



# Mount Seymour United Church

1200 Parkgate Ave. North Vancouver, B.C.  
[www.mtseymourunited.com](http://www.mtseymourunited.com)



## 2012 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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## 2012 Annual Report

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# Report from our Minister



**And some seed fell on good soil and grew. Luke 8:8**

2012 began with an amazing gathering of over 60 people facilitated by Chris Corrigan around a conversation about “What More Could Mount Seymour United Be?” The energy in the room that day was electric as people gathered in groups to share thoughts and ideas about current and future directions for our church. Those conversations gave birth to a number of projects, the most significant being the commitment to finding a permanent space for our Thrift Shop. Other initiatives included the creation of a center for spiritual growth; making the library more accessible for children; the launching of a book club; the creation of a youth group for the community; cleaning up the kitchen; and broadening our support for outreach projects.

Over the course of the year we had two more opportunities for learning and conversation facilitated by Chris who we contracted using funds from a Vancouver Burrard Presbytery ProVision grant. Under his leadership we have been learning the practice of being present to ourselves and one another, hosting and contributing to conversations and co-creating our future by sharing our learning and experience. This has enabled us to engage in productive conversations from time to time around diverse issues such as balancing needs for space with our renters and sustaining our children and youth programs.

Overall the nurturing of participatory leadership encouraged by Chris is leading to exciting growth. In January we launched a successful Life Group program led by Mike Hetherington, Dave Ney, Wendy Alexander and Anne Ellis. Life Groups gather once a month to share thoughts about faith related questions. The purpose of the groups is to increase intimacy and belonging in the congregation and deepen faith. In the fall, Marc Colombe also joined the leadership team after the group was trained in facilitation skills by Allison Rennie formerly of Naramata Centre.

Other lay led groups and projects started this year include Soul Collaging with Carol Pettigrew and the building of the Labyrinth in our parking lot with our friends from St. Clare.

There is no doubt, however, that the greatest participatory project we undertook this year was the review of our Thrift Shop and the creation of a Thrift Shop Ministry plan. Fueled by the overwhelming success of this outreach ministry, we have been thrust into a time of creative dreaming and scheming about how to more efficiently use our space and open our doors more widely to our community. Many thanks are due to Meg Clarke from our Council and Steve MacDonald, James Fulton and the A-Team for their dedicated work on this project along with Gladys Johnson and the Thrift Shop volunteers. We look forward to adopting and implementing this plan in the new year.

From clean up days to gospel choir Sundays, sandwich making to leading children’s community, there is a vibrancy and pulse of life in our community that keeps producing good growth in our midst. In addition to all of this “in house” growth, we are at the same time quietly nurturing our friendship with Cove Church and the former St. Clare congregation and wondering what else might spring up in our

midst if we continue to do so. If our joint Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and Outdoor services were any indication, the best is yet to come.

Of course, none of what we do would be possible without the selfless giving of an incredible amount of time and talent by our committed volunteers. Quite simply, without the people the church would perish. I am particularly grateful to Kelly Vogt and the group of thoughtful and skilled folks that sit at our council table along with the teams they represent. Steve MacDonald and Dilys Sostad will be leaving council this year. We will miss their leadership and knowledge for which I am most grateful. And finally, my heartfelt thanks and praise to our staff team Kathryn, Bethel, Dominique and Anne for their extraordinary gifts and for the privilege of working and serving together.

As we look to a new year I can't help but wonder what new life will emerge next. I have come to expect it at Mount Seymour. The soil in which we are rooted is incredibly fertile and there is good reason to rejoice.

Rev. Nancy Talbot

## Report from our Council Chair



Kelly Vogt at the 2012 Spring Clean-up

It is a testament to our spiritual and ministry staff, volunteers, as well as the greater congregation, that Mount Seymour United Church is thriving. This year we have seen new leaders emerge from within our congregation to continue our existing ministries as well as begin new ones.

One of the challenges of a growing church is the demand for physical space. The thrift shop ministry has grown significantly these past few years which has led to a critical need for additional room. It was through a number of consultations between members of the thrift shop, the congregation and the A-Team that a temporary solution was found and completed during the summer. As we move forward a permanent solution will be investigated.

A well deserving thank-you to all of our dedicated and hardworking staff, teams and many volunteers that served throughout the year to make MSUC what it is.

I would also like to thank retiring members of Council, Dilys Sostad, the Congregation Mission and Outreach Team Leader, and Steve Macdonald, Administration Team Leader, for both their work with their respective teams and for their leadership and involvement on council during the past four years. Finally, thank-you to everyone who has given to the ongoing operations of the church as without your financial support we could not continue.

Respectfully,  
Kelly Vogt

# Administration Team Report



Steve Macdonald in power wash gear at the Clean-up

The “Wall” and many more improvements are harbingers of larger developments in the future.....

From the A-Team perspective this should be called the year of the wall. Guided by Chris Corrigan, parishioners talked and listened and miraculously a long-term development plan emerged. But it started with the wall - a *temporary* wall that created the storage space for much of the material that fills the Thrift Shop on Thursdays. The wall along with efficient wheeled storage and improvements to the sorting room has provided significant improvement to the Thrift Shop operations.

But we are not through. The improvements are a first step towards repurposing space in the church as the church itself seeks a new purpose in the community. The A-Team has initiated discussions with Wendy Alexander, an architect and a member of MSUC. Wendy is well known for her creativity being responsible for many of the adornments to the sanctuary we see each Sunday. She has agreed to assist the A-Team with the development of architectural proposals to address the future needs and directions voiced by the congregation. These proposals will also guide plans for formal dialogue through a continuation of our “New Life Conversations”. All members of the church and members of the Mount Seymour community are encouraged to participate in the coming year.

The A-Team has been occupied with many more mundane activities in the past year. Once again higher than expected water bills have us seeking leaky taps, toilets and dishwashers. We replaced the photocopier and upgraded the wiring to it. We are also considering proposals to create outdoor “dry” storage for the many items dropped off as donations to the Thrift Shop. These gifts may be considered an embarrassment of riches but may require the construction of an awning or shed to avoid much of it being rendered unusable as a result of our inclement weather.

Personally, the highlight to my year was once again the strong turnout to the spring work party. Two days filled with a plethora of tasks from the garden to the roof as the members of the MSUC community proved once again how dedicated and resourceful they are. Thanks to all for your enthusiasm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Macdonald, Administration Team Leader



Michelle Coulombes washes the windows at our Spring Clean-up on May 5, 2012

# Congregational Life Team Report

## 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 *Sermons*. We have about **250 people who receive our weekly email**. This has become a key form of communication with the congregation and has eliminated the need to hand out written announcements.



Margie Nelson  
Welcome Team Leader

### Welcome Team

Since 2008, our Welcome Team has grown to 30 volunteers under the leadership of Margie Nelson. We continue to receive great feedback from newcomers about what a welcoming place this is. Margie is always looking for Welcomers for Sunday Morning. Whether you are old or new to the church, welcoming is a great way to meet people and widen your circle of friends. Contact Margie at [margie\\_1963@yahoo.com](mailto:margie_1963@yahoo.com) if you interested in volunteering. Thanks to Margie and her team for doing such a great job of making us feel welcome!

### Saturday Morning Breakfast Groups

The Men's and Women's Breakfast Groups, a tradition at Mount Seymour, continue to meet on alternate Saturday mornings for good food and fellowship. It is always a unique and fun way of starting the weekend. Contact Alan Furniss ([aandkfurniss@gmail.com](mailto:aandkfurniss@gmail.com)) and Gillian Cole ([doggerel@shaw.ca](mailto:doggerel@shaw.ca)) if you are interested in joining a group.

