

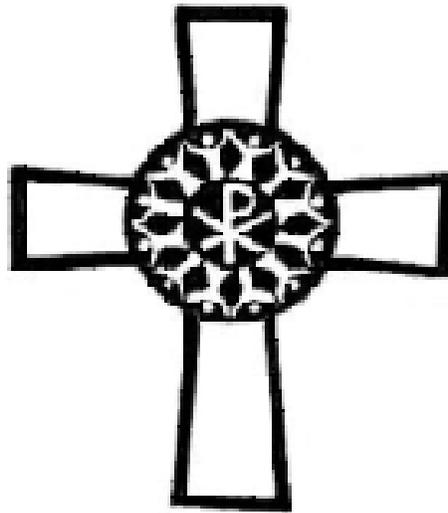
The Church of St. Stephen & St. Bede

An Anglican and Lutheran Worshipping Community

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2015 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Agenda - February 7, 2016.....	3
Minutes of the Annual Meeting – February 8, 2015.....	4
Incumbent’s Report.....	6
Pastor’s Warden Report.....	10
People’s Warden Report.....	11
Music Report.....	12
Christian Education Report.....	13
Altar Guild Treasurer’s Report.....	14
Faith Horizons Report.....	16
Envelope Secretary Report.....	17
Rentals, Sunday School and Syrian Outreach Reports.....	18
Mount Royal Food Bank and Church ‘Buddy’ Callers Reports.....	19
Fundraising, Mitten Tree Forest and Prayer Shawl Ministry Reports.....	20
Mount Royal and Ness Traffic Safety and Communications Reports.....	21
Building Maintenance Report.....	22
MNO Synod Report to Annual Congregational Meetings.....	23
A Note from the Bishop for Congregational Annual Meetings.....	25
Financial Report Introduction.....	27
<i>(NOTE: The 2015 Financial Report booklet is attached in a separate document.)</i>	

Annual Meeting of the Church of St. Stephen & St. Bede

An Anglican and Lutheran Worshipping Community

Agenda February 7, 2016

1. Opening Prayer – Pastor Murray Still
2. Letters from the Bishops
3. Appointment of Recording Secretary
4. Acceptance of Agenda
5. Appointment of 2 scrutineers
6. Minutes of the Febuary 8, 2015 Annual Meeting
7. Correspondence
8. Reports: As distributed in AGM Report
9. Financial Report
10. Nomination Committee Report
 - New Member for the Council
 - Lutheran Annual Metro Conference Delegate
 - Motion re-cessation of nominations
 - Voting
 - Nominations from the floor
 - Voting
11. New Business
 - Presentation of Budget for 2016
 - Results of Voting (If Necessary)
 - Discussion Document
12. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn
13. Closing Prayer – Glory to God

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Church of St. Stephen & St. Bede

*An Anglican and Lutheran Worshiping Community
Sunday February 8, 2015*

1. Voluntary Chairperson: Brita Chell
2. 12:37 pm: Opening Prayer – Pastor Murray Still
3. Attendance: 35 parishioners
4. Appointment of Recording Secretary: Kari Hagness
5. Acceptance of Agenda (with amendments):

Move: Debi P Second: Derek L Vote: carried

Appointment of 2 Scrutineers: Sandy L, Debi P
6. Minutes of the February 2, 2014 Annual Meeting:
Move: Ted C Second: Dave C Vote: carried
7. Business Arising from the Minutes: Given the fact that we did end 2014 with a surplus, motion to contribute \$1000 each to Diocese and Synod (DerekL) Second: Donna M

Call for vote: 20 for, 15 against, carried
8. Correspondence: Letters in the AGM report, from the two bishops.
9. Reports: thank you to the ACW for the years of faithful service

As distributed in AGM Report: Vote as a block:

Move: Penny W. Second: Margaret W. Vote: carried
10. Financial Report : Sandy Lloyd auditor; Kari presents: detailed financial report for 2014 year, showing \$2306.26 surplus to budget (See item #7 above). Included in 2015 budget is \$1000 to be given to each of the Diocese and Synod for a total Mission Support of \$2000.

Move: Derek L Second: Pat P Vote: carried

11. Nomination Committee Report

New Members nominated for the Council:

People's Warden: Pat Poole

Deputy Warden: Ruby Morris

Rector's Warden: appointment of Margaret Wischnewski (continuing on Council)

Vote of thanks for Marilyn and Kari as they leave the positions as Wardens

Lutheran Annual Metro Conference Delegate: (1 plus Pastor); no alternate required: Janet Chell

(NOTE: Diocesan representatives 2 year term, continuing from last year) Kay S, Phyllis G

No other nominations from the floor:

Motion to cease nominations

Move: Gord L Second: Karen S Vote: carried unanimously

Council for 2015: Rector's Warden: Margaret Wischnewski; People's Warden: Pat Poole; Deputy Warden: Ruby Morris;

Members: (continuing on Council: Margaret Wischnewski, Vern McLean, Gord Lund, Karen Sansom, Donna McLean, Kari Hagness: (Treasurer) ; Lutheran Annual Metro Conference Delegate: Janet Chell ; Diocesan representatives: Kay Stewart, Phyllis Graham

12. New Business

Presentation of Budget for 2015:

Discussion: Defer consideration of Paying for Missional Support of \$2,000 until the end of the year pending our financial situation same as we did at this annual meeting. To be discussed and voted on in 2016 AGM. In other words, \$2000 in 2015 budget for Missional Support is money we feel we owe the Diocese and Synod from 2014, but contributions for 2015 will be decided in relation to the 2016 budget.

