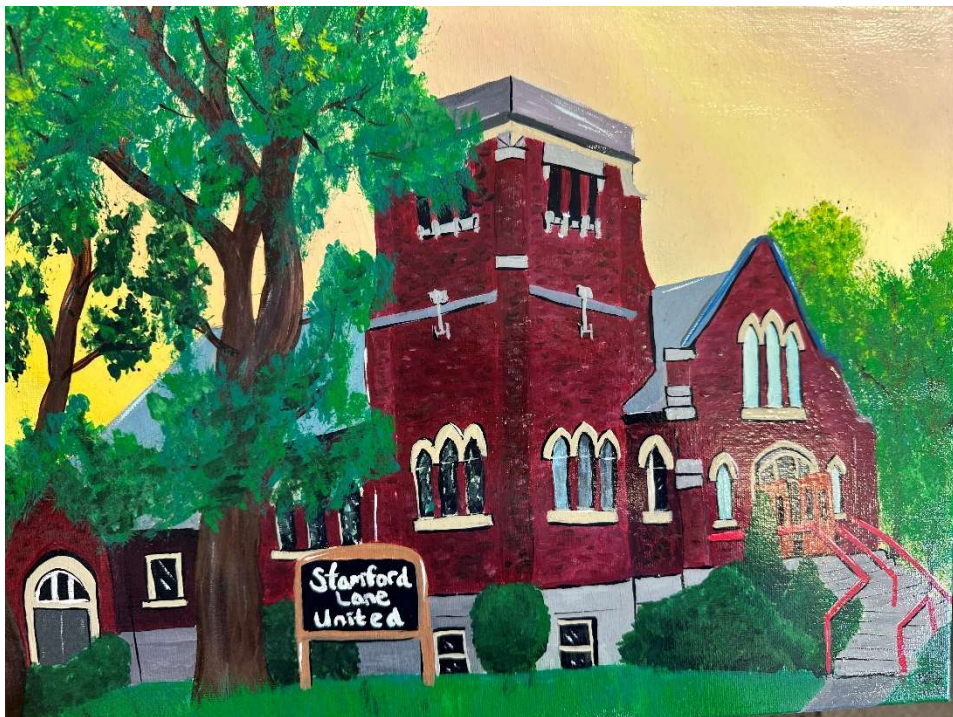


Building on a firm foundation,
Stamford Lane United Church

**celebrates God's presence,
follows Christ's teachings and reaches out to all people
through
sharing the Word, sacrament, fellowship, and music
within
a supportive, caring and accepting community.**



**Annual Reports
Financial Statements**

2024

Linda Bruch
Shannon Fisher
Bryanna Johnson
Maggie Kilts
Leslie Maddalena
Sara Maida-Nicol
Lucie McCarthy
Tiffany Sacco
Rev. Harvey Tobey

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Minister's Report

Stamford Lane United Church celebrates 100 years of being the light. This congregation first gathered in June of 1925, the same week as the union of the *United Church of Canada*. They gathered then to plan for today, where children of the future could look upon the hills of life and see faith growing. The children of this church prepared a video to celebrate that vision:

"Look up child."

This song by Lauren Daigle inspires us all to look up from the past, through present moments, and see the blessings leading us forward. A child of God should always be the light that we want to see in others. Your church is filled with the faithful Spirit that sees us through hopes and dreams, fears and troubles, talents and gifts, grief and joy. Here with family and friends we discover we are each a child of God, seeking on a very personal level, what the whole church seeks: Bold Discipleship, Deep Spirituality and Daring Justice.

I have been with Stamford Lane on this journey for over 28 years, and a lot has changed. We sing some different songs, we do things in different ways, but so it was with each generation before. The blessing is that *The United Church of Canada*, and *Stamford Lane United*, shall continue to grow and change for generations to come. Your church Council and Trustees have tended to the property, finances, education, and worship, while keeping the community in-touch through all the faith filled moments. Now we even have a *Fun Committee* to lighten the load as you continue to build on your commitment to God and each other. The search committee is focused on this vision, planning for leadership that gets who you are here and now, among your family and friends. Your commitment here inspires the work of everyone around you, giving of ourselves for a brighter future. The Holy Spirit shines through you.

While Every day brings challenges that can get in the way of the light of Christ that we profess, look through the pages here in this Annual Report, as well as your new Church Directory, and see that your faithful service inspires a generous spirit. Stamford Lane United looks after building up this community while reaching out with, and into, the larger community to meet the needs of the world as we are able. While we helped the Ukrainian church to grow to the point where they were able to move out into the community, the DSBN English as a second language program has grown into a more stable presence here. Enabling opportunities for faith to connect to the world at our door has been a focus of your church. The Mission Committee and the Bargain Boutique; the new Children's Ministry leaders, Tiffany and Maggie; the new Caretaking assistant, Shannon; as well as the choirs and their new video; are each a part of this same vision. Your whole church Council, committees and staff are all focused on building the same welcoming atmosphere that keeps you here. That Holy Spirit brought me here, and will bring more leaders, more servers, more fruit of the Spirit, more generous, caring children of God together.

