



# SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH

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Kingston, Ontario

## Annual Report

2010-2011



**Church Staff**

Minister:	Rev. Elizabeth Macdonald
Minister Emeritus	Rev. Dr. Robert Bater
Organist and Music Director	Charles Walker
Many Gifts~One Spirit	Marie Anderson
Operations Manager	Don Mitchell (since July 2010)
Office Administrator	Ruth Ranson
Bookkeeper	Madeleine Friederichsen
Custodians	Judy Chown, Susan Chumbley

***Church Officers and Committee Chairpersons***

Chairperson	Ruth Wilson
Chairperson Designate	<i>vacant</i>
Secretary of the Official Board	Ellie Deir
Financial Secretary	Winn McKnight
Presbytery Representatives	Lynn Freeman, Marylil Megginson
Trustees	Deborah Elliott (Chair), Charles Cuffari, William Reeve, Marilyn Huffman, Donna Delyea, Ian Casson, Ross Drummond, Treasurer (ex-officio), Property Chair (ex-officio), BUTG Chair (ex-officio)
Spiritually Related Community Reps	Rob Vanderheyden, Bruce Hutchinson
Social Justice and Outreach Rep	Jim Leake
Art and Soul Reps	Barb Carr, Cori Mayhew
Administration Committee Reps	Bill Seath (Treasurer), Tony Clark (Property)
Ministry and Personnel	Robin Mallory

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## Report from the Chair

This has been an exciting year for SSUC as we have moved forward actively to live out the vision we have discerned for ourselves. All three areas of our mission (Art and Soul, Engaging the Spirit, and Social Justice and Outreach) have been given attention and energy by members of the congregation. Rather than retreating into a scarcity mentality, the congregation has been bold in venturing into new ways of expressing our Christian faith. The fruits of that work are documented in these pages.

We approved a budget for 2011 which some would say was based on faith more than reality! We are beginning to realize the return on the investments we have made in reconfiguring our church staff with the hiring of our energetic operations manager Donald Mitchell. We are also turning our attention to the renovations and facilities required to make our building even more useful to the Kingston community as well as to our congregation.

This year we approved the application of a discernor, Jason Swan, to seek to test his understanding of the role he is being led to in ministry. We also benefited from our talented diaconal student Marcie Gibson.

We are fortunate in having a dedicated executive working on behalf of the congregation; it has been a pleasure for me to chair our meetings. Our church staff contribute so much to our efforts, and I wish to thank Ruth Ranson for her creative and organized office management, to Madeleine Friederichsen for keeping our books, and to our custodial staff Judy Chown and Susan Chumbley for their work in keeping our building shiny. Charlie Walker continues to lead the ministry of music, such an important component of our worship experience.

Finally we are blessed with the wise spiritual and practical leadership of our minister, Rev. Elizabeth Macdonald who inspires and challenges us, not just on Sunday mornings but also in our day-by-day work within and without the walls of Sydenham Street.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Ruth Wilson*

## Minister's Report

The braid that we fashioned three years ago to symbolize our renewed sense of identity and call is made up of three separate pieces of fabric representing the different ministry circles of ***Engaging the Spirit, Social Justice & Outreach, and Art & Soul***. The braid suggests that while the ministry circles connect and work closely together, they remain distinctive and easily identifiable. The braid looks clear and straightforward, simple and uncomplicated – nothing like life, especially life at SSUC!

What strikes me most as I look back over the past year are the ways in which our Ministry Circles along with the other circles of our lives keep intersecting and overlapping, creating all manner of spiral and labyrinth patterns. Here's what I mean . . .

### ***The Art of Engaging the Spirit***

Worship over the past year was enriched by such creative initiatives as:

- MGOS Children creating the Creation Story throughout the Time of Creation in October;
- Intergenerational, multimedia Children's Sunday that included drama, lectio divina, and making a colourful Communion Tablecloth;
- Christmas MGOS, *The Animals' Secret* created by Marie Anderson & Sarah Gibson-Bray;
- Imaginative and beautiful orders of service created by Ruth Ranson;
- Prayers of the People sculpture and Living our Faith gift to United Church Moderator, Mardi Tindal conceived by Cori Mayhew and created by the congregation.
- Christmas, Easter and every Sunday music offered by the Choir

With all of this and more emerging, planning, preparing for, and leading worship has been both stimulating and stretching for me as your minister.

The tradition of Ministry Circle Sunday is becoming established with the Engaging the Spirit's Job Puppet Sunday last February, and Social Justice & Outreach's Celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sisters of Providence in Kingston, and Art & Soul Celtic Pentecost both in June. These intentional sometimes extended Sundays engage the congregation in the heart & work of the ministry circles.

***Reaching Out with compassion and commitment to justice within and beyond SSUC***

Hospitality and Pastoral Care are evolving here at SSUC in exciting ways as we seek to nurture the culture of welcoming & caring spreading through this congregation on Sunday morning and throughout the week in small groups and committees. My involvement as your minister has included providing pastoral care for those in crisis and those new to the congregation, working with Hospitality Coordinator, Linda Hutchinson, to create welcoming space for toddlers and pre-schoolers and working with a team developing a pastoral care discernment process for the congregation next fall.

We found ourselves reaching out with compassion, deep gratitude and our own keen sense of loss to several families and their circle of friends as longtime SSUC members including Linda Cornett, Janet Maclachlan, Marion McNevin died. The number of funerals held in the SSUC sanctuary was higher than usual this past year and resulted in ongoing staff and committee discussions about practices and policies.