### Library and Reading Group

We are blessed in this community to have a large number of book lovers. Folks give from their abundance and many pre-read books find their way to our library. Thank you. We hope to catalogue our books on a computer soon. Until then, when you sign books out please note the author as well as title and leave your e-mail so we may remind you if the book is out for a long time. If we remind you in error, just tell us it was returned. Be sure to check out the new children's books that were purchased in December.

A reading group was formed in the Fall of 2012 and continues to meet monthly to the group's great enjoyment. The Atrium, across the street from the church, kindly lets the group use their fireplace lounge so that they can meet in a pleasant atmosphere, enjoying the fellowship. Contact the Sylvia ([smandryk@shaw.ca](mailto:smandryk@shaw.ca)) if you would like to be on the waitlist to join the reading group. (Submitted by Sylvia Zandberg, MSUC Librarian)

## 2012 Fundraisers and Events

### Deep Cove Coffee Houses

When St. Clare-in-the-Cove Anglican Church closed last year, this well established Coffee House in the Cove needed a new venue. Fortunately, they decided to move in with us. The Coffee House monthly concerts are



**Deep Cove Coffee House**  
September 21, 2012, 7:30PM  
Admission: \$10 (includes fantastic coffee & home-baked goodies)

**TriVo**  
Kerla Mandy / Dawn Tait /  
Dawn Reardon  
A dynamic and versatile vocal trio that brings to life music from many cultures and traditions around the globe. From the music of West Africa to Southern Bluesgrass, Back to Back, Cuban chants to Gospel songs, the vocal artistry of TriVo steals and delights audiences of all ages. ([trivomusic.com](http://trivomusic.com))

Doors open: 7:00pm  
Open Stage: 7:30pm  
Feature: 9:00pm  
Refreshment Break: 8:30

**Mount Seymour United Church**  
1200 Parkgate  
E-mail: [jane@msuc.ca](mailto:jane@msuc.ca)  
Phone: (604) 363-5370

generally held on the third Friday of the month ([check our website for future dates](#)). For admission of \$10, you can enjoy a great concert by well known local musicians, home baking and the best coffee in the Cove.

This is a fundraiser for our church and we are always looking for volunteers to help during the concert and to bring home baking. Last year, the Coffee House raised over \$3,500 for the church. Thanks to Jane Osborne, Pat Newton, Kathy Francis, Linda Bates and volunteers from the church and wider community that help to make the Coffee Houses such a success.

### **Gatherings with Chris Corrigan - Jan. 28, May 26 and Nov. 24**

Up to 60 people from the congregation gathered on three Saturdays during 2012 to ask the question: What can Mount Seymour also be? Many dreams and ideas about our future were birthed at these gatherings. Some of them have already come to fruition!

### **Church Picnic- June 10**

The BBQ chicken was great as usual and the potluck salad and desserts were wonderful. Thanks to Alan Furniss for ordering the chicken, Brenda Fawkes for organizing the games and everyone who brought salads and desserts and helped out.

### **Summer Solstice Celebration - June 20**

St. Clare and Mount Seymour communities held a drumming and chanting event led by Dean Rath and Natalie Philip outside Parkgate Community Centre. Over 30 people of all ages gathered to drum and celebrate the longest day of the year.

### **Parkgate Family Day - September 8**

Thanks to the Frank Luba, Jen-Beth Fulton, Kathryn Clinton and Marlene Plezia who handed out freebies and flyers at our table. It was a great opportunity to connect with the community.

### **Labyrinth Opening Celebration - October 21**

We now have a labyrinth in the east end of our parking lot. Thanks to Jane Osborne, Lisa Reinders, Pat Newton, Colleen Last and the rest of the Labyrinth Creation Team as well as the grant from the Neighbourhood Small Grant Program for helping to create this sacred space for the community. You can find out more about our [labyrinth on our website](#).



### **Turkey Lunch and Bake Sale – December 8**

Thanks to everyone who cooked turkeys, baked goodies and helped with the Turkey Lunch, Bake Sale and Thrift Shop on Dec. 8. We raised over \$400 at the Bake Sale and \$1,000 at the lunch. A special thanks to Peter Muirhead, who took over the big job of organizing the lunch from Alan Furniss.

### **Winter Solstice Celebration - Dec. 21**

MSUC and St. Clare Communities welcomed the promise of new life and light together with a lantern-lit procession along the paths of MSUC through to Parkgate Mall and back. They enjoyed the candle lit labyrinth, quiet music and reflection in the sanctuary followed by hot drinks and goodies.

### **Heavenly Palate**

Thanks to the volunteers who worked hard catering for memorials and other events this past year. They raised \$ 1,424.

Blessings, Kathryn Clinton (Congregational Life Leader)



# Congregational Mission and Outreach Team Report



Mission and Outreach Team: Lisa Reinders, Joyce Jones, Alan Furniss, Barb Ralph, Katherine McKay and Bryan Ralph

The Congregational M&O Team provides "support, leadership and accountability in areas of outreach and mission of the Congregation to local and wider communities."\* To this end our programs are many.

**The Seymour Access Bus program** was developed in 2010. It is a joint effort with Parkgate Community Center to provide door-to-door transportation for frail and/or isolated seniors east of the Seymour River. This free service to Lynn Valley Mall is an enormous success with weekly trips that are now at capacity.

Outreach to First United Church continues to be the focus of several programs. Joyce Jones coordinates **the biweekly production of 12 loaves of sandwiches that are sent to First United Church** and once a month, Ellen Muirhead gathers 6 loaves of sandwiches from volunteers and cookies and coffee for a **Saturday movie night at First United.**

**Christmas in June** and **October's World Food Day** are also opportunities for the congregation to donate food and money which is then sent to 1<sup>st</sup> United. Thank-you Barb Ralph for organizing these events and making us wear those hats at least once a year.

Annually in August MSUC, in cooperation with First United, hosts a **picnic and activities in Deep Cove** for downtown eastside residents. The residents, volunteers and staff look forward to this event and the participation was well over 120 this past summer.



In the month of December, **The Giving Tree** is set up in the sanctuary. It is the focus for collection of much needed clothing and toiletry items for First United and The North Shore Lookout Shelter.

Also this past December, a new social justice initiative in cooperation with Cove Church, brought the beautiful work of **JustPotters** to our church. The funds raised help their non-profit social enterprise to train and employ local individuals that face social, mental or physical barriers to employment.

In "support to and oversight of the Thrift Shop"\* we have a **weekly Thrift Shop Tea Service Thursdays** from 1:30-5:30 pm that has been well received and attended. Thanks to Barbara Ralph for bringing this idea to fruition in 2011.

The congregation once again hosted a **Maundy Thursday Dinner** on April 5 for Thrift Shop customers and others in the community. About 120 gathered for a meal together that was coordinated by Dilys Sostad.

In addition to the previously mentioned programs that we support, we are endeavoring to develop a process or plan for the discernment of future proposed M&O activities and social justice initiatives. We also aim to raise the awareness of our congregation about the [United Church Mission & Service Fund](#). Our congregation gave \$18,905 to the fund in 2012. Currently the quarterly **Mandate magazine** and the new annual [Gifts with Vision](#) giving catalogue are made available for the congregation to peruse.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our newest members; Alan Furniss and Lisa Reinders. I am excited about the possibilities that 2013 will bring and I want to thank Ellen Muirhead, Joyce Jones, Barbara and Brian Ralph and Co-Chair Dilys Sostad for their dedication to the Mission and Outreach Team.

Lastly, heartfelt gratitude and thanks to all those volunteers who ensure the success of the M&O programs.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katherine McKay Co-Chair

\*as written in the **Mount Seymour United Church Constitution**

## Thrift Shop Ministry Plan



*Meg Clarke was appointed in 2012 by our church Council to review our Thrift Shop ministry and suggest ideas for future development. Thanks to Meg for the many hours she put into research and her ministry plan. Here is a brief summary of her findings:*

The Mt Seymour United Church Thrift Shop is the most successful of our community outreach ministries. It engages more than 80 dedicated volunteers, it serves our neighborhood, it encourages reuse/recycle, and it raises substantial revenue to support both our Church and First United.

The **Mission Statement** is:

“We create growing community outreach through extraordinary people who share their time and knowledge to support our neighbors. The Thrift Shop is a place to nurture the spirit, all are welcome.”

We have 3 options for the Thrift Shop Ministry: continue as it is; shrink; grow.

With the pressure on space, and the increasing age of the volunteers, the status quo is not sustainable. Shrinking would mean also reducing the budget of the Church, thus curtailing other ministries. After much consultation and research into other, similar businesses – plus a study of the projected demographic trends in the area – a plan for growth has been developed. The key recommendations will be discussed at the 2012 Annual General Meeting.

# The Thrift Shop Report

In August a **new storage area** was created which enabled us to completely rearrange the Thrift Shop. This has been a benefit to both customers and volunteers. We were able to purchase **new racks and display units** making it easier for customers to shop and with everything on wheels, the time for set-up and closing has been reduced by approximately two hours. Thanks to Ken Fowler, Stan Joughin and James Fulton for making this possible. As all the racks and display units came in boxes, we were fortunate to have help from Archie Reid, Bob Waldie, Allan Johnston and Ron Morrice --- Thanks !

Also with the creation of the new storage area, more space was made available in our Sorting and Pricing Room. Now a **beautiful window has been installed** in this room -- what a difference it has made not only with the lighting but also with the air quality. Thanks to James Fulton for managing this very time consuming project .

Our **Maundy Thursday dinner** for the community, under the leadership of Dilys Sostad, was again a success with approximately 120 people in attendance.

Our very successful **Art and Jewelry Sale** was held on Oct 12 &13. Thanks goes to Anne DeVent, Joan Fowler and Bernice Holowaty for all their hard work.

## 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, Craig's List and Filmgo. 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 .

Jim Crook along with Bob Waldie check out our musical instruments which means we are able to assure our customers that they are in working order.

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

Bruce Stout now takes care of transporting metal and discarded electronics to the recycling depots.

Gert and Sylvia Zandberg have been marvellous in filling in with transporting to First United and Recycling Depots when needed, for overflow.

Rick Smith replaces batteries in old watches.

Barbara and Bryan Ralph throughout the year have delivered numerous loads of clothing and household articles, not suitable for the Thrift Shop, to new immigrants in Surrey. Mardi Joughin has also delivered a couple of truck loads to the same area.

Every week we have Rhian and her worker from the Howe Sound Rehabilitation Services who help sort clothes. Daniel and his worker come once a week to sort books. David from the Triumph Placement Agency is still with us, helping with the heavy lifting for set up on Thursdays.

Our **Christmas Tea** for our customers, on the last Thursday before Christmas, was once again very much appreciated by all the tired shoppers. Because we have a Tea Room in the Sherwood Room, customers were able to sit and visit while having tea. Thanks to Barbara Ralph for co-ordinating this. Thanks also to Ellen Muirhead, Katherine McKay, Joyce Jones and Dilys Sostad for providing the numerous pots of tea and coffee and goodies.

A special thanks is extended to the over eighty dedicated volunteers, who with all their little specialty jobs, keep the Thrift Shop running. Earla Blackwell, who has been making tea for the Thursday volunteers for a number of years, has retired. We will miss her quiet dedication. If anyone could do this job, it would be greatly appreciated.

### Financial Report

Total Revenue	\$ 100,953 .24
Expenses	\$ <u>827.78</u>
Net	\$ 100,125.46

First United Donation (20%) \$ 20,025.09

Respectfully submitted,  
Gladys Johnston  
Thrift Shop Co-ordinator



Carol Kelly, Meg Clarke, Rev. Nancy Talbot, Gladys Johnston, Barbara Waldie and Margie Nelson review the Thrift Shop Ministry Plan.

## MSUC Sponsorship of the Al-Azaizeh Family



*Al-Azaizeh Family (Enam, Senaa, Qods, Ali and Omar)*

Two years ago, Mount Seymour participated along with five other North Shore United Churches and three Anglican Parishes in sponsoring a family to come to Canada from Syria. Senaa and Enam Al-Azaizeh and their three children, Qods (Kudis) a ten year old daughter and two sons, Ali, 9 yrs. and Omar, 2 yrs. are Arabic speakers, who spent the last five years in a Refugee Camp look forward to putting this traumatic experience behind them and becoming fully integrated Canadian Citizens, something that has been denied them since birth in Iraq. Enam is expecting a baby in June.

Although our legal sponsorship ended in April 2012, a few members of our sponsorship team have continued visiting “our family” regularly and encouraging their English Language learning and Senaa's search for work. Also, being a support to Enam through her pregnancy. .

Senaa owned his own Taxi service in Iraq and has passed his Canadian Driver’s License test. He continues to work on his English to help him in his pursuit for work. Enam participates in English language classes twice a week, as well as Prenatal Classes once a week. Omar is in daycare at these facilities while she participates. Qods and Ali are racing ahead in their English Language acquisition,. They love their school and are participating in sporting activities and afterschool programs as often as possible.

We are finding our friendship with this family truly meaningful. Our gratitude goes out to MSUC folks in their generosity at Christmas.

Peace,  
James and Jen-Beth

### *Like Roots*

*Our hands imbibe like roots,  
so I place them on what is beautiful in this world.  
I fold them in prayer, and they  
draw from the heavens light.*

*~St Francis of Assisi*

## Worship and Christian Development Team



The Worship Team has had a busy 2012 and we think that the worship and programs have shown the growth and excitement going on at Mount Seymour!

### **Sunday Morning Worship**

Sunday morning worship has been thoughtful, engaging and nourishing for the soul.

From January until Lent, Nancy led a sermon series entitled “Practices that Sustain Us and the Earth”. For Lent, we followed the theme – “A Way In the Wilderness” – with people sharing their faith or their call to ministry and how it felt like the wilderness until they found their way. We also had people sharing with us their Lenten practices. In the Fall, Nancy and Bethel shared the sermon series, “Practicing What You Preach” looking into our various church and spiritual practices and how to live them out more fully. Finally, our Advent theme was “Bearing New Life Together”.

We were blessed to have a high quality of guest preachers which included Nicolas Alexandre, Marianna Harris, Wade Lifton, Pieta Woolley (children’s time) and our own Bethel Lee.

Through all of this, we need to thank Wendy Alexander and Carol Pettigrew for the amazing banners and art work and everyone else who makes the sanctuary the meaningful place that it is for us on Sunday mornings.

Mount Seymour United has become a wonderful place for faith to grow and discernment to take place. We had Nicolas Alexandre in the spring as a student minister. Our former student minister, Leenane Sheils was ordained this past spring. Our former Children’s Minister, Wade Lifton, has set out on the path toward ministry. And in April, Bethel was called to Ministry and moved from being the Children and Family Minister to being an Associate Minister. We are so pleased to be a part of Bethel’s journey!

All in all, an amazing year in worship!

### **Adult Faith Formation**

As we entered the New Year, we began a new form of adult faith formation in the form of “Life Groups”. We met in smaller groups in people’s homes to discuss our journeys of faith in this new and more intimate format. This allowed those involved to speak openly in a safe space and to make meaningful connections with others in the congregation that they may not have crossed paths with otherwise.

The first session of Life Groups was such a great success that we undertook a new session again this fall and winter.

