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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

While there are still a few more months for me to serve as chairman this is my last annual report and final general meeting and I have to say the time has flown by rather quickly. There have been a few bumps on the road and some changes along the way but there can be no doubt that this congregation feels quite passionate about their church.

One of the changes was saying goodbye to Lorrie, our Christian Education Director. I understand Lorrie is quite happy at her new church and is able to increase her study time. It was decided to discontinue providing space for the Pre School program. We were very fortunate to get two very qualified replacements to handle Sunday school and the weekday Parent & Tot Drop in. We saw some of Alcina Chiu's energetic creativity in the Christmas Pageant. Jennifer Blazek who had worked with Lorrie, is doing an excellent job in running the Parent & Tot program.

I think all of the standing committees have had a very busy year.

Stewardship spearheaded a very successful fund raising drive, carried out the necessary maintenance work and organized a lot of energy saving initiatives that will be very beneficial in future years.

Perhaps the committee with the most new activities has been the **Outreach** committee. They started a new Friday Drop-in and organized a very successful Fair Trade Fair, had Oikocredit as our advent project and the ongoing Soup and Movie nights.

The **M&P** committee has been strengthened with some new members, has met with Presbytery representatives, and attended a training seminar. They represent a very critical link between the staff and congregation.

The **Fellowship** Committee and especially the Hospitality group have had a busy year. They had an unusually large number of funeral receptions, Lorrie's Goodbye party, Alvin's 100th Birthday celebration, Presbytery Oversight lunch, AGM lunch, Music on the Donway Concert receptions, and helped with the Fair Trade Fair, the Soup & Movie nights, and the Friday Drop in.

The services would not happen without the **Worship** committee. Trying to satisfy the wishes of everyone and having to fill over a dozen tasks every week is no easy job.

We have a group of hard working people on the **Strategic Planning** committee who were given the mandate of assuring the viability of the church for the next five years and well beyond. They had a major part in last year's AGM and will be involved again this year.

Our **Treasurer** was required to set a very tight budget and managed to stay within it with some innovative measures including a change in our auditing methods.

We are fortunate to have three major tenants: Brighton School, The Spirit of Math, and the Toronto Evergreen Church. We thank Bob Ogilvie for his many years of service as Trustee and Leases Co-coordinator and welcome Brent Bittner who has taken over this position.

Under Rev. Palin's leadership there seems to be more emphasis on opening our doors and inviting the community into activities in our church. She also is providing opportunities for us to become more familiar with other religions. This may be the direction we should be looking if we are to remain viable and relevant. Many feel that Jaren is not only an efficient Administrator but

is also providing a ministry. Our music director Daniel Rubinoff continues to provide outstanding music and exceptional singers.

When I think back to all the men and women who have served in this position, I consider it a great honor to have served as chairman. I thank everyone for the support they have shown me and while at the time of this writing my successor has not yet been chosen I urge you to offer your full support to our next chairman.

Norm Childerhose

THE DONWAY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

Feb 28, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Norm Childerhose called the meeting to order. Reverend Jennifer Palin opened the meeting with prayer.

MOTION by Don Cowan, seconded by Bob Ogilvie, that Norm Childerhose be elected chair of the meeting and Jaren McLeod, recording secretary. **CARRIED**

AGENDA

MOTION by Janet Hossack, seconded by Al Hall that the agenda be approved with the following amendment that a reports from the Presbytery Representatives and the Minister be added to the agenda. **CARRIED**

MINUTES

MOTION by Bob Ogilvie, seconded by Bob Nelson, that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 28, 2009 be adopted as published. **CARRIED.**

FINANCIAL REPORT AND BUDGET

Bill Hossack presented the audited 2009 DCUC Financial statements.

- **The good news** is the bills are paid, there is money in the bank and the P&L statements show a profit of \$23,000.
- **The bad news** is that we are actually \$7,000 in the red because we have had to draw from our “rainy day funds”. Givings are down 5% and M&S contributions are down 14%
- **The solution** is to cut expenses and start fund raising during the year for special projects or specific job. We need to focus on increasing the givings.

MOTION by Murray Cutler and seconded by Ted Reeve that the 2009 Financial Statements be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

Bill presented the 2010 budget and pointed out that there was no funds for maintaining the buildings.

MOTION by Bill Hossack and seconded by Ted Reeve that the 2010 budget be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

REVIEW OF ANNUAL REPORTS

1. Trustees

Bob Nelson presented his report and announced that Bob Ogilvie will be retiring from his position as Leases Co-ordinator at the end of June. Bob thanked Bob for his dedication over the past number of years. Bob thanked the Trustees for their work on the committee during this past year.

2. Ministry & Personnel

Don Hacker referred everyone to his report in the Annual Report.

3. Education Committee

Lorrie Daly Price thanked all that were involved in the library, the Tuesday Study Group and all those who have helped out at the congregational BBQs and parties.

4. Outreach Committee

Marie Harvey thanked everyone for making the Outreach Committee events a success. She thanked those involved in E.S.L. Conversation Group, The Community Share Food Bank, Amnesty International Letter Signing Circle, the Film & Soup Series and the upcoming Fair Trade Fair to be held in May.

5. Fellowship

Bonnie Kennedy thanked the members of her committee and especially Marian Childerhose who keeps us focused. Bonnie also thanked the congregation for volunteering to cover all the various ministries (ushering, greeting, etc.) described in the Annual Report.

6. Stewardship

Frank Saunders showed appreciation for the contributions of the members of his team. He talked about the fact that over \$400,000 has been spent on the buildings over the past five years. This year no money has been allocated to the building. Major work needs to be done in the sanctuary and recommends to the council that a fund raiser take place sometime this year to help pay for these repairs.

7. Worship

Janet Hossack thanked all the members of her committee for their contributions in this past year. She thanked all the volunteers (15/Sunday) in making our Sunday services run smoothly. It is becoming more difficult to get new volunteers and in this year alone 17 people have asked to be removed from our volunteer lists. The addition of soloists to our choir has been very beneficial.

8. Presbytery

Bob Nelson and Murray Cutler expressed their appreciation of being our Presbytery representatives.