You are Stamford Lane United Church. That doesn't leave with me. Sharing space has enabled us to grow our investments for the future in many ways, not the least of which is faithful friendship. My friend Norm, who I travelled the world in ministry with, always said: "God is good... all the time... God is good." Looking up from where we are, God is good. Stamford Lane United Church is well prepared to gather the future together and be inspired by a broader view of our place in the world. Thank you.

Prayers and Blessings

Rev. Harvey Tobey

Message from Council Chair

2024 started like any other year, focused on the things that we needed to do in the upcoming year and preparing for the annual meeting. Then everything changed at the Annual Meeting when Reverend Harvey announced that he was planning on retiring. This immediately changed our focus on the work that needed to be done first. Our first task was to find out the process for acquiring a new minister since this church hasn't gone through this process for about 28 years and a lot has changed in the United Church in that time. The Regional Councils didn't even exist when we needed a minister the last time and now they are the ones that control the process. From the information that we received, we found that the responsibility of developing the story and profile of the church fell on the shoulders of the council. This led to many hours of work and extra meetings for the council as we worked to produce the information that was needed by the Regional Council to give us approval to search for a new minister. As we finally received approval a newly selected committee began the search. Now as you can imagine finding a new minister to fill Harvey's shoes is a big task.

The next big event for 2025 is the celebration of our 100th year anniversary. This is certainly a benchmark that is very special and deserves to be well recognized. It's amazing that this church was established the same year that an act of parliament passed legislation forming the United Church of Canada.

Throughout the year maintenance is an ongoing task since a building of this age with high usage needs to be regularly maintained to keep it in good shape. We are very fortunate to have a large active council made up of people who work to keep the church running smoothly. The council members all work together for the betterment of the church and do so while having a good time. The new Fun Committee will be having several events this year that are focused on having fun while building closeness between all ages in the church. We've got another great year coming our way.

Bryce Anderson, Chair of your Council

2024 Stamford Lane United Church Statistics

Membership Roll as of January 1, 2024	248
Received by Profession of Faith & Transfer	22
By Action of Council	1
Removed by Death	-6
Transferred out by request	-2
Membership Roll as of December 31, 2024	263

Families under Stamford Lane United Church Pastoral Charge	228
Families who contribute financially to the operation of Stamford Lane United	159
Families who support the Mission & Service of the United Church	53
Average Attendance Website/Youtube Oct/Nov	60
Average Attendance In House Oct/Nov	114
Facebook Average Attendance Oct/Nov	46
Facebook Sunday Live followers	432

Stamford Lane Council 2024

Minister: Rev. Harvey Tobey
Past-Chair: Dan Monteith
Treasurer: Ray Marshall

Chair: Bryce Anderson
Vice-Chair: Dan Taylor
Administrative Assistant: Leslie Maddalena

ARNOTT, Anne
BEAL, Cris
BROWN, Don
COLE, Barbara
COWAN, Sandra
DAVIS, Alastair
FAST, Paul
FOSTER, Will
HACKETT, Jackie
HARRIS, Janet
HARRISON, Mary Ann
JARVIS, Carole
JANVARY POOL, Paisley
JOHNSON, Bryanna
KAINE, Janet
LAND, Peter
LAPP, Vivian

LENNOX, Marion
MacDONNELL, Mary
MACKENZIE, Joan
MAIDA-NICOL, Sara
MALEKZADEH, Afshin
MONTEITH, Carolyn
NICOL, Bobby
PATERSON, Ginny
RISTO, Nancy
SAUDER, Carol
SAUDER, Jim
SCHMAGALA, Mary
STEIP, Al
WALKER, Donna
WILSON-SCHRAM, Kristyn
YOUNG, David
YOUNG, Dawn
ZAVITZ, Tim

Stamford Lane Trustees

ANDERSON, Bryce
ARNOTT, Anne
DEMPSEY, Mary-(Chair)
GILMORE, Dennis
JANVARY-POOL, Paisley

LENNOX, Marion
MACKENZIE, Joan
PATTERSON, Paul
ZAVITZ, Tim

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council:
Representative: Ray Marshall
Representative: Mary Ann Harrison
Alternate: Dan Monteith
Clergy: Rev. Harvey Tobey
Rev. Lorraine Davis
Rev. Gwen Nicol-Macdonald
Rev. Roy Nicol-Macdonald
Rev. Doug Mitchell

Extension Council:
Representative: Tim Zavitz
Cave Springs Camp Representatives:
Representative: Carol Sauder
Representative: Vivian Lapp

Director of Music Sara Maida-Nicol
Music Accompanist Linda Bruch
Director Bell Choir Laura Sparkman
Custodian Lucie McCarthy
Custodian Shannon Fisher

Communication Assist. Bryanna Johnson
Sunday School Maggie Kilts
Sunday School Tiffany Sacco
Turkey Team Afshin Malekzadeh
Women's Group Vivan Lapp, Suzanne Parnell, (Jane Shores)