The Sunday Soup Lunch hosted by the Social Justice and Outreach folk after Worship is one of the most visible and vibrant examples of overlapping ministry circles. Not only have SJ&O initiatives such as cooking classes benefitted from the money raised by the lunches, the congregation has benefited from the opportunity to be together in caring and cared-for ways. We have found ourselves nourished and strengthened as we support Social Justice and Outreach efforts to nourish and strengthen people in the wider community.

***Nurturing the Art of Justice-making***

The presence of the statue, *Bound Man*, in our Holy Week worship services was significant. But the impact didn't end on Easter Morning. A small SSUC team including artist Joan Scaglione and myself have begun working with Aboriginal activist Bryan Bowers and members of Kingston Unitarian Fellowship on creating a companion piece, *Unbound*, and using this art for education, advocacy and a rainbow dialogue involving different nations and races.

***Job – A Cosmic – and SSUC Tapestry***

No other project brought the three Ministry Circles and the SSUC community together like Job! Engaging an ancient Hebrew story in light of our contemporary context to wrestle new meaning from the age-old human struggle with suffering; collaborating with renowned Canadian composer, R. Murray Schafer and Eleanor James; reaching out to make available to children, teens and adults affordable access to the power of beauty of poetry, drama and music; encouraging and enabling church and community people to develop and share a wide range of gifts; daring to ask tough questions while discerning insight and discovering hope even in unjust and undeserved suffering and through it all, seeking the Source and responding to the Spirit. What blessing it has been for me to be in the chorus and on the writing team!

***SSUC Life & Ministry within the Wider Church***

Marcie Gibson's presence with us as Student Minister marked two firsts: the first time SSUC offered a placement to a diaconal candidate for ministry studying at the Centre for Christian Studies, and the first time SSUC shared a student with Bay of Quinte Conference. Marcie's Children's Sunday last November, her Advent Conspiracy, and her sermons on Job's Friends and Job's Wife were meaningful and memorable. Working as Marcie's Learning Facilitator was a highlight of this past year for me.

We continue to share joint worship with Chalmers United Church at Epiphany, Good Friday and over the summer. Our friends at Chalmers are in transition, as ministers Steven Chambers and Beth Hayward move to Vancouver. Let us all hold the people of Chalmers in our prayers and offer them our continued support.

***Sharing SSUC Life & Work with Lay & Staff Colleagues***

It is evident throughout this Annual Report that both lay leadership and staffing have changed significantly over the past year. With those changes has come the need for me to clarify my own shifting roles and responsibilities.

I appreciate and respect the time and energy Congregation Chair, Ruth Wilson, members of the Executive and other lay leaders give, and the love and commitment with which they serve and lead this congregation. Operations Manager Donald Mitchell and Custodial Staff, Susan Chumbley have brought much to the staff team and this congregation. I am grateful to them and to Ruth Ranson, Judy Chown, Madeleine Friederichsen, Marie Anderson and Charlie Walker. It is a delight and privilege to be on this staff team.

***In Conclusion***

Imagine if we were to take our braid, and unbraided it. Imagine if we were to carefully unravel each of the three pieces of fabric and create a mountain of brightly coloured threads. Imagine if we were to weave those threads into a new fabric with the colours no longer separate and distinctive, but blended into new hues. Imagine the beauty and strength of that new fabric and all the ways it could be used. Imagine our braid continuing to be transformed. Imagine us continuing to be encouraged, equipped and empowered by the Spirit, so that we can continue to respond to God's vision of abundant life and Christ's call to live and share that life. Imagine this and you will begin to see what is already unfolding as we move into 2011-12 and beyond. As we look back over the past year in order to prepare for the coming year, may God bless our imagining and seeing, our partnering and ministering, our loving and living.

***Rev. Elizabeth Macdonald*****Operation Manager's Report**

The past year could be reflected upon in many ways and undoubtedly each individual will have their own perspective of our success. Here are a few different thoughts from an operational point of view.

We set a fiscal goal for gross rental revenue in 2010 and we achieved it. We have a new goal for 2011 and we are currently on pace to meet that target. There continues to be a natural demand from other organizations to use this beautiful building.

The operational focus for 2012 and 2013 is to avoid a premature plateau of usage. Efficiency of building use and implementing an adequate fee structure are instrumental to reaching our ultimate goal of a self-sustaining building. Another important aspect we will employ as we evolve is not only to increase our performance but to improve and reduce our operating costs.

Last August, the sanctuary chancel was renovated to offer greater flexibility and useable performance space to our renters. There is no better example of the value of this alteration than our own production of JōB. The continued assessment and modification of this building structure to fit the increasing needs of a developing rental business is pivotal to long term success.

Theatre performances, murder mystery dinner theatre, conferences, day time meetings and catered events are all going to be tested for next season. If we can demonstrate a viability of some or all of these types of events then we will actively seek to book them in our schedule.

On a staff level this has been huge transition year. Whether existing positions or new positions - we are all busy. Everyone has accepted more work and in some cases a change in hours or duties. We will need to find ways of communicating more efficiently, consistently and smoothly. Everyone has been actively involved in developing a reliable system to stay ahead of the very busy day to day schedule.

The 'Operations Manager' role after ten months is still predominantly a hands-on labour position. The summer months will be spent organizing and developing ways to save time. We need to hire more event staff for next season.

The building and concert management has used the greatest portion of hours. Many of those hours could be delegated in future. The biggest promotional push at this point is still performing better, giving better value and changing the perception of how this building may be used.

On a personal level, I have had fun wrestling with the many challenges of this position. I continue to have a great passionate interest for the direction you have chosen. I have received great support through the active involvement from the congregation and staff of Sydenham Street United Church. Again, I thank you for the opportunity.