9. Strategic Planning Committee

Cathy Paterson and Mark Bell made a presentation to the congregation about the demographics of the Don Mills neighbourhood and the need to examine the role of the church in this changing world.

NEW BUSINESS**Nominating Committee Report**

Don Cowan presented the slate of nominations for next year:

Chair **Norm Childerhose**
Vice-Chair Vacant
Secretary Jaren McLeod
Treasurer **Bill Hossack**
Representative to Presbytery: **Murray Cutler, Bob Nelson**

Ministry and Personnel

Co-Chairs: Don Hacker, John Sloan
Mark Bell, Roberta Walker, Ed Hicks, Helen Campbell

Trustees

Chair: Bill Anderson
Marten de Groot, Cam Beaton, Don McKerron

Christian Education

Chair: Vacant
Patti Snowdon, Marla Miller, Carol Gaghadar, Soojin Chung

Fellowship

Chair: Bonnie Kennedy
Marian Childerhose, Jill Reeve, Nancy Rowe, Nina Saunders, Mary Vogl,
Rosemary Barren

Outreach

Chair: Marie Harvey,
Don Cowan, Helen Guillet

Stewardship

Chair: Frank Saunders
Marten de Groot, Dave Reid, Fred Kasper, Ted Reeve

Worship

Chair: Janet Hossack,
Cam Beaton, Polly Fairn, Barbara Messaros, Melody Yang, Maureen Hall, Nancy
Webb, Carolyn Reashore

Strategic Planning Committee

Co Chairs: Mark Bell, Cathy Paterson
Marie Harvey, Don Cowan, Patricia Mills, Yvonne Ng

Nominating Committee

Ted McDowell, Chair Plus one member from each of the standing committees.

MOTION by Al Hall, seconded by Ted Reeve, that the slate of nominations for 2010 be adopted as presented. **CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

CHAIRMEN'S REMARKS

Norm Childerhose thanked all the members of the congregation for the work they do for this church. Norm thanked Ted Reeve for volunteering to do the Giant Fall Sale again this year. He thanked the Strategic Planning Committee for their presentation and encouraged the congregation to think about what it is that God wants for this church's mission.

Norm informed the congregation that a Pastoral Oversight Committee will be holding a meeting with the congregation on Sunday March 28th. All are welcome.

Last but not least thank you to our staff.

Don Cowan stood and thanked Norm Childerhose and his wife Marian for all their extra efforts over the past year.

BENEDICTION

Reverend Jennifer Palin pronounced the Benediction.

MOTION by Al Hall, seconded by Don Hacker that the meeting be adjourned. **CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Recording Secretary – Jaren McLeod

Nominating Committee Report for 2011

The nominating committee report consists of those whose names appear in **bold** print. Other names under the various committees represent those who have graciously agreed to regularly attend the various committee meetings. There are many, many others involved in the volunteer ministries overseen by our committees.

Chair **Norm Childerhose**
Vice-Chair Vacant
Secretary Jaren McLeod
Treasurer **Bill Hossack**

Presbytery Representatives

Bob Nelson, Brent Bittner, Jennifer Palin

Ministry and Personnel

Chairs: John Sloan

Mark Bell, Roberta Walker, Ed Hicks, Helen Campbell, Don Hacker

Trustees

Chair: Bill Anderson

Marten de Groot, Cam Beaton, Don McKerron

Christian Education

Chair: Don Hacker

**Carol Gaghadar, Soo jin Chung, Tom Milburn, Jill Reeve,
Gwenn Van Hamm, Vivian Hall**

Fellowship

Chair: Bonnie Kennedy

**Marian Childerhose, Jill Reeve, Nancy Rowe, Nina Saunders,
Diane Cutler, Don Messaros Cam Beaton, Enid Sills, Charby Blaine**

Outreach

Chair: Marie Harvey,

Don Cowan, Helen Guillet, Lorna Lampkin, Norma Cowan

Stewardship

Chair: Frank Saunders

**Marten de Groot, Dave Reid, Fred Kasper, Ted Reeve, Brent Bittner, Bob Nelson,
Anne Anderson, Doug England**

Worship

Chair: Janet Hossack,

**Cam Beaton, Polly Fairn, Barbara Messaros, Maureen Hall, Ingrid Smith, Vivian
Hall, Frank Lowe, David Hall, Linda Reid, Brent Bittner**

Strategic Planning

Co Chairs: Mark Bell, Cathy Paterson

Marie Harvey, Patricia Mills, Yvonne Ng, Mary Joyce

Nominating Committee

Acting Chair: Norm Childerhose

Plus one member from each of the standing committees.

MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

The people of DCUC have accomplished remarkable things this year, as individuals and as a community:

- with tremendous hope and faith, The Outreach Committee organized it's first Fair Trade Fair – a major undertaking which brought hundreds of people to DCUC for a day of education in global economics, wonderful food in the Fair Trade Café, and the pure enjoyment of seeing beautiful fairly traded handicrafts and art for sale; I'm looking forward to this Spring's Fair Trade Fair already;
- as individuals, people have made major transitions in their lives, moving from private homes to smaller condos, and to places where more care is available, and they have made these moves with grace and dignity and as people of faith;
- despite the deaths of many beloved church members, DCUC folk have continued to participate in worshipping community, grieving but also living lives reflecting strength, compassion, and faith;
- there are so many ways members offer networks of care to each other – through our Ladies Fellowship, through our Friday afternoon teas, through the Pastoral Care Team, through innumerable personal friendships, and through all the other ways we gather as community to do the work of the church and at the same time to be brother and sister to each other;
- the buildings are in great shape thanks to capable volunteers and staff who make sure we live, work and worship in clean, safe and beautiful environments; so, too, our finances are very strong;
- the delight of worship and the Christian Education of children and youth have been enhanced by our new staff person Alcina Chiu; Daniel and the Choir offer a rich gift of beautiful music each week;
- We have found more and more ways to reach out to our community with an expanding ESL program, two film fests a year, and hard work through the Food Bank to serving even more hungry people.