Council Committees 2024

** executive * committee member only

Minister: **Rev. Harvey Tobey	Chair: **Bryce Anderson
Past-Chair: **Dan Monteith	Vice-Chair: **Dan Taylor
Treasurer: **Ray Marshall	Administrative Assistant: **Leslie Maddalena

Christian Education

Co Chair: **Sandra Cowan
 Co Chair: **Sara Maida-Nicol
 Vivian Lapp
 Mary MacDonnell Carol Sauder
 Nancy Risto Mary Schmagala

Property

Chair: **Dan Monteith *Mike Sandercock
 Cris Beal Jim Sauder
 Don Brown *Dan MacDonnell
 Joan MacKenzie *Richard Lambert
 Dan Taylor *Paul Patterson

Finance

Chair: **Tim Zavitz
 **Ray Marshall – Treasurer
 Anne Arnott
 **Bryce Anderson
 Marion Lennox
 Afshin Malekzadeh
 **Leslie Maddalena--Treasurer

Rental

Chair: **Paisley January-Pool
 Barbara Cole
 **Ray Marshall

Mission and Outreach

Chair: **Alastair Davis
 Mary Dempsey *Gail Goar
 *Darlene Foster Will Foster
 *Pam Gilmore Jacki Hackett
 Mary Ann Harrison Peter Land
 *Lynn Marshall Bobby Nicol
 Carolyn Monteith Ginny Paterson
 Sara Maida-Nicol *Vera Packham
 *Brenda Skinner

Worship and Congregational Concerns

Chair: ** Barbara Cole
 Paul Fast Peter Land
 *Joanne Fast Marion Lennox
 Janet Harris Sara Maida-Nicol
 Carole Jarvis Al Steip
 Janet Kaine Donna Walker

Bargain Boutique-sub committee

Chair: Ginny Paterson Alastair Davis
 *Joanne Brown *Bonnie Fletcher

Audio/Visual

Chair: *Dan MacDonnell
 Co Chair: **Bryce Anderson
 Paul Fast Afshin Malekzadeh
 Will Foster *Richard Lambert
 Bryanna Johnson Bobby Nicol

Ministry and Personnel

Chair: **Anne Arnott
 Paul Fast
 Jacki Hackett
 Paisley January Pool
 Nancy Risto
 Dan Taylor

In Touch

Chair: *Diane Becken
 Co-Chair: **Ray Marshall
 Barbara Cole *Lynn Marshall
 Jacki Hackett Carolyn Monteith
 *Mary Ann Harrison Donna Walker
 Paisley January-Pool Dawn Young
 David Young

The Council Chairperson is an ex-officio member of all committees.
 The Minister is an ex-officio of all committees, except Ministry and Personnel.

Proposed Council 2025

Until February 2026: Barbara Cole, Paul Fast, Will Foster, Paisley January-Pool, Mary MacDonnell, Carolyn Monteith, Bobby Nicol, Ginny Paterson, Carol Sauder, Jim Sauder, Al Steip, Dan Taylor, Dawn Young, David Young

Nominated to February 2027: Donald Brown, Janet Harris, Carole Jarvis, Bryanna Johnson, Leslie Maddalena, Sara Maida-Nicol, Ray Marshall, Dan Monteith, Nancy Risto, Donna Walker, Kristyn Wilson-Schram

Until February 2028: Bryce Anderson, Anne Arnott, Wesley Bean, Sandra Cowan, Alastair Davis, Jacki Hackett, Peter Land, Vivian Lapp, Marion Lennox, Joan MacKenzie, Afshin Malekzadeh, Tim Zavitz

and anyone who volunteers by February 16, 2025.

Board of Trustees:

Bryce Anderson, Anne Arnott, Mary Dempsey, (Chair), Dennis Gilmore, Paisley January-Pool, Marion Lennox, Joan MacKenzie, Paul Patterson, Tim Zavitz.

Search Committee:

Anne Arnott, Sandra Cowan, Alastair Davis, Michael Maddalena, Sara Maida-Nicol, Mary MacDonnell, Dan Monteith

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council:

Representative: Ray Marshall

Representative: Nancy Risto

Alternates: Dan Monteith

Carolyn Monteith

Clergy: Rev. Harvey Tobey

Rev. Lorraine Davis

Rev. Roy Nicol-Macdonald

Rev. Gwen Nicol-Macdonald

Rev. Doug Mitchell

Extension Council:

Tim Zavitz – Representative

Alternate: Afshin Malekzadeh

Cave Springs Camp Representatives:

Carol Sauder

Vivian Lapp

Stamford Lane United Church

Sunday February 18

Prelude

Years I spent in vanity and pride,
Caring not my Lord was crucified,
Knowing not it was for me He died, on Calvary.
Mercy there was great, and grace was free;
Pardon there was multiplied to me;
There my burdened soul found liberty, at Calvary.

Welcome : Bryce Anderