



Mount Seymour United Church

1200 Parkgate Ave. North Vancouver, B.C.
www.mtseymourunited.com

2010 Annual Report





What We Believe

At the heart of our community is a belief that how we live is more important than what we believe. We follow a progressive form of Christianity at Mount Seymour which means among other things:

We take the Bible seriously but not literally.

We understand the Bible as a human product, written in the context of two ancient communities. It is a record of how those people understood and experienced God and their life of faith. We use the Bible as a central source of wisdom, inspiration, understanding and guidance for our life.

We follow the Way of Jesus

We look to the story of Jesus and the way he lived his life as a model for our own living. We understand Jesus as both a figure of history and a mysterious presence we refer to as Christ within and among us. Through this understanding we gain a deeper sense of what it means to be created in the image of the divine.

We are not alone. God is with us.

We call "God" by many names and experience the sacred in a variety of ways. We experience God as something larger than ourselves and yet part of us. We understand God in human form primarily through Jesus.

Our Life Together.

We gather in community for support, challenge, accountability and to experience the sacred in a particular way. Journeying with others reminds us of the foundations of the Christian path which include prayer and contemplation; the work of seeking justice for our world and for our earth; and compassionate living. Communal life provides the opportunity to engage the rituals of the Christian tradition, particularly communion and baptism, which help to shape, form and sustain us.

Our Purpose.

To be transformed and to be part of transforming our world into a just, peaceful and sustainable earth home.



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2010 Annual Report

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Report from our Minister

2010: Shifting Gears



Back in the years I drove a standard transmission vehicle I became used to that moment when I put my foot on the clutch and it would feel like the car was coasting until we shifted into another speed. 2010 feels like that kind of year to me, a hinge year when we coasted on the many successes of the previous two years and began to anticipate and experience the shift into another way of being yet again. I'm not sure what the biblical equivalent for shifting gears is, but I suspect it lies somewhere in the practice of Sabbath.

I cannot remember 2010 without focusing on what the heart of the year was for me, my four month sabbatical and study leave. It was a very renewing time for me personally and I trust you can sense that in the energy I have for our ministry together at this point. I cannot thank you enough for setting me free to receive the rest I so greatly needed and for your graciousness in welcoming the leadership of Kimiko Karpoff and Wade Lifton in my absence. I know my departure put an extra strain on the worship and caring teams and the council in particular and I do appreciate everyone's willingness to lend their energy where needed.

2010 was also pivotal in terms of our staffing. With great sadness we said goodbye to both Wade Lifton and Brian Tate who shared so many rich gifts and talents with us during their tenure. I know we "of little faith" wondered how we would ever replace them, but clearly the Spirit is still moving. How else can one explain the arrival of both Bethel Lee and Sheryl Reinhardt just when we needed them? Many thanks are owed to Ward Branch, Laura Staude, Bette Shippam and Brendan Chow who found Bethel for us and to Jen-Beth Fulton, Bryan Ralph, Pandora Furniss, Mary Sparks, Anna Ashbourne-Bruder and Olivia Santacroce who have agreed to search for a permanent music minister who we hope will begin working with us this summer.

One of the exciting gears that actually did shift into place this year was the Seniors Bus Project about which you will read more in this report. After being so intentional about setting aside funds in our "Something's Happening Here" campaign for a justice project east of the Seymour River, it was a great joy to see the need we had discovered in our area finally being met. Our Outreach Team headed up by Joyce Jones and Dilys Sostad really deserve credit for their tenacity on this accomplishment.

As always, the church would not have carried on as smoothly as it did this past year without the dedication of countless volunteers, too many for me to count. I'm grateful for Tricia Arpino for getting our Caring Team up and running and for Sherrill McLeary for taking over leadership of the team this fall. I give thanks to Margie Nelson for taking over the helm of the Newcomer's Team so that Laura Staude could step over onto the Ministry and Personnel Team. I can't say enough about Catherine Branch's tireless commitment to the Worship and Christian Development Team, carrying on for the entire year as the "interim" chair. I'm grateful for those who give their time to make banners, lead the children and youth and gift us with their musical talents. The A-team under the capable leadership of Steve MacDonald made much needed upgrades to our building and the Thrift Shop with Gladys Johnston at the helm had its most profitable year ever. Ward Branch and the Congregational Life Team continued to provide us with excellent advertising to get the message out about our church and with many lunches and talent nights to keep our spirits high.

I'm very aware of all the work the Ministry and Personnel Committee led by Bryan Ralph has been on top of lately with our changing staff relationships and I appreciate the ongoing support they give to me. I am also truly thankful for Judy Asbourne's thoughtful leadership of the Council these past three

years and particularly for the way she so eloquently guided us through the many staffing transitions of the last year.

Last, but most definitely not least, an enormous debt of gratitude is owed to our faithful treasurer Ken Fowler. Ken will be handing over the financial reins to Doug Querns in 2011, but the effects of his time in the position will be felt for a long time in our congregation. Ken's financial prowess steered us beautifully through the exciting days of the Something's Happening Here Campaign and helped us raise over \$500,000. However, it was his work on arranging with the Presbytery, Conference and National officials to free us from regular payments to our Ventures in Mission Loan that will help ease some of the financial challenges we face as we move into the future.

As we head into the future we will need to keep discerning where it is God is calling us to in these changing times. If you ask anyone in the wider church, they would say Mount Seymour is definitely doing what we need to do to have a vibrant ministry in the Seymour area. As always, I am humbled by the mysterious ways we continue to be blessed by Divine grace and I am honoured to serve with such daring, gifted and committed individuals as Kathryn Clinton, Wade Lifton, Brian Tate, Mary Sparks and Pandora Furniss and now Bethel Lee.

Rev. Nancy Talbot



*We sing of a church
seeking to continue the story of Jesus
by embodying Christ's presence in the world.
We are called together by Christ
as a community of broken but hopeful believers,
loving what he loved,
living what he taught,
striving to be faithful servants of God
in our time and place.
~from the Song of Faith - Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada*

Report from our Council Chair



The need to prepare for and respond to changes that are happening around us is a reality for churches today and how we prepare and respond will determine whether or not we experience growth and renewal in the process. The realization that change is imminent is not new to MSUC. Reverend Nancy wrote that a large part of what drew her to us was her sense that we had been actively engaged in seeking clarity of what it meant to be a 21st century church, exploring new ways of worshipping and discerning how we might let go of old structures. Your Council also understands that in moving forward and discerning new directions it is important that we remain true to our values. In 2010 council and staff spent time exploring and assessing the deep values that we hold at MSUC.

In 2010 change was evident in many ways, and we experienced both growth and renewal at MSU. Throughout the year we welcomed new people into our midst, both congregants and staff. In the spring Reverend Nancy took a well deserved and dare I say much needed four month sabbatical and study leave. Kimiko Karpoff and Wade Lifton took excellent care of us, and we heard enriching reflections by Rabbi Laura Duhan Kaplan on the Jewish Renewal movement and by our own Brian Tate on aspects of Buddhism. In the summer we welcomed Nancy back, renewed and invigorated by new ideas and new found energy.

In September, Wade, having completed a formal UCC discernment process, found himself drawn to full time study at VST. While we miss him greatly, we are grateful to our Search Committee for having found our new and wonderful Family and Children Minister, Bethel Lee, who we welcomed in the fall. We are now “triplly” blessed in having in our midst Bethel, her husband Dave as well as Wade when his studies permit.

As 2010 drew to a close we also bade farewell to our Music Minister, Brian Tate. Again we were blessed to find a new and talented music director, Sheryl Reinhardt, who we prepared to welcome on an interim basis in 2011. A committee was also formed to assess the future direction of our music program.

Your council and staff are now contemplating “What’s Happening Next” at MSUC. With input from the congregation we will be assessing all our current ministry programs, further examining our deep values and exploring options for new ways of being together and new ways to sustain the financial life of the church. As we prepare for the challenges that come with being a 21st century church we remain excited about future opportunities and, inevitably, the changes that lie ahead.

One thing that did not change in 2010 is the remarkable level of involvement of so many people at MSU. For that I give thanks. I give thanks for the 60 or so individuals who work each and every week at the Thrift Store under the careful guidance of Gladys Johnson; for the volunteers who engage our youth and children on Sunday mornings, to the leaders of the children and youth choirs, Mary Sparks and Pandora Furniss, and to each member of our Joyful Noise choir. Thank you.

I give thanks for all the members of our caring team and to each person who welcomes us on Sunday mornings. Thank you to the individuals who take care of your generous financial contributions, notably Fay Butterfield and Sue Dahlo. Thank you to those individuals who work behind the scenes in the kitchen each and every Sunday, as well as to each member of the Heavenly Palate and to the

individuals who organize our monthly luncheons. Thank you for the opportunities you give us, in good UCC tradition, to engage in lively conversation over a coffee and a meal.

I also wish to acknowledge the contribution of members of Council and each member of the teams, who throughout the year unstintingly share their wisdom, enthusiasm, time and talents. Thank you to Alan Furniss for continuing to act as Council secretary. Thanks to Kelly Vogt, for representing the congregation as your member at large. Thanks to Dilys Sostad and her team for continuing their social justice work and congratulations for their success in getting the bus program off to a good start. Thank you to Steve MacDonald and his team of tireless workers, and in particular James Fulton, who see to the upkeep of our building and grounds, not just during the important spring clean up weekend, but day in and day out, throughout the year. Thank you to Catherine Branch and the rest of the Worship team for their tireless work in worship and education development. Thanks to Ward Branch and his small (one person) team of merry makers, for the fun and excitement they bring to our community. And thank you to Bryan Ralph and the members of the Ministry and Personnel Committee for their commitment to our staff.

A special thank you goes to council members who will be stepping down from their formal Council duties in 2011. A huge thank you goes to Jen-Beth Fulton, for serving as our representative on the Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery, in addition to the many other roles she takes on. Special acknowledgement goes to Ken Fowler who has served us so well as Treasurer. I also wish to acknowledge Ken's invaluable role in reaching an agreement with Presbytery, BC Conference and the national UCC body that in effect freed us from our VIM loan payments. I also want to thank both Ken and Doug Querns for working together in preparation to handing over of the reins in 2011.

And my thanks to our most wonderful staff, with whom it has been my absolute pleasure to have worked over the past three years. Each one brings passion, brilliance and humour to their work. Thank you to Reverend Nancy, for being both our anchor and bellweather in this time of change, for leading us with vast wisdom, courage and patience as we continue to assess where we've been and discern where we're heading. Thank you to Kathryn, for taking on every project, both large and small, with unfailing excellence, flair and patience. Thank you to Bethel, for the intelligence, creativity and energy you infuse into all your work. And to Sheryl, who is just now joining us, for so beautifully keeping the music alive.

Knowing that we have such excellent leaders in both our ministry and on your Council, I am very excited about the future that lies ahead. I am excited by the passion of the people who have recently joined us and by the steadfastness and commitment of so many long term members. I look forward to the growth and renewal that awaits us through all the changes to come in 2011 and beyond.

Blessings to all,
Judy Ashbourne



*"The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science."
-Albert Einstein*

Administration Team Report



Steve Macdonald at our Spring Clean-up

- Enlightened Lighting Upgrade Continue
- Improved Janitorial Services
- Colourful Painting
- Shelter from the Rain and Leaky Downspouts.
- Great Green Gardening.

This has been a busy year for the A-Team with many notable improvements being made to the church. Last spring, a most successful two day work party accomplished a great deal and provided an outlet for the famous community spirit at Mt. Seymour. Here are some of the highlights:

- A concrete path and accessibility ramp now connects the parking lot to the east entrance. This will be particularly useful for the operation of the Thrift Shop and provides more handicap accessibility.
- The narthex, halls, kitchen and bathrooms were painted in April. This involved a lot of preparation. A huge thank-you goes to James Fulton who worked full-time managing the job and replacing all the baseboards with help from Stan Joughin and Jim Bruder. Thanks to Joan Fowler and Wendy Alexander for selecting the colour. The offices were painted over the summer after removal of the wallpaper.
- An ambitious window replacement program was completed. Some of the windows had been broken by vandals and others were fogged.
- The roof was repaired and given a clean bill of health. This has removed the urgency and expense of a full replacement. The repair included the replacement of three drains and repair of several roof blisters.
- Holes in the stucco have been repaired and repainted. This will be an ongoing project.
- Ongoing plumbing repairs to leaking dishwasher drain, toilets and bathroom/kitchen sinks.
- Some of the lighting has been replaced in the sanctuary and the hall. This will reduce electrical consumption and improve lighting levels. Outside lighting was also addressed for security reasons.