*Don Mitchell*

## **Ministry Circle Reports**

### **Engaging the Spirit Ministry**

The Engaging the Spirit Ministry coordinates the spiritually related ministries of the congregation. This ministry group has met three times over the past year as a group and a number of other times around specific topics as noted below. Meetings focused on coordination and cross fertilization of ideas amongst the Committee Chairs/Coordinators present.

The activities of committees and coordinators of the Engaging the Spirit Ministry are reported below. Activities not included in those reports include the following: Coordination of Sydenham Street's participation in the United Church of Canada Second Cup conference in Toronto in June 2010 and the group's report of learnings to the Executive; being a SSUC presence at the Queen's frosh sidewalk sale in September; calling all Observer subscribers and inviting them to contribute to the cost of the subscription (\$770 of approx. \$1100 cost donated); organized our third Spiritual Nurture event in February at which "Job puppets were created for worship during lent; in conjunction with the Art and Soul Ministry, established a support/accountability committee for MGOS Sunday and Monday programs; recruited Sue Doerksen to be the web coordinator for the Engaging the Spirit section of the SSUC web site; and agreed to hold a visioning discussion for the annual Bazaar.

In addition, SSUC's Affirm United group held a well attended pot luck lunch in April 2011.

A plan has been developed for engaging the congregation in determining how we will meet with pastoral care needs and activities of the congregation for 2011 and beyond.

Thanks to all who have contributed to the spiritual life of our church community over the past year.

*Bruce Hutchinson*, Coordinator  
Rob Vanderheyden, Worship Committee  
Representatives to the Executive  
Members:  
Jane Mallory, Small Group Ministry  
Robin Mallory, Small Group Ministry  
Linda Hutchinson, Hospitality  
Sue Doerksen, Web site  
Vicki Ruthven, Participant  
Denis Lehotay, Participant  
Marie Anderson, Many Gifts ~ One Spirit  
Elizabeth Macdonald, Minister

## Worship Committee Report

Since last year's SSUC Annual Congregational meeting, the Worship Committee has been composed of Mary LeRoy, Jane Mallory, Vicki Ruthven, Rosemary Robinson, Rosemary Thoms, Eileen Woloshyn, Rob Vanderheyden (committee chair) and ex-officio members Charlie Walker (Music Director) and Elizabeth Macdonald (Minister). All the committee members indicated that they are willing to continue in their work in this part of the life of SSUC.

Looking over the past year, lots of the work that the committee has been doing is supporting and planning for Worship Services and the special festive services celebrating Christmas and Easter. Working together, the committee is a great forum where staff can bring ideas and flesh them out or change them to make our worship services meaningful to people who attend SSUC services.

*Rob Vanderheyden*  
Chair, Worship Committee

## Many Gifts~One Spirit

MGOS has met twice weekly this season from mid- September and will continue to do so until the end of June. Student minister Marcie Gibson has had an influence on the program this year offering ideas, useful websites, and artistic ideas. Jeremy Dent and Verity Graf have been very helpful throughout this season for Sunday worship. There have been as many as 11 members on Sunday; often we have three or four members on Sunday. On Monday we have a regular group of eight to ten members.

I have used a number of bible stories, parables, psalms and prayers with the Sunday group—beginning with the story of creation in September. We have just finished the story of Job. There is a record of the Sunday sessions with a complete lesson plan in case someone else needs to deliver a Sunday session.

In the summer, 2010, we transformed the children's' nursery room into a vibrant and functional space for our children. Help from Jack and Diane Soule, and Bruce and Linda Hutchinson has made a special place for SSUC children to play and pray together on Sunday mornings.

In August we presented an arts camp called *Pushing Boundaries*. 10 young people met with Canadian educator and percussionist Kathy Armstrong, community arts leader Andy Rush, visual artist Alice Vandervennen and me for four days of West African dancing, drumming, and singing. On the final day, we had a performance in the sanctuary of SSUC for parents and friends. Later the same day, we participated in the annual Hiroshima Day event in the market square along with community choir *Open Voices*.

In September, Monday MGOS members recorded music for a children's recording with folk singer Gary Rasberry.

In September and October, Monday MGOS members made a movie. With the help of KCVI student Kat Rush, MGOS members created a storyboard, found costumes and props, wrote script, and rehearsed and filmed a five-minute movie. They named it *Who killed Kathy*. In the creation of this movie, members received creative mentoring from a talented young person in our community (Kat). They worked together to find ways to tell an entertaining story, discussing ideas, eating together, and working toward a common goal. They were very pleased with the final movie, which was played in the sanctuary after church, with popcorn provided by MGOS parents.

Approximately 20 children participated in our Christmas musical *The Animal's Secret*, written and directed by Sarah Gibson Bray and myself. Members of the congregation helped with the costumes and props. The choir participated in the performance.

We have just completed our major project, *Job: A Cosmic Tapestry*. This is MGOS' major contribution to worship and community outreach for this season. Members of the congregation and of the greater Kingston community came

together beginning in January, 2011 to create this story. We had a cast of 23 adults, 15 children, and 9 musicians. We engaged the help of approximately 10 members of our congregation to build sets, paint, work the front of house, advertise, and take care of administration. Special thanks to Barb Carr, Barb Parrott, Don Mitchell, Jack and Diane Soule, and Elizabeth MacDonald for endless time and effort. Performances were May 14 and May 15. *JoB* is the result of a commission from MGOS, sponsored by SSUC to eminent Canadian composer R. Murray Schafer, to guide us in telling the biblical story of JoB in the form of a music-drama. We received a grant of \$9000 from the Kingston Arts Council to do this. On Sunday, May 15, Murray Schafer and Eleanor James discussed the story of JoB in worship.