We know there are broad and deep social changes happening in our society which we need to adapt to as a church. At our Annual Meeting the Strategic Planning Committee will lead us in discussion of this. But we also know that “Grace has brought us safe thus far and Grace will see us home”... to new ways of being church. The following poem, by Jennie Gordon, based on Matthew 4:12, describes well, I think, the spiritual challenge of these changes, the need for vulnerability, and childlike wonder:

The problem with turning around is
That what I thought
Was in front of me
Stretching on ahead
The path for fulfilling well crafted dreams
The goal of sustained strategic thinking
The golden reward for years of toil
Now becomes
What I leave behind.

And what I thought
I was done with:
A childlike reliance on the source of life
A hunger to learn the ways of love
A willingness to follow and to be led
Looks me in the eye
That's the problem with turning around.

But actually, it was ever thus, and that is why we trust and celebrate the One
who leads us forward.

Rev. Jennifer Palin

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

We continued our role of defining a course for the future. We took input from the annual meeting last year, letters and on-going conversations with the congregation. In this past year our focus has been to investigate options for our collective future. Following is a brief summary of our activities:

18 meetings since March 2010

Visitors

- **Don Ray** – Culture & the Church
- **Audrey King**- Culture & Religion
- **Barb & Don Mesaros** – work with youth
- **Mike Labbe** – Housing Options

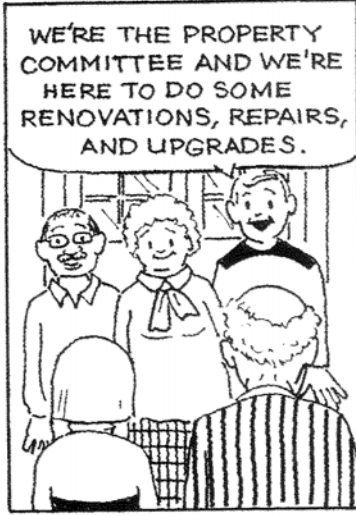
Participation in final briefings for Behold I do a new thing

8 visits to other congregations

- **Runnymede United Church**
- **Trinity St.Paul United Church**
- **Lawrence Park Community United Church**
- **Beach United Church**
- **West Hill United Church**
- **Grace United Church**
- **Church of the Redeemer Anglican**
- **St. Gabriels Roman Catholic**

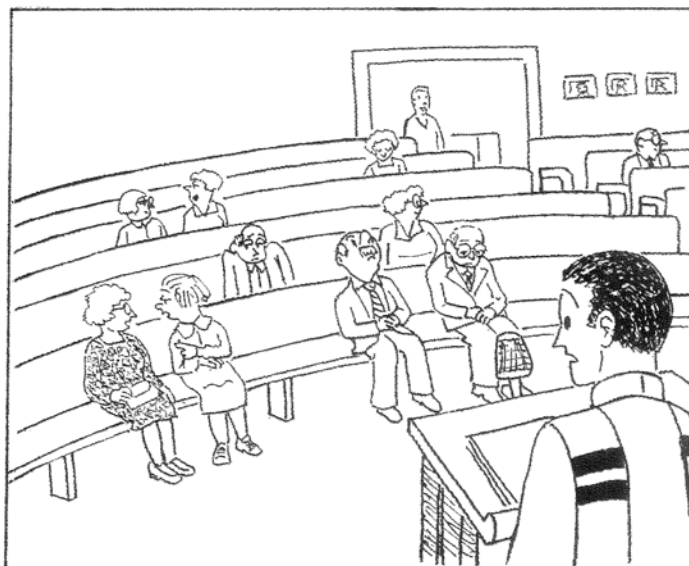
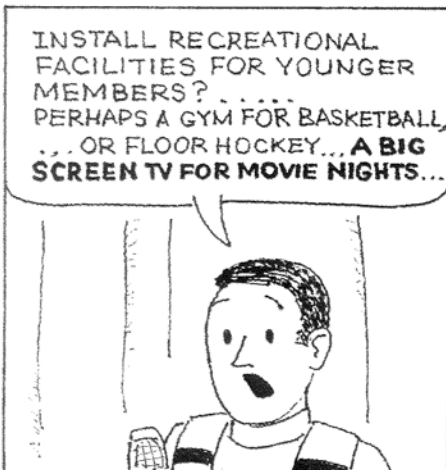
HALLELUJAH ANYWAY

By Bob Kain



HALLELUJAH ANYWAY

By Bob Kain



Here are the facts.

The United Church has
fewer members today
than it did when it was formed in 1925
— **and less than half of what it had**
at its peak in the mid-1960s.

The shift to secularism
from institutional religion in the West
is almost complete.

But as **Kenneth Bagnell** surveys
the theological landscape,
he sees a new kind of
liberal Christianity
beginning
to take shape.

TORONTO SOUTHEAST PRESBYTERY REPORT

This year is the first full year of operation for the new Toronto Southeast Presbytery. The four new Presbyteries of Toronto Conference are; Living Waters, Northern Waters, South West, and Toronto Southeast. The volunteers are settling into the work of Presbytery which includes; Ministerial changes, Ministers being covenanted, JNACs, Joint Searches, church re-visioning and visits to congregations by the Pastoral Relations and Pastoral Oversight Committees as specified in the United Church Manual. The new Presbytery intends to be more involved in supporting congregational life.

The structure of the new Presbytery consists of; a general court that meets every other month (except in summer), an Executive Committee that meets on alternate months, and a selection of committees. Currently the committees are: Admissions (Education & Students), Communications, Congregational Life and Youth, Executive, Finance and Property, Interchurch Interfaith, Justice and Global Issues, Mission and Outreach, Mission Strategy, Pastoral Oversight and Pastoral Relations. Some of these committees welcome members from congregations who are not Presbyters. Presbytery is staffed by; Anne Shirley Sutherland (Conference Minister for Programs, Property and Public Witness), Teresa Burnett-Cole (Conference Minister for Pastoral Relations and Ministry Support) and Wendy Miller (Administrative Assistant). Presbytery takes in fifty eight Pastoral Charges and three mission fields (Malvern Community Outreach, Toronto Christian Resource Centre and West Don Area Ministry). A website for Presbytery is available from the Toronto Conference web site.