- Kathryn noted that she has had several people comment on how lovely the gardens looked this year. Thanks to Pat Wall, Gladys Johnston, Bobbie Grimard and Elaine Rasmussen who have worked hard on the gardens.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Macdonald, Administration Team Leader



Ken Fowler, Dilys Sostad, Stan Joughin, Jim Bruder,
Gert Zandberg, Alan Furniss and Jan Jordan at the Spring Clean-up



Congregational Life Team

Connecting with our Community



Website

Our website continues to be an important connection with the community. On average there are over 600 visits per month with about half of those from visitors new to the site. Popular pages are Music and Events, Who We Are and our Sermons page.

Advertising

We continued to increase awareness in the community through advertising in both the North Shore News and the Deep Cove Crier. Our advertising focused on Nancy's sermon series; Eat, Pray, Love and Spring Cleaning as well as introducing Bethel to the community.

We joined in with other community groups and decorated a **Christmas tree** at Parkgate Recreation Centre during the Christmas season. Thanks to everyone who helped decorate.

Welcome Team

Our Welcome Team continues to be active under the leadership of Margie Nelson. Thanks to all the volunteers that do such a great job of making everyone feel welcome on Sunday mornings!

Sunday Lunches

Our catered lunches held after worship on Jan. 17, March 21, Sept. 17 and Oct. 17 were well attended. People have enjoyed the opportunity to stay for lunch and get to know each other better. Thanks to Brenda Dobie for heading this up and all the helpers who help set up, serve and clean-up the lunches.



North Shore News Ad - Oct. 15, 2010

2010 Fundraisers and Events

Concerts

Making a Joyful Noise II Concert - May 28 raised \$ 1,025 for the *Something's Happening Here* Campaign.

Gentlemen of Fortune Concert - Sept. 11 raised \$438

Church Picnic- June 1

The BBQ chicken was great as usual and the potluck salad and desserts were wonderful. Thanks to Alan Furniss for once again organizing this annual BBQ held after worship.

Mount Seymour Talent Show - September 26

All ages gathered for a meal followed by a Talent Show that raised \$255 for the *Something's Happening Here* Campaign. Thanks to Ward Branch for organizing this. Who knew we had so much talent?

Turkey Lunch and Bake Sale - December 11

This annual event is very popular and well attended by the congregation and the wider community. This year the men raised \$ 879 at the lunch and the women raised \$654 at the Bake sale. Thanks to Alan Furniss and his team of men (and some women) who bought and cooked the turkeys and spent the day cooking, serving and cleaning up. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the bake sale as well.

Heavenly Palate

Our catering group raised \$705 this year. Thanks to Gwen Kendrick and her team who worked hard in the kitchen at various events during the year.

If you have a fundraising idea or project that you'd like to do or would like to be part of the team, contact Ward Branch or Kathryn in the office.



Church Picnic – June 2010



Congregational Mission and Outreach Team Report



The Mission and Outreach team attempts to respond to needs of the wider community. With the support of the congregation we contribute to the work of First United Church in the Downtown Eastside and to the Lookout Shelter on the North Shore.

Over the period of a year fifty people contribute to the making and delivering of sandwiches, extra food supplies and clothing to First United Church while 12 members are needed once a month to assist with the Saturday night film and food night.

This past summer we were asked to host the congregational picnic of First United and again our members were there to serve food, organize hikes, launch canoes and play some fun games.

We help keep First's food supply supplied by holding a Christmas in June event as well as supporting World Food Day in the fall.

Our work with the Lookout Shelter is now focused on helping with a Life Skills programme around cooking. Our volunteers will work with residents to help them chose appropriate meal selections and then assist them with the cooking.

In response to the *Something's Happening Here* campaign we have developed a Justice Project in partnership with Parkgate Community Services and have launched the Seymour Access Bus. This is a free service available to frail and isolated seniors. It has been operating since October and growing steadily.

Thanks to Sheila and Keith Norris for continuing to collect and return cans and bottles dropped off at the church. This year they raised over \$400 for Christmas treats at First United.

On behalf of our team I offer prayers of gratitude and thanks for the wonderful support of the congregation. I offer those same prayers for the loyal and hard working team members, Dilys Sostad co-chair, Barbara and Bryan Ralph, Ellen Muirhead, and Katherine MacKay.

Respectfully submitted
Joyce Jones, co-chair

Barb Ralph and Joyce Jones
photographed for North Shore News
article on the Bus Program-
Oct. 10, 2010



The Thrift Shop Report



The Thrift Shop celebrated its Twentieth Anniversary at a Church Service on Sunday, Sept 26th, where we shared experiences of the last twenty years. Then, on the following Thursday, we had a birthday cake for all our many customers.

Our big purchase this year was two cash registers. It is not only more efficient for sales, but, they tell us how many customers we have during the day and whether they buy clothes or other knick-knacks. We were surprised to find our average customer attendance is 300 with it going as high as 450 at Christmas.

We also have a new sidewalk connecting the side door with the existing sidewalk. Thanks to all the hard work of James Fulton, Gert Zandberg, Peter and Ellen Muirhead and Stan Joughin. Not only has this sidewalk saved the staff numerous steps but some donations are now being delivered through this door.

Our Maunday Thursday Dinner for the Community was again a great success with 130 dinners served.

Our next **Antique and Collectible Sale** is on April 9th, 2011. For donations and offers of help, contact Anne DeVent 990-5381

Outside Sales

Through our many donations, we receive goods that are better marketed outside the shop. Gillian Cole takes discontinued china and other antiques to Echo's China Shop to be sold on consignment.

Anne DeVent manages to sell many unusual items on the E-Bay website and Craig's List. Joyce Jones transports the better quality sports equipment to a Sports Consignment Store.

