



From the Council Files

Keeping you informed

McDougall United Church Council

April 2017

"Our mission is to fill hungry hearts with the life of the spirit through the unconditional love of God."



Welcome Spring!

Longer, warmer days, even more sunshine, greening trees, sprouting flowers, lingering sunsets, baby animals, gardens coming to life – what a wonderful time of year! It's a perfect time to express our gratitude to God.

This month, we would like to tell you about the **Mission and Service Fund**. Some of you may know what it is, but some of you may not.

The **Mission and Service Fund** (M&S) is the way that the 2,000 United Church congregations in Canada can be compassionate together. It is how the United Church works with partners around the world to carry out God's mission. The work includes building wells and giving local communities access to health care and education. When an emergency strikes, like a hurricane, it includes providing both emergency funding and support for long-term reconstruction.

M&S supports local communities and works with marginalized communities. Our fund supports the Aboriginal Healing Fund, our Canadian ecumenical partners, and chaplains at universities, hospitals, and in communities.

Did you know that **Mission & Service** supports:

- 97 churches, Christian councils, agencies, and global ecumenical

agencies that minister in partnership with our church in 25 countries

- 75 community ministries in 12 provinces helping people in a variety of ways, including through employment training, housing, food, and counselling
- 39 chaplaincies in university, hospitals, and communities
- 141 outreach programs for youth
- 6 theological schools training our church's leaders, both ordered and lay, and 4 education centres

M&S is dramatically changing the landscape of Canada and the world by distributing funds to trusted leaders and partners. We have built amazing relationships with awesome people around the world, and **our gifts to M&S are at the heart of that transformation.**¹

Please include the Mission & Service Fund in your givings; you will make a difference in many lives in our world. Simply indicate the M&S Fund on your cheque or call the office for more information

All things come into being through God. Let us return to God a portion of what God has brought into being for us.

Thank you for giving to the work of God's kingdom.

You are the ♥ of McDougall

¹ From the United Church Philanthropy Unit

Building Restoration Status – We are nearing the end of Phase 1!

Installation of the new south tower cornices is in progress. Some minor masonry and painting items to be completed. We hope to see the scaffolding down by the end of April.

- *McDougall Restoration Committee*

Sound System

After the theft of our sound system control panel, we were able to acquire a replacement unit. We have had difficulty with resolving how to make the new unit work with the existing equipment but we are continuing to work at getting our sound quality back to normal. Our thanks to Gord Dunmore for all his hard work on the system and to Gary Simpson for loaning us a temporary unit.

Goodbye to Margot

In February, we said a reluctant "goodbye" to Margot Brandt, our Youth Worker. We pray God will bless and guide her as she explores future career opportunities. Thank you, Margot, for your valuable work with our young folks.

Children, Youth, Families

With Margot's departure, several parents have stepped up to support our youth and school-aged children on Sundays. Our thanks to Jodine Chase, Natalie de Roij, and Karen Bishop for taking the lead in ensuring that our young people continue to be involved in good quality programs.

Some excerpts from a recent report submitted to Council by Jodine, Natalie, and Karen:

- In February we conducted four Sunday classes themed around Black History Month, including the United Church of Canada's quilt lesson, and a viewing of the film "Hidden Figures."

- On March 19, several church families enjoyed a luncheon in the banquet hall sponsored by the youth ministry. We hope this is the start of regular gatherings to foster stronger relationships between our families with children, and to begin to share ideas and assess their needs.
- For April and May we will incorporate Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday themes and then return to our scripture-based Green Church curriculum.
- We will plan curriculum and activities for the remainder of the spring and into the fall;
- We will assess the viability of summer programming.
- We have also begun the outreach we recommended last fall with other downtown community entities who also serve families, in order to strengthen those connections.
- We would also like to revisit hiring plans for the Sunday morning caregiver for the preschool-aged children.

Well done, Jodine, Natalie, and Karen.

McDougall United Church Full Council

Executive Council:

Larry Derkach, Chair
 Velia Watts, Secretary, HR, Worship
 Christina Bellsmith, Senior Minister
 Margaret Lea Phillips, Treasurer
 Greg Greenough, Restoration
 Rob McLauchlin, Restoration
 Gerald Watts, Restoration, Property
 Bob Ash, Property
 Karen Bishop, Visioning Group
 Claire Redpath, Past Chair

Ministry Group Leaders:

Shirley Anthony, Hospitality Group
 Jodine Chase, Sunday School
 Janis Dunmore, Choir/Music
 Edith Harnden, Prayer Group
 Gary Simpson, Affirm Group