Note: RE: Local mission support – important to note donations on your envelopes for the various outreach programs.

Motion to add a budget item "Local Mission Support" for \$500. This money to be used to support local mission work as required, such as helping with material costs incurred in providing lunch at The Urban when Murray does a service there, or helping with costs to get seniors to Church on Sunday. These are just examples of what the money may be used for.

Moved by Derek L; second: Gordon Graham Vote: Carried

Motion to approve 2015 budget as amended

Move: Kari Hagness Second: Ruby M. Vote: carried

Results of Voting (If Necessary) – Not necessary.

New from floor: Explanation of carpet quotes: trying to get 3 quotes for grant application process, not an anticipated expense in our Maintenance budget.

Janet Chell generously thanked Pastor Murray and Carole Grier for their leadership (Incumbency and musical) and contributions to our worship, congregational and spiritual health. Unanimously agreed with by parishioners!

13. Adjournment – 1:55 Motion to adjourn

Move: Debi P Second: unanimous Vote: unnecessary

14. Closing Prayer – Glory to God

Incumbent's Report

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. It has been an eventful year at both our churches.

At St. Stephen and St. Bede, you recall from our annual meeting we agreed to support a Winnipeg Harvest Food Bank. In February, we celebrated the one year anniversary. We began with about five clients and today we support about 24 clients, similar in number to the one at St. James. So, we now have a food bank in operation each week, one at each church...Mount Royal Food Bank (MRFB) at St. Stephen and St. Bede and St. James Wechetowin Food Bank (SJWFB) at St. James Anglican. Many thanks to all of the helpers and especially our coordinators Yvonne Still and Margaret Wischnewski at MRFB and Elizabeth Bonnett at SJFB.

CELEBRATION AND PASTORAL CARE

This was a momentous year for St. Stephen and St. Bede as we celebrated 60 years of ministry as Anglicans and Lutherans in the neighborhood. It was great to see so many return to St. Stephen and St. Bede to share their memories and celebrate their past. I am particularly proud of the way the family comes together to support each other, such as the difficult moments. We said goodbye to 10 cherished family members over the year and they are sadly missed. I am grateful to Donna McLean who has traveled with me many times in pastoral visits to the congregation of St. Stephen and St. Bede and Angela Brandson at St. James. Angela and I visit Oakview along with Carole Grier the second Friday of the month to offer a worship service. We also led a Memorial service for the care home in July. We can always use additional help. At St. James we will looking to increase the numbers of pastoral visitors, so if feel led give me a call. Training, both academic and practical is offered.

WORSHIP

Over the years, Anglicans and Lutherans have worshiped together but in recent years a blended liturgy book was established. Upon my arrival I continued working with the Power Point and today we have the entire liturgy available on Power Point. As of the most recent funeral, we now have a template for Power Point for funerals as well. Many thanks to all who share in worship. I cannot say enough good words about our Altar Guilds in both churches. They are consummate professionals, easy to work with, dedicated and faithful. Should you feel led, either church would likely welcome more assistance. Feel free to chat with me and I will connect you. Many thanks especially to the chairs, Beverly Forsberg and Judith Begg.

EDUCATION

Education is key to both congregations and each year we host a book study in Advent and Lent. At St. Stephen and St. Bede we also host a Monday night Lenten series with some excellent speakers. Many thanks to all who organize and participate in those series. Each of our churches host a weekly Bible study to look at the coming week's readings. As part of the solidarity with the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and children, our two churches hosted the ringing of the bells 1200 times. Both churches also hosted prayer walks in the neighborhoods. In March, St. Stephen and St. Bede partnered with Kairos, an ecumenical justice movement, to host a sharing circle on the Treaties. We welcomed Jamie Wilson, Treaty Commissioner, as our featured speaker and a good percentage of St.

Stephen and St. Bede members attended. Members of the two congregations also participated in the “What if I Got Hit By a Bus?” workshop at St. James. A further important mission and education tool is our two websites. Many thanks to our secretary, Debbie Bride, for keeping the St. Stephen and St. Bede website current. If you have items or pictures to share, make sure she gets them. It is important to check the websites from time to time so it becomes familiar. You can find it at www.churchofststephenstbede-wpg.org. At St James, information is sent to Elizabeth Bonnett, who monitors the website at www.stjamesanglicanchurch.ca.

In October, I offered a worship workshop in cooperation with the Altar Guild. Many thanks to those who participated and the estimated 20 in attendance who learned about all aspects of Sunday worship in an instructed Eucharist. It is my hope to offer this every second year. Both churches now offer this, so feel free to attend at whichever church is offering the workshop. Attendance has been good so far. Meantime, in October both churches sent delegates to Faith Horizons, our biannual diocesan education conference, to hear Kevin Lamoureux speak on indigenous issues of reconciliation. I commend the report of the delegates for your reading.

MISSION

Aside from the food banks, our two congregations have participated in mission through the Urban, where we have made sandwiches and led worship. That will continue into this year. I have assisted the Army and Navy and Air force Unit 283 with 14 funerals in the past year. I have also assisted Neil Bardal Inc. with a couple of funerals. With the recent influx of Syrian refugees to Canada, our two congregations have been assisting the parishes of St. Matthews and St. Paul’s in the collection of furnishings for their sponsored families. In the fall, as we do each year, the St. Stephen and St Bede folks contributed toward Jim’s Goats and furnished the Mitten Tree with warm knitted clothing for the shelters. At St. James, we hosted the Lighthouse after school youth program for many years. This year the program is run out of the elementary school and is hosted by the Winnipeg Boys and Girls Club. Each month, St. James offers a coffee house for singers and song writers as well as hosting the annual Live Music is Best fundraiser for Winnipeg Harvest. We also assembled a Christmas hamper. Both of our churches host AA and Al-Anon movements and I occasionally assist with counselling and step 5. Both of our churches also maintain a healing ministry that includes the production and blessing and distribution of prayer shawls.