There have been other activities that have been led by a growing lay leadership in our midst. Of particular note is the Soul Collaging Workshops with Carol Pettigrew. This was a creative way of exploring your spirituality that was very successful and meaningful to many.

Finally, Allison Rennie came and did leadership training this Fall. For those who attended, it was extremely useful and for the rest of us in the congregation, we will all benefit as our lay leadership continues to mature and expand.

## **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 takes. We have Dominique Hogan as our Music Minister who provides our Sunday morning music leadership with her talent and her smile. She and our Joyful Noise adult choir take care of our music ministry most Sundays.

Our Community Gospel Choir continues under the amazing direction of Marcus Mosely. We have had some truly inspiring and moving worship with his leadership and look forward to hearing the choir and having his leadership once a month.

The Children's Choir, under the direction of Mary Sparks, put on an amazing musical production this spring, with the assistance of Jill McEachern. In September, Mary was joined by Lena Dabrusin to help with the growing group. The children provide us with continuing joy and hope.

We also have been fortunate and would like to thank our guest pianists: Caitlin Hayes, Julian Pattison, Lonnie Delisle.

## **Children's Community**

Our Children's Community continues to grow with many new faces.

We started the year under the leadership of Bethel Lee. In April, Bethel changed hats to Associate Minister but we were fortunate enough to have Brenda Fawkes take on the Children's Ministry temporarily from April until September. In September, the position was taken on by our current Children's Champion, Anne Ellis and we are so pleased to have her energy and humour!!

For the first part of the year, we used the Godly Play curriculum with one preschool classroom (ages 3 – 6), and two older classrooms (ages 7 – 10; 11 – 14).

In September, the curriculum changed from Godly Play to Holy Moly. The children get to view a short video which has drawn characters acting out the bible story that they are studying. The video is done with some humour. The kids then break into age appropriate groupings to discuss the video and have response time when they can do art work, play or other creative time that allows them to express themselves with respect to the ideas they have learned from the video.

Thank you to the many volunteers who have helped in the Children's Community this year, either before the Summer, during the Summer or this Fall and Winter. You are so very much appreciated!!

## **The Greater Community**

Bethel, in concert with the Cove Church and Parkgate Community Centre, co-created and hosted a series of lectures on Parenting for the community. The series was called "Your Child's Sexual World is So Much Bigger than You Think". Lectures were run in February, April and May and were well received by the community.

Bethel has also reached out to our wider community by providing Yoga Chapel, yoga for various levels that includes a religious component.

This year has shown many of the fruits of the labours of years' past and I look forward to another extremely successful year to come! Congratulations to everyone in the Mount Seymour family!

Respectfully submitted: The Worship and Christian Development Team – Nancy Talbot, Bethel Lee, Dominique Hogan, Jen Beth Fulton, Bette Shippam, Wendy Alexander, Kathryn Ferriss, Catherine Branch

## Ministry and Personnel Committee Report



The Ministry and Personnel Committee has had the opportunity to work with staff members at Mount Seymour United Church this year to learn new ways to offer support and encouragement as they continue to dedicate their efforts and talents to the work of the church.

During the fall we met with various staff members to find what resources may be needed to continue their work and to evaluate how their work for Mount Seymour has changed and evolved over the time that they have been part of the team.

Mount Seymour is served by a ministry team of Nancy Talbot and Bethel Lee.

The leadership of Nancy Talbot keeps us seeking to reflect how we can live with the spirit in our everyday lives and how we can use ourselves and our gifts to best serve the broader community through the spirit. Nancy has offered her leadership to Mount Seymour for the past eight years.

Bethel Lee, Associate Minister, offers us her insightful sermons which allow us to reflect deeper on our own spirituality. She began her Candidacy for Ordered Ministry in April 2012 with Mount Seymour and continues in this role in 2013.

Kathryn Clinton is our Church Administrator who manages the office and the myriad of responsibilities associated with the day to day operation of the church with grace. She has held the keys to Mount Seymour in more ways than one for over eight years.

The music ministry at Mount Seymour is led by Dominique Hogan. She graciously shares her passion for music and the role it can play in everyone's life. She is open and inviting to musical contributions and new voices in the choir. This has been Dominique's second year with Mount Seymour.

Fortunately, we have also been blessed with Marcus Mosely leading the Gospel Choir at Mount Seymour for the past two years. Through Marcus we have experienced music that finds new paths to our hearts.

Mary Sparks, as the Leader of the Children's Music Program, has introduced many children to the joys of music as well as the excitement of performing for others. This year she is ably assisted by Lena Dabrusin who is a graduate of Capilano University's Musical Theatre Program. We are grateful to both of them for providing this opportunity for the children to experience music.

Anne Ellis joined the staff at Mount Seymour this year as its Children's Community Coordinator. She has found numerous ways to gently create community among the children and youth and is opening new doors for many. She is pursuing ministerial studies and our hearts are full of encouragement for her.



Brenda Fawkes also joined the team at Mount Seymour on an interim basis in the spring of 2012 as the Children's Community Coordinator. Mount Seymour benefitted from a seamless transition between Bethel and Brenda as Bethel began her Candidacy and Brenda brought her wealth of ministerial experience to the Children's Community. Jessica Horton also helped Mount Seymour in the Children's Community by her calm, patient presence in the nursery this past year.

Mount Seymour United Church has an incredibly creative and talented team of staff members and we want them to know their efforts this past year are appreciated. We also thank Bryan Ralph who steered the Ministry and Personnel Committee since 2010 and maintained a steady and clear direction.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee members are Marianne Hansen, Marc Coulombe, Peter Muirhead and Laura Staude, Chair.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Staude  
Chair of Ministry and Personnel Team

## Board of Trustees



Until recently, the trustees had not met for a long time. We met twice in 2012 and once again in early February 2013. We now intend to meet at least three times a year, in February, June, and October. The current trustees are Ted Butterfield, James Fulton, Gwen Kendrick, and Mike Hetherington; Rev. Nancy Talbot is an *ex officio* member.

The trustees are the legal owners of all the church property, including the land and buildings. Their powers and responsibilities are outlined in the *Manual of The United Church of Canada* and are explained in the *Congregational Trustees Handbook*. The trustees are responsible for ensuring the church property is properly insured. They have personal liability for claims made against the church and its property. They also have responsibility for investing any accumulated assets of the congregation, including bequests. Generally, the trustees will follow the requests of Council.

Mike Hetherington,  
Chair and Secretary

## Children and Family Minister / Associate Minister

"Set your life on Fire! Seek those who fan your flames." -Rumi



While I had the pleasure of being welcomed into this congregation as its Children and Family Minister in September 2011, my journey toward ordination required that I shift to a different ministerial position. Mt. Seymour graciously responded by forming a year-long supervised Associate Minister role that I entered into on April 1, 2012.

From January until April, I continued to support the coordination of **Sunday morning programs** for our children and youth, and with the incredible leadership of volunteers, we helped guide our children through **Godly Play** stories while our youth experimented with **The Thoughtful Christian** curriculum.

I also partnered with two youth leaders from Cove Community Church, Waldi and Ruth Werwai, to offer monthly **Junior Youth Group** events: Ice Skating on Jan. 26, Game Night on Feb. 23, Bowling Mar. 29, Movie in the Sanctuary April 26, Silly Sports on May 31. We hoped that advertising the events ahead of time and including various activities would resonate with our youth. About half a dozen junior youth attended each event, but they were mostly from the Cove Church.

