenging and rewarding experience. For those whom I may have missed I apologize. One of the problems of being active in one aspect of presbytery- planning and administration -I don't follow as closely as perhaps I should the participation of others in the many other aspects of presbytery.

Calgary Presbytery, in conjunction with Symons Valley, received a grant from the Conference to hire a consultant to look at ways that Symons Valley and St. Thomas, being the two most northerly United Churches in Calgary, can better service the communities with which they interact.

St. Andrews has been engaged in a visioning process that may see them take a bold step toward a virtual church. Hillhurst is trying to make its way through the City's development process to build some affordable accommodation on their site. The Chinese United project was topped off in 2011 and God willing the facility should be ready for tenants in late 2012 or early 2013. This is a project that has helped with assisted housing, and integrating the new building with the existing low income apartment building, which will become part of the assisted living complex. There will be space for worship and other church functions in the building.

All congregations are asked to look at the proposed remit, (vote) on the Song of Faith, and other doctrinal items of the Church. More information is available through the United Church web-site http://gc40.umed-church.ca/downloads/remit_06.

Alberta and Northwest Conference is also doing a review of its function and a report should be available before conference. There is currently quite a dichotomy between the urban presbyteries such as Calgary, that have paid presbytery staff, and the rural ones that rely to a much greater extent on the Conference office.

Conference will be held May 31 to June 2 in Calgary at SAIT. June 2 will have the ordination and commissioning of candidates. This is a General Council year and so there will be General Council in Ottawa in August. Anyone interested in attending either of these should let me know or contact the presbytery office (403) 287-0375 as these are elected positions.

Respectfully Submitted by Hugh Johnson