Over the past months, both congregations have hosted Mission Sundays with a guest speaker. We have hosted the Rev. Deacon Maylanne Maybee, the Rev. Dirk Lange, the Army Navy and Air Force Veterans and even our own honorary, the Rev. Ted Chell, who spoke to both churches on Reformation Sunday.

ST JAMES

As we begin a new year at St. James we are celebrating 165 years as a faith community. We are proud of our heritage as the founding faith community in the West end of the City and of our heritage church building on Tylehust, which serves as our summer home. Anyone living in St. James should give thanks for the continuing witness of this faithful Anglican community. As it turns out, we are also the Mother Church to St. Bede Anglican, so our continued shared ministry reconnects us as a family that has expanded to include our Lutheran brothers and sisters at St. Stephen and St. Bede. A small planning group is active and has decided to focus on three events to celebrate our 165 years—the opening of the heritage church June 26, the Lilac Tea in June and the annual Church Bazaar in November. In keeping

with our pattern, St. Stephen and St. Bede will close down its Sunday service June 26 and join in our opening June 26 at 10 a.m. This year, we are asking participants to come in period costume. We will be joined by our Anglican Primate Fred Hiltz and Bishop Donald Phillips from the Diocese of Rupert's Land, plus a number of other dignitaries. As we are still in the planning stages, we ask you to consider joining our small group or submitting any ideas for celebration. Feel free to contact me and I will keep you posted as to when the committee meets.

WORSHIP

While we do not have a regular Music Director or full time or even part time organist, worship continues with the dedicated participation of our choir with piano accompaniment from Joanne Johnson. Throughout the year we use a combination of two liturgies, the St. James liturgy developed by our Worship and Education Committee and the Book of Common Prayer. We celebrated one baptism this past year and Lessons and Carols was well attended the fourth Sunday in Advent when we were joined by the Silver Notes Choir and the Winnipeg Boys Choir. Many thanks to Ian Stevenson for developing the liturgy. It is our hope to complete edits to the St. James liturgy this year that will include the music used in the liturgy. This past year, I officiated at a House Blessing of one of our parishioners, so if that is something you would like to consider, let me know. This past year our worship space was utilized for a concert for Charmaine Bacon. Through the summer, in July, we hosted summer concerts in the heritage church and will continue that effort this year. Each week, we host a different group and the admission is \$10.

LOCAL COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY

Perhaps one of the most significant events our two congregations participated in this year was the presentation on Local Collaborative Ministry (LCM) given by our diocesan bishop, Donald Phillips. Bishop Elaine Sauer was also present. Bishop Don explained the model of ministry where Christians in a congregation develop a team that is trained over three years to lead worship and maintain the parish without a full time paid priest. The LCM parish normally is assigned an ordained priest to act as mentor. In my opinion, St James is well suited to adopt this model as our worship assistants on Sunday act as a team already. What this will do is ensure the continuation of St. James in a new way and whether they are in the same building or not. As you know I am in the second year of my three year contract, so examination of this model could not come at a better time and I highly recommend it. The congregation will get an even better feel for this model once they heard from the folks at St. Thomas, Weston, who shared their experience as a LCM parish. I am asking the folks at St. James to decide one way or the other on this model before we complete our annual meeting.

In conclusion, remember we are operating in good faith in both congregations. I am in agreement with the People's Warden in 2012. We can do this. We work alongside each other well. We have similar values. We have love for our Lord and for each other. We are guided by the Holy Spirit and scripture has the last say:

“So, do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us now and forevermore. **Amen.**

Pastor's Warden Report

When Murray first asked me to be his Pastor's Warden, I said No. I thought it over for a few days. Marilyn told me I didn't have to do all the things she did. Ok! I thought about it some more. It is a great responsibility and I didn't know if I had the time or energy to do it well. I asked Alfred. He said, do it! You will be good at it. Then, One Sunday I just went to Murray and said, if you don't have anyone else yet, I will do it. Got a big hug. (I think I also got a little shove from above.)

It has been quite a year. I am learning so much. Murray has been a wonderful mentor and is so easy to work with. Marilyn and Kari are always there when I need a little help from a friend. It has been a pleasure to work with People's Wardens Pat and Ruby. I love this small congregation of ours. It is a joy to serve you and I am having such fun. We work hard but oh, there is so much laughter. I couldn't do what I do if Alfred wasn't with me every step of the way. As Pastor's Warden I am to support Murray. I am also, along with Pat and Ruby, here to help you, our church family.

If there is happening that bothers you, we are the ones to come to. We will do our best to find a solution for you. Remember, we are ALL VOLUNTEERS.

Before you confront anyone ask yourself "What would Jesus do?" Remember that everything we are and do is with God's Help.

Thank you for your patience in the first year and in the year to come. You may need!

Respectfully submitted
Margaret Wischnewski
Pastor's Warden

People's Warden Report

At last year's Annual General Meeting it was decided we would have an assistant People's Warden. Hence Ruby Morris and Patricia Poole are sharing the position and are working well together as we try to assist you, our friends and fellow parishioners, as your spokes persons.

We have enjoyed working with the other council members, who all work diligently on the running and up keep of our Parish. We would be remiss if we did not mention those who put in countless hours helping out in so many ways to make St. Stephen & St. Bede a comfortable, warm, clean place to come and worship....The Altar Guild, Carol Grier with her music, the choir, Communion Assistants, Al Samson (who seems to be here at all hours repairing/checking, etc.), Debbie, our secretary, Greg, who shovels the snow and cuts the lawn, Greg and Frieda, our cleaners, our Christian Education Committee, the Food Bank, the Prayer Group, Donna McLean, who works so diligently with the rentals, Gord Lund for the countless hours he puts in applying for grants, attending meetings, etc. Then there are the Counters, the Power Point Operators, Sides persons and Readers. Of course our Pastor, who 'floats' between St. James and St. Stephen and St. Bede and is always here for us. We sincerely hope we have not forgotten anyone - you are all valuable to the running of this 'family'.

This year we were all greatly saddened at the loss of several long time members. Vern McLean, was a member of council and is greatly missed.

Sincere thank you to Margaret Wischnewski and Kari Hagness who have been there for us as we do our best to represent, you our friends and fellow parishioners.
God Bless you all and may 2016 continue to be a Blessed year for this Parish and St. James.

Ruby Morris
Patricia Poole
People's Wardens

Music Report

There have been so many musical highlights in 2015. I am humbled and praise God for all of you and our worship together. Working under Murray's enthusiastic and accepting leadership is an inspiring experience for all of us.

St. Stephen & St. Bede has been chosen by CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International) to report all duplication of songs in 2015. This includes both photocopying and projection. It is legally necessary for us to comply so that gifted Christian artists can be appropriately compensated for their compositions. In addition, I needed to report to the two other licencing bodies that we belong to: OneLicence.net and Licensing. Reporting to CCLI is on rotation and is now complete, but reporting to the other two companies is compulsory on an ongoing month by month basis.

Otherwise, my duties continue much as before. Before the music comes to life in a service, hours of planning is needed. I begin by researching each Scripture of the day and hymns that relate to that theme. The monthly list of hymns is typed and emailed to the secretary, Murray and Wes. If there are new lyrics, these must also be typed and sent.

Also time consuming is the research involved in reporting copyright for reproduction on Powerpoint. To expedite this, I keep an ongoing database for myself. I also keep a database of hymns to ensure that choices reflect the worship styles and preferences of the congregation balancing Lutheran and Anglican traditions. Also, on Wednesday, our secretary sends the Powerpoint to me for editing.

I research new music and new accompaniments to keep our worship interesting and responsive to current trends. I also attend monthly Worship Committee Meetings held jointly with St. Stephen and St. Bede and St. James Anglican Church. Then, I can start practicing!

I'm very grateful that our music budget has been increased for 2015. This has allowed us a little more flexibility in not only paying for licencing but also to purchase choir sets of new music. Contemporary worship continues to be well received and we are all looking forward to continuing this style of worship. Trevor has added the bass guitar to his repertoire and is now prepared to play three guitars in one service! I'm so grateful for the love and excitement that Loaves and Fishes share with each other and the congregation.

Choir practises on Saturday starting at 1:15 and Loaves and Fishes practises from 2:30 to 4:00. New singers and musicians are always welcome. Please consider sharing in our joy this new season.

Throughout the year, it's been a privilege to work with instrumentalists, soloists, as well as the contemporary group and choir members. I am grateful for your dedication to our music ministry. A very special thank you to Wes Stevens for enhancing our accompaniment with his recorder expertise and to Janet Chell for so willingly substituting for me throughout the year

enabling me to travel a little in my “retirement”. Thank you, all, for your support. It’s a privilege to journey in faith together.

In Christian Harmony,
Carole Grier
Music Director

Christian Education Committee Report

In 2015 the Christian Education committee has focused primarily on 2 areas:

1. the planning and delivery of our Annual Lenten Lecture Series and
2. holding a book study.

We are grateful to Wesley Stevens for his continued work in organizing & approaching of speakers to bring us such valuable and stimulating information for our Lenten programs as well as the leadership & guidance of Canon Rev. Murray Still. I also wish to thank other committee members (Jean Brown, Alf & Margaret Wischnewski, Donna McLean) who participate in selection of topics, assist with media notices, organize and provide hospitality and refreshments at our Lenten series. Also appreciated is the additional assistance of parishioners who help with printing (Kari), delivery of brochures (Fred & Lorne) and all those who assist in many ways on the evenings of the series.

We have confirmed an impressive list of speakers and topics and a brochure detailing these will be available shortly. The sessions will be held 4 consecutive Monday evenings beginning February 15 – March 7, 2016. We also appreciate Council’s support by continuing to provide a budget for expenses to finance this event.

In November 2015 the Christian Education Committee organized a fall book study on the Rowan Williams book, “Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer”. This study was held in two afternoon sessions with sharing & reflection of the questions following each chapter.

Approximately 10 parishioners attended each session. Thank you to all who participated & shared so openly. A special thank you to Pastor Ted Chell for his pastoral guidance. Your committee is hoping another book study will be delivered in the spring to further the topic introduced in Jamie Howison’s talk on the psalms at the Lenten series.