Only a couple of our youth could make these events consistently. The low attendance may have been due to the time these events were offered (Thursday nights) or because the age range was too broad. We invited children grades 5-8, and we understand now that the younger kids might be intimidated by the older youth. Jessica Horton continued as our dedicated **Nursery Caretaker** until June 2012 (a position which began in October 2011). But due to a lower number of nursery-aged children in our community, the position did not continue the following fall.



in

With the success of the **parenting programs** that we began to offer in 2011 in partnership with Cove Community Church and Parkgate Community Centre (both events garnered over 100 people in attendance), we decided to co-host a 3-part series together called **"Your Child's Sexual World is Bigger Than You Think."** The three events were as follows: "Parenting in a Cyber-Age" (Safe Online Outreach Society) on Feb. 24, "How to Talk to Your Kids About Sexuality" (Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educator Group) on April 13, and "Love, Sex and Good Relationships" (Parent Counsellor and Educator Jan Bryant) on May 25. Unfortunately, our first event in this series had to be cancelled due to low registration and only 20-30 people attended the following two events. After reflecting on this, the coordinators wondered if the low attendance was because of the content of the events or because we didn't bring in

a more widely sought out speaker (such as our Gordon Neufeld speakers who led our first two parenting events). In the future, Mt. Seymour might shift toward offering small group parenting activities that can support folks in our midst.

As the Associate Minister, I began preaching once a month while continuing to partner with our Lead Minister Nancy to offer **Intergenerational Sunday Services** once a month as well. Our congregation seems to really value our intergenerational services for being interactive and imaginative. As a part of my internship, I have also had the privilege of attending a different church service every month, which has enabled me to encounter new ideas that we have subsequently implemented at Mt. Seymour. For instance, the Prayer Wall (modeled after Jerusalem's Wailing Wall) that stood throughout our last Lenten season, the prayer flags that flapped above our heads this past fall, and our current practice of introducing our children's unique gifts and their prayer requests to the congregation during Children's Time were all ideas gleaned from other communities. To help our congregation embody and exercise our spirituality, we offered a well-received intergeneration **Ash Wednesday Service full of Spiritual Stations**, and I also had the pleasure of leading a **4-week Lenten Yoga Series** for 30 participants in Mt. Seymour's sanctuary.



Our 7pm service on **Christmas Eve** was bustling as usual. Following the format from the previous year, we offered a service that blended together traditional scripture readings with moving drama, striking visuals, impassioned singing and deep reflection. We had so much support from our community with over 23 children, youth and adults reading and acting, not to mention all those who helped set up, welcomed people at the door, passed out candles and sang in our choirs! It was both a centering and joyfully communal time.

As I've said before, there is so much going on and so much more on the horizon. This is an exciting time in the life of Mount Seymour United Church indeed. Thanks be to God!  
-Bethel Lee

*"Your imagination is your preview of life's coming attractions." -Albert Einstein*

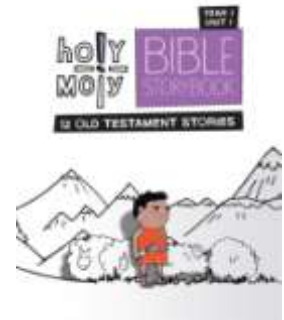
## Children and Family Ministry Coordinator



I have been in the position of Children and Family Ministry Coordinator since September of 2012. Prior to this Bethel Lee and Brenda Fawkes held the position. Their previous hard work and organization made taking over the job go very smoothly.

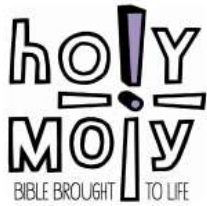
During Brenda Fawkes time in the position she researched a new curriculum for our Children's Community (CC) called Holy Moly. (<http://holymoly.wearsparkhouse.org>) She tried it out with the kids one Sunday last summer and it was a resounding success.

We implemented the new curriculum in Sept of 2012. The children watch short videos of Bible stories and then spend time in class reflecting and discussing the stories. This program has engaged the kids and they have learned 12 Old Testament stories and will be learning New Testament stories this spring. It is a continued joy to see the children excited for 'Sunday School' and eager to learn more about the roots of our faith. (They don't even realize they're learning either. Shh don't tell them.)



I am so inspired by my team of amazing leaders! There were a lot of changes in Children's Community (CC) in September. First I came on board and we all had a new curriculum to learn. It has been a time of change and learning for all of us in CC and we are so blessed with this team of committed volunteers.

We adjusted the division of classes this year as well to: Under 5, 5-7 years old, and 8-12+. The curriculum is also divided as such and provides age appropriate material and reflection. As with all new things there have been some kinks to work out, but this fearless team of leaders has met all challenges head on with smiles, thoughtfulness and compassion.



There is always room for more volunteers. The Holy Moly curriculum is very user friendly and does not need the same level of training that Godly Play required. If you are inspired to help out or just want to experience Holy Moly for yourself, please join us.

At the beginning of September we also created a Covenant with the children. The kids made the suggestions for the rules (or norms) we would follow in CC. This covenant can be seen posted in each of the Classrooms: The Deep Cove Room and The Sherwood Lounge.

Having the covenant serves as a reminder especially around growing concerns over child safety in different areas of the church. One of our Covenant lines is to 'Make safe choices', something that, during unsupervised play time after service has (on occasion) not happened. Some children have been found in areas of the church that are not safe for playing in. A parents meeting was held Feb 3, 2013 to address options for creating safe play environments and/ or the monitoring of children after service on Sundays.

During Advent we held a fundraising campaign called "How many Chicken's can we fit in a Church?" Each Sunday we attempted to discover that answer. We sold candy canes, cookies, popcorn and lemonade and we had a very successful coin drive. We raised \$770 which will help the Caran center in Mozambique Africa. The



Caran center was established to help children who are orphans and/or victims of violence. They provide safe shelter, education and an opportunity to be children in one of the poorest countries on the planet. (<http://globalministries.org/africa/projects/center-for-support-of-girls.html>) We are grateful to Pieta Wooley who joined us during Advent to share her experiences with the Children of Malawi, a country that borders Mozambique. Thank you Pieta!

Our Children were enthusiastic and highly creative during this event. It was a pleasure to work with them and the tireless volunteers who helped out during an already busy holiday season. Thank you!

We worked with Gifts with Vision for this project. <http://www.giftswithvision.ca/>. Gifts with Vision isn't just for Christmas time. Please consider it as an alternative to buying 'things' when looking for birthday gifts, anniversary gifts, etc... throughout the year.

Oh, and that's 770 chickens by the way. I hope they have a really big Coop! Also this autumn we added a new mascot to the CC ranks. Spike! He has become a loving companion to the children on Sundays and eager participant during Junior Youth events, of which we have had 3; one movie night and two afternoons of Games Galore. Games Galore is exactly what it sounds like – lots of games, running around and dressing up Spike as the baby Jesus.



Senior youth events have been sorely missed. It is an ongoing struggle to find dates/times when everyone can meet as well as activities that are fun and engaging. Suggestions, options, volunteers and inspirations warmly accepted. Please email me directly: [annemountseymour@gmail.com](mailto:annemountseymour@gmail.com).



The Children have also be busy decorating the tree in the Narthex with beads and their New Years Wishes. Take a look when you have a chance.

Spring fast approaches as we move into New Testament Stories with the Children on Sundays; mostly Parables and a few stories regarding Jesus' life. Scheduled curriculum will run until June 23<sup>rd</sup> this year with the Year End BBQ happening on that day. This change from last year which saw us end CC the second weekend in June. Last June we continued to have record numbers in CC, so we have extended it this year as a result.

Summer programming will be the same as last year, which was very successful, with parents and congregation members signing up for one Sunday during July and August to run an activity (whatever they wish) with whatever children show up! But we'll all talk about that later in the spring.

I continue to feel a huge sense of gratitude towards everyone at Mount Seymour who have been so welcoming and supportive of me and my new position here. It is a constant reminder of how blessed we all are to be a part of such a compassionate and loving community. Thank you to everyone.