Other Specialties

Alan Orr continues to find bicycles which he overhauls and then donates to us. Our bicycles are much in demand as our customers have come to realize how safe they are.

James Fulton continues to refinish furniture and overhaul appliances so they are like new.

Jim Crook checks out our musical appliances which means we are able to ensure our customers they are in working order.

Stephanie Varju works magic with old dolls bringing them back to their original condition.

Earla Blackwell is always there on Thursdays to make sure the volunteers and many others have a cup of tea!

Bruce Stout now takes care of transporting metal and discarded electronics to the recycling depots. Gert and Sylvia Zandberg have been marvelous in filling in with transporting to First and Recycling Depots when needed for overflow.

Barbara and Brian Ralph throughout the year have delivered numerous loads of clothing and household articles, not suitable for the Thrift Shop, to new immigrants in Surrey. In June, we managed to find shoes and dresses for fifteen girls for Graduation, who thought they were going to have to wear jeans. At Christmas they delivered all the leftover decorations and 200 people managed to get at least one article.

Kathryn McKay, who joined the Third World Eye Care Society on an Eye Care Mission to the Philippines, took four boxes of tees and shorts to very needy people. She said their appreciation was indescribable.

This year, we had three delightful students and their workers, from the North Vancouver School District Work Experience Program for Special Needs. Alysha who came on Monday and Caity on Wednesday helped sort clothes and put things on hangers. Kenzie came on Thursday to help set up the Narthex for opening.

David from the Triumph Placement Agency is still with us, helping with the heavy lifting for set up on Thursdays . We now have Richard Evans who comes every Thursday night to help with closing and also comes on Tuesday to pack boxes upstairs to storage, takes out the garbage and does any other heavy lifting. Also, James and Jen-Beth Fulton, Ken Fowler, Frank Luba, Lindsay, Allan Johnston, Budd Taggart and Barit Olsen have been giving a hand when they can.

Our Christmas Tea for our customers, on the last Thursday before Christmas, was once again very much appreciated by all the tired shoppers .This year a Tea Room was set up in the Sherwood Room for anyone wishing to sit and visit while having tea. Thanks to Joyce Jones for co-ordinating this. Thanks also to Ellen Muirhead, Barbara and Brian Ralph and Dilys Sostad for providing the numerous pots of tea and coffee and goodies.

A special thanks is extended to the over seventy dedicated volunteers, who with alltheir little specialty jobs, keep the Thrift Shop running. We are very pleased to have had several new people join us this year, but of course, there is always room for one more, so if you have an hour or two, please drop in.

Financial Report

Total Revenue	\$72 414.88
Expenses	2 315.69
Net Income	70 009.19

First United Donation	\$14 019.84
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Respectfully submitted
Gladys Johnston
Co-ordinator



Worship and Christian Development Team



The Worship Team has seen a lot of coming and going this year. We have had a lot of work and a lot of fellowship - saying goodbye to old friends and welcoming new ones!

Sunday Morning Worship

Sunday morning worship has been thoughtful and engaging with something always happening.

In February, Nancy held a four week sermon series for part of Lent: *Spring Cleaning: Scrubbing off Tarnished Words in Search of Bright New Meaning: Sin, Suffering, Salvation, Resurrection*. This was very thought provoking for many of us.

On April 15, we said a temporary goodbye to Nancy as she set out on her well deserved sabbatical and holiday, coming back to us August 15.

During that time, we were led in worship primarily by Kimiko Karpoff. She kept us in very good hands. She even undertook her own sermon series: *Who is Jesus? Story, Spirit, Being*. We also welcomed various guest preachers including our own Brian Tate and Wade Lifton.

Over the year, we had a variety of speakers that opened our eyes and our experiences including a Rabbi, a Buddhist reflection and Harry Meier came to speak to us on Revelations.

In June, we celebrated the 85th anniversary of the church service where we shared our church stories, sang historic hymns and shared birthday cake.

We welcomed Nancy back this fall and she did not waste any time. She undertook a Fall sermon series: *Eat Pray Love: The Spirituality of Food, The Spirituality of Meditation and the Spirituality of Relationships*.

We had a wonderful Advent season highlighted by an amazing all-ages pageant written by our new Children and Youth Minister Bethel Lee - such talent in this congregation. And it was all capped off by a quiet, contemplative candlelight service. An amazing year in worship!

Adult Faith Formation

Throughout the Winter and Spring, a dedicated group has been meeting to study on Monday nights and Wednesday mornings and this has continued this Fall.

In September, we held a workshop on Sacred Gifts. This was a real success attracting over 30 people, 21 from the church community. The overall course was excellent and three individuals who attended the course shared their experiences with the congregation in a November service.

In October, Mount Seymour was honoured to host an open group that provided exploration time around the development of the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum. This provided a theological exploration from which the writers will take away ideas and writing.

Music Ministry

Music is one of the threads that holds our Sundays together and we are so grateful for the many forms that the music ministry is taking. We have our Joyful Noise adult choir that takes care of our music ministry most Sundays. We have a children and a youth choir and we have a community gospel choir that enlivens us at least once per month!

In January, Brian and the choir hosted a community sing that was a great success and fun for all. No experience was necessary and we all enjoyed ourselves!

May was a busy month. On May 9, Pandora Furniss (youth choir) and Mary Sparks (children's choir) put on a musical with the two children and youth choirs. It was a wonderful event for the congregation and a terrific amount of work that we really appreciated.

Brian undertook an all-choirs concert in May as well. Choirs who rehearse in our facility were invited to perform and there were massed pieces at the end. It was a wonderful event.

It was with great regret that we had to say goodbye to Brian as of the end of December as he has moved on to take time with his mother and to take on other projects. But we have been so very fortunate to have been blessed with Sheryl Reinhardt and her energy and enthusiasm take his place.



Pandora Furniss



Brian Tate



Mary Sparks

Children's Community and Youth

Our Children's Community continues to flourish with new faces all the time.

Wade took a final trip to Ghana to conclude his water project in February and we were blessed by the work of Camille Noulette in his absence.

After difficult thought, Wade decided that he would be leaving us to pursue his studies toward ministry. Again, God has been with us and sent us Bethel Lee and her amazing energy and enthusiasm. Bethel even preached for us in October! She took responsibility for the Youth Group for the Fall but we now have Christina Kinch that will take on this task in January. We eagerly await her contributions!

Faith, Food and Fun

We are a congregational family that likes to have fun, especially if food is also involved!! We had several events over the course of the year.

We had our traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and a service with intergenerational spiritual practices to follow.

In May, we held an intergenerational lunch after church to discuss our stories about church in preparation for the church anniversary.

Finally, in December, we had our Advent event and families made their own Advent wreathes to take home and enjoy!

It has been a challenging year but I think that it speak volumes for this amazing congregation that we were able to weather Nancy's sabbatical and the change-over of two of our major paid staff and still have incredible continuity. Congratulations to everyone in the Mount Seymour family and I look forward to a wonderful year to come!

Respectfully submitted: The Worship and Christian Development Team - Nancy Talbot, Bethel Lee, Wade Lifton, Brian Tate, Jen Beth Fulton, Sherrill McLeary, Jane Thompson, Gwen Kendrick, Bette Shippam, Wendy Alexander, Catherine Branch



Easter Sunday cross

Ministry and Personnel Committee Report



The Manual of the United Church of Canada and the Constitution of Mt. Seymour United Church recognize that the relationship between the staff of our “Pastoral Charge” and our members and adherents is of critical importance to the life of our church.

For that reason *The Manual* requires that we provide a consultative and supportive agency for both our staff and the congregation. The M&P Committee has that duty.

My fellow members of the Committee throughout 2010 were Marianne Hansen and Laura Staude. I offer both of them my thanks for their contributions to the work of the Committee.

Kathryn Ferriss and Mike Hetherington retired from the Committee at the end of 2009 and we wish to thank them for the years of service that they provided to the Committee.

A quick review of some of the events makes it clear that “ministry and personnel” matters were substantial in 2010. To respond to them, the Committee worked in conjunction with other teams, particularly the Worship Team, to respond to new arrangements and the appointment of new staff which were taking place. The events included:

- the sabbatical leave undertaken by Nancy Talbot;
- the assistance of Kimiko Karpoff and the additional assistance of Wade Lifton while Nancy was on leave;
- saying farewell to Wade;
- saying hello to Bethel Lee;
- saying farewell to Brian Tate
- saying hello to Sheryl Reinhardt.

In our view these transitions have gone well and we continue to have a gifted and dedicated staff. They deserve our gratitude for their substantial contribution to the life of our congregation in 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Ralph, Chair

“Christian practice is about walking with God, becoming kind, and doing justice. It is not about believing in God and being a good person; it is about how one becomes a good person through the practice of loving God.”

- Marcus Borg

Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery Report



22 United Churches make up the Vancouver Burrard Presbytery from Bowen Island to Whistler, the North Shore, First United and the Longhouse Ministry amongst others.

During the past few years The Emerging Spirit project under Keith Howard's direction has been helping us grapple with changing times for the United Church and the Christian story as a whole. Vancouver Burrard held two "Stepping Out Conferences" last year to bring some of the Emerging Spirit's message to us.

As Emerging Spirit contends, our proclamation is, "The prime story of our time is not that the church is dysfunctional or in decline but that God is at work and inviting us to write a new chapter in the story of God's people."

This quote from Loren Mead has been informative in this understanding, *"We are at the front edges of the greatest transformation of the church that has occurred for 1,600 years. It is by far the greatest change that the church has ever experienced in America; it may eventually make the transformation of the Reformation look like a ripple in a pond."*

Phyllis Tickle's book "The Great Emergence," is also informing this understanding. Some at Mount Seymour are reading this book. It was the context from which Nancy preached on Sunday Feb. 13th. Listen in on this at www.mtseymourunited.com or google "The Great Emergence" for Tickle's speaking on this phenomenon.

Presbytery is working at being faithful and creative in using money released from the sale of Renfrew U.C. and St. John's U.C to bring new impetus to ministry in our area. and B.C. Conference.

The Rev. Brian Thorpe, who has been involved in the First Nation Truth and Reconciliation process. He was Mount Seymour's minister in the 1980's and is working on a study to inform our way forward. Three scenarios were presented at the Jan. 2011 meeting.

Scenario A: "Follow the Trend" - continue the present path with no or little change.

Scenario B: "Local Consolidation" - there are already many conversations and group initiatives happening within geographical clusters of churches - i.e. The N.S. Churches combined sponsorship of a Palestinian Refugee family. One event was the glorious, combined choral choirs in a celebration of music and faith and fundraising for this family on Sunday Feb. 13th, 2011.

Scenario C: "Regional Strategy" - ways of being church "outside the box". These would be ways of "doing church in a different way". This idea is scary to some, but provocatively challenging to many who believe that through this initiative we will be called by God to listen to an old / new dream of how we can truly be a "People on the Way" Living out Compassion - "God's Secret Name," from the study series, Living The Questions. These scenarios are as relevant for V.B.P. as the churches themselves.

Respectively and hopefully submitted by Jen-Beth Fulton
MSUC Presbytery Representative

Children and Family Minister

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under the heavens."
~Ecclesiastes 3~*



The seasons have been full of change indeed! In 2010 our children and youth remained resilient even as the leadership and life of the church underwent some significant shifts. We admire our children's positive outlook and presence as we continue to work together to prune and nurture our programs holistically.

While Wade was away in Ghana in January and February, Camille Noulett led the children and youth, and as Wade puts it, "she rocked!" Summer Kid's Camp did not run this year because of low registration, but our focus on Godly Play grew as our shelves became well stocked through some bargain resource shopping. Mount Seymour also hosted a Godly Play training workshop in mid-September.

September was the beginning of my personal journey with Mount Seymour as I stepped in as the new Children and Family Minister, a position that would now incorporate a stronger focus on the nursery and parent programs. Since the right youth leader had not yet come around, I led the youth group for the remainder of 2010, which gave me the opportunity to get to know our one-of-a-kind senior youth. We tried new spiritual practices (like Lectio Divina), served dinner and decorated a Christmas tree at First United, attended events (like Sacred Gifts Workshop and Evolve Conference), played games, and celebrated the holidays with pumpkin carving and an end of the year party in my home. The youth continued to monitor our Kiva account (www.kiva.org), and to date have allocated 14 loans to entrepreneurs across the globe to help alleviate poverty through microfinance. We have 9 youth who regularly participate in youth group activities.

In the fall we formed new age groups for our Sunday morning programs to better support our growing number of young children: **Godly Play 1:** Age 3-Grade 1, **Godly Play 2:** Grade 2-4, **Juniors:** Grade 5-7, **Senior Youth:** Grade 8+. On average, we see 20-40 children and youth on any given Sunday. At the end of November, Christina Briggs resigned from her position as the nursery caretaker, so that she could give more time to her studies. She was with Mount Seymour for 3 years. In November we were busy with rehearsals for our first Intergenerational Christmas Pageant, which was performed on December 12 and 24. The cast and crew were a smashing success and a lot of laughs were shared.

I am so grateful to the people who help support our children and youth with their time, presence, and resources. There is no question that we could not have any of these programs without you. As of now, we have 13 people who regularly or occasionally volunteer to work with our Sunday morning programs. Currently, in order for our programs to function we need a minimum of 6 volunteers every Sunday. Thus, to sustain what we are doing (and then to be able to create room for growth), we need at least 20 people willing to volunteer an average of 1-2 times every month. It really does take a village!

May we embrace each new season with open hearts, minds, and hands.

Bethel Lee

Church Administrator

“Anybody can observe the Sabbath, but making it holy surely takes the rest of the week.”
-Alice Walker, 21st century



Administration of the building and providing support for ministry programs continue to keep my job busy and engaging. I have the privilege of working with staff and volunteers and continue to be amazed at how so many of you give of your time and talents so willingly and joyfully. It takes thousands of volunteer hours every year to keep this place running smoothly and each year it happens, thanks to all of you!

The building continues to be well used all week with our own programs and by community groups. It is wonderful to be able to share our beautiful space with the community. Many of these groups express their appreciation at being able to use the space.

A goal of the *Something's Happening Here 2008* campaign was to raise our profile and to build connections in the wider community. In 2010 we did this through initiatives such as Documentary Film Nights, Community Sing Night, the Seniors Bus Project, Sacred Gifts Workshop and participation in the Christmas Tree Display at Parkgate Community Centre. Newspaper ads and our website helped us raise our profile in the community.

There are so many people around here that help with administration of the building. Here are a few of those that I would like to thank:

On the building side: James Fulton for heading up projects such as the painting of the narthex and offices, window replacements and roof repairs; Stan and Mardi Joughin for their help with plumbing and other issues; our regular evening monitors, Alan Furniss and Ken Fowler; Steve Macdonald, our Admin Team leader.

On the accounting side; thanks to Ken Fowler, our Treasurer, and Doug Querns, our new Treasurer for keeping our finances in order, Fay Butterfield for managing our donations and deposits and Sue Dahlo for making the weekly bank deposits.

On the administrative side; thanks to my faithful Fold members, Gwen Kendrick, Jean Lewis and others, who show up on Friday mornings to fold bulletins, newsletters and whatever else needs to be done.

Thanks to all of you who help make this place holy all week long!

Blessings, Kathryn Clinton

PASSAGES 2010

Baptisms

Ian Robert Jarvis
Hannah Clare Dobie
Madeleine Mei-Zhi Helen McLellan
Kaiyen Findlay Jayston Ibbotson

Baptism Date

April 11, 2010
November 21, 2010
November 21, 2010
November 21, 2010

Weddings

Kathy Huettl and Tom Holmes

Date

October 13, 2010

We Remember

Ian Watson Hunter
Duncan James Elliot
Dr. Carl Robert Wilson
John Brian Morley
Chris G. Hansen
Mary Louise Prowse
Douglas Oliver Jorsvick
Dorothea Mary Yates
Edward Gregory

Memorial Service

February 17
February 19
June 16
June 30
July 1
September 17
November 26
December 15
December 17

Joining our Congregation

John Steveson Macdonald	Transfer
Kelly Vogt	Profession of Faith
Janice Jordan	Transfer
Bonnie Wudrick	Transfer
Brenda Dobie	Transfer
Laura Staude	Transfer
Wade Lifton	Transfer
Bethel Lee	Transfer
David Namkung	Transfer



Groups Using Our Church During 2010

In addition to the many church related activities taking place in our church building, many others from the community used our facilities -- some on a weekly basis, some monthly and others from time to time. These groups include the following:

Mount Seymour Preschool
Kumon Educational Institute
Alcoholics Anonymous and Alanon groups
Girl Guides (Sparks)
Social and Environmental Awareness Group Documentary Film Nights

Choirs:

North Shore Chorus – weekly rehearsals & concerts
Singspiration Choir – weekly rehearsals and concerts

Concerts:

Ambleside Orchestra
Brass Band
Pro Nova Ensemble - concerts and meetings
North Shore Concert Band
Argyle, Seycove and Windsor Secondary School Concerts
Men's Orpheus Choir
North Vancouver Youth Band
North Shore Community Band
Universal Gospel Choir
West Coast Symphony

Piano Recitals - various piano teachers and groups
Capilano College Community Music School – recitals
Royal Conservatory of Music Awards and Workshops
Registered Music Teacher Association Workshops
Little Warriors Workshops (Sexual Abuse Prevention)
Various musical groups – recording sessions
Quilting Workshops
Qi-Gong Workshops
Wedding Receptions, Anniversary and Birthday Parties
Tenants Associations, Strata Councils etc.

"Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light."

~Helen Keller, 20th century

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Mt. Seymour United Church
Held at 1200 Parkgate Avenue, North Vancouver, B.C.
Sunday, March 21, 2010.**

The following 57 members/adherents were present;

Jim Andrews, Tricia Arpino, Judy Ashbourne, Earla Blackwell, Burton Branch, Catherine Branch, Lima Branch, Ward Branch, Kathryn Clinton, Gillian Cole, Barbara English, Kathryn Ferriss, Ruth Ferriss, Durwin Foster, Joan Fowler, Ken Fowler, James Fulton, Jen-Beth Fulton, Alan Furniss, Pandora Furniss, Tim Furniss, Marianne Hansen, Allan Johnston, Gladys Johnston, Joyce Jones, Stan Joughin, Mardi Joughin, Gwen Kendrick, Wade Lifton, Steve Macdonald, Bill Mathieson, June Meyrick, Pat Morrice, Margie Nelson, Kay Newcombe, Sheila Norris, Julie Peters, Frank Petersen, Marlene Pleiza, Doug Querns, Katherine McKay Querns, Dorothy Redlinger, Archie Reid, Bette Shippam, Dilys Sostad, Mary Sparks, Laura Staude, Ray Stewart, Bev Taggart, Helen Talbot, Nancy Talbot, Wendy Taylor, Doreen Thomson, Ron Wilkinson, Dorothea Yates, Gert Zandberg, Sylvia Zandberg.

Chair *Judy Ashbourne* noted that there was a quorum present, called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. and opened the meeting with a prayer.

M/S (Bette Shippam/Steve Macdonald) that the agenda be approved as presented. **Carried.**

M/S (Gillian Cole/ Stan Joughin) that the Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of March 8, 2010 be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

M/S (Ward Branch/Mary Sparks) that the 2008 Annual Report be received save for the 2008 budget therein. **Carried.**

Chair *Ashbourne* noted the following Council Goals for the year to come:

- to clearly articulate our Core Values,
- to review our model of Governance for effectiveness (after working with it for five years),
- to begin visioning for the period after the end of the "Something's Happening Here" campaign.

M/S (Tim Furniss/James Fulton) that the following candidates be elected to serve as the Mount Seymour United Church Council for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2010.

Chair - *Judy Ashbourne,*

Administration ("A") Team Leader - *Steve Macdonald*

Congregational Life Team Leader - *Ward Branch*

Mission and Outreach Team Leaders - *Dilys Sostad, Joyce Jones.*

Worship and Christian Development Team Leader - *Catherine Branch (interim)*

Ministry and Personnel Committee Chair - *Brian Ralph*

Presbytery Representative - *Jen-Beth Fulton.*

Member-at-Large - *Kelly Vogt*

Recording Secretary - *Alan Furniss (appointed).*

Motion Carried.

M/S (Ken Fowler/Steve Macdonald) that the Financial Statements for 2009, excluding the budget for 2010 be received. **Carried.**

M/S (Ron Wilkinson/Frank Petersen) That the Council of Mount Seymour United Church, on behalf of the Congregation, request Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery to approve our application to the General Council of the United Church of Canada, for consideration under the proposed new restructuring options for “Ventures in Mission” loans.

The application would be to request consideration under Option 2 Restructuring Option A - Moratorium and resume tithe, for a five year moratorium on payment of our VIM loan. The Terms and Conditions of this option have been outlined to the Congregation.

Amendment M/S (June Meyrick/Dilys Sostad) that any operating surpluses over the five years be used to pay off the VIM Loan. **Amendment defeated. Main Motion Carried**

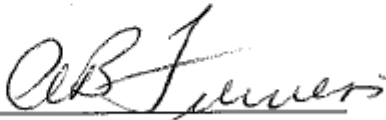
M/S (Ken Fowler/Stan Joughin) that the budget for 2010 be accepted as presented. **Carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Judy Ashbourne,
Chair



Alan Furniss,
Recording Secretary



Appendix I

Mount Seymour United Church

Statement of Financial Position at December 31, 2010

	2009	2010
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash	8,478	11,696
Growth Savings	184,993	150,761
GST refund receivable	2,709	3,951
	<u>196,180</u>	<u>166,408</u>
Property, plant and equipment		
Land	425,151	425,151
Building	1,120,765	1,120,765
Furniture and Equipment	97,605	97,605
	<u>1,643,521</u>	<u>1,643,521</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>1,839,701</u></u>	<u><u>1,809,929</u></u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable - trade		
Mission and Service	2,654	4,281
Misc. Funds		-30
First United Church	396	8,773
Other Outreach	365	0
Employee benefits		
	<u>3,415</u>	<u>13,024</u>
Non Current Liabilities		
VIM Loan	318,348	305,045
Memorial Fund	21,806	21,344
	<u>340,154</u>	<u>326,389</u>
Equity and Funds		
Memorial Fund		
Growth Fund	215,959	150,761
Contingency fund		
	<u>215,959</u>	<u>150,761</u>
Equity		
Opening Balance	1,278,279	1,280,173
Income from Contingency Fund		
Net Income for the year	1,894	39,582
	<u>1,280,173</u>	<u>1,319,755</u>
	<u>1,496,132</u>	<u>1,470,516</u>
	<u><u>\$1,839,701</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,809,929</u></u>

Mount Seymour United Church Income Statement for Period Ended Dec 31, 2010 and 2011 Budget

	Actual Dec 31/09	Budget 2010 Final	Actual YTD Dec 31/10	Budget Dec 31 / 11
REVENUE				
Offering Envelopes	\$ 114,952	\$ 138,000	121,255	129,750
New Annual Offerings				41,000
Open Offering	7,751	8,500	6,334	7,800
Special Gifts	1,600	500	600	500
Children's Community	40	50		
Childrens Outreach	692			
Mission and Service	19,355	22,000	19,528	
Other Outreach	5,191	4,000	1,548	
Total Givings	149,581	173,050	149,264	179,050
OTHER REVENUE				
Preschool	12,610	12,600	12,855	12,900
Funerals	680	750	1,315	1,000
Heavenly Palate	616	700	705	700
Weddings	500	500	0	
Room Use	20,773	22,000	20,418	22,000
Thrift Shop	60,895	58,000	71,787	72,000
Interest	2,680	3,000	3,031	3,050
Fund Raising	5,802	6,000	2,284	9,000
Misc		50	0	
Total Other	104,555	103,600	112,395	120,650
Memorial Allocation				
Growth Fund Allocation				
Campaign Support Fund				
Ministry Programs	52,600	52,600	52,600	
Communication	22,620	15,324	3,627	
Building Fund	1,002	39,710	18,872	15,000
Sabatical Fund		12,500	12,500	
Seeking Justice			8,853	15,000
Total Growth Fund Allocation	76,222	120,134	96,452	30,000
Total Gross Revenue	330,359	396,784	358,111	329,700
DEDUCTIONS				
Mission & Service	-19,355	-22,000	-19,528	
Thrift Shop Outreach	-12,179	-11,600	-14,357	
Other Outreach	-5,191	-4,000	-1,548	
Childrens Outreach	-692			
Seeking Justice				
Total Deductions	-37,417	-37,600	-35,433	0
NET REVENUE	292,941	359,184	322,678	329,700

EXPENSES	Actual Dec 31/09	Budget 2010	Actual Dec 31/10	Budget Dec 31/11
A TEAM				
A Copier	4,807	4,000	5,149	5,000
A Office Supplies	1,349	1,300	1,047	1,300
A Bulletins	478	400	187	250
A Envelopes	214	225	186	200
A Postage	381	400	342	400
A Phone Minister	420	1,380	1,060	1,400
A Bank Charges	595	500	811	650
A Computer /Misc	564	500	1,456	750
Total Administration	8,807	8,705	10,238	9,950
Property				
P Bld Maint	1,624	1,600	2,835	3,600
P Equ Maint	1,967	2,000	184	
P Grounds/ Handyperson	673	1,000	1,110	1,100
P Sound Maint	761	500	1,566	1,100
P Bld Heat Maint	2,667	2,000	2,010	2,000
P Security	307	310	497	350
P Janitorial	8,618	10,000	11,377	12,000
P P Garbage	1,004	1,000	1,795	1,800
P Water & Sewer	1,296	1,500	1,794	2,000
P Gas & Electric	8,844	8,500	7,174	8,000
P Snow	602	600	311	600
P Telephone Office	2,803	3,000	3,053	3,000
P Insurance	6,720	6,800	7,066	7,000
P Kitchen Supplies		500	574	500
Thrift Shop Expense	156	400	946	500
Campaign Expenditures - Bldg	1,002	39,710	20,349	15,000
Total Property	39,044	79,420	62,641	58,550
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION TEAM	47,851	88,125	72,879	68,500
WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT				
Pulpit Relief	1,200	1,500	1,300	1,600
Childrens Community	1,688	2,000	1,282	2,000
Youth	188	750	416	750
Library / Misc	301	400	126	400
Worship Enhancement	1,425	400	779	
CD Adult	-94	200	111	200
Bible Study	-84		-151	
Congregational Meetings	341	500	8	250
Music Supplies	329	750	750	750
Music Youth	700		0	
Music Director Relief	750	600	600	600
Music Piano/Organ Tune	150	300	53	300
Worship Misc Supplies	234	400	371	400
Parenting Program				1,000
Volunteer Training	300	400	0	200
Sound Production		1,000	474	500
TOTAL WORSHIP & C. D.	7,428	9,200	6,118	8,950

	Actual Dec 31/09	Budget 2010	Actual Dec 31/10	Budget Dec 31/11
COUNCIL				
Presbytery	6,538	7,508	7,508	8,583
Other Expense	26	50	0	50
Campaign Expenses	8,514	1,000	0	2,000
TOTAL COUNCIL	<u>15,078</u>	<u>8,558</u>	<u>7,508</u>	<u>10,633</u>
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE				
Advertising	310	300	840	3,000
Fellowship - Lunches	349	1,500	1,478	1,500
Observer Magazine	43	40	112	40
Sundays - coffee	452	450	592	600
Misc.		100	0	100
Pastoral Care	138	300	97	150
Campaign - Communicati	17,620	15,000	3,628	
TOTAL CONGREGATIONAL LIFE	<u>18,912</u>	<u>17,690</u>	<u>6,747</u>	<u>5,390</u>
CONGREGATIONAL MISSION TEAM				
Mission and Outreach	601	900	793	2,495
First United - Thrift Shop Donation				14,400
Community Garden				5,000
Refugee Family Sponsorship				2,500
Help Fund	347	250	0	250
Other	51	50	8,853	15,000
TOTAL MISSION	<u>999</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>9,646</u>	<u>39,645</u>
MINISTRY & PERSONNEL				
Wages	131,356	148,826	149,675	129,411
Campaign - Wages				
Housing Allowance	39,000	39,000	42,500	39,000
Ministers Travel	1,850	1,850	1,260	1,500
Sabbatical Fund			1,960	
Staff Dev Cont Ed	1,757	4,087	3,675	2,887
Vacation	491	500	743	750
CPP	4,143	4,500	3,894	4,000
EI	2,634	2,700	2,897	2,700
Employee Benefits	16,140	17,500	17,103	15,000
MSP	648	648	648	650
Work Comp	389	390	348	350
Hosting	372		218	225
North Shore Youth Leader	2,000	2,000	1,000	
Other Payroll		500	94	100
TOTAL MINISTRY & PERSONNEL	<u>200,779</u>	<u>222,501</u>	<u>226,015</u>	<u>196,573</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>291,048</u>	<u>347,274</u>	<u>328,915</u>	<u>329,691</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS/DEFICIT	1,894	11,910	-6,236	9
VIM Loan Payments	(27,625)	(34,188)	(15,307)	0
CASH SURPLUS / DEFICIT	<u>\$ (25,731)</u>	<u>\$ (22,278)</u>	<u>-\$21,543</u>	<u>\$9</u>

Outreach Contributions for 2010	
M & S	\$20,000
Thrift Shop	14,400
Other	1,600
Total	<u>36,000</u>

Appendix II

Something's Happening Here...

2010 Campaign Summary



Campaign Goal		\$ 523,000	
Total Pledges Received		\$ 502,847	
Donations Received			
	2008		\$290,455
	2009		121,307
	2010		<u>77,527</u>
			\$489,289
Allocation of Funds			
	2008		\$119,581
	2009		76,222
	2010		<u>96,452</u>
			\$292,255
Less VIM Loan Payments			
	2009	30,966	
	2010	<u>15,307</u>	
			<u>46,273</u>
Balance in Fund Dec. 31, 2010			\$150,761
Less Committed Funds (not paid yet)			
	Building Fund	120,761	
	Bus Program	<u>30,000</u>	\$150,761
Balance			<u>0</u>