Respectfully submitted;
Kay Stewart, Chairperson
Christian Education Committee

Altar Guild Treasurer's Report

Date	Cheque #	Description	Expense	Revenue	Balance
01-01-15		Opening bank Balance			\$ 39.33
08-01-15		Flower Donations		\$270.00	\$309.33
22-01-15		Dues		\$ 40.00	\$349.33
22-01-15		Flower Donations		\$ 40.00	\$389.33
09-02-15	148	K. Hagness-Flowers	\$ 49.81		\$339.52
21-02-15	149	K. Hagness- Flowers	\$ 22.60		\$316.92
12-03-15	151	K. Hagness-Flowers	\$119.74		\$197.18
01-04-15	152	J. Mclean-Easter Flowers	\$ 67.56		\$129.62
13-04-15		Flower Donations		\$485.00	\$614.62
14-04-15	153	M. Wischnewski- Flowers	\$167.61		\$447.01
04-05-15	154	M. Wischnewski- Linens	\$ 42.38		\$404.63
06-05-15	155	K. Hagness- Flowers	\$ 53.10		\$351.53
22-05-15		Deposit	\$ 25.00		\$376.53
30-05-15	156	M. Wischnewski- Linens	\$ 30.51		\$346.02
10-06-15	157	K. Hagness-Flowers	\$ 81.30		\$264.72
20-06-15	158	M. Wischnewski- linens	\$ 27.12		\$237.60
14-09-15		Deposit		\$90.00	\$237.60
15-09-15	159	Cub Bakery- mincemeat	\$135.00		\$192.60
07-10-15	160	B. Forsberg-containers and fruit for mincemeat	\$ 56.60		\$136.00
10-10-15	161	K. Hagness- flowers	\$103.86		\$ 32.14
23-10-15		Flower donations		\$230.00	\$262.14
25-10-14	162	K. Hagness- flowers	\$ 23.72		\$238.42
01-11-15	163	M. Wischnewski-linens	\$27.97		\$210.45
26-11-15		Deposit-mincemeat		\$340.00	
04-12-15	164	B. Forsberg-cards	\$12.66		\$537.79
08-12-15	165	M.Wischnewski-gift cards, flowers		\$151.40	\$386.39
08-12-15	166	J. Mclean-flowers	\$ 67.77	\$316.62	
16-12-15		Deposit- Mincemeat (\$15) Denise's Fundraiser (\$83.50)		\$ 98.50	\$417.12

Notes:	<u>Mincemeat</u> 71 containers @\$5.00 = \$355.00	
	Cost of mincemeat	\$135.00
	Cost of Cont. & Fruit	\$ 56.50
	Balance from mincemeat	\$163.50
	<u>Denise's Fundraiser</u>	\$83.50
	Balance 16-12-15	\$417.12
	Mincemeat	\$163.50
	Denise	\$ 83.50
	<u>Flower Balance</u>	\$170.12

Altar Guild Books were audited by Joan Sawyer

Respectfully submitted by
 Margaret Wischnewski
 Treasurer

Faith Horizons Reports

Faith Horizons took place on Friday evening, October 16 and all day Saturday, October 17. The speaker was Kevin Lamoureux.

On Friday he began by talking about diversity, how it should be a benefit and not a disadvantage. It should make us stronger not weaker. When people are different from us, we are uncomfortable. They become “they” or “other”. We meet anger with anger and make the problem worse.

On Saturday, we opened with prayers and hymns of Aboriginal background. Then there was a smudge ceremony, in which many took part. Afterwards, we heard how we are all treaty peoples. Treaty is another way of saying an agreement between states and peoples. In today’s world, everyone talks about equality. Well, equality does not mean fairness. If you have equality but can’t see over the fence, it doesn’t do much good. However, equity does mean fairness. If everyone had equity, then everyone would see over the fence.

Everything comes from perspective and perspective comes from culture. Culture is “that which is normal.” With every culture being different, then every perspective will be different. Just because it’s different doesn’t mean it is wrong. We should engage in an exchange of ideas and beliefs with different cultures, not in conflict as is usually the case. We should be celebrating our diversity.

To summarize, what we should be doing is:

1. Humanizing “them” or “others”
2. Identifying and accepting differences between groups
3. Understanding differences in perspective by listening
4. Using patience to understand and respect the ideas and emotions of “others”
5. Seeing ourselves as them,” or “others”

Acknowledgement that “wreckage of the past” and resulting poverty for our indigenous people has resulted in social problems – crime rates, addictions, incarceration, suicides.

Those with privilege have a responsibility to use that privilege to offer real change and create true equity. There is a difference between guilt and responsibility. There is no need to take on guilt, but if we want to be part of the solution we need to see this as an opportunity. We can create equity, right wrongs of the past, act on resolutions from the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and make our country better for everyone.

Interesting Facts:

1. 1763 Royal Proclamation – King George – “The Colonies of Canada are First Nations Property unless legally relinquished by Treaty”.
2. We hear much from people who object to the “funding to First nations communities costing Canada billions of dollars”. In actual fact the amount is 1.4% of Federal

spending & of that 40 – 60% goes to federal employees to support the Dept. of Indian Affairs.

Submitted by
Phyllis Graham and Kay Stewart
Delegates to Faith Horizons 2015

Envelope Secretary Report

In 2015, there were 43 envelope holders and 6 PAR donors. There were 28 “Casual” donors who gave a total of \$6975.00.