As you can see there is a lot happening in Toronto Southeast Presbytery. I am honoured to represent The Donway Covenant United Church, and thank you for your continued support.

Bob Nelson

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHAIR: Bill Anderson

Team Members: Marten de Groot, Cam Beaton, Don McKerron

The Board of Trustees holds and administers the Church property for the benefit of the congregation. The Board ensures that the land and buildings are maintained, adequately insured and that a record of the inventory is up-to-date.

Investments held with Fiera Sceptre reflect an increase of 10.3% year over year while funds invested in B.M.O. Armada Protected Notes improved 1.6%. The increase in our investments is due to improved market conditions. Funds held in Guaranteed Investment Certificates earn approximately 1.75% which is down from the 4% earned in previous years.

Insurance coverage over buildings and equipment remains the same. The United Church of Canada has negotiated increased liability coverage for Officers and Directors at a reduced premium, a savings of \$425 per annum.

On behalf of the congregation we wish to thank the Stewardship Committee and their volunteers for the work performed in maintaining the Church property in good condition. Sincere thanks also to Bob Nelson, Bob Ogilvie and Marla Miller who retired from the Board of Trustees in 2010.

Bill Anderson

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL

CO-CHAIRS: Don Hacker, John Sloan

Team Members: Mark Bell, Ed Hicks, Roberta Walker, Helen Campbell

We are the Ministry & Personnel Committee, better known as the M & P Committee. We have a variety of duties within our church home. The main one is to work towards ensuring that there is a climate in the congregation where constructive feedback can be offered and received in a positive way, **PERFORMING ITS DUTIES IN STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY.**

The committee has a responsibility to ensure that feedback rises above gossip and hearsay and becomes a positive development. (A Handbook for M&P Committees – The United Church of Canada)

Any concerns raised must include specific details that will allow reasonable action. However the Committee will not consider anonymous or undocumented complaints. Please keep in mind the M&P Committee is not a decision-making body and that it can only recommend action to Council.

The committee received a few suggestions/concerns from members this year. These have been shared with Ministry staff and presbytery if appropriate (without mentioning the individual names!)

The M&P Committee consists of Co-chairs Don Hacker and John Sloan. Team members are: Mark Bell, Helen Campbell, Ed Hicks and Roberta Walker.

NOTE: Presbytery held a seminar for Ministry & Personnel Committee members from various United Churches on Saturday, February 12th, 2011. Some of our members were able to attend.

John Sloan
Don Hacker

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Janet Hossack

Team members:

Music:	Daniel Rubinoff	Memorial Flowers:	Barbara Messaros
Sanctuary:	Ingrid Smith	Lay Readers:	Cam Beaton
	Vivian Hall	Ushers:	Carolyn & Bud Reashore
Communion:	Maureen Hall	Drivers:	Frank Lowe
	Polly Fairn		
Sound & Hearing:	David Hall		

The Worship Committee's Role is to assist in planning all aspects of worship at DCUC and to coordinate the many volunteers who assist with all our services. There are many people involved with the smooth running of the services each and every week

It is a dedicated group that works with Jennifer to create the kind of services that will be meaningful for our congregation. This group gives a great deal of time, thought and creativity to this end. We welcome Ingrid Smith to the committee. Vivian Hall is coaching and assisting her to be in charge of the sanctuary. Outside the committee, Cam Beaton continues to organize the lay readers and Frank Lowe is now organizing the drivers. Carolyn Reashore who organized the usher lists for two years is leaving the worship committee. She made countless telephone calls. Her contribution will be missed.

In 2010 worship committee worked with Jennifer on the following special services and initiatives: An Ash Wednesday service, a Passover Seder, an intergenerational service on Grandparents Day. Summer holiday guest ministers and speakers were Lorrie Daly-Price, Rob Oliphant, John Congram, Bob Wright and Krista Seder. The August Sermon series was called The Age of Grace. The fall sermon series was on The Song of Faith. During advent, the sanctuary was very beautifully decorated around new Advent Paraments. These beautiful blue woven woolen cloths were given to The Donway Covenant United in memory of Stewart Moir. The family Christmas Eve service had an updated pageant created by Alcina and the youth. They gave a very energetic performance.

To all the volunteers who assist in every aspect of our services – the drivers, the ushers, the flower arrangers, those preparing the sanctuary, the choir members, those serving communion and reading scripture, thank you.

We welcome feedback from the congregation at any time.

Janet Hossack

Music

2010-11 has been very important one for the music program at Donway Covenant United Church. The choir continues to take on more responsibility for the teaching of new music to the congregation. In addition, we have gradually increased our individual musical offerings while at the same time we continue to perfect music in our library that deeply speaks to us both

artistically and spiritually. Our aim is to inspire the congregation and help all of us feel the significance of Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, Advent, Christmas and Easter. We are looking forward to presenting music for contemplation and during the Lenten season. During Easter, we will present some new music that reflects the joy of the season.

We are pleased this year to have welcomed Bill Graham (tenor), Dereck Lumb (tenor) and Seeyeon Jin (soprano/alto) into the choir. These new voices are very important to us and we are always open to newcomers from the congregation and the community. Meghan Fleet and Mark Gough, our very fine section leads, continue to help us achieve higher standards of choral excellence. Their participation as soloists has added an important dimension to the music program.

The music program has interacted with some fine musicians from the Toronto community. This year we welcomed trumpeters Scott Harrison (Trillium Brass) and Bill Thomas (York University). We also have invited Michelle DeBoer (Toronto Consort) to provide some vocal coaching from the perspective of a professional chorister.

It has been a great pleasure to welcome Alcina Chiu to the staff team at Donway Covenant United Church. As a colleague and fellow Dalcrozian, Alcina brings many gifts to the church. Her participation in the music program as a singer during the Christmas season was very well received. Under her direction, the Christmas Pageant service on December 24 was a great success. She facilitated a very creative and meaningful re-interpretation of the Christmas Story that was very well presented (with lovely singing and acting) by our young people. We will continue to look for new ways of integrating the children and youth alongside the music program.

Music on the Donway continues to be a successful form of stewardship. Our goal is to build community awareness of our church and to present high quality music in Don Mills. After the success of the “Tale of Two Tenors” in November and “For the Love of Jazz” in February, we look forward to the world music group Antler River, who will present their music on Saturday, April 30th at 7:30 p.m. We are always open to new ideas – especially in the areas of fundraising and marketing. A special thanks to concert chairperson Sigrid Angell who is such a tireless volunteer and excellent organizer.

As in past years, the work of the Worship Committee has been central to clarifying the role of music from Sunday to Sunday. My heartfelt thanks to Janet Hossack (chair), Rev. Jennifer Palin and all those who faithfully serve on this hard-working committee.

Daniel Rubinoff

Sanctuary

Having recently assumed sanctuary responsibilities, I have been fortunate to have the guidance and assistance of Vivian Hall in this new role. The sanctuary is looked after by a number of dedicated and experienced individuals who ensure on a weekly basis that the sanctuary is ready for Sunday service. We are responsible for changing paraments and antependiums to reflect each liturgical season, seasonal decorating and ensuring the candles are replaced as necessary.

The new blue Advent Antependia donated by Bernice Moir in memory of her husband Stewart and dedicated on November 28th, 2010 were a wonderful addition to our sanctuary during the Advent season.

Our committed team consists of: Vivian Hall, Barb and Don Messaros, Frank and Nina Saunders and Irene Simmons. The on-going support of Janet Hossack is much appreciated.

Ingrid Smith

Communion

The sacrament of Communion was held several times at the 10:30 service, as well as at our 2 Christmas Eve services. Each of our Communion services used the intincture method of Communion whereby each individual comes to the chancel area and receives a wafer of bread to dip into the wine to share in the sacrament of Communion. At one of our worship services in the spring of 2010, we also served a special bread as people left the sanctuary. This was bread baked from ingredients shared by the United Church with each congregation across the country, and symbolized our connection to this broader community of faith.

Thank you to all of the servers who assisted in these very meaningful observances of our faith. People are happy to help serve and find it gives them a strong connection with the individuals they serve. One of our servers commented specifically on the impact of observing the faces and hands of each congregant as they came forward for communion. We are blessed in our congregation with a wealth of life experience and a variety of understanding and progress through our individual spiritual journeys. Thanks also to the ushers who helped the Communion services be welcoming and inclusive of everyone in the congregation, by inviting each pew to join in receiving Communion, and for identifying people to be served in the pews.

Polly Fairn and Maureen Hall

Lay Readers

The 26 volunteer lay readers played a very important role in our Sunday Services over 32 Sundays from September through to May.

Thanks to each one for their participation - it made my job much easier.

Campbell Beaton

Flowers

Our creative team arranges floral displays on the third Sunday of each month and places them in the sanctuary in memory of loved ones. Members of the Caring Committee faithfully deliver bouquets to those in the congregation who are ill or grieving following the morning service. Usual donations for memorial flowers through the church office are \$20 for which receipts are given.

The sanctuary is decorated for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and World Wide Communion to enhance our Sunday services. We appreciate the compliments, encouragement and financial support from the congregation. The outdoor urns are decorated seasonally incorporating live

plant material. This year lights were added to the front entrance on our new trellis for Christmas. We are always looking for new ideas to provide a visual experience to aid in worship and welcome any input.

Our committee includes; Marlene Daly, Bernice Moir, Georgenia and Eric Williams, Melody Yang, Vivian and Al Hall, Don and Barbara Messaros. We also want to thank members of the badminton group for their continued help. Anyone interested in learning the art of floral arranging please contact anyone on the committee.

Barb Messaros

Ushers

DCUC ushers provide a warm welcome, assist a worshipper when required, hand out the bulletin and take up the offering.

Again this year we welcomed our youth to participate in the following Sunday services:

February 7th Scout Sunday - the Scouts, Guides and their leaders,

May 9th Christian Family Sunday - parents and their children,

June 20th Father's Day - fathers and sons

September 12 Intergenerational Grandparents Day - Grand parents and grandchildren

Ushers were scheduled for January, February and March; April, May and June; July, August and September; October, November, and December. The usher instruction sheet was attached to each schedule and put in the mail slots located in the narthex.

Ushering gives you an opportunity to greet both old friends and meet new ones. DCUC thanks our members who are no longer able to help with this part of the worship service and welcomes the new ones who have joined the team.

Bud & Carolyn Reashore

Drivers

The service of the volunteer drivers is increasingly important as some of our faithful members give up their cars. This past year, 10-12 members have taken advantage of our Sunday Driving service. About 15 members were drivers this year. We need more fresh offers from people to help as it is not unusual for 5 people to ask for rides on a Sunday with 2 of them using walkers. Some of the 80 and 85 year old volunteer drivers should not be slinging walkers into their trunks. If you are at all able to help, please let us know and please help if asked.

A heartfelt thanks to all those who have driven this past year.

Frank Lowe

Sound System & Hearing Devices

I would like to thank the sound volunteer team of David Saltmarsh, Mark Bell, and Norm Childerhose who, along with me, take turns operating the sound system each Sunday.

Irene Simmons operates the sound system for funerals and weddings and Al Hall helps out by regularly changing the batteries in the hearing devices.

We would welcome new volunteers on our team, especially during the summer months.

David Hall

IN MEMORIAM

Archie McMillan, Bob Duncan, Kit Dowding, Edith Davies, Marion Dunlop, Dorothy Blefgen, Audrey Birrell, Jean Balderson, Doug Robertson, Joyce Hacker, Berna Hull, Gord Heintzman, Don Ray, Bob Dearlove.

SUMMARY:

Weddings: 1

Deaths: 14

CHRISTAIN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CHAIR Vacant

Team Members:	Soojin Chung, Carol Gaghdar
Sunday School Coordinator:	Alcina Chiu
Parents & Tots Coordinator:	Jennifer Blazek
P. & T. Assistant Coordinator:	Patty Snowdon
Library	Gwen Van Hamme & Vivian Hall
Tuesday Study Group	Jill Reeve, Joan McCalmont
Observer	Tom Milburn

Sunday School

Since September, we have been exploring ideas and concepts brought up by the Song of Faith series and Advent season. The children and youth have been engaged in discovering how they can live according to God's will. We have used the Witness curriculum, as well as original lessons developed by the staff. While learning about Christianity, a complementary focus was on finding ourselves through it. We are creating a sense of empowerment by living well and loving each other, no matter what our age and abilities.

At the start of the academic year, we enjoyed getting to know each other and sharing what we wanted to get out of Sunday school. With ages ranging from toddler to mid-teens, we identified

various goals that we are working towards achieving this year. The youth have been very helpful in mentoring the younger children and have flourished in leadership roles.

In October, the youth rallied together to produce a Hallowe'en haunted house for the congregation to enjoy - and enjoy they did. The youth organized food, decorations, and costumes in record time and did a spectacular job. The gruesome artifacts, the amusing, intergenerational games, and group storytelling provided for a night of great entertainment for all who attended.

During the Advent season, we turned theory into action. The children and youth participated in the Candle Lighting liturgies during Sunday services, taking roles in reading the responsive liturgy and lighting the candles. Thanks to the generous support of the congregation, we raised enough money to buy a full OikoCredit by making and selling crafts and refreshments. We were excited by the prospect of helping people in developing countries through our efforts after hearing success stories from this programme.

We ended off the 2010 year with much merriment. 'Twas definitely the season to be jolly. Our Christmas party at the beginning of December not only provided us with time for fellowship and craft making, but also kicked off our rehearsals for the annual Christmas pageant. The children and youth produced the whole show, from writing the script and choosing roles, to painting the sets and finally performing in front of a live and captive audience. They had a fun time telling the Christmas story in a new light and the pageant was well received.

As we move into the new year, we continue to look into ways in which we can contribute to the betterment of our community and the world around us. Thank you for all your support over the past few months.

Alcina Chiu

Parents and Tots Program

The Parent and Tot program, which runs every Tuesday and Thursday from September to June, has seen a very successful first half of the year. The program continues to offer parents and caregivers a place for their children to socialize, sing songs and read stories. It has also allowed many parents and caregivers the opportunity to meet other parents within our community. Since September, we have enrolled 43 new families into the program and meet new families on a weekly basis.

Through the Ontario Early Years program, I have arranged a speech pathologist from Toronto Speech and Language, to discuss and address concerns that parents may have had about their child's development. I have also arranged a monthly visit from a Toronto Public Health nurse, to discuss nutrition, vaccines, and developmental milestones.

I have had positive feedback from many of the parents, they consider the program to be very enriching and stimulating for their children. The parents and caregivers consider the Parent and Tot program to be an asset to our community and their children's lives.

Jennifer Blazek

Library

The church library is open after the service on Sundays for you to browse around and sign out a book. Also if you are at the church during the week Jaren will be happy to open the door for you. There is an adult, large print and children's section.

We also want to remind you about the selection of books in the church office which can also be lent out. These books belong to Jennifer.

The latest book added to our library is Rev. J. D .Kennedy's book "How to C.O.M.F.O.R.T a Dying Friend' which was donated in memory of Audrey Birrell.

Gwen Van Hamme & Vivian Hall.

The Observer

By reading the Observer on a regular basis one can keep informed of Church events across Canada and benefit from many interesting topics that relate to our daily lives. In the February 2011 issue, Ken Bagnell has an informative article on current situation of membership in the United Church.

The Editor David Wilson always has a column on pertinent subjects.

If you are not a current subscriber consider adding your name to the list at a Group rate of \$20 for 11 issues. There are currently 43 subscribing members.

Tom Milburn

The Tuesday Morning Study Group

There are approximately 17 members in this group, with usually 12-14 people attending each week for two hours in the Living Room. We co-operatively select a book we want to study. We look for books that reflect our search for understanding our faith and that will spark informal, personal discussion. It takes several months to get through each book. We are a friendly group who welcome new members, anyone who wants to discuss their spiritual life or doubts or feelings about the church.

For more information, call Jill Reeve or Joan McCalmont (416-447-0942).

Jill Reeve & Joan McCalmont

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

CHAIR Marie Harvey

Members: Don Cowan, Helen Guillet & Lorna Lampkin
Conversation Group Norma Cowan, Helen Campbell, Margaret & Bill Lawson,
 Frank Lowe, Audrey Marples, Frank & Nina Saunders
Food Bank Jaren McLeod, Bill Anderson, Pat Reid
Amnesty International Letter Signing Circle: Helen Guillet, Jaren McLeod

Our Purpose: Following our call as disciples of Jesus Christ to serve the marginalized and vulnerable.

Our **Fair Trade Fair** on Saturday, May 1st attracted 3-400 people who enjoyed the products of several Fair Trade Vendors, including “10,000 Villages”, films, speakers and the café. There was also the opportunity for those unfamiliar with our sanctuary to visit, ask questions or take a tour. Much of the success of the event was due to the excellent advertising leadership by Sigrid Angell and the work of Marion Childerhose and her committee in the café. More than 80 volunteers contributed their time and talents before and during the event. The planning for this year’s Fair Trade Fair begins in March. We hope that many members of the congregation and community will support the Fair Trade Fair on Saturday May 14, 2011. This promises to be a family friendly event with lots of fun for everyone.

Members of the congregation, who support **Amnesty International**, met for lunch, in the Living Room, on Saturday June 5th to enjoy lunch and raise funds for the work of Amnesty International. Letter signing continues on the third Sunday of each month under the leadership of Helen Guillet and Jaren McLeod. All members of the congregation are invited to support this worthwhile cause.

The **Advent Project**, Oikocredit, was promoted by having Fair Trade items for sale on December 5 and December 12. Volunteers from Oikocredit also visited the coffee hour to answer questions and distribute pamphlets to help us understand the value of this project. Approximately \$2600 was raised to allow the church to buy 10 shares in Oikocredit.

The **Film Fest-Soup Suppers** continued with a series in the spring and another in November, with an excellent response. The next session will take place during Lent, March 30-“One Week”, April 6-“Last Night”, April 13-“Shadow Lands”, April 20-“Last Orders”. In most cases these films star well-known actors.

Since September the Outreach Committee has held seven sessions of “**The Living Room Drop-In**” for members of the congregation, the community and ESL students. All are welcome to enjoy coffee, conversation and board games. The committee has been pleased with the response. The next session will be held on March 18.

The **Conversation Group** meets every Wednesday afternoon from September to early June, at the Christian Education Building, with people from many different countries. On special

occasions such as Christmas and Victoria Day they meet in homes. At the Christmas tree decorating celebration in December the students requested that they sing Christmas carols, while one member played the violin. It was a wonderful sight to see the leaders and members from many countries singing enthusiastically together. Several have commented that this is the only time that they are able to practice their English.

Any work that is planned by this committee is possible only through the efforts of volunteers. We value their support.

Marie Havey

Food Bank

The Community Share Food Bank is operated at the Church of The Ascension on Tuesday and Saturday mornings. The bank is staffed by volunteers from local Churches. Since the beginning of the economic downturn the number of families the food bank serves has increased substantially. Non-perishable food donations are always needed along with cheques made out to: "Community Share Food Bank". Donations of food can be placed in the basket in the narthex of our church. If you are interested in volunteering at the Food Bank speak to Bill Anderson.

Jaren Mcleod

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

CHAIR Bonnie Kennedy

The Fellowship committee is responsible for the smooth running of fourteen Ministry teams:

1. **The Voice** Jill Reeve
2. **Memorial Flowers** Nancy Rowe
3. **Hospitality** Marian Childerhose
4. **Ladies' Fellowship** Marian Childerhose
5. **Greeters/Welcome Table** Bonnie Kennedy
6. **Cards** Diane Cutler
7. **Marathon Bridge** Cam Beaton
8. **Ladies' Bridge** Enid Sills & Charby Blaine
9. **Badminton** Don Messaros
10. **Coffee Hosts** Bonnie Kennedy
11. **Qi Cong** Bonnie Kennedy

COFFEE HOUR

Many willing hands and hearts are responsible for this very important, ongoing Ministry that takes place every Sunday morning in the auditorium after our Worship Service. We are grateful to our team of able and hardworking volunteers who set up tables, make coffee and tea, set out cups and milk and sugar and juice, and clean up when the hour is over. We are also grateful to a dedicated team of volunteers who have agreed to call our kitchen volunteers and secure a commitment from them regarding what Sunday they will come to perform this most important service. We are always looking for more volunteers. If you are interested in becoming part of this Ministry, please speak to Bonnie Kennedy

Bonnie Kennedy

GREETERS

Being greeted at the door on Sunday morning with a welcoming smile and a handshake is a good way to start our hour of Worship. Thanks to all the volunteers who take their turn sharing their warmth and friendship with others. If you are interested in becoming a Greeter, please contact Bonnie Kennedy. We will all appreciate your help.

Bonnie Kennedy

WELCOME TABLE

The Welcome Table is located in the Narthex to the right of the centre doors into the Sanctuary. Visitors are warmly welcomed, invited to sign our Visitors' Book, and receive a Donway Covenant United Church pen. We encourage them to come to the Coffee Hour in the Auditorium after Church. A welcoming letter from Reverend Jennifer Palin is sent out the following week. Bonnie Kennedy and Roberta Walker are sharing the Welcome Table Ministry. Thanks too, to Barbara Messaros, Nina Saunders, Frank Saunders, Helen Campbell, Mary Joyce, Irene Simmons, and other kind souls who are pressed into service from time to time. If you are aware of visitors to our Church, please speak to them, make them feel welcome and invite them to Coffee Hour after the Service. We are all part of the Welcoming Committee.

Bonnie Kennedy

Qi Cong

The Qi Cong exercise and meditation class is held every Wednesday morning from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Living Room. The group consists of approximately six to eight persons, and includes members of our Congregation and friends from the community. If you are interested in joining these classes, please speak to Jaren in the Church Office, or call Bonnie Kennedy.

Bonnie Kennedy

The Voice

Our church newsletter comes out three times a year, and is picked up or sent to every member of the congregation. It includes news about our own church happenings, as well as news of the wider church, social issues, a few jokes and inspirational poems, and of course, always an interesting article by our 100 year old resident retired engineer and free-lance writer, Alvin Nelson. Thank you to everyone who sends me interesting articles they have either written or found in other publications. I cannot use them all, but always consider them; it makes my job much easier. We hope that our new policy of sending the Voice out electronically to those who want it that way is proving useful. We still have many paper copies available for those who want them. It certainly saves on printing and mailing costs. We hope no one is getting missed in this new distribution method.

Jill Reeve

Cards

Since this time last year 111 cards have been sent to members of the congregation and others who are shut-in, ill or bereaved. Those celebrating special birthdays and anniversaries were also remembered with a card.

Call Jaren @ 416-444-8444 or myself @ 416-499-8446 if you know of someone who should be remembered with a card.

Thanks for your continuing support.

Diane Cutler

Memorial Flowers

Each month, financial contributions are given to purchase flowers to be taken to members of our Congregation who are sick, or shut-in, or bereaved. These are packaged and delivered by volunteers. At Easter, about **35** plants were delivered by Church members. Thanks to all who helped.

Nancy Rowe

The Ladies Fellowship Group

At our June luncheon we said our fond farewells to “our glorious leader” Mary Vogl. She was a well loved member of our group and we really miss her. She has retired to Peterborough and is enjoying her new church home, Northminster United.

We started our Fall meetings on September 9, 2010 and we have met the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. We have been averaging 12-15 members at our meetings. We start gathering around 10am and enjoy a comfortable, sociable morning. Some of us trim stamps for The Leprosy Mission, some trim Campbell’s soup labels and some cut up plastic milk bags for Jubilee United Church. Some of us enjoy just chatting with each other.

We eat our homemade lunch over a cup of tea or coffee and really enjoy a piece of birthday cake on the fourth Thursday. Each meeting one of our members delivers a very meaningful devotion.

March 10 will mark the 9th time we have gathered for our annual “Comfort Lunch”.

We keep in touch with our members who only get out occasionally, those who are ill and those who don’t attend anymore. We do that by phone, cards and friendly visits. Birthday cake is delivered to some of our members as well.

As in previous years we donated financially to several charities at Christmas time.

We host two Pot Luck luncheons each year, one in June and one in December. All the ladies of the church and their friends are cordially invited to attend these luncheons.

Several of our church men faithfully attend the luncheons and since there is no such thing as a “Free Lunch”, they help us in many ways such as set-up, dishwashing and clean up.

We wish to sincerely thank Jaren for her wonderful support of our Group. Thanks also to Jennifer for dropping by for tea and friendly chats.

New members are always very welcome to join our group.

Thanks to all of our very supportive members who faithfully show up and take part in our morning of friendly fellowship.

Marian Childerhose

Badminton

A number of new members have joined us for a total of 25 players who enjoy the sport as well as the social aspect. Our Christmas annual potluck party was held in the church living room where

we enjoyed Canadian and Chinese food. We were fascinated by each other's stories of why we were here. Membership is open to those who wish to join us for a little exercise and fun.

A “**Junior Badminton club**” has been started.

Jim and Hilary Carmichael, Tracy and Rob Salis helped set up and supervise junior badminton from 7 – 8pm prior to the adult badminton on Fridays.

John, son of Marilyn and Richard (senior badminton members) along with friend Leslie agreed to coach our youth. John ranks among the top players in The Greater Toronto Area. He is a likeable young man with some youth leadership and was very helpful in getting the youth badminton started. The average turnout was between 14 and 16 from a list of 45 youngsters who came to see what it was all about. Our challenge is to take this to the next step beyond badminton and provide a safe environment for the kids to meet on a Friday evening.

Don Messaros

Marathon Bridge

We have seven teams made up of church members and friends who play six games from October through to May. The wind-up dinner, game and prizes is held in May

This is truly social bridge. All are welcome.

Tom Milburn

Ladies Bridge

The Donway Covenant Ladies' Bridge Club is well under way for the 2010-2011 season. Games are played in members' homes and arranged at the convenience of the hostess. At present we have 14 bridge players in our group and this allows each team to play 6 games through the winter season. We will be enjoying our final afternoon at the Church on May 5th for refreshments, prizes and more bridge! New ladies who enjoy bridge would be welcome to join us in the fall. It is a great chance for fellowship and fun.

Enid Sills

Hospitality Team

Our committee functions under the leadership of the Fellowship Committee. Our group is responsible for co-ordinating most of the Hospitality/Fellowship events throughout the year. Lots of dedicated, industrious members have been fairly busy over this past year. We hosted the Good Friday hot cross bun reception, Lorrie's farewell party, Daniel's concert receptions, Audrey Marple's 90th, Alvin Nelson's 100th, and several funeral receptions.

Some of us work with the Outreach Committee at their various functions. Many of us hosted the Fair Trade Café and are looking forward to this year's Fair Trade Fair in May. Hospitality is a very important part of church life. It is an essential service that keeps a church family together.

My sincere thanks to each and every one of you who have contributed in any way to keeping the wonderful spirit of Hospitality & Fellowship alive here at The Donway Covenant.

We are a caring congregation. By the way, did you know “that there's a special place in Heaven set aside for volunteers”?

Marian Childerhose

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**CHAIR:** Frank Saunders**Team Members:** Bob Nelson, Marten De Groot, Ted Reeve, Frank Saunders, Doug Rowe, Doug England, Anne Anderson, Dave Reid, Fred Kasper

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, our Spring Fundraising Event was successful. We raised approximately \$26,760 for our restoration fund. This enabled us to proceed with the brick restoration project on the southeast section of the sanctuary wall. This work cost approximately \$9,500. Therefore, we currently have available \$17,260 for future restoration work.

In addition to the brick restoration project we completed a number of operational projects as follows:

- Refurbishing the risers on sanctuary platform steps.
- Cleaned and repaired blinds in the sanctuary.
- Cleaned rugs in sanctuary.
- Repaired telephone system.
- Replaced approximately 50 lights with high efficiency units.
- Repaired dishwasher.
- Repaired north section of auditorium roof.
- Cleaned north wall eavestroughs to prevent recurrence of overflow and water infiltration into the furnace room.
- Managed grounds maintenance contract.
- Carried out experimental installation of acrylic and clear plastic sheets in hallway windows between auditorium and C.E. Wing with objective of reducing heat loss.
-

Looking ahead we have identified the following operational projects to be completed in 2011.

1. Improvements to heating system
2. install weather stripping to reduce heat loss
3. Continue with effort to reduce heat loss in our auditorium windows.
4. Replace lights in auditorium with high efficiency units.
5. Install battery as backup power supply for sump pump in furnace room.
6. Rebuild sump pump discharge to exit at ground level.
7. Modify choir loft ventilation to reduce heat loss.
8. Insulate northwest door in sanctuary.
9. Repair cracks in sanctuary floor.
10. Install baseboard in sanctuary counting room.
11. Consider rebuild/modify kitchen serving window.
12. Re-plaster furnace room stairwell wall.

I appreciate the contributions in time and skill of all member of our Stewardship Committee. Without their dedication and effort we could not accomplish the many projects necessary to keep our campus buildings safe and operational.

Frank Saunders

Counters

The counting of the offering at the end of the church service is an important part of stewardship which is competently and faithfully carried out every week by four members of our congregation. There are only 18 regular counters on our list who volunteer to count every six to eight weeks and five "head" counters who are needed once every four or five weeks. We desperately need to add more members to our team of counters so, if you are interested in joining us, please give Jaren or me a call. This is definitely not an onerous task which is usually completed in as little as 35 or 40 minutes after which we can head over for some coffee and conversation.

My sincere thanks to all the dedicated counters who give so generously of their time throughout the year.

Anne Anderson

Fall Sale

With the help of dozens of hardworking volunteers, we had another successful Fall Sale last October. Total sales were \$18,524, minus expenses, not an insignificant number, and no one collapsed from overwork. In fact, I think most participants would agree that they had fun. We plan another sale this fall on our usual date, October 22nd (two weeks after Thanksgiving). A Don Mills tradition continues!

Ted Reeve,

Ted Reeve