SSUC has explored this story in depth. Our minister, Elizabeth, was a member of the cast, and used the JoB story in worship throughout the season of lent and Easter. In February, Kingston artist Annie Milne facilitated a puppet workshop for the congregation where we made large puppets of the main characters in the JoB story. These puppets were used in subsequent worship services until mid-May. I also used the story of JoB in conjunction with other prayers and activities for Sunday MGOS. On Copper Sunday, as part of worship, we facilitated a Shafer-like soundscape of the cosmos where all members of the congregation actively participated. The exploration of this great story has been a profoundly creative and spiritual experience for many SSUC members and for members of the Kingston community. It has influenced many aspects of my own life—as a professional, and as a member of creative community.

As I proceed with the facilitation of *Many Gifts One Spirit*, I intend to provide creative artistic direction to youth and children of SSUC and the Kingston community. This process will continue to proceed in a way that engages the spirit and offers opportunities to explore spirituality through relationship with the self and each other. In this way we will continue to nurture and honour the spirit in our faith community. Activities will include outreach projects that broaden our involvement in the Kingston Community: specifically I hope to explore and develop ways to connect with youth at risk.

*Marie Anderson,*  
MGOS Coordinator

### **Small Group Ministry**



The ministry of Small Groups is well established at SSUC. Our members have been active participants again this year. Several people new to the congregation have become involved in our small groups and we have had a chance to get to know each other better.

We have 10 groups this year. Several, such as the book groups, lunch, hiking, labyrinth and movie nights have been active for several years. We have been fortunate to have two new discussion groups. Marcie Gibson led an advent series called the Advent Conspiracy. It was a small group but raised interesting questions for all of us. Denis Lehotay has been leading a discussion on Henri Nouwen's book, *the Return of the Prodigal Son*. Discussion on this book has been wide ranging and meaningful for the participants. Denis says he would be prepared to lead another group next year. Our Friday Fixers group who help with small maintenance and repair of the church building has had an active membership this spring.

Some groups have been sporadic, due to weather and the busyness of the participants, but are enjoyed by those who take part. We are always willing to consider suggestions for new groups and will be reconvening in the fall.

This ministry would not be viable without the dedication and enthusiasm of all the small group leaders. Thank you to each and every one.

*Jane Mallory*  
SGM Coordinator

## Pastoral Care Report

*No Report*

## Hospitality Group Report



hospitality

The function of Hospitality continues under the leadership of one person with assistance in various ways from many others.

**Name Tags** continue to be available for everyone and are especially beneficial in welcoming newcomers . . . and helping the rest of us get to know each other by name. Thank you to Rosemary Thoms, Kenn Doerksen and Rosemary Robinson for assisting with this program.

**“Welcoming people of diversity”**: In keeping with our desire to be more welcoming and hospitable to people with special needs, Jim Leake, Peter Goheen and Mary Leroy continue to play a lead role on our behalf.

Since February 2011, a **“Drop-In Centre for children ages 2 to 4 years”** has been offered to children and their parents when they need some space and activity during the worship service. It consists of a portable refurbished cupboard full of age-appropriate toys, puzzles and books with foam mats in an area of the chapel. In the fall, we hoped to hire an Early Childhood Education Graduate or student for a two hour period on Sundays to oversee a program for this age group but we were unsuccessful. At this time, with the limited number of children in regular attendance, the drop-in concept seems to be working. Many thanks to Susan Chumbley for setting up the cupboard and mats every Sunday and to Rev. Elizabeth Macdonald for support in planning this centre.

I am participating with Rev. Elizabeth Macdonald, Rosemary Thoms and Roy Huntly in dreaming of ways to connect members and newcomers of all ages in meaningful, caring ways as we live into being a **compassionate community**, both informally and formally, in our changing world. Opportunities for participation in this evolving concept will be available in September.

Thanks to Ruth Ranson for the support she gives to this function – preparing name tags, etc.

Basically, this “function of hospitality” attempts **to ensure that a warm welcome and hospitality is offered** from the moment someone arrives at the church property to beyond when they leave and hopefully return! This is accomplished through all of us as we reach out and are mindful of ways to improve how we truly welcome all people. Thanks to everyone as you play that welcoming role in your own way.

*Linda Hutchinson*

Coordinator of Hospitality

613-542-7645

## Coffee Hour Report

Diane Soule has organized coffee hour over the past year. Many thanks to Diane Soule, Jan Bryant, Jeremy Dent, Jim Berry, Diane Berry, Liz Convery, Deb Brennan, Mary LeRoy, and Vicki Ruthven who have assisted in contributing to this important “after worship time” during which relationships are developed and support is given.

## Social Justice and Outreach Ministry

Your Social Justice and Outreach Committee consists of: R. Armstrong, M. Baird, J. Chadwick, M. Clarke, M. Corlett, P. Goheen, J. Leake (chair), The Reverend E. Macdonald, M. Meyer, M. Reid, N. Spencer. In addition we count on: B. Landon and M. Megginson who help with interviewing and counseling those who seek food vouchers, R. Malcolm who organizes the Helen Tufts Tutorial Friendship Program (see separate report) and M. LeRoy and H. Grant who represent the congregation on the board of the Helen Tufts Nursery School.

Sydenham Street United Church's commitment to social justice and outreach has a long and strong standing in the community. As this year's committee chair, I am continually reminded by people from social agencies across the City that SSUC's role is recognized and valued. We owe this recognition to the members of the committee from previous years, plus the members of the congregation who initiated and continue to support the various programs. I especially want to thank Margaret Baird, the immediate past chair, who continues to innovate and advocate and has guided me in my year as chair. I also wish to thank all of the committee members, and those who have helped out when asked, for their continued work on the congregation's behalf.

We, perhaps of all the committees, can see ourselves working in areas represented by each of the colours of our congregation's braided Ministry. The blue could represent a sky full of needs and opportunities to work together and with others, the yellow might represent the sun and warmth that we bring to some pretty desperate lives lived by clients of our food-voucher program, and the red, the passion and vehemence with which we advocate to correct the social injustices we encounter.

To help us to decide on how Sydenham Street United Church should address challenges over the next few years, our Committee sponsored a strategic planning retreat on Saturday, November 20. Facilitated by Lucinda Bray, members of the committee and others met to examine future priorities. Working to reduce poverty was the overwhelming top priority. Other priorities were: not being afraid to live our faith and commit resources to that end; cooperation with other faith-based communities; exploring the shifting congregation makeup; continuing support for the Mission and Service Fund; and continuing our work as an affirming congregation. Advocacy for our issues was seen as the major method of continuing our work.

As to our ongoing programs, every Tuesday morning for 10 months of the year, Margaret Meyer, Barbara Landon and Marylil Megginson meet visitors who come for support and food vouchers. Over 50 recipients are on our regular list, though those in emergency situations receive help as well. Early in 2011, counselors experienced a greatly increased demand from these one-time only clients. To continue to serve our regular clients, the Committee decided that, on a temporary basis, these one-time-only vouchers be capped at \$250 per month with some flexibility for dire emergencies. Food vouchers are financed through the offerings to the Benevolent Fund at communion services, but donations are welcome at any time.

For a third year, a Cooking Class of four weeks was organized in February and March. Food advisors from the KFLA Health Unit led the sessions. Those who participated learned much, gained friends and greatly appreciated the course. While Margaret Baird, Mary Reid and Nancy Spencer led this project, we acknowledge the contribution of Donald Mitchell for his support in keeping the kitchen operating, and Sue Collins and her helper Deborah for providing child care.

The Helen Tufts Nursery School has provided early learning activities for children from disadvantaged families for over 35 years through the joint support of First Baptist and Sydenham Street congregations. These children are nurtured by skilled staff from September to April, and the Nursery School is administered by a community Board. As noted earlier, Sydenham Street has been represented on the Board by Mary Leroy and Heather Grant.

Rosalind Malcolm has provided a detailed report on the The Helen Tufts Friendship (Tutorial) Program and the challenges it faces. Our thanks go out to her for this commitment - please read her report elsewhere.

We also owe a huge thank-you to Margaret Meyer and Barb Landon for organizing SSUC's contribution to the Salvation Army's Christmas Basket Program. Again 50 baskets with a frozen turkey and all the trimmings went out from our congregation to identified families. About 30 of those families were clients of our own food-voucher program. Financial contributions to the Christmas baskets equaled \$6278.90 compared to \$4774.70 in 2009. Funds received in excess of the costs were again used to help fund the Benevolent Fund's food voucher program.

The Reverend Macdonald and I attended the Frontenac Public School Christmas lunch on December 15<sup>th</sup>. This appears to be a well-organized and well-funded event. Through the budget of the SJ&O committee, SSUC contributed \$500 to this seasonal meal for children attending school in a low income area of the City.

Nancy Spencer and Mabel Corlett have continued to work on the expansion of community gardens and the establishment of the Wally Elmer community market initiated in 2009 by the Harvest Committee of the Kingston Community Health Centre of which they are members.

Throughout the year the Outreach Committee organized three soup luncheons to support the Cooking Class and the Food Voucher program. These luncheons regularly attract 60 members who consume all the varieties of soup we offer and linger over coffee to catch-up on each other's lives. Mary Reid heads the group who put these luncheons together. The April luncheon and a 'silent auction' of flowers donated by nine local merchants increased our resources by over \$800.

During the year the Committee expressed its convictions through advocacy. This past year the Committee continued to ask for a re-examination of the federal government's corrections policy of more prisoners in more jail-cells. In early January we wrote the Prime Minister to support the request of The Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC) and asked for a re-examination of that policy. Not having success there, we wrote similar letters to each of the four candidates in the Federal Election asking that this issue be debated in the local campaign.

While the major part of this report describes local community outreach, our Committee continues to support the mandate of Mission and Service in the United Church. Peter Goheen ensures that we are reminded of the international and Canadian programs of the M&S fund through monthly 'Minutes for Mission' during the worship service. You, the congregation, are to be congratulated for the level of your continuing contributions to the M&S fund.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Leake, Chair

### **Helen Tufts Tutorial Friendship Program**

The Helen Tufts Tutorial Friendship Program had another successful year, its 42<sup>nd</sup> since it began in the fall of 1968. There were approximately 50 children in the program this year, each with his or her Queen's student as a tutor/buddy. Groups meet Monday and Thursday evenings, in the upper hall at Sydenham Street, and the main hall at First Baptist Church. As always, the program has had wonderful support from both churches, including telephoning families by Martha Clarke and Sylvia Mann, driving children to and from the program by Rob and Jane Mallory and Michael Dent, donations of cookies for parties, and financial support from the Social Justice and Outreach Committee.

The tutorial evening normally includes time for children and their buddies to read together, and a time for an activity, outing or game that is planned and organized by the group supervisors. This year, we had some particularly energetic and enthusiastic Queen's students as group supervisors, who planned some special events, including a Spanish festival, complete with piñata, a visit from the Health Unit and the Humane Society, visits to the Library and the Fire Department, a "campfire" night and a movie night, in a hall at Queen's with a large screen.

This program operates on a very small budget for the number of children involved, as it is completely run by volunteers, and the space is donated by both churches. Money is used to provide healthful snacks for the children, games and craft supplies, and Christmas and end-of-year parties, as well as small thank-you gifts for the student group

supervisors. As you will see from the financial statement below, the largest item in the budget is the hiring of the bus that transports most of the children to and from the program, which has increased every year and can only be expected to keep doing so with the increasing cost of gas. Until now, the program has managed well on contributions from SSUC, the Rotary's Rotary Initiative for Child Education Committee (RICE), and the Anna and Edward C. Churchill Foundation. This year, because of lower investment income than usual, the support we received from the Churchill Foundation was much less than we had been receiving, and although we should be able to run the program next year if we use our small investment "cushion," the program will not be able to continue unless it can count on enough regular funding to cover the cost of transportation. Program organizers are currently considering options for funding, and would be very interested in any suggestions in this regard from members of the congregation.

### THE HELEN TUFTS TUTORIAL FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM 2010-2011

**Balance at Year End 2009-2010** **4942.24**

#### **COSTS**

AMS – Sidewalk Sale	100.00
Books and Supplies required	200.00
Snacks – 1 <sup>st</sup> term 4 x 60	240.00
Christmas Gifts 48 x \$5	240.00
Christmas Party	100.00
Snacks – 2 <sup>nd</sup> term 4 x 50	400.00
Year End Gifts	0
Year End Party	120.98
Gifts for supervisors	71.88
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1472.86</b>
Transportation	5030.36
<b>TOTAL COSTS:</b>	<b>6503.22</b>

#### **INCOME**

9 Nov 2010: Sydenham Street	750.00
24 Nov 2010: Rotary Club	750.00
11 Jan 2011: Gift from Ms O'Brien	150.00
21 Jan 2011: Churchill Foundation	2000.00
4 Feb 2011: Investment Income (see below)	625.58
31 Mar 2011: Interest Earned	.31

**Total Income** **4275.89**

**Balance at Year End 2010-2011** **2714.91**

#### **BMO TERM INVESTMENT # 46448376**

Balance on 7 August 2010	5382.00
Redeemed 22 November 2010	5625.58
Reinvested 24 November 2010	5000.00
Deposited to account 24 November 2010	625.58

*Rosalind Malcolm*

Program Co-ordinator,  
Helen Tufts Tutorial Friendship Program

## Art and Soul Ministry

Our biggest project this year has been supporting the Many Gifts One Spirit production of *JōB – A Cosmic Tapestry*, a collective creation with R. Murray Schafer and Eleanor James. This has been a wonderful experience on many levels, in that it involved members of the congregation along with many community members, professionals and amateurs, people of all ages, with a wide variety of gifts and talents. We were successful in getting a grant for \$9,000 from the City of Kingston Arts Fund to support this project. We had very good audiences for both performances and the music-drama was very enthusiastically received.

In the fall, we undertook a congregational art project to artistically restore 36 of the old plywood chairs that were destined for disposal. Fifteen people decoupage one or two chairs, and they were offered for sale at the Bazaar. We sold at least 20 of them, thereby raising \$1,000 for the church. The remaining chairs are being enjoyed in the Foyer area, and a few have recently been sold from there.

We have worked with Don Robinson as he has revamped the SSUC website. Don has put many, many hours into making our website attractive and very functional. We now have separate, but linked, websites for the two sides of our operations: congregation activities, and facilities rentals.

For the second year, SSUC was a destination on the Kingston Interconnected Art Studio Tour, with seven artists displaying their work in the Lecture Hall on Saturday and Sunday, April 30/May 1, from 10 a.m. – 5 pm. The artists were very pleased with the arrangement and were grateful for the support given to them by members of the congregation. We have a new chain-and-hook hanging system in the Lecture Hall which worked well. A big thank-you goes to Rosemary Robinson for coordinating this event.

Members of Art and Soul have contributed to worship through poetry and performance art, and will be leading a congregational worship and art event with a Celtic theme on Pentecost Sunday. Cori Mayhew created a card for the Moderator incorporating expression of how members of SSUC are living their faith, and she also coordinated the reception after the F.R.C. Clarke concert in the fall.

Our final event for this year will be SSUC's participation in Doors Open Kingston on June 18th. This will be coordinated by Ellie Deir. For the last two years, we have had over 100 people visit our beautiful building during this event.

We would like to thank the congregation for their support of these projects, and we look forward to another creative year.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Barb Carr & Cori Mayhew,*  
 Co-chairs

## Ministry and Personnel Committee

One member of our committee resigned for personal reasons part way through the year. We continued the rest of the year with only four members. We met about once a month, except for the summer months.

There have been several changes since last summer. We hired Donald Mitchell as Operations Manager in July, and Susan Chumbley has been added as a part time Custodian allowing Judy Chown to reduce her hours.

We have met with most of the staff at least once during the past year and will continue to do so this coming year as we try to update many of the job descriptions.

All members of the present M&P Committee will be staying on for the coming year. Many thanks to all the members for their hard work and conscientious support of the staff. We are hoping for at least one new member this year.

SSUC is very lucky to have such a loyal, dedicated and hard working staff. The M&P Committee is very appreciative of all their efforts.

We are aware that the coming year will be busy and we hope rewarding.

Submitted by  
*Robin Mallory, Chair.*

### **Property Committee Report**

Appraisals of our building for insurance purposes must be done every five to ten years as the annually escalated value to replace the building does not keep up with reality. We changed insurance companies to Ecclesiastical Insurance Company to obtain a free appraisal. Our original adjusted appraisal was \$9,125,000. The new appraisal value is \$11,482,000 including specific amounts for the reredos, stained glass windows and the altar. With the retirement of the present Chair of Property, insurance MUST become the true responsibility of the Trustees where it belongs.

The exterior of the Church was restored in 1993/1994. At that time the engineering consultants McCormick Rankin strongly recommended that we inspect the exterior every ten years. That was 18 years ago. Accordingly Property obtained an estimate for an inspection complete with a written report at a cost of \$1250. This was approved by the Executive.