Following is a breakdown of the offerings for 2015, with a comparison to 2014:

Range (\$)	2015	2014
000 - 200	7	10
201 - 400	4	5
401 – 600	3	5
601 – 800	5	4
801 – 1000	4	6
1001 – 1200	5	1
1201 – 1400	3	2
1401 – 1600	0	3
1601 – 1800	2	2
1801 – 2000	4	3
2001 – 2200	3	1
2201 – 2400	1	0
2401 – 2600	3	1
2601 – 2800	0	0
2801 – 3000	1	1
3001 – 4000	0	0
4001 – 5000	2	2
5001- 6000	1	1
6001 -7000	0	0
7001 - 8000	1	1
Total	49	48

Please review your year-end statement and contact me if you have any questions or if you believe there may be an error. I will be happy to review your statement with you.

Gord Lund,
Envelope Secretary

Rentals Report

Rentals have dropped this year due to the loss of two of our clients, Jack Risk and Dennis Wiebe (Gun Safety). Jack found a place more central to the downtown and Dennis has moved to Regina.

We still contribute a significant amount to our budget with the ongoing rentals by Christ's Family Pentecostal Church of God, Caribbean Seniors, Norman Art Group, Pathfinders and Al-Anon.

We also have one-time rentals for baby and bridal showers, community programs, business meetings, elections, etc.

Please promote our facilities to family and friends, as we have excellent facilities at very reasonable rates.

Donna McLean

Sunday School Report

There has been very little activity in the Sunday School due to lack of children.

Donna McLean

Syrian Outreach Report

The month of October's coffee hour money, plus the baking money for the month, were sent to help families in refugee camps in Lebanon and Turkey keep warm over the winter. Our donation bought blankets, tents and heaters for the tents. By helping these families survive where they are, we help dissuade them from trying the dangerous trip over the waters to Europe. We sent over \$300, which was matched by the federal government.

We are now involved with St. Matthews Maryland and St. Paul's Fort Garry in helping a Syrian family who is already living in Winnipeg to set up housekeeping for extended family members who are arriving here. They are in need of everything to set up housekeeping. People have been very generous and my thanks go out to them. If you want more information, don't hesitate to ask.

God's blessing,
Donna McLean

Mount Royal Food Bank Report

We started the food bank in February 2015 with four clients. We now have 24 most of the time.

We have worked through trial and error with lots of help from the people at Winnipeg Harvest. Everything is going fairly smoothly now.

Thank you to Yvonne Still, my Co-coordinator. You are a very special person. You did most of the frustrating processes of setting up and a lot of the running around.

Thank you to all our volunteers. You are all willing to do what you are able and then some. It is such a pleasure working with you. We work hard but also have time to socialize and have fun too. Together we can accomplish so much.

I want to thank the congregation for their donations. We will put them to good use. If you have time, please come out and help. It is well worth it.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Wischnewski and Yvonne Still
Co-coordinators

Church 'Buddy' Callers Report

Thank you to all our callers who continue to maintain contact with our parishioners. Much of our parish communication is maintained by our parish secretary through emailing weekly announcements out to those on email. However, simply disseminating information was never the purpose of this ministry but rather to maintain some "human" contact with parishioners, particularly with those we may not see every week.

We thank our callers (Dave Campbell, Pat Aris, Jean Brown, Donna McLean, Margaret Wischnewski, Janet Chell, and Denise Hobson) for maintaining this important personal connection. We actually had quite a number of call outs this year, many of which, sadly, were to advise of funeral/memorial services for past parishioners. We also had occasion to update our "buddies" on special projects, activities and church services.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Stewart and Derek Legge
Coordinators, Church Buddies Caller Committee

Fundraising Report

Fundraising activities for 2015 fell short to the goal of \$3000, but did offer a good variety of projects. Most noticeably was the "Tasty Treats" project initiated by Pat Poole. Initially it was to go for about three months, but as it was so well received, it resumed again in the fall. With appreciated support from Pat's neighbour Wendy, Denise Hobson, Ken Pointkoski, Ruby Morris and Joan McClean, they raised \$850 for the church, PLUS \$110 in October which went to the Syrian Relief effort. Thanks to all who made the goodies and who bought and enjoyed them!

The church T-shirt project overseen by Kari Hagness made \$600 and the always fun Trivia Night put together by Marilyn and Gordon Lund made \$755. Craft sales from Denise Hobson (dishcloths) made \$120, and Derek's woodworking and "Don't Drink and Drive" Xmas rental sign made \$300.

If you have ideas for a small project, such as a garage sales, an item to auction off, spare tickets to an event, get someone to help you make it happen. You can always help others with their project or pitch in at any larger special fundraising event. Be creative!!!

Submitted by
Derek Legge

Mitten Tree Forest Report

A big thank-you to all for supporting our **Mitten Tree Forest** during the 2015 Christmas season. Three huge bags of donations were delivered to the four recipient groups in early December.

Your gifts of "warm woollies" went to: Sister Macnamara School, John M. King School, The Urban, and McDonald Youth Services

Yours in Christ,
Debi Pointkoski
Mitten Tree Coordinator

Prayer Shawl Ministry Report

I would like to sincerely thank all those who knit and/or donate money for the yarn, and help make sure those in 'need' get a shawl. This is an important ministry and we have received some heartfelt 'thank you' notes.

Bless you.....
Patricia Poole

Mount Royal and Ness Traffic Safety Report

On November 24, 2015, The Public Works Committee said no to the westbound turning light, and received as information(probably means no) the proposal for the eastbound turning light.

In my opinion, the campaign for improved safety at this dangerous intersection has not made any progress. Any further questions should be directed to the Area Councillor at sgillingham@winnipeg.ca or 204 986 5848 or the Chair of the Public Works Committee: jlukes@winnipeg.ca or 204 986 6824.

