

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page featuring a stylized vine with several leaves and circular swirls, set against a background of light-colored splatters and textures.

**W**ellington Square UNITED CHURCH

# Annual Report

JULY 1, 2010 - DECEMBER 31, 2011

**Annual Report July 1, 2010 – December 31, 2011**

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## Report from the Board

When you look back over the last 18 months, here at Wellington Square a lot has happened. July 2010 the first Community dinner happened here. Wow! Has that ministry grown. July – December 2010 we were still in construction mode. August was the time we reluctantly set The Rev. Heather Weaver Orosz free of obligations to Wellington Square so she could continue on her quest to further her learning. Knowing she will excel in whatever direction this new journey takes her. We celebrate with her and wished her well. January 30 2011 was our big celebration of the completion of our renovation. This also meant a parking lot without holes. Although for a while we thought Orv might finally get his lake in the back yard. In the spring the Board came to you regarding our finances. You stepped up and you continue to do so. We thank you. How blessed we are to be part of a family of committed children of God. In May 2011 we Celebrated the Ordination of Rev. Heather Joy James. The fall of 2011 our new Sound System was started, and choir risers for the choir. With our new facilities we have been the venue for events sponsored by the larger church, giving us the opportunity to be good and gracious hosts. Before the end of the year we acquired new carpet for the Sanctuary.

I am honoured to be part of a dedication talented diverse group of people. To thank them for wise, hard, prayerful decision making. I would like to thank our Ministry Team who are part of the Board, Katie and Orville. To Michael Southon who co-ordinates the Team Leaders. Also, the Team Leaders who keep all things moving and working here at Wellington Square.

To – Office Staff  
To – Treasurer  
To – Youth Ministry  
To – Children's Ministry

Thank you all for all that you do. Looking over and looking back during the renovations, and all the moves you endured. Some of the staff were able to work mostly from home, but those on the front lines were here day in and day out. Thank you from ALL of US. May we continue to be an open welcoming, safe place for all who enter through our doors.

Who am I?

Lindsay Foster

A Child of God.

Who are you?

## Board of Trustees Report

Wellington Square United Church's Trustees are John Durdan (Vice-Chair), Bruce Hillyer, Margaret Ingram (Secretary), the Rev. Dr. Orville James, John Lewis (Chair), John McArthur and Allan Pearson. The role of the Wellington Square United Church's Trustees is to hold the real estate, building and all monies for the use and benefit of the congregation as part of the United Church.

Finance Committee performs all accounting for the monies of Wellington Square United Church, including the funds held in trust, with thanks to our Treasurer Ruth Ferry. Elsewhere in this report, Finance has provided the Balance sheet showing the total for Special Funds, the balances of which at year end were:

Manse	\$3,721.43
Lindley	\$92,945.56
Pritchard	\$44,514.71
Music Scholarship	\$21,960.52
Douglas/Pettit Organ Fund	\$53,468.89
Flower Fund	\$7,546.23
Freeman-Mountain Education Fund	\$17,290.80
Memorial Garden	\$16,745.69
Gifts and Memorials	\$123,801.29
Lawless Benevolent Fund	\$33,188.22
Smith Family Trust	\$42,150.84
Total	\$457,334.18

In fulfilling our mandate of holding the property and monies, the Trustees must follow the lawful directions of the Official Board on how money will be spent and when it will be disbursed.

2011 was an active year for the Trustees, and our work on four key matters is highlighted:

- Putting in place a mortgage to fund the capital renovations through DUCA with thanks for the assistance of Mark Eade;
- Providing advice to the congregation and the Official Board on the impact of continuing to run deficits on the long term health of the Church;
- Bringing the property insurance up to date based on an independent valuation and a contents inventory with thanks for the assistance of Catherine Wagg and Beth Rose; and
- Developing an asset allocation strategy for the investments.

Our Church is well served by the diligence and dedication of your Trustees and on behalf of the Congregation I would like to thank John, Bruce, Margaret, John, Orville and Allan for their work.

Respectfully Submitted

John Lewis, Chair,  
Wellington Square United Church Board of Trustees

**MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD AT WELLINGTON SQUARE UNITED CHURCH  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

*Tori Jones*, representing the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.

**OPENING PRAYER:**

*Rev. Dr. Orville James* opened the meeting in prayer.

**IN MEMORIAM:**

*Rev. Katie Southon* read the names of members who had died in the period of July 2009-June 2010.

**MOTION:**

*Tori Jones*:

**Motion:** That Pam Butler act as recording secretary for the Annual General Meeting. Seconded by Don McTaggart. Motion carried.

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the AGM held on October 29k, 2009. Seconded by Brian Heagle. Motion carried.

**RENOVATION UPDATE;**

*Russ Jackson*: Russ outlined the current state of the renovations and is pleased with the results. The Capital Campaign was successful in raising sufficient pledges to cover the costs of the renovations. A loan is outstanding and it is hoped that it will be paid off as people honour their pledges and submit the funds as promised. Russ encouraged folk to try to accomplish this as soon as possible to save bank interest costs. Russ thanked the congregation for supporting the project and persevering through the construction phase.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

*John Anderson* reported that the loss of \$40,417.00 has been applied to the Manse Fund in order to balance the budget and not carry a deficit into the year 2010-2011.

**BUDGET:**

*Rob Smith and John Anderson* presented a balanced budget for 2010-2011. It is noted that projected Operating Expenses will be 92% of the budgeted \$590k "General & Loose Offerings", Outreach will be 6% and Capital Reserve will be 2%. The Capital Reserve was reduced from 10% last March.

An additional \$92k comes into Revenue for Outreach Directed, M&S, and Crises Care and goes directly to those activities.

*Tori Jones* said that now that construction is complete, attendance numbers may increase and the giving may increase. Managing the operating costs are paramount and staffing will remain as is for now.

*Leslie Ponting-Price*: Is there any money in the budget to replace Rev. Heather Weaver-Oroz? Tori answered "no" not at this time.

*Elizabeth Talbot* asked about renting out of church space. Tori answered that this is not a consideration at this time.

*Rev. Ian Link*: Has the advertising budget been cut? Church advertising in the papers has stopped. Why?

*Ruth Ferry* answered that the advertising budget is part of the Communications budget.

*Russ Jackson* indicated that we are the best advertisers of this church and we should spread the word in the community, and lead by example.

*Dave Quinn* said that giving the first 10% of givings to outreach is doable and should be encouraged. He wants the 10-10-80 division of givings restored. He said that the Community dinners are a great way to advertise and encourage newcomers to attend this church.

*Sheila Buckingham* suggested that the church sign on the lawn be used for advertising upcoming events.

*Tori Jones*

Replied that the office is looking after this.

**MOTION:** To accept the budget as presented. Seconded by Keith Munroe. All in favour. Motion carried.

*Rev. Dr. Orville James* presented and distributed a survey that was prepared by Laretta Weir and Karen Kerr, asking members for their opinions on the worship services and if they would like to changes made. Orville asked that the surveys be completed and returned to the church office during the next few weeks.

*Orville* talked about the recent past, the present and the future of Wellington Square using a graph to show where we stand now. He outlined that from 1985-1995, the church lost 1000 members. In 1996, the average attendance was 135 adults and 35 children. In 2010, the average attendance is 365 including youth plus 135 children on any given Sunday.

We are in a fairly stable time but need to find ways of renewing the congregation through creative means and direction from God. The Children's and Youth ministries continue to grow under outstanding leadership.

It is with the congregation's reflection , dialogue and prayerful guidance that the next chapter in the life of Wellington Square will be written.

*Joy Magwood* brought out the importance of Small Groups and the positive impact they have had. She encouraged faith development as a key factor in spiritual growth of our members.

#### **OUTREACH ;**

*Marg Torrence* thanked the Outreach Committee for their dedication and hard work . Marg spoke of the increasing involvement of Wellington Square along with other downtown churches, such as Port Nelson, Knox Presbyterian, St. Lukes, St. Christopher's, The Salvation Army and Burlington Baptist in ministries that care for the poor, lonely and disadvantaged in Burlington. Some of these ministries are the Community dinners, Kerr St. breakfast, Compassion Society, Partnership West Food Bank, Motel Ministries. The focus is on hunger and local needs and what we can do to respond to them.

We continue to support the Malawi mission (Fran Grey will be going to Malawi this year), and the Family Mexico mission, which is coming up in November.

#### **Question:**

*Sheila Buckingham* wanted to know who is on the various committees of the church.

**Answer:** Ruth Ferrie said that all the lists of committee members are in the Communication Portfolio.

#### **Motion:**

*Rollie Stead* made a motion that all the Annual Reports be accepted as printed.

Seconded by Duncan McFadgen. All in favour. Motion carried.

#### **Question:**

*John Durdan:* Are we doing anything with planned giving, i.e. Wills and Estates?

#### **Answer:**

*Bruce Magwood* answered that yes, this is being looked after.

#### **Nominees for the Board were introduced:**

*Alicia Holloway, Alvin Kiers and Pam Butler*

The Board members are Laretta Weir (Chair), Rev. Dr. Orville James, Rev. Katie Southon, Tish Buckley, Lindsay Foster, Rob Smith, Jeremy Cox, Sharon Mosher.

**Motion: Don McTaggart** made a motion that the nominees be accepted to serve on the Board. Seconded by **Russ Jackson**. All in favour. Motion carried.  
The board regretfully accepts the resignation of Tori Jones.

**Trustees:**

The Trustees were introduced: John Durdan, John Lewis, Alan Pearson, and Margaret Ingram. Nominees for Trustees are Bruce Hillyer, and John McArthur.

**Motion:**

**Lindsay Foster** made a motion to accept the nominees to board of Trustees . Seconded by Keith Munroe. All in favour. Motion carried.

**Courtesies: Tish Buckley**

Tish thanked the staff, Jamie Acheson, Beth Rose and Catherine Wagg and Ruth Ferry. All have worked incredibly hard to keep the church functioning during the construction and many relocations and have gone the extra mile to keep things running smoothly and the congregation's needs met. Heather Mackey and Caitlin Belanger have inspired the children and youth to learn about their faith and grow in the spirit. James Bretzler provided the gift of music to the 11 o'clock service. Orville, Katie and Heather have provided spiritual leadership to the congregation through the difficult construction period with good humour and positive messages. We are grateful for their dedication to this church and its congregation.

**Closing remarks:**

**Tori Jones** suggested that we challenge ourselves and each other to grow spiritually and connect with God. Together we can become strong followers of Christ.  
Tori thanked everyone for coming.

**Motion:**

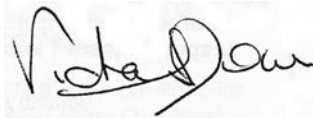
**John Butler** moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:55PM.  
All in favour.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Butler



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Pam Butler, Recording Secretary



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Tori Jones, Board Chair

Minutes of **Congregational Meeting** of Wellington Square United Church  
**Tuesday, March 29, 2011**

Katie opened in prayer.

Motion: to approve Beth Rose as recording secretary for the congregational meeting.  
Moved by Sharon Mosher, approved by Eleanor Christie.

**Introductions**

Each Board member introduced themselves and how long they've been at WS.

**Building Update**

Lindsay Foster discussed the \$2 million Building Project, \$1.4 million of which has been received so far. Expect to take until 2014 to fully pay for.

Furniture in Pritchard Room was paid for from the Oliver Estate.

GraceLand floors 75% paid by individual gifts, 25% general funds.

Sound System and additional sanctuary items will be paid by individuals, eg. choir risers.

**Year End Budget Proposal**

Rob Smith proposed a change to the fiscal year from July to June to the calendar year.

Motion: by John Anderson, Seconded: by Rob Smith, Passed

The current year will be extended to an 18 month period, ending December 2011.

Reasons for going to a calendar year:

- to be on line with Revenue Canada reporting requirements for charities
- for payroll purposes all deductions are on a calendar basis.
- By being on calendar year end, this would simplify the preparation of T4s etc.
- Team leaders understand that now their plans and budgets are to be prepared in the fall, presented to the Board in November and to the congregation at the AGM in January.

**Financial Report**

Rob Smith presented 8 month YTD. Givings are flat. Costs are increasing. Another deficit is projected and the concern is that our reserves are running low.

**Trustees Update**

John Lewis outlined his credentials, and the purpose of the Trustees, who are basically the "owners" of WS, holding property in trust so it can be passed on in the future. Their main concern is there be sufficient funds maintained and insured, and they are concerned re past deficits.

He read a portion of a letter the Trustees sent to the Board recently, which clearly stated that we have had deficits each year and there is very little left in our reserves. So if we run short again, where will the money come from?

**M&P Report**

John Crusoe, chair of M&P, explained how the five people on this team support and celebrate staff successes, ensure WS is a good employer, and meet with staff one on one. They report to the Board monthly. Their role is to make recommendations to the Board about staff concerns.

John showed the Operating Expenses of WS for the past 3 years.

According to UCC guidelines, a church should have one full-time minister for the first 150 congregants, and then one additional minister for each additional 100 congregants. WS has 465 people. Our ministers and their paid time allotments are:

Orv	1.0
Katie	1.0
HM	0.6
Cait	0.5
Total:	3.1

To get to a proper staffing model, we should add one more ministerial staff person.

Recommendations:

1. What is the best we can do financially for WS staff?
2. It's time to reward staff with genuine increases.
3. Hire another minister.
4. Design and execute a sustainable financial campaign to put WS into good financial order.

We must rejuvenate and support our staff.

### **Short term Solution/Recommendation**

Presented by Rob Smith:

Option 1: Suspend 10-10-80 from May 1 to Dec 31, 2011. Review in January 2012 at Annual General Meeting. This is the option the Board is recommending. Outreach could meet their needs with existing money to the end of June 2011.

Option 2: Suspend 10-10-80 from May 1 to Sept 1, 2011. Review in Sept 2011. If there is no significant increase, extend suspension until Annual General Meeting in January 2012.

Option 3: Don't suspend 10-10-80 right now. Wait until the end of June 2011. If there is no significant increase, 10-10-80 will be suspended from July 1 to Dec 31, 2011.

Motion to vote by Rob Smith. Seconded by Jeremy Cox.

After much discussion, Option 1 was voted on and defeated by show of hands.

Following this, a Motion to vote on Option 3 was made by Russ Jackson and seconded by Dee Glover. But then, this motion was amended by Marg Torrance and with Russ Jackson's support.

The following amendment was voted on. The majority voted in favour. Motion carried:

"Don't suspend 10-10-80 right now. Wait until the end of Sept 2011. If there is no significant increase, congregational meeting will be held end of Sept to decide direction."

### **Long Term Solution**

Bryan Webber, Chair of Stewardship Team, along with Brian Smith, Tracey Gallenger, Penny Bailey and Tony Wilson, presented "how do I show obedience and love to God by giving back to Him?"

How:

- Stewardship Committee expansion
- Teaching – worship planning
- Givings Analysis and Reporting
- Financial Peace University (85% of people outside WS)
- Visitation Plan – personal visits
- Communication plan (need to strengthen)
- Accountability (with Trustees, Finance and Board)
- Prayer Support

Churches are far more blessed if they have:

1. operational management
2. stewardship integration in worship (to teach)
3. culture of gratitude and generosity
4. stewardship leadership
5. spiritual nurturing opportunities
6. engagement in social justice

3 questions: What do we have at WS? Why do we have it? Where is the spirit leading us next?

### **Other Business**

Ministry Updates: Katie outlined good things happening in TGIF, the new Teen Male Ministry, giving bibles to kids and their families and teaching them how to read them. Confirmation class has 16 kids. Pastoral care needs help. Group Life has good news stories.

Guest Speaker in October: Len Sweet will be here.

Rob Irish thanked the Board for their efforts.

Standing Ovation!!!!!!

### **Closing Prayer**

Orville ended the meeting with prayer.

Motion to Adjourn: Mark Wignall.



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Beth Rose, Recording Secretary



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Lindsay Foster, Board Chair

## **Congregational Meeting Sept.21, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by Lindsay Foster .

Rev. Katie Southon opened the meeting with a prayer.

Lindsay introduced Rob Smith, representing the Board, who informed the congregation of the purpose of the meeting. He outlined the outcome of the March, 2010 meeting, where he reported a deficit of \$4000 monthly, that would project to a year-end deficit of perhaps \$42,000. Three options, to eliminate the shortfall and protect the church's desire to achieve a 10-10-80 budget were presented and rejected by the congregation. A new option of waiting until the end of September, 2011, and re-evaluating the financial position before next steps can be taken was adopted. This meeting, then, is to share the results of the last 5 month's financial picture.

Rob invited Penny Bailey and Mardi Vickers from Stewardship, to explain the church's present financial position. Total givings were increased significantly with an increase of participants in the PAR giving from 75 to 104, an increase in envelope giving from 230 to 264, and several one-time gifts . Total givings are up 25% or more over last year. We were able to sustain this increased giving for the past 5 months, and this has put us in a surplus position of \$22,000. If this increased rate of giving continues, it will allow the Board to look forward to the new year and plan the budget for 2012 and address some of the needs of the church such as caring for the staff with increased wages, hiring more staff and continuing to support our Outreach projects.

Giving goals are \$ 10,000 in monthly revenue to achieve our budget goals.

Stewardship plan: to encourage people in the bottom two levels of giving to step up to the next level. Education of new people must be ongoing with encouragement to use blue envelopes or enquire about PAR.

Telling people to use the "Generous Giver" website.

Encouraging people to try the Financial Peace University, being offered Fall and Spring .

Lindsay thanked Penny and Mardi for their presentation. She thanked Tony Wilson, Ruth Ferry, John Anderson and John Lewis for their diligent work in preparing the financial statements.

Lindsay thanked Rob Smith for interpreting the charts and financial data, for us all to understand, and John Lewis and Richard Wagg for the sound and visuals.

The Plan is to carry on with no changes until the end of 2011, when the Board will review and discuss the budget for 2012. Hopefully, this will include plans to increase staff salaries and hire more staff.

All were in agreement to carry-on until the end of the year with no changes to the budget until the New Year.

Rev. Katie Southon shared lots of GOOD News:

No borrowing of money was necessary this Summer.

July and August revenues increased.

2010-2011 no debt

No changes to Outreach necessary now

Gifts and Memorials back up to \$100,000.

New sound and light system is installed and paid for.

M&P will now look into staff increases and adding additional staff.

VBC most successful yet!

Alpha, FPU and other learning opportunities very successful.

Rev. Dr. Orville James, said now that the building is finished, we need to move forward. He spoke about the new program, "Unbinding the Gospel", which is now being used in 15,000 congregations. Leadership training sessions will begin this October, to train leaders to give the course to others in the Spring.

The purpose of the course is to: Develop a deeper relationship with God, acquire the ability to talk freely about your faith, and spread the word outside the walls of the church.

Question : Guy Napier asked about installing directional signs in the driveways of the church to facilitate traffic through the church property. The question was referred to Dee Glover, from Property. Dee Glover reported that thanks to the volunteers who assisted at Ribfest, the church received \$2200 for outreach!

Orville closed the meeting in prayer.



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Pam Butler, Recording Secretary



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Lindsay Foster, Board Chair

## In Memoriam

*Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted*

Abraham, William

Acheson, Mary

Amos, Malcolm

Babbit, Gabriel

Barr, Laura

Bennetts, William

Black, Della

Bockler, Pamela

Boich, John

Cain, Jeannie

Cantlon, Sandra

Carmichael, Heather

Clare, Barbara

Clement, Toni

Elioff, Stanley

Gray, Doris

Hampton, Sarah

Henderson, Dorothy

Jordan, Marjorie

Lambert, Miriam

Levan, Sharole

McGrath, Jean

Meyer, Christopher

Miller, Charles

Mummery, James

Munro, Betty

O'Dell, Margaret

Park, Martha

Paul, Frederick

Pottruff, Irene

Pritchard, Margaret

Pugh, Deborah

Pyott, Frank

Retallack, Lois

Rettalack, Frederick

Rose, Edna

Stanton, Helen

Staples, George

Suddaby, Edwin

Tapley-Tayler, Verna

## **Baptisms**

Allison, Emily | Daughter of Danny and Kerri Deganis

Beam, Trevor | Son Toby and Lisa Beam

Harrison, Alexandria | Daughter of Ashley Harrison

Matthews, Spencer | Son of Derek and Kristen Matthews

Citulsky, Benjamin | Son of Robert and Jennifer Citulsky

May, Zoey | Daughter of Joseph and Leah May

Wilkins, Reid | Son of Ryan and Angela Wilkins

Marcil, Liam | Son of Marcil and Christine Marcil

Allison, Nathan | Son of Robert and Lindsay Allison

Roach, Callum | Son of Martin and Christina Roach

Rollo, Hunter | Son of Heather Rollo

Rollo, Hayden | Son of Heather Rollo

Grieve, Chloe | Daughter of Michael Grieve and Steffi-Ann Kondrat

Norton, Andrew | Son of Edward Norton and Steffi-Ann Kondrat

## Marriages

George Shamoun and Jenna Vanderlip	July 3, 2010
John Booth and Vivienne Wilson	July 16, 2010
Jay Thomblison and Jennifer Musser	July 16, 2010
Ian Gray and Sara Hill	August 7, 2010
James Smith and Kimberly Johnston	September 25, 2010
Bryan Brocklebank and Ellen Murray	October 29, 2010
Iwobi Onuora and Sarah Price	October 30, 2010
Jeremy Hager and Cori Umetsu	March 5, 2011
Adan Hernandez and Stephanie Wignall	June 4, 2011
Michael Grieve and Steffi-Ann Kondrat	July 2, 2011
Christopher Chaney and Ashley Mackenzie	July 2, 2011
Steven Borg and Caitlin Stidwell	July 2, 2011
Anthony Taylor and Jasmine Gotfryd	August 6, 2011
Douglas Baird and Maria Quist	September 24, 2011
Christopher Reay and Nicole Trefethen	September 30, 2011
Brent Sweezey and Karen Dobson	November 11, 2011
Bradley Schneider and Monika Anders	December 3, 2011
Aldon Johnson and Colleen O'Grady	December 17, 2011
Tim Sherwood and Deborah Tyrell	December 29, 2011

## **New Members**

Agter, Linda

Brown, Alison

Brown, Gary

Coulson, Ethel (Edey)

Coulson, Paul

Dalgleish, Suzanne

Herbert, Margaret (Ruth)

Hickling, Margot

Howard, David

McAlister, Kathryn

McGee, Deb

Miles, Carmen

Miles, Neil

Purdy, Barbara

Reckman, Michael

Ritcey, Carolann

Smith, Evan

Smith, Liam

Thomblison, Jay

Thomblison, Jennifer

Zuber, Dianne

## Confirmands

Brown, Darragh

Brown, Triona

Burr, Cassidy

Carbone, Naila

Chad Buisman

Chapman, Hayleigh

Gilbert, Jade

Irish, Talia

Mackey, Abigail

Redfearn Jessica

Supapol, Allison

Supapol, Jennifer

Walker, Greg

Webber, Maddie

Weir, Hannah

Wood, Bailey

## **Ministry and Personnel Committee**

The Handbook for the Ministry and Personnel Committees of the United Church of Canada describes the M & P Committee as a confidential, consultative body that supports the pastoral relationship. The role of the members is supportive and supervisory, and encompasses staff relations, mentoring, continuing education, effectiveness evaluation and the review and revision of staffing needs and role descriptions.

In the year 2010-2011, the M & P Committee expended much effort on behalf of the staff and congregation to ensure this mandate was met. We continue to ensure that Wellington Square United Church is a good employer, meeting the United Church of Canada's employment standards.

In March, 2011, in conjunction with the Board and Stewardship Team, M & P made a presentation to the Congregation. The key messages were that:

- We have spent the time and money rejuvenating the bricks and mortar at Wellington Square United Church
- We must now spend the time and money rejuvenating and supporting our most important assets – the amazing, talented, selfless, faithful Staff Team at Wellington Square United Church

The Ministry & Personnel Committee, Ministerial Team and Office Staff have developed a plan to ensure that proper coverage is in place while Reverend Dr. Orville James takes a much deserved sabbatical leave beginning May 1, 2012. We wish Orville a productive and renewing time of study.

It was with mixed emotions that we accepted the resignation of Rollie Steed from the Ministry & Personnel Team in June, 2011. After 7 years of exceptional Service on the M & P Team, Rollie has decided to explore other volunteer opportunities within Wellington Square and the greater community. Thanks for all your leadership, support, guidance and work ethic Rollie. You will be missed!

With the support of a committed, skilled and experienced Ministry and Personnel Committee (made up of Cindy Durdan, Heather Germain, Sue Eade and Rollie Steed) and the cooperation and support of the Board and the Staff Team at Wellington Square United Church, we have had a successful year and look forward to the challenges and opportunities that next year will bring. Thank you to the Staff and Committee Members for their dedication and fine work.

John Crusoe  
Chair, Ministry and Personnel Committee

## Children's Ministry – GraceLand

**Mission Statement:** to provide a fun, safe and friendly place where we learn about Jesus' love.

**Purpose:** to encourage kids to get excited up about God's Love and His GOOD NEWS...they can't wait to share it with others.

**Values:**

- L**ove God and others
- E**xperience the good news of Jesus
- A**ttract ALL children to Him
- R**emain rooted in God's word
- N**urture strong Christian friendships

### The following ministries and teams continue to enrich our Children's Ministry:

**Worship** We now have two GraceLand Bands sharing the worship leading in GraceLand. Both bands have an eagerness to humbly lead children in praise & worship in fun, live and inter-active ways.

**GraceLand Drama** We continue to engage kids by sharing bible stories in fun and relevant ways that help introduce our lessons. As well, we encourage all youth to participate in dramas for special events: Faith @ Home, TGIF, Christmas, Easter and special services.

**GraceLand Puppet Team** Our puppet team creatively work together to share God's word and love through skits and inspiring kid-friendly songs.

**GraceLand Dancers** Our dancers eagerly gather to wiggle and giggle. They express their Godly talent and love for Jesus through contemporary praise dance.

**The GraceNotes Choir** This angelic group of children meets weekly to sing and put to action songs of praise.

**GraceLand Planning Team** This team meets throughout the year to set goals and objectives, plan themes and special events for GraceLand.

**GraceLand Curriculum Team** Our creative volunteers work together at bringing the message of God's love to children by writing creative and interactive lessons, ideas for games, crafts, story-time, discussion questions and activities...all centered on scripture and theme. The curriculum is compiled by our Thursday prep team.

**Thursday Morning Prep Team** Our prep team gathers together to help prepare GraceLand's large task of administration duties, materials and resources needed. They also work on short-term projects and share a hand in creative up-keep.

**GraceLand Leaders and Helpers** This eager bunch, teach our children the word of God and strive to model the love of Christ by loving His children.

**Plan to Protect** Part of our mission for GraceLand is to be a safe place for children and volunteers. As we continue to grow our team is committed to keeping our safety procedures current.

**GraceLand Support Team** This team has the wonderful task of interviewing our entire Children's Ministry volunteers. Using their gifts of wisdom and discernment, they responsibly screen as well as provide support and prayer for them.

**Communication Team** This team of creative communicators eagerly takes on the constant challenge of keeping our church and beyond our church walls informed of our Children's Ministry and up-coming events in a variety of visually effective ways (photo's, video, bulletin boards, murals, flyers, brochures).

**Boy's Sport's Night** Our enthusiastic crew of boys and dad leaders gather every Tuesday to have fun and play games and sports. We now have two different age groups meeting.

**Mom's & Tot's** Moms meet weekly to share life together through discussion, bible study, prayer and enjoy some social time while their children are cared for by loving volunteers.

### **Special Events**

**Summer Kids Camp 2010 & 2011** Loads of children, teens and adults gathered for a full week of fun to learn more about God's love for us!

**Christmas** GraceLand delights in sharing our Godly gifts at both services. We celebrated Jesus' birth through drama, song, DVD, puppets and dance.

**Faith @ Home Events** We continue to provide Faith @ Home events to encourage and equip families to live out their faith in the home. We hosted the following events: *How to Read the Bible, Jesus Loves Me this I know, How to Pray with your Child, How to Bless your child.*

**Baptisms** Children preschool ages to grade 8 participate in each baptismal service. We also share our creative communication gifts by presenting puppet shows, video presentations and/or music to help in the celebration.

**Seminars** We host a variety of seminars throughout the year to help others strengthen their relationships and walk with God. Some are designed for parents and others are designed for youth.

### **Outreach & Mission**

**Church Support** We continue to support other churches and their children's ministries by one-on-one meetings, emails, resource and curriculum sharing and providing our Plan to Protect on the Wellington Square website.

**Giving of our Gifts** GraceLand sponsors a young boy named Pachorn Sinnart from Thailand through World Vision. We also participate and support various missions throughout the church (Mexico, Angel Wings, Community Dinner, Snack-bag program, Kerr St. Mission).

**GraceLand Volunteer Development Affirmation** ALL volunteers under the umbrella of Children's ministry are invited yearly to gather together over a special brunch to celebrate God and each other. We also host another event to meet for a time of leader development. These events help to encourage our leaders to grow deeper in their faith and enhance their teaching skills.

Heather Mackey  
Children's Ministry Director

## **Footsteps Library**

This year we have seen circulation at Footsteps return to normal after construction and actually increase for summer lending. Many people took advantage of borrowing for the longer summer loan period when time may have been more leisurely.

Please be aware that the library units are no longer locked and can be opened and browsed from anytime during weekly church hours. There is a manual self-checkout shelf with easy to follow instructions so that items may be borrowed at times other than on Sunday open time.

A weeding project was undertaken late summer as well and many items were withdrawn from our shelves which had not circulated in a while and given to an organization called "The Christian Salvage Mission" who distribute used material to other congregations and even overseas. This allows more space for newer more popular material and refreshes the general collection.

Plans for the future - As the funds for another similar folding shelf unit purchased during the construction project are unavailable, capital money is being diverted to purchase ready-made shelving to be added to the inside walls on either side of the doors of the small Chapel. This will hopefully supply the space and shelves for the whole of the Footsteps collection including reference and small group materials which are not housed currently with the popular items. The idea is to provide easily accessible space for the library and meeting space will be designated elsewhere especially for the open hours on Sundays.

## **Communications Team**

The Communications Team at Wellington Square is a communications resource group to staff, leaders, teams and committees in the church, and a point of coordination of all kinds of information. We serve God and our church family to increase awareness of any message that needs to be delivered through various media.

Thanks to all who serve tirelessly on this team: Les Reynolds, Linda Lord, Larry Couse, and Catherine Wagg.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Rose

## **Congregational Care Ministries**

Team Leaders: Lindsay Foster and Rev. Katie Southon  
Staff Support: Rev Katie Southon

**Caring Teams:** Friendly Visitors, Phone Ministry, Bayridge Ministries, Connect with New Members

**Prayer:** *(see separate report on next page)*

**Hospitality and Fellowship:** Sunday Coffee, Fellowship Lunches, Congregational Meetings, Special Events as they arise, Congregational Picnic, Renovation Celebration

**Outreach:** Singing Strummers

### **Caring Ministries**

**Friendly Visitors:** These are people who visit, or contact members of the congregation by phone.

**Hospital Visiting:** Volunteers visit at the beginning of the week and clergy visit at the end of the week. If you know of someone in hospital or are going into hospital, please call the office. That way we can stay in touch with you or your family.

**Phone Ministry:** Each person is contacted once every week. This is a way of keeping contact with those who are not always able to attend church or just need a call.

**Funeral Receptions:** The UCW. It is a much needed and appreciated ministry to those at a difficult time in their lives.

**Card Ministry:** Cards are sent to welcome new members to our church family. Cards are also sent following a bereavement.

**Records:** Records kept up to date are Baptisms, Weddings, New Members, Burials and Historic Roll.

### **Outreach Ministries**

**Singing Strummers:** This is a very busy group. They entertain at hospitals, nursing and retirement homes, and wherever they are needed.

### **Hospitality and Fellowship Ministry**

**Sunday Coffee:** 9am: before and after service; 11am: after service

**Fellowship Lunches:** We have 8 lunches during the year after the 11am service.

**Trivia Night:** Beth and Chris Carver

**Congregational Picnic:** was held at LaSalle Park. This was new this fall and everyone enjoyed the event.

**Celebration of Completion of Renovations:** Many hands, helpers made this possible.

Thank you to a fantastic, dedicated team of volunteers. This ministry could not exist without your participation. Also a big thank you to Katie and the rest of our Ministry team, and Staff, for your wonderful and much appreciated support.

As always "But with God All things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)

Lindsay Foster  
Congregational Care Ministries Team Leader

### Prayer Ministry

We give praise, honour and glory to our Heavenly Father for His faithfulness to us. For 17 years we have kept the "prayer books" for this church. It is a written testimony of the wonderful work of His Hand in the life of this church and its people. Every day, without fail, a prayer covering is placed over this congregation. 2 Timothy 1:12 *"I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day."*

Prayer requests flow in on a daily basis ~ people believe in the power of prayer. We are grateful to the Father for the many wonderful praying people who join us in praying for these needs. We continue to visit people in their homes or meet at the church, to pray for them and lay hands on them for healing.

This past year, the Living Prayer course was offered for the 49<sup>th</sup> time. *Living Prayer*, authored by Maxie Dunnam, coupled with the wonderful stories of answered prayers, has helped so many people to develop a more personal, consistent, prayer relationship with the Father.

Our summer prayer group has been meeting for 15 years. Originally it was "Prayers in the Park" but we moved to "Prayers at the Beach" 5 years ago. It is lovely to meet with the Father early in the morning beside the lake (our Galilee), to rest in His beautiful nature and to speak to Him about the things on our heart. We pray for our city and its people, especially the children, the youth, the elderly and prayers for people in great need. We pray for our emergency workers, (hospital, fire dept. ambulance, police etc.) for the churches, for the summer camps and programs for our children, mission work, world issues and individual requests. Intercessors from other churches join us as well. This year, our summer group has decided to continue to meet for weekly prayers, Friday mornings at our Church.

Another form of prayer work that is growing in our church is called Christ Centered Inner Healing. Five of our people attended training sessions, a couple of years ago. This spring, we trained another group of leaders. We have been offering individual sessions for inner healing. We also plan to offer a 10-week small group course this spring to help more people understand and experience the healing power of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This report is respectfully submitted in His Name  
by Penny Bailey

## **Gifts and Memorials Committee**

As a result of the extended period covered by this report, we take pleasure in acknowledging the celebration of two Memorial Sundays. The first was held on Sunday October 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. We were honoured to have our own Reverend Katie Southon deliver the sermon at both services and conduct the ceremony in the Memorial Gardens. Many thanks to Katie for her participation.

Wellington Square observed a second Memorial Sunday on Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup> 2011. We welcomed back Reverend Ted Vance to the mutual pleasure of the congregation and Ted himself. His sermon at both services was well received and his message afterwards in the Memorial Gardens was a comfort especially to those having loved ones resting there.

During the extended 2010-2011 year, we were in receipt of memorial donations in memory of:

Mary Alice Acheson  
Falk Becker  
Sidney Kelly  
Jean McGrath  
Irene Pottruff  
Margaret Pritchard  
Norman and Lois Retallack

During the 2010-2011 year, the Church received bequests from the estates of Agatha Eileen Fell, Alfred Oliver and Margaret Blackley Odell.

On behalf of our committee and the congregation, we would like to express our gratitude to Lori Dupont-Freill for her artful work in bringing the Memorial Book up to date. I am pleased to acknowledge the support and assistance of committee members Lindsay Foster, Janet Lacy, Duncan McFadgen, Marjorie Milligan, Bette Park and Pat West.

Colin Morley (Chairman)

## **Presbytery Report**

Representing your congregation at Presbytery is a very important and, yes, surprisingly interesting job. Here decisions are made and information from the broader United Church that truly affect this and all the other congregations in the presbytery is disseminated.

Wellington Square is ably represented by its lay representatives Eleanor Christie, Cathy Stevenson and Jane Kops as well as the clergy. We have contributed in many valuable ways to the Courts of Presbytery, and Wellington Square should be very proud of the representation.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Kops

## **Group Life**

*"Real growth is possible, especially in the fertile soil of genuine Biblical community. This is the place where hearts open to grace, where relationships heal, where sin patterns break, where connections to God strengthen. This is the place where lives are transformed."*

These simple but powerful words are penned by another church, in another place, but so clearly name the vital role that discipleship groups play in the life and work of this church, in this place.

Study groups, service groups and life groups are offered to help us grow deeper in discipleship. We are extremely grateful to the leaders of such groups. Their commitment to helping others explore and grow in the Christian faith is invaluable.

We have different groups meeting on a regular basis. During Lent this year, we will be offering a church wide event. The entire congregation will be invited to engage in faith discussions, all of which will be based on Sunday messages. We hope to have many people sign up for the purpose of going deeper in our faith life and for building community as well. It is hoped that you will participate!

## **Music Ministry**

The music program at Wellington Square is very active with many volunteers who dedicate both time and energy into making worship meaningful.

The choir at Wellington Square is a dynamic, friendly, and outgoing group of individuals who I have had the pleasure of directing this past year. They are actively involved in the 11am worship service through the presentation of anthems, special hymn descants, and other small-group vocal ensembles. Some members have also shared solo vocal and instrumental music. In particular, I would like to give particular commendation to the choir and other vocalists who gave of their time and talents to participate in a hymn sing event at St. Luke's Anglican Church this past fall.

Wellington Square is also privileged to have a very proficient and dedicated bell choir group who meet regularly and are involved in many concerts throughout the year. The group also participates regularly in the 11am service.

Submitted by James Bretzler

## **Worship**

Wellington Square provides three Christ-centered services. Our 9am contemporary service and 11am traditional service are offered every Sunday morning. TGIF occurs 6 times each year on Friday nights, which is geared to teenagers but open to everyone.

## Outreach and Caring Action

2010-2011 has been a wonderful, fruitful year for the Outreach and Caring Action ministry at the Square. Over the course of these two years, Outreach has continued to support, through a consistent 6.3% of weekly givings, a number of local and global initiatives. O & CA has provided financial support to local initiatives such as "Room at the Inn", Motel Ministries, Compassion Society, Partnership West Food Bank, Salvation Army and Wesley Centre, as well as continuing to support our global partners in Mexico (Yugo Ministries), Sierra Leone (Wellington Orphanage) and HAHFA (Malawi), and Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Our O & CA Leadership team continues to look for ways that our congregation can become actively "engaged in serving" our local and global communities. We are exploring new ways of "responding to the needs" by building on our current strengths, and increasing the awareness and education about the social issues facing our community and our world. A small team of people started studying "Mission-Shaped Ministry" together in the fall of 2011, and we look forward to seeing what God does with this!

Here are some highlights of our work together this year:

***Friday Night Community Dinners*** –This Ministry has exploded into much more than a meal on Friday nights. A loving, caring, community of over 150 people come together to share in friendship, prayer and support every week. Lunch snacks are provided for over 50 children every week, and a table of gently used clothing and household articles is appreciated every week by our guests, as well as generous leftovers of food to take home. Children and adults of all ages come together in this unique loving environment. This ministry is supported by so many in the Burlington community – other churches such as Burlington Baptist, Knox Presbyterian, The Meeting House and Port Nelson. Partnership West continues to be a major support for us with food and monetary help with meals, and a number of local restaurants regularly provide food for our meals. We have partnered with Refresh Foods this year, giving us access to free "fresh" food from the local community. We have a regular "volunteer" team of over 25 dedicated people that continue to work through the best ways to serve our guests and volunteers, as we strive to honour God and show His love to His people here.

***Malawi visits Burlington*** –We were blessed to have Pastor Yonus Chonzi from Agape Life church in Balaka, and his friend Rodrick Zalimba, Executive Director of Prison Fellowship Ministries, Malawi visit us in July of 2011. Our Malawi team hosted these wonderful men as they joined us in worship, and BBQ's and tours of our local sights. We also had a visit in November from Helen Jones from Emmanuel International Malawi, where she and her husband Paul have been the directors of Emmanuel International Malawi for over 20 years. Our Malawi team (HAHFA) is excited to be furthering our relationship with both EI Malawi and Yonus, in the upcoming May 2012 Mission trip.

***"Christmas Joy"*** – Once again, our Christmas initiatives were very successful, resulting in a wonderful outpouring of generosity to -Angel Wings, Chickens for Christmas,(Sierra Leone) Malawi Tangram blocks and Community Dinner Care bags.

***Working through 10-10-80*** - O & CA continues to work with Stewardship, Finance, and the Board on the best way to continue to "tithe" as a church, while pressures mount on general expenses. At a congregation meeting in spring of 2011, there was an outpouring of support to "step up" our givings, rather than cut back on our support of Outreach. We continue to meet with Stewardship and Finance to ensure a God-centered approach to support to Outreach.

Submitted by Marg Torrance on behalf of the O & CA Team – Rob Irish, Fran Gray, Jean Gresham, Lisa Lunski-Wood, Mary Jane Pearson

## Property Report

The following actions were taken by the property team during the last fiscal year – July1, 2010 – Dec 31, 2011.

The items listed are in no particular order chronologically or in terms of importance.

- The new offices were officially occupied late in the summer of 2010. Over the previous months furniture and working spaces were moved several times to accommodate the construction schedule.
- A new roof drain was installed on the roof over the hallway between the new music room and the chapel. Since then we have had no more leaks during heavy rain storms. However there is still a lot of standing water on the roof after a rain storm that doesn't drain away.
- A major sewer blockage was repaired outside the carport entrance by the Narthex. It required new sidewalks to be formed and sod replacement. A new cleanout was installed on the lawn side of the driveway to facilitate future maintenance.
- A new floor was installed in the Youth room with the help of volunteers. Thanks to Paul Gresham, Scott Wood, Jeff Weir, Paul Mackey and Ron Ferry for their help on this project.
- Ron Ferry was able to find a contractor to lay ceramic floor tiles at a very reasonable price in the hallways of the GraceLand wing of the church. The two sets of entrance doors in the GraceLand wing as well as several room doors had to be ground down to accommodate the higher level of the floor. The entrance doors were then painted to match the new colour scheme. Thanks to Roy Woolvett, Alvin Kiers and Henry Ruwhof for help in painting. This really improved the look and continuity between the original portions of the church and the new addition.
- Ron Ferry was hired to take over the janitorial duties from Sunshine cleaners in the fall of 2010. This has proved to be a winning decision.
- The parking lot was finally paved in the fall of 2010. The paving contractor had to return to fix the grade in the middle of the back parking lot to allow for better drainage. This improved the drainage problem considerably but not completely. I am concerned that we didn't properly prepare the base for the paving and that the asphalt will give out prematurely. There are already several areas where cracks are forming.
- We looked into the heating and AC issues associated with the nursery. Although no permanent solution was found we did remove the redundant glass from the windows to allow for air flow during the warmer months. A space heater was donated by Gerald Ohati to help with heat in the winter months.
- Wires were pulled for the new light standards in the back parking lot. Thanks to Scott Wood, Ron Ferry, Alvin Kiers and Bruce Martin for help on this project. The final hook up and connection was made by Brant electric

- We had problems with the balancing of the Geothermal system. The original contractor was brought in to address the problem but that contractor has since gone bankrupt. To date there have not been as many complaints about the heat or lack thereof in certain rooms but it may just be that people are just learning to live with the current status.
- Several initiatives were undertaken that related directly to the Friday night downtown community dinner.
  1. A new plug was installed in St-Paul's Hall for the addition of a freezer.
  2. A new freezer was located on the stage.
  3. A new hot water heater was installed with a 140 degree feed to the DW.
  4. The ovens were recalibrated.
  5. The ventilation fan in the ceiling of St-Paul's Hall was fixed
  6. Additional storage was provided for dinner supplies
  7. The dishwasher was repaired.

Thanks to Bob Mulcaster and Michael Reckman for help with the storage shelves and new carts under the stage.

- A small fire started in the storage areas under the stage due to a light bulb coming in contact with some of the clothing donations. Although no structural damage occurred the electricity was removed to the lights under the stage.
- The projector Screen in St-Paul's Hall was moved to the side so that it wouldn't obstruct the view to stage area.
- New carpeting was installed in the Sanctuary and the Narthex. Volunteers removed the old carpet and floor tiles which saved the Church over \$6,000. Thanks to Gerald Ohata, Bill Hutt, Michael Southon, Bruce Martin, Alvin Kiers, Henry Ruwhof, Randy Zapton, Ron Ferry, John Lewis, Richard Wagg and Michael Reckman for help on this project
- The heating boilers were repaired so that all three are now functioning.
- A new water fountain was installed in Graceland and the water pressure was improved.
- A new toilet was installed in the bathroom outside the youth room.
- Gerald Ohata put up walls in the Youth room to section off a space for janitorial supplies.
- The temporary wall was removed from the old Room 2. Some of the wood was recycled for use in the walls in the youth room.
- The pod was emptied of its storage contents. The old pews that were removed from the East transept were put up for sale. Those unsold were temporarily stored in Linda Scott's garage. Thanks.

- Some major landscaping improvements were undertaken during the spring and summer of 2011. We received donations for five new apples trees to replace some of the older ones that had died. A new garden was installed at the main entrance to the church. Thanks to Lisa Lunski-Wood and Beth Bashford for spearheading this project. The garden area outside the west entrance was replanted. Thanks to Fran Anderson for agreeing to maintain this flower bed. Beth and the Garden Elves did a great job of revitalizing the other flower beds and doing some significant pruning. The lawn was resodded where the storage pod used to sit.
- Half of the large old maple tree in the back parking lot came crashing down during a wind storm. Fortunately, it didn't cause any damage to cars or persons. Mark Wignall and I cut down the other half of the tree as well as another large Manitoba maple on the East property line. Bob Mulcaster was very helpful in chipping up the smaller branches and leaves. The mulch was used on the flower beds. The tree stumps were removed along the west property line.
- We obtained several loads of "topsoil" from area neighbors. Unfortunately it contained a lot of stones and had to be screened. Thanks to Alvin Kiers, Michael Southon and Bruce Martin for helping to spread the clean soil around the grounds to fill in depressions.
- Repairs were made to the weed whipper and riding lawn mower.
- The main sign out in front of the church on Caroline Street was repaired and a new sheet of plexiglass was installed to replace the one with graffiti on it.
- A solution to the Library space concerns was arrived at with Jane and Janet. It will be implemented in 2012 by installing book cases on the back wall of the Chapel.
- Two bike racks were donated to the church by Andrew Alton.
- New carpet and window treatments were installed in the McMillan Room

#### **Plans/ Issues to address for 2012.**

1. The soffit and the eaves of the main sanctuary need to be repaired.
2. Investigate further the use of solar energy panels on the flat roof portions of the church.
3. Investigate the feasibility/desire to turn one of the back lawns into a vegetable garden.
4. Monitor the condition of the asphalt on the parking lot.
5. Purchase a new push lawnmower.
6. Address the air conditioning needs of the nursery.
7. See if repairs are necessary on some of the stain glass.
8. Remove remaining pews from East transept.
9. Strip and clean the floor in St-Paul's Hall.
10. Install cabinets under the sinks in the new men's and women's washrooms.
11. Install automatic door closers on the basement and janitor doors.
12. Purchase a new divider system for one of the permanently closed dividers in GraceLand in order to provide more flexibility for meetings, outside rentals and to address safety concerns.

## Stewardship Team

We were blessed with continued growth in our ministry this past year, in terms of annual givings growth and an increase in the representatives willing to serve on our team.

This past spring we experienced givings growth of approx. \$10,000 per month, in response to shared information on church finances and the gap that needed to be closed to meet our current financial requirements and additional staff support.

As we seek to sustain this blessing, we continue to reach toward our long term goals of generosity and responsible stewardship of all that God has given us, as defined by 10-10-80.

We have identified a number of priorities for 2012:

1. Spiritual/Teaching/Communication Priorities
  - a. Prayer Support - weekly prayer to engage the Holy Spirit in our work, and to guide our actions.
  - b. The offering will be an intentional act of worship (devotion to God) in all services, supported by prayer.
  - c. The tithe and offerings will be taught and encouraged from the pulpit, guided by the Word and supported with testimonial and other techniques.
  - d. Weekly Communication (print/website/email) - Message on givings to inform and inspire, in partnership with the Outreach team, Board of Trustees and supported by our Finance team - transparent disclosure of church finances
  - e. Financial Peace University – a course in winter/spring 2012, and fall 2012
  - f. Small Group Visitation – visit with other ministry teams to support their work, and share learnings
  
2. Administrative Priorities
  - a. Giving vehicles – sharing information and promoting other giving opportunities (PAR, stock donations, planned gifts, etc.)
  - b. Giving Analysis - continue to track giving to measure impact of initiatives and to support future plans

**Respectfully submitted to His glory,**

### **2011 Stewardship Team**

Penny Bailey  
Janelle Donn  
Tracey Gallenger (Secretary)  
Rev. Dr. Orville James (Board Liaison)  
Michelle Lewis  
Ross Patterson  
Brian Smith  
Mardi Vickers  
Bryan Webber (Chair)  
Tony Wilson

## Youth Ministries

Every day I remind myself just how lucky I am to be a part of the Youth Ministry here at Wellington Square. We are blessed with so many active and engaging youth from grades 7-12 who are excited to be a part of a church, who excel in their desire to help others, who are full of laughter and joy, and who lead a bright new future for our church!