A great deal of Property responsibilities have been taken over by our new Operations Manager. With his leadership the structure of our rental rates was re-evaluated to take into account the many types of users who make use of our facilities. The changes utilised the cost structure work done by the Building Utilization Group. As a result we have four categories of users and we increased our rates by 10 percent for the next season.

It is a great credit to the Property Committee, the dedicated support of the Office and the Minister and our new Operations Manager that the income from rentals has continued to increase.

The most important aspect of all of this is the Church's new outlook to a new and inspiring responsibility to our greater community.

Respectfully submitted,  
*J.N.(Tony) Clark. Chair*

### **Building Utilization Task Force**

#### Members

Tony Clark, Mike Dent, Sylvain Gagnon, Ruth Ranson, Murray Rielly, Paul Bowman (Cantabile), Megan Sirett (Cantabile) Jack Soule - Chair

#### Chancel

During the summer of 2010 a team of volunteers and contractors set about the work, under the guidance of heritage architect, Bruce Downey, of modifying the Chancel, as per the agreement granted at the Congregational Meeting in March. We also profited greatly from the timely arrival of our new Operations Manager, Don Mitchell. Almost everything was complete and in place for our first service back, on September 12<sup>th</sup>, with the furnishings closely reflecting the original appearance.

- 1<sup>st</sup> week in August started the removal of the choir pews, screens and railings under the direction of Tim Soper, the cabinet maker.
- Storage of the longer pews posed a problem. They were too long to negotiate access to the basement, so Tim disassembled them and the sections were moved into the bell tower – where they are now safe and dry!
- Our able work crew next removed the risers and the floor covering. This team consisted of Tony Clark, Kenn Doerksen, Jim Leake, Bruce Hutchinson, Don Mitchell, Kirby Ruthven and Andrew Soule. This was a larger job than estimated and took 2 days to achieve a clear floor, ready for the next stage of work.
- Fortunately the subfloor was in pretty good shape, without any voids under the risers.
- Next a contractor prepared the floor for the Marmoleum surface, filling areas as necessary, levelling a hump in the centre, putting in about 6000 screws to reduce movement and then laying a plywood base. One small complication was finding that the air-supply pipe for the right bank of organ pipes passes slightly above the floor surface. A suitable cover was fashioned.
- The removal of the risers and the baseboards exposed rough wall surfaces prompting the need to extend the plaster finish to floor level. This was accomplished by Mark Gray and his crew – the same contractor who did the major interior restoration, almost 10 years ago. The texture and paint matches are quite good.
- Electrical modifications involved moving power switches around the organ and relocating power outlets.
- Tim Soper and a metal worker fashioned hardware to link up the screens and railings, as well as adding extensions incorporating the ends of the back pew. New baseboards and paneling to cover the walls that were behind the old risers were installed.
- New portable risers have been built and painted by a crew of Don Mitchell, Kenn Doerksen, Sylvain Gagnon, Charlie Walker, Diane Soule and Rob Vanderheyden.
- The final cost of this project was \$17,952, but the “Retire-a-Tile” program reduced that by \$5,523.

### Old Nursery

There was also a significant character change to the old Nursery during the summer, in preparation for its use by MGOS.

- All the previous furnishings were removed and a make-over started.
- Next Don Mitchell prepared the walls and applied the first coat of paint. Bruce and Linda Hutchinson did the second coat.
- Don installed a bulletin board and built a wall shelving unit to accommodate the children’s supplies and handicraft work.
- Marie has added her touches to make it an impressive and welcoming room.
- In addition to serving as the MGOS home, this room is now a cheery location for small meetings.

### Policies and Procedures

A policy governing the use of alcohol in the building has been drafted, reviewed by the Executive Committee, and is now ready for consideration by the Congregation.

A procedure covering the rental of SSUC facilities is under development.

### Developing a Plan

Following on the agreement received from the Congregation at the meeting of December 12, 2010, a Heritage Architect, Bruce Downey, was engaged “to develop a set of proposals/options for enhancing the utility of the SSUC building for community functions.”

On April 28<sup>th</sup> the BUTG met with Heritage Architect, Bruce Downey to receive and comment on the first draft of his proposal for modifications to the building.

Those alterations that would require the most substantial physical changes to the building are the addition of an elevator, adjacent to the main foyer, and increased washroom capacity on both floors. There was general concurrence with the proposal and the architect was asked to proceed with the development of cost estimates for these main projects. The potential to “condition” the air in the sanctuary for performances during the summer months will also be addressed.

The further development of these plans will be an iterative process, with multiple opportunities for input from the SSUC Congregation, the first being at a Special Congregational Meeting on May 29, 2011.

*Jack Soule*

Chair, Building Utilization Task Group

## Presbytery Report

As the Conference Year began in June, Kingston Presbytery received the final reports about the 363 review that had taken much of our time during the year. This end signalled a new beginning for everyone involved. The Executive had a facilitated reflection in September on the 363 process and how it impacted each of our lives.

We have monthly meetings - save October, December, February, July and August in the evenings beginning with a meal provided by the host Church. Our meetings move around so that we can experience different spaces and worship.

In September we travelled to Ompah United Church in the far north of our Presbytery where the whole community hosted us. During this meeting we asked that Presbyters write down some of their hopes and dreams for Presbytery and we have tried to honour those hopes and dreams through the year.

Our November meeting was held at the United Church built on a rock in Battersea. We presented a budget without benefit of a Finance Chair and it was sent back to us. At the end of the meeting we had an experienced financial person volunteer to be our new Finance Chair and when the budget was re-presented in January, it passed.