Submitted by
Fred Morris

Communications Report

Early last summer, we were pleased to launch the parish's inaugural website at www.churchofststephenstbede-wpg.org. The goal was to create site content that would be informative and useful to our members as well as the wider community. That includes Pastor Murray's regular blog posts, a photo gallery of our members putting their faith in action, information on church hall rentals, handy weblinks to other groups, and much more. The News and Notes section offers constantly updated postings from our weekly announcements in an interactive, user-friendly format. For those of you on Facebook, please "friend" us at [stephen.bede](https://www.facebook.com/stephen.bede). We also have a LinkedIn account under [stephenbede](https://www.linkedin.com/company/stephenbede).

Submitted by
Debbie Bride
Secretary

Building Maintenance Report

COMPANY	WORK DONE	COST
COLLEGE ELECTRIC	ELECTRICAL WORK, LIGHTING & CEILING FA	\$ 1,808.03
AL SANSOM	REPLACED VALVE IN URINAL (PARTS ONLY)	\$ 68.84
ARRANGED BY DONNA	KITCHEN FRIDGE REPAIR	EST. \$600.00
PEERLESS FIRE	ANNUAL FIRE EXTINGUISHER INSPECTION	EST. \$200.00
RUSSELL FOOD EQUIP.	DISH WASHER REPAIR ESTIMATE	\$156.84
RUSSELL FOOD EQUIP.	KITCHEN SAFETY SUPPLIES	EST. \$25.00
AL SANSOM	KITCHEN SINK AND BACK SPLASH MATERIALS	EST. \$25.00
ARRANGED BY DONNA	REPLACE HOT WATER TANK (40 GAL.)	EST. \$1000.00
COLLEGE ELECTRIC	ANNUAL FURNACE INSP. & HALL THERMOSTA	EST. \$550.00

Submitted by
Al Sansome

Report to Annual Congregational Meetings

We have had an exciting transition in the synod office this fall, with changes in youth and young adult leadership. As it is when all staff (but the bishop) are part time, our time is reduced but the workload remains. It takes longer to respond to requests for assistance from our office. Thank you to everyone for understanding this new reality with us. If you would like to see a work plan for how the staff are managing synod ministry, check the synod website for the *Staff work plan for synod missional directions*.

Strengthen All God's People for Discipleship

Through Peer Ministry on our campuses, a young adult travel event to LWF, WCC and Taize, and a variety of local young adult initiatives, Pastor Tyler and Intern Pastor Lisa Janke are nurturing and supporting leadership development. In cooperation with Synod Communications Coordinator Rick Scherger, Pastor David Saude has again volunteered to lead a second on-line cohort of learners in a 10 week text lay study group beginning Feb 2016, spending time in conversation around the weekly scripture readings, develop and evaluate sermons and share preparations.

Embrace Passionately a Call to Spiritual Renewal Through: Prayer, Study, Scripture, Worship, Give, Tell, Service

Youth ministry continues to engage youth and leadership through monthly worship services held on the first Sunday of the month, over the winter and spring! At least one of the six services are held in rural Manitoba. The Fall retreat at Luther Village went very well, with about 75 youth and leaders in attendance! The Winter retreat is being planned for Thunder Bay on the February long weekend. Rae Ann Trudeau, a volunteer, is planning for a 2016 pre-CLAY gathering trip in Atlantic Canada, along with SK Synod youth and their leaders.

Celebrate the Abundance of God's Gifts

Just as the Spirit led Paul in the book of Acts 16:6-15 into new ventures, the Spirit is leading us. A grant process for mission projects and ministry is available for congregations and individuals. Look for information on the website about "ACTS of the MNO", due on January 15, 2016. The 2016 MNO Synod Leadership Awards will be handed out at the synod convention in April.

We look forward to receiving nominations from faith communities and individuals so that we can honour the work many of the baptized are doing in their call to the world and the church. Forms are available on the synod website.

The 2016 Synod Convention will be following the LWF Theme "Liberated by God's Grace". National Bishop Susan Johnson will speak to "Human Not for Sale"; Anglican Indigenous Bishop Mark MacDonald will speak to "Creation Not for Sale"; and Rev. Dr. Tim Wray will speak to "Salvation Not for Sale". Dates and times of presentation will be shared in CrossWord e-newsletter and on the synod website.

Rick Scherger continues to engage conversations with leadership and program coordinators who are willing to share their stories of mission. See the synod website to view any of the 2015 or 2016 *Witness Moments*. He'd love to receive your suggestions for some of the local ministry you are doing. These moments inspire us to continue the work we do together as synod.

Nurture Relationships With Neighbouring Congregations and the Community at Large

Our relationship with Lutheran Theological Seminary has improved in the past year and there is a renewed sense of hope for a future with LTS. It is in a good place to erase its financial exigency by 2017 and there is an increase in part time students. While very few sign up for a full M Div degree programs, many are enrolled in courses over a longer period of time while holding down full time jobs.

Our Companion Synod partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon continues to be a joy. Pastors Katharine Bergbusch and Lynne Hutchison, and a lay member from Lynne's parish, Peter Kostiuk, will travel to Cameroon from January 4-26, 2016, as we continue to support women in leadership for the whole church. Intern Pastor Lisa Janke will be working with a group of MNO women clergy to develop on-line conversations with Cameroon women clergy with the use of a French translation of talking points for a period of six months.

As we build on the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, look for opportunities to support the ELCIC Reformation challenge which brings tangible connections to our work as a Lutheran World Federation partner. See how you can support refugees, school scholarships, tree planting and the LWF's work around the globe.

To Build a Ministry of Presence within the synod:

Thanks to all who participated in the *Every Council Visits* this year. There seems to be good appreciation for this initiative and for the efforts that are made to make this human contact with leadership across the synod. As reports came in, synod staff made every attempt to address any concerns that were named.

Staff continue to share the ministry of the synod in worship, around council tables, at congregational meetings, or special events. Please continue to invite the bishop to congregational events or host synod events and activities. Changes to the ELCIC administrative bylaws will impact synods and congregations beginning in 2016. A letter outlining those changes and the impact these have on your congregation will be sent to the congregational council chairs and rostered ministers serving congregations.

Thank you for the ministry that we share in this context. We appreciate your leadership, your concern for the church and your support of synod ministries which is all the work of the congregations in the MNO Synod. Together benevolent dollars and Mission as Hope Appeal

<p>Benevolence \$417, 250 Mission as Hope \$ 25,900</p>

made a difference. We fulfill the imperative to make disciples in Christ's name. Thank you for the gifts of your time, talents and finances. We are blessed to be a blessing together as we serve.



The Diocese of Rupert's Land

The Right Reverend Donald Phillips,
Bishop of Rupert's Land

A note from the Bishop for Congregational Annual Meetings

January/February 2016

Dear fellow disciples,

St. Paul offered this greeting at the beginning of his First Letter to the Thessalonians – the oldest epistle in the New Testament. I want to use it here because it expresses so eloquently my own thoughts and feelings:

"We give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thess. 1:2,3)

Thank you for all that you offer of yourself in living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in your daily lives, in your families, in your congregations, and in your communities. The gift that you offer blesses us all.

Here are a few reflections about our growing identity as churches in Ontario and Manitoba and the ministry and mission to which we're called.

1. **Discipleship.** This continues to be our foundation as individual Christians and as faith communities. I was surprised and pleased that we caught the attention of the Rev'd. John Kafwanka, Director of Mission for the Anglican Communion. He made an extra trip to Rupert's Land last June to interview some of us and to include a few clips in a video he has produced for the Anglican Consultative Council.
2. **Missional Church.** Archdeacon Simon Blaikie and Archdeacon Geoff Woodcroft continue to remind us of the importance of sharing stories – particularly about the encounters we have with persons and groups in our communities. Through hearing those stories, and being expectant of encounters in my own life, I find my eyes continually being opened to new possibilities to embrace God's world and both be a blessing in, and be blessed by, interactions with my neighbours on many levels.
3. **The call to be stewards.** This reality is just beginning to emerge. More and more we are realizing our responsibility to be stewards of the grace, truth, justice and love that we have been given in the person and Gospel of Jesus Christ. God has entrusted much to us – to be good stewards in our relationships with the peoples of this world and with the earth itself. In our partnership with Indigenous Canadians, the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission along with wise and prophetic voices we have heard in our midst, are challenging and encouraging us to shed indifference, shame and fear. Instead we are to stand up and embrace all of our brothers and sisters – not feeling responsible for them – but rather responsible with them and to them - to make our country all that it can be as a place of safety, security and abundance for all.

In the latter part of 2015 the call to be good stewards was highlighted in the crisis of refugees streaming from many dangerous and unstable places in the world. Many of you have become involved, personally, and as congregations, to respond and welcome persons coming into our country

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and communities in order to live a life more worthy of whom God has created them to be. If you are interested in becoming more involved, our Diocesan Refugee Coordinator, Gail Schnabl, would be happy to hear from you. Her contact information is available from the Synod Office.

I invite and challenge all of us to lay hold of our calling to be faithful stewards as a vocation of our discipleship – primarily involving how we live our lives – and secondarily how we use our time, talent and treasure.

4. **Discerning the Body.** St. Paul teaches about the importance of knowing and living the reality of the Church's fullness and diversity in order to truly know the identity and presence of Christ. (It's analogous to immersing ourselves in different parts of Canada in order to really know and value who we are as a country.) We have some important opportunities coming up:
 - a. Annual Mothering Sunday gathering. On **Sunday March 6 at 7 pm at St. John's Cathedral, Winnipeg**, you are invited to gather in order to witness to the fullness of who we are in Christ through reaffirming baptismal and ordination vows, blessing the sacred oils and celebrating the Eucharist together. Please help to enable each other to come. For those unable to gather at that time, a similar event will take place on **Sunday May 15** (late afternoon-evening) **at St. Alban's Cathedral, Kenora.**
 - b. In September of this year, we will be hosting the triennial meeting of the national House of Bishops and their spouses. (Sept. 22 – 27 in Winnipeg) This is a great opportunity to offer hospitality to our Church's leadership from across the country and to share the blessings of our communities with them. Please note these dates and watch for opportunities to become involved.
 - c. This year, we will gather as a representative body in the meeting of Diocesan Synod from October 20 – 22 in Winnipeg. Please pray for all of those involved in preparing to help us effectively gather, discern and experience the grace of God in our midst.

I wish you and your community much grace and love in our partnership in the Gospel!

Yours in Christ,

+ Donald

The Rt. Rev. Donald Phillips,
Bishop.

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Financial Report

The Church of St. Stephen and St. Bede's Annual Financial Report for 2015 is attached in a separate document.

Thank you to Sandy Lloyd for auditing the 2015 books.

Submitted by Kari Hagness
Treasurer