~Anne Ellis

## Music Leader

*"When words leave off, music begins." -Heinrich Heine*



great evening of song.

Knowing how important music is to the Mount Seymour United Community, I am honoured to be part of and to have been chosen to be your Music Leader.

It has been a great year for me of continuing to develop bonds and relationships with the **Joyful Noise choir**, as we navigate the twists and turns of everyday life which bring us all in and out of the choir from time to time. I greatly enjoy working with Joyful Noise each week, and finding music for our small but mighty group! In September Joyful Noise participated in Voices Unite, a concert to celebrate St.

Andrew's United Church 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, where choirs from most of the United Churches on the North Shore came together to create one



Joyful Noise at St. Andrew's 100th Celebration

Our **Gospel Choir** with **Marcus Mosely** continues to

develop each month bringing out some "regulars" and a good mix of new people. Many great



comments have come out of these rehearsals

and Sundays from choir members. Having Marcus direct our group is such a blessing because he brings his rich history of the deep rooted tradition, and the intense connection he holds to his music and spirituality, which we cannot help but be enveloped in when he sings with us. A great thanks as well to Dan Morrison who volunteers his time each month to play drums

for our Gospel Choir.

As well we'd like to thank Bryan Ralph for organizing **Brass Quintet** to come play in December. This Sunday is always much anticipated and brings great holiday spirit to our Christmas worship. Thank you to the brass players: Tom Parr, Joanne Maryt, Robert Toren and Tom Koven, as well as Bryan Ralph.

The Children's choir, under the direction of **Mary Sparks**, and with the help of Jill McEachern mounted a great pageant called "Camp Willomocky" in May.



Camp Willomocky Pageant - May 2012

We were excited to welcome **Lena Dabrusin** as our Assistant Children's Choir Director in September. Lena comes to us with a wealth of experience in musical theatre and teaching children and youth at Arts Umbrella. Lena and Mary have changed the name of the choir to "**Shout It Out!**". The choir sang three songs for us in December. Some of the youth and children sang on Christmas eve, as well as with the Gospel Choir in December.

Dominique Hogan



Mary Sparks  
Children and Youth Choir Leader



Lena Dabrusin  
Assistant Leader

### *The United Church Creed*

*We are not alone, we live in God's world.*

*We believe in God:*

*who has created and is creating,*

*who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,*

*who works in us and others by the Spirit.*

*We trust in God.*

*We are called to be the Church:*

*to celebrate God's presence,*

*to live with respect in Creation,*

*to love and serve others,*

*to seek justice and resist evil,*

*to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.*

*In life, in death, in life beyond death,*

*God is with us.*

## Church Administrator



"Judge each day not by the harvest you reap  
but by the seeds you plant."

~Robert Louis Stevenson

As I put together the church's annual report for the eighth time, I reflected upon what I wanted to say. What stood out for me was what an amazing group of committed volunteers and staff we have at MSUC that keep this place not just running smoothly but thriving. They continue to inspire and energize me.

A highlight of the year for me was the welcoming of two church communities into our midst. The Cove Church has been worshipping on Sunday afternoons in our building since January 2012 and we have shared events and special services. St. Clare-in-the Cove Anglican Cove closed their doors early in 2012 and we have welcomed their community here. A small group from St. Clare brought with them our monthly Deep Cove Coffee Houses, initiated the creation of the labyrinth in our parking lot, held summer and winter solstice events and contributed in many other ways to the life of our church. We are blessed to have these communities among us!

Another highlight was our gatherings with Chris Corrigan held in January, May and November. New ideas were birthed at these meetings; a wall, expansion plans, the Centre for Spiritual Growth, a Book Club and much more! These gatherings were also a great way for newcomers to feel welcomed and connected to our church community.

MSUC continues to find ways to support the wider community. The Thrift Shop and our financial support of the Senior's Bus Program are examples of this. Another way we support the community is in our sharing of our space with groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Mount Seymour Preschool and community choirs. Hundreds of people from the wider community come through our doors weekly. A new initiative that MSUC supports is monthly concerts held here by Seycove Secondary School. These concerts help the school raise funds for their music program. (Check them out at [www.seycovemusic.ca](http://www.seycovemusic.ca) - they bring in some amazing musical talent).

This annual report is full of thanks to many people so I will try to be brief. Thanks to all the volunteers that make my job so much easier and fun. To mention a few; Admin Team led by Steve Macdonald, James Fulton for taking care of so many of the day to day building issues that arise as well as the big projects, Sue Dahlo and Fay Butterfield for taking care of the deposits and donations, our Treasurer Doug Querns, the Ministry and Personnel Team led by Laura Staude for their support and leadership, and our amazing staff team.

Let's continue to plant seeds for the future and at the same time celebrate the wonderful church community that we all contribute to.

Blessings, Kathryn Clinton



# PASSAGES 2012

## Baptism

Louisa Elin Fulton Stephenson  
Serena Claire Lede  
Mason Rory Roderick Morrison  
Madeline Marie Thompson

## Baptism date

January 15  
July 15  
October 14  
November 25

## Weddings

Laurel Smith and Matthew Cole  
Lisa Marie Wild and William Jaeggle  
James Dyer and Johnathon Daniel  
Kelly Ann Schaefer and Keith Murphy  
Margaret Nelson and Archie Reid

## Date

May 19  
June 30  
July 14  
July 21  
October 13

## We Remember

Ruth Lorreen Ferriss  
Neil Dermott McInnes  
Betty Butler

## Memorial Service

March 31  
April 9  
September 16

## Joining our Congregation

Nicolas Alexander  
Tasha Cory  
Archie Reid  
Betty Blair  
Carol Pettigrew  
Sharon Patricia Stevens  
Dian Leigh Magee  
Donna Joan Pawluck

Profession of Faith  
Profession of Faith  
Profession of Faith  
Transfer  
Transfer  
Baptism  
Profession of Faith  
Profession of Faith



## Groups Using Our Church During 2012

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  
The Cove Church  
Kumon Educational Institute  
Alcoholics Anonymous and Alanon groups  
Girl Guides (Sparks) and Scouts (Cubs)  
Blueridge International Chamber Music Kid's Camp  
Parkgate Diners Club for Seniors

### **Weekly Choirs:**

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

### **Concerts:**

Pro Nova Ensemble  
Seycove Secondary School Community Concerts (monthly)  
Argyle Secondary School  
Men's Orpheus Choir  
Universal Gospel Choir  
West Coast Symphony  
Deep Cove Coffee Houses (monthly)

Music Recitals - various music teachers and groups  
Variety Show Fundraiser for Dorothy Lynas Elementary School  
Various musical groups – recording sessions  
Quilting Workshops  
Wedding Receptions, Anniversary and Birthday Parties  
All Candidates Meeting  
Tenants Associations, Strata Councils etc.

*"For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy."*

*- St. Therese of Lisieux*

## Mount Seymour Child Development Society (Mount Seymour Preschool)

### DID YOU KNOW?

This year we have 72 children participating in our pre-school programs.

We feel very fortunate to have Parkgate Hall as our preschool environment and to be a part of the church community. We appreciated the opportunity to be involved in the discussions that took place last spring regarding the need for more space for the Thrift Shop. The building of 'the wall' did not have a significant impact on our preschool life. Thank you for including us in the decision making process.

In November, we had a new gate installed as well as new fencing put in on either side of our playground shed. The gate (seen from the church parking lot) is much lighter and opens and closes easily. It is very user friendly!

Once again, our preschool families embraced our **Christmas Gift of Giving Project** for marginalized families who live in the Downtown Eastside. Our families donated 7 turkeys, many Christmas goodies and treats, lots of non-perishable food items and several grocery store gift cards. These generous donations made Christmas a little brighter for many and helped to stock the shelves at the First United Food Bank.

We have a bursary fund that allows families to participate in our programs if the financial need arises.

We are an inclusive preschool. We work closely with families and community agencies to provide the necessary support so that each child has a meaningful and positive preschool experience.

Many of our preschool families frequent The Thrift Shop. Their treasured thrift shop acquisitions are often brought to share with their friends for Show and Tell.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,  
Ellen Muirhead and Nonie Meger  
(Co-ordinators)



# Appendix

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Mt. Seymour United Church Held at 1200 Parkgate Avenue, North Vancouver, B.C. Sunday, March 4, 2012.

The following 42 members/adherents were present;

*Tricia Arpino, Earla Blackwell, Burton Branch, Catherine Branch, Lima Branch, Fay Butterfield, Ted Butterfield, Kathryn Clinton, Gillian Cole, Michelle Coulombe, Skylark Disraeli, Brenda Dobie, Joan Fowler, Ken Fowler, James Fulton, Jen-Beth Fulton, Alan Furniss, Tim Furniss, Joyce Jones, Marianne Hansen, Mike Hetherington, Gladys Johnston, Stan Joughin, Mardi Joughin, Carol Kelly, Bethel Lee, Bill Mathieson, Sherrill McLeary, Kay Newcombe, Marlene Plezia, Doug Querns, Bette Shippam, Jen Skhissi, Dilys Sostad, Mary Sparks, Helen Talbot, Rev. Nancy Talbot, Jane Thomson, Marilyn Thorpe, Kelly Vogt, Gert Zandberg, Sylvia Zandberg.*

Chair *Kelly Vogt* welcomed those present, noted that there was a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

**Rev. Nancy Talbot** opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

**M/S** (*Ken Fowler/Brenda Dobie*) that the Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of March 6, 2011 be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

**M/S** (*Jen-Beth Fulton/Doug Querns*) that the 2011 Annual Report be received save for the 2012 budget therein. **Carried.**

**M/S** (*Sylvia Zandberg/Ted Butterfield*) that the Financial Statements for 2011, excluding the budget for 2012 be received. **Carried.**

**M/S** (*Mike Hetherington/Tim Furniss*) that the budget for 2012 be accepted as presented. **Carried.**

### **Introduction of Council:**

Chair Vogt introduced the 2011 members of Council.

**Team Reports:** Team Leaders for the Mission and Outreach, Congregational Life, Administration and Worship teams summarized highlights of the years activities as provided in the printed Annual Report.

**M/S** (*Catherine Branch/Bette Shippam*) that the Congregation of Mount Seymour United Church request Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery to approve two new Ministry Positions on an interim basis to replace the appointment of a Children and Family Minister as of April 1, 2012. The two new positions to be Associate Minister and Children's and Community Co-ordinator.

### **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

### **Vision Planning:**

Rev. Talbot reported on the January 28 Visioning day with Chris Corrigan where we had stated - our wish to be a place where Spirits are nurtured, as a group to extend more into the community, and to look at our assets and how they can be best used to help ourselves and our community.

### **Board of Trustees**

Chair Vogt called for nominations for the Board. Hearing none, he declared the following candidates for the Board of Trustees elected by acclamation for a 3 year term -

*Mike Hetherington, Ted Butterfield, Gwen Kendrick, James Fulton.*

## **MSUC Council**

**M/S** (*Sylvia Zandberg/Ian deJong*) that the following candidates be elected to serve as the Mount Seymour United Church Council for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2012.

**Chair** – *Kelly Vogt*,

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

**Congregational Life Team Leader** – *Kathryn Clinton*

**Mission and Outreach Team Co-Leaders** - *Joyce Jones and Dilys Sostad*

**Worship and Christian Development Team Co-leaders**

– *Catherine Branch and Bette Shippam*

**Ministry and Personnel Committee Chair** – *Laura Staude*

**Presbytery Representative** – vacant

**Member-at-Large** – *Meg Clarke*

**Treasurer** - *Doug Querns*

**Recording Secretary** - *Nancy Stonkus*

**Motion Carried.**

## **Changes to MSUC Constitution**

### **Amendment 1.**

#### **6.3 Council**

Whereas the Treasurer is appointed by Council and attends and participates in the regular council meetings; however, the Treasurer does not have the right to vote on any matters before Council. The Treasurer is often a key participant at the regular Council meetings as many of the decisions before Council have financial implications. The Treasurer should be allowed, not only to be heard, but also to be able to vote on motions as a regular participating member of Council.

Therefore be it resolved that:

Add "(j) Treasurer" to the list of persons elected by the Congregation which will increase Council from "ten (10)" to eleven (11)". Delete sections 8.1 and 8.2 which reference the Treasurer as being appointed by Council, and move the duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer in section 8.3 to the Schedule "Terms of Reference, Roles & Responsibilities For Council Members".

Proposer: *Kelly Vogt, Chair*

Second: *Dilys Sostad, Congregation Mission & Outreach Team*

**Motion Carried.**

### **Amendment 2**

#### **8.6 Envelope Secretary**

Whereas the Envelope Secretary is appointed by Council and is responsible for overseeing the collecting, counting, recording and depositing the congregational offerings and distributing Canada Revenue Agency tax receipts to such persons. The Constitution limits the appointment of the Envelope Secretary to a maximum of two (2) consecutive two-year terms.

The current Envelope Secretary, *Fay Butterfield*, has dutifully been performing the duties for more than four (4) years. The Envelope Secretary must maintain a high degree confidentiality, and turnover of this position is not necessarily preferred. Further, it is a position that is not easily filled if vacated. As such, it is better if the length of time that this person can serve not be readily limited.

Therefore be it resolved that:

*Present Wording* An Envelope Secretary shall not be appointed for any more than two (2) consecutive two-year terms.

*Proposed Change* 8.6 Deleted.

Proposer: Kelly Vogt, *Chair*

Second: Alan Furniss, *Recording Secretary*

**Motion Carried.**

### **Amendment 3**

Whereas there is a requirement that there shall be an **annual audit or review** of the accounts and financial records and the audit or review engagement report shall be made available to the Congregation ordinarily in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

In prior years the financial statements have not been formally audited or reviewed by an independent accounting firm. However the financial statements have been prepared and/or reviewed by the Treasurer and others with accounting knowledge and the cost of having a formal audit or review of the financial statements has been saved. It is recognized that there might be a time in future years when an audit or review of the annual financial statements is considered warranted or necessary and that Council could approve the appointment of an independent accounting firm at such time.

Therefore be it resolved that:

**Proposed Change:** There shall be an annual independent examination of financial records, to determine the accuracy of financial statements, to determine whether financial transactions have been properly recorded, and to identify potential weaknesses in the accounting systems. Such an examination may be conducted by, at the discretion of the Council, an independent public accountant as an audit or a review engagement, or by an individual, who is familiar with bookkeeping and who understands the purpose of an independent examination of financial records. The procedures shall include:

- (a) ensuring that there is segregation of duties among two (2) or more people who are at arm's length;
- (b) examining the minute book;
- (c) examining for accuracy the books of record, by reviewing cash receipts, cash disbursements, payroll, and general ledger transactions;
- (d) ensuring proper authorization of transactions;
- (e) reviewing bank reconciliations for the year;
- (f) ensuring that all donated monies designated for the Mission and Service Fund have been forwarded to the United Church;
- (g) reviewing the procedures used in the record-keeping of the Pastoral Charge or Congregation, and ensuring that the chance of error or fraud is minimized;
- (h) verifying cash receipts against charitable donation receipts issued; and
- (i) ensuring that the annual information return was completed and submitted not later than six (6) months after the previous fiscal year-end.