We were delighted to have Interim Executive Secretary of Conference join us for our December Executive meeting. He even brought cookies to share.

At our January Executive meeting we received and gratefully accepted a proposal from Ruth Wood to facilitate a revitalization of the Administration Committee.

At our January meeting at Chalmers we were honoured to have Pierre Gilroy, son of Canadian Forces Chaplain, Dan Gilroy make a presentation asking members of Presbytery to consider signing his petition to the Government of Canada to live up to its commitment to end child poverty in our country. This was part of a Grade Seven project for Pierre. He received a wonderful response from Presbytery and from congregations.

In February we had a gathering rather than a meeting and we divided into three different discussion areas - becoming an Affirming Presbytery, possible changes to Pastoral Relations processes, and Accessibility Standards for Customer Service.

In March we passed a motion to recommend to Conference a lease with an option to buy regarding the property of the former Grace United Church, Sydenham. There was a notice of motion that at the next meeting Executive will present a motion that we adopt a process to explore becoming an Affirming Presbytery. That motion was passed in April and we will begin the education process in May.

The Moderator of the United Church, Mardi Tindal, visited Kingston Presbytery at the end of March. Her visit was well received and the sharing of the stories at an evening event of how individuals live out their faith in the world was inspirational to all who attended.

At the May meeting we will be entertaining a motion to combine the Divisions of Mission in Canada and World Outreach.

Marylil will be stepping down as Chair at the rise of Conference on June 5th. The new Chair will be Peter Scott of the Bath/Morven Pastoral Charge.

Submitted By,  
*Lynn Freeman and Marylil Megginson,*  
Presbyters

## Report from Trustees

The Trustees of Sydenham St United Church during 2009/2010 were Ian Casson, Charles Cuffari, Donna Delyea, Ross Drummond, Deborah Elliott and Marilyn Huffman. Jack Soule, Bill Seath, Elizabeth MacDonald, Tony Clark and Rob Ivimey were active participants in their capacities as ex-officio members. Deborah Elliott chaired the committee and Marilyn Huffman acted as scribe. Josée Thériault of RBC Dominion Securities Inc. continues to be our portfolio advisor.

This year there were no endowment donations but there were contributions to specific funds. The Elevator Fund continues to grow and currently has \$13,976. Approximately \$14,000 was dispersed for the repairs to the organ. This had been budgeted over two years but the expenses occurred in 2010.

The Church's Endowment Fund weathered the difficulties with the stock market as we did not have to sell any of our shares. Bonds came due and provided the cash necessary for transfer to the Operating Fund of the church. As reported in previous years, the portfolio was well positioned and the shares we do have continue to produce dividends and are likely to do reasonably well in the longer term if we can avoid selling them at their current levels. This has meant that the Trustees advised the congregation that, as in previous years, for 2011 a target of \$50,000 should be set for transfer to the operating account. In 2010, \$47,829 was transferred from the Bridging Fund to the Operating Account and this depleted the funds in the Bridging Fund. The rest of the total amount (\$74,009) transferred to the Operating Account came from the Endowment Fund and is accounted for below.

### Below is the Statement of Endowment Funds as at December 31, 2010.

Value of Investments as of December 31, 2009	\$	478,277	
Donations received	\$	3,920	
Income and change in market value	\$	50,416	
Transfers to General Fund (includes Bridging Fund)	\$		74,009
Value of Investments as of December 31, 2010	\$	494,632	

The restricted funds remain at approximately \$109,000. Restricted funds are donations which may be used for specific purposes. Some allow only the interest to be used for purposes designated by the donor, often in their will. Approximately \$3000 a year is transferred to the operating account as in accordance with the wills of the donors. The Trustees are respectful of the wishes of those who have donated to Sydenham St. United Church. It is also wise to establish a reserve to maintain the building or to pay staff in the event that there ceases to be regular income. If the operation of the church continues to be dependent on regular significant transfers from the Endowment Fund, the Endowment Fund will be eliminated in less than ten years. The Trustees continue to work with the Stewardship and Sustainability Group to ensure the responsible stewardship of the assets of Sydenham St. United Church.

At the end of 2010, the Endowment Fund consisted of 10%Fixed Income, 9%Preferred Shares, 68%Common Shares and 12%Mutual Funds (cash) and 1%Other. The Trustees meet regularly with our portfolio manager, Josée Thériault, to maintain compliance to our Investment Policy.

In addition to managing the funds of the Endowment Fund the Trustees continue to work with the Property Committee to maintain the building and other capital assets of the church. We reviewed insurance policies this year and the church's assets will be appraised for insurance purposes. In 2010 the repairs to the organ were completed. The improvements to the chancel were also done and the Retire a Tile Campaign offset some of the capital expenses. As we move forward to consider further enhancements to our building there needs to be discussion as to how best to fund these improvements without depleting our Endowment Fund.

The Trustees are an active group who take their responsibility seriously, thoughtfully and with a desire to be guided by the Holy Spirit and the values of the United Church of Canada.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Deborah Elliott*, Chair, Board of Trustees

## **Changes in Membership**

### TRANSFERS IN/PROFESSION OF FAITH

Jason Swan  
Gail Atwill  
Barbara Erochina

### TRANSFERS OUT

Mary Hutchinson

## **Deaths**

Carol Cays Davidson  
Barbara Campbell  
Ian Macdonald  
Edith Chown  
Danielle Sims  
Doris Robertson  
Larry Gibson  
Linda Cornett  
Janet Maclachlan  
Jack McIntyre  
James Day  
Marion McNevin

## **Marriages**

James Malcolm Graham & Reginald Perry King  
Oscar Orlando Zamora & Roxana Velasco  
Robert Frank Partridge & Erin Prime Bryant