This 2010-22 calendar has held many adventures and surprises for us in Youth Ministry and we are continuously thankful that God finds ways to provide us with new opportunities to worship, share, step out in faith, and just have fun!

### Edge

Edge is a youth group for high school kids (grade 9-12) and used to meet every Sunday but starting this past fall, we've changed our meetings to every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. We play games, have worship times, do bible studies, discuss topics from A-Z, hang out and just be ourselves. The Edge has always strived to be a place where teens can just be teens, a place and time in the church that they can call their own and begin to see the church building as "home".

A typical youth night can never be called typical but we did a variety of different things. We would have "normal" nights of games and hang out, various Bible studies (whether at the church or traveling), outreach nights at off site locations to pull in new faces (ex. Bowling, Movie Theatre, etc.). We also tried to get the kids to an evening young adult church service somewhere offsite every now and then. It's always great to see various styles of worship and to open our eyes to the possibilities we as a youth group can accomplish at the Square! If anything I hope those visits can inspire our kids to become spiritual leaders amongst their peers.

This year we welcomed in a large group of grade nines and it was exciting to see the youth group expand from the previous year. We have a fantastic, dedicated group of teens who attend on a regular basis both for youth events as well as Sunday mornings! Our hope is to continue to offer these youth chances to use their gifts while also exploring their own faith and who it will shape them to be.

### Rockpile

Rockpile is a youth group designed for grades 7&8 and they are definitely an energetic group that meet every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. The main function of this group is to keep kids involved in the church and helping them feel ownership over the church. As well we hope to create relationships between the kids and leaders.

Rockpile is loosely based off the Edge group as it eventually leads into that age group. We did events such as bowling and sleepovers while also focusing on ways to help out within the church. This age group was excessively willing to step forward and be present/help out for events such as Trivia Night, running the Christmas Eve service, supporting the older youth and their Mexico March Trip, and more! I'm always amazed by the desire and focus of this age group and have great expectations for the things we will accomplish as the smaller and younger group.

### Confirmation 2011

This past year, we had 16 youth, grades 8 through 12, step out in faith by participating in our biennial Confirmation Class. During these classes, we looked at topics such as "Who is God", "Servanthood", "Spreading the Good News", and more! Our classes ran from February through May and on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the class and I ran the 9am and 11am services, sharing our experiences, what we learned, and all 16 of the youth affirmed their faith and desire to live like Christ with the help of their chosen mentors, their ministry leaders within our church, and alongside the congregation. We had youth share their testimonies and gifts with music during the service as well as lead us all in the act of communion. It was a great class and now it's such a pleasure to see them all step out in new roles of leadership and service both within the church and beyond.

### **DIVE Bible Study**

Starting Fall 2011, all youth from grades 7 through 12 are invited to meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month following the 9am service for a time of Bible Study and worship together. Because so many of our youth are involved in GraceLand on Sunday mornings, many of them miss out on the opportunity of communal worship in the Sanctuary. This new program is designed to offer them a way, once a month, to connect with each other through scripture, sharing, worship, prayer, and more. The program is designed to be fun and interactive while urging the youth to find personal ways to apply the messages learnt to their own lives. Topics such as "Faith", "Joy" and "Humility" are discussed by the use of video, games, and group dramas.

### **TGIF**

Heather Mackey and I have gathered a dedicated team of adults and youth to run a monthly youth service called TGIF... Thank God It's Friday. It initially started out as a service geared for youth but has turned into monthly event that encourages all ages to come out and worship. It runs every last Friday of the month, with few exceptions.

### **Fusion**

This is a fairly new ministry that targets the male teens of our church and beyond. It runs every last Friday of the month after TGIF and appeals to male youth who like to play sports and connect with our male leaders, Alistair Ingram and Jeff Southon.

### **Volunteers/Leadership**

Thank you, thank you, thank you! To all and everyone involved in the youth programs this past year. Whether you stopped by to supervise for a special event, or if you provided a snack from time to time or if you dropped off other peoples kids... thank you for your support!

A special thanks to those who took the time to drive our youth to special events such as Youth Eventz, a service geared towards reaching youth at Christmas and Easter to think beyond the Bible Stories they know so well and embrace the reality of what God has done for us. Huge thanks to those certain individuals who found themselves stepping into support roles with the youth by connecting one-to-one, helping supervise a fun event, helping to update websites and Facebook postings, and more! Also, a big thanks to Steven Lord and Hannah Bruce who, as teen helpers, have stepped into new roles of leadership amongst their peers.

### **GraceLand Involvement**

This past year offered new opportunities for me to stay connected with Edge and Rockpile kids alike by my involvement with the GraceLand Band and support for Heather Mackey and the Children's Ministry programs that run weekly. By supporting GraceLand on Sunday mornings, I got to work with these youth as they expand their spiritual gifts in term of worship and praise while also encouraging them to step up into new roles of leadership.

**"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity".**

**1 Timothy 4:12**

Thanks for the prayers, concerns, questions and fashion tips,

Caitlin Belanger  
Youth Ministry Coordinator

**Wellington Square United Church**  
**Income Statement 01/07/2010 to 31/12/2011**  
**(18 Months)**

**TOTAL REVENUE** 977,775.47

**EXPENSES**

Personnel	569,776.93
Property	153,013.96
Administrative	28,890.12
Christian Development	15,797.43
Worship	10,417.61
Presbytery Assessment	24,879.26
Misc.	<u>4,164.35</u>

sub total 806,939.66

Outreach	61,582.95
Capital Reserve	19,506.39

**TOTAL EXPENSES** 888,029.00

**SURPLUS** **89,746.47**

**BUDGET 2012**

Givings			\$625,000.00
Personnel			\$454,931.00
Property			\$94,440.00
Administration			\$22,104.00
Christian Development			\$12,150.00
Worship			\$7,000.00
Presbytery			\$21,250.00
Misc.			\$7,500.00
Financial Audit			\$5,000.00
Sub-Total			<u>\$624,375.00</u>
	2%	Capital Reserve	\$12,500.00
	6.30%	Outreach	\$39,375.00
Total Expenses			<u>\$676,250.00</u>
<b>Deficit</b>			<b>\$51,250.00</b>

**Wellington Square United Church  
Balance Sheet as at 31/12/2011**

**ASSETS**

Cash \$191,071.40  
Investments \$475,466.15  
Capital Pledges Rec. \$503,149.00

**Total Current Assets** \$1,169,686.55

**LIABILITIES**

Current  
Accounts Payable \$19,711.98  
Capital Mtge. \$553,870.32

**Total Liabilities** \$573,582.30

**SPECIAL FUNDS**

**Total Funds** \$457,334.18

**CAPITAL RESERVE**

**Total Funds** \$12,807.29

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

**Total Special Projects** \$36,216.31

**CURRENT SURPLUS**

**Current deficit/surplus Total** \$89,746.47

**Total Equity** \$596,104.25

**Total Liabilities/Equity** \$1,169,686.55