Proposer: Kelly Vogt, *Chair*

Second: Ward Branch, *Member-at-Large*

**Motion Carried.**

Kelly Vogt thanked Council, specifically retiring members Bryan Ralph and Alan Furniss and the hard working staff.

Rev. Talbot acknowledged, with thanks, the contributions of Wendy Alexander for the banners that have graced the sanctuary.

Rev. Talbot closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

**Mount Seymour United Church**  
**Statement of Financial Position at December 31, 2012**

	2011	2012
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 59,659	\$ 38,315
Savings	178,174	205,735
Accounts Receivable	3,682	12,284
	<u>241,515</u>	<u>256,334</u>
<b>Property, plant and equipment</b>		
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>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><u>\$1,885,036</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,899,855</u></u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable - trade	172	
Mission and Service	2,774	4,234
Misc. Funds	77	330
First United Church	300	815
Other Outreach	180	428
	<u>3,503</u>	<u>5,807</u>
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>		
VIM Loan	305,045	305,045
Memorial Fund	20,845	20,526
	<u>325,890</u>	<u>325,571</u>
<b>Equity and Funds</b>		
Growth Fund	145,472	139,266
Contingency fund	48,929	32,930
	<u>194,401</u>	<u>172,196</u>
<b>Equity</b>		
Opening Balance	1,319,755	1,361,242
Net Income for the year	41,487	35,039
	<u>1,361,242</u>	<u>1,396,281</u>
	<u>1,555,643</u>	<u>1,568,477</u>
	<u><u>\$1,885,036</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,899,855</u></u>

# Mount Seymour United Church

## Income Statement for 12-Month Period Ended December 31, 2012

### Budget for Year Ended December 31, 2013

	Actual Dec 31/11	Actual Dec 31 /12	Budget Dec 31 / 12	Budget Dec. 31/13
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Offering Envelopes	\$ 174,095	\$ 175,974	\$ 175,000	180,000
Open Offering	5,837	7,749	5,000	6,000
Growth Fund Allocation	14,528	6,206	30,000	36,000
<b>Total Givings</b>	<b>194,460</b>	<b>189,929</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>222,000</b>
<b>OTHER REVENUE</b>				
Rentals	34,362	48,850	45,000	43,000
Memorials and Weddings	575	840	750	800
Catering	1,757	1,425	1,500	1,500
Thrift Shop	98,909	100,125	90,000	90,000
Interest	1,416	2,561	1,500	2,000
Fund Raising	9,445	5,054	5,000	3,500
Rufugee Sponsorship			2,500	
Misc.		5,000		
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>146,465</b>	<b>163,856</b>	<b>146,250</b>	<b>140,800</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>340,925</b>	<b>353,785</b>	<b>356,250</b>	<b>362,800</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>ADMIN TEAM</b>				
Copier	5,335	3,055	5,000	4500
Office Supplies	1,960	1,909	2,050	1980
Telephone	1,260	1,310	1,400	1400
Bank Charges	664	794	650	700
Computer /Misc	748	515	1,000	1,000
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>9,968</b>	<b>7,583</b>	<b>10,100</b>	<b>9,580</b>
<b>Property</b>				
P Building Maintenance	4,309	4,500	3,600	4,500
P Grounds/ Handyperson	427	434	2,100	1,500
P Sound Maint	94	475	500	500
P Bld Heat Maint	2,305	2,155	2,500	2,500
P Security	316	379	350	350
P Janitorial	10,623	12,313	15,000	15,000
P P Garbage	2,026	2,258	2,100	2,200
P Water & Sewer	2,029	2,647	2,000	2,100
P Gas &Electric	8,446	8,428	8,500	8,500
P Snow	211	897	600	600
P Telephone Office	2,690	1,579	1,800	1,700
P Insurance	7,769	7,015	8,000	7,500
P Kitchen Supplies	228	71	750	300
P Thrift Shop Improvements		10,207		500
Growth Fund Expenditures			15,000	18,000
<b>Total Property</b>	<b>41,473</b>	<b>53,360</b>	<b>62,800</b>	<b>65,750</b>
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION TEAM</b>	<b>51,441</b>	<b>60,943</b>	<b>72,900</b>	<b>75,330</b>



	<b>Actual Dec 31/11</b>	<b>Actual Dec 31 /12</b>	<b>Budget Dec 31 / 12</b>	<b>Budget Dec. 31/13</b>
<b>WORSHIP &amp; CD</b>				
Pulpit Relief	1,600	950	1,500	2000
Childrens Community	884	547	1,000	1000
Youth	239	201	500	500
Library / Misc	143	303	400	400
CD Adult	189	939	750	1100
Congregational Meetings	93	38	250	250
Music Supplies	346	827	1,250	900
Music Director Relief	600	2,844	1,350	2700
Music Piano/Organ Tuning	115	306	150	150
Worship Misc Supplies	572	1,041	800	1000
Sound Production	211	301	250	250
<b>TOTAL WORSHIP &amp; C. D.</b>	<b>4,991</b>	<b>8,298</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>10,250</b>
<b>COUNCIL</b>				
Presbytery	8,583	10,144	10,143	11000
Other Expense	108	941	650	700
Campaign Expenses	2,374	-		
<b>TOTAL COUNCIL</b>	<b>11,065</b>	<b>11,084</b>	<b>10,793</b>	<b>11,700</b>
<b>CONGREGATIONAL LIFE</b>				
Advertising	1,897	1,136	2,500	2500
Fellowship (lunches/welcoming)	772	1,399	1,500	1500
Observer Magazine	138	172	80	80
Sundays - Coffee	960	828	1,000	900
Misc.	188		100	100
Pastoral Care		249	250	250
<b>TOTAL CONGREGATIONAL LIFE</b>	<b>3,955</b>	<b>3,783</b>	<b>5,430</b>	<b>5,330</b>
<b>CONG. MISSION</b>				
Mission and Outreach	584	726	3,600	1850
First United Thrift Shop	19,859	20,025	18,500	18500
Refugee Family Sponsorship	2,710		2,500	
Help Fund	390	570	500	750
Growth Fund- Seniors Bus	11,818	6,183	15,000	18000
<b>TOTAL MISSION</b>	<b>35,362</b>	<b>27,504</b>	<b>40,100</b>	<b>39,100</b>
<b>MINISTRY &amp; PERSONNEL</b>				
Wages	123,906	138,941	147,333	147532
Housing Allowance	39,000	36,750	39,000	36000
Ministers Travel	935	1,518	1,500	1500
Sabbatical Fund				7500
Staff Dev Cont Ed	2,126	3,024	2,887	4500
Vacation	771	995	750	1200
CPP	4,413	4,430	4,700	5050
EI	2,835	2,854	3,000	2985
Employee Benefits	17,039	17,014	18,000	20376
MSP	648	648	650	650
Work Comp	419	347	425	450
Hosting	342	440	350	500
Other Payroll	190	173	200	200
<b>TOTAL MINISTRY &amp; PERSONNEL</b>	<b>192,624</b>	<b>207,133</b>	<b>218,795</b>	<b>228,443</b>

	Actual Dec 31/11	Actual Dec 31 /12	Budget Dec 31 / 12	Budget Dec. 31/13
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>299,438</b>	<b>318,746</b>	<b>356,218</b>	<b>370,153</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>\$41,486</b>	<b>\$35,039</b>	<b>\$32</b>	<b>-\$7,353</b>

**Outreach Contributions**

Mission and Service Fund	\$18,543	\$18,905	\$19,000	\$19,000
Thrift Shop Donation to First United	19,780	20,025	18,000	18000
Other Outreach	<u>3,110</u>	<u>2,711</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>2000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41,433</b>	<b>\$41,641</b>	<b>\$38,500</b>	<b>\$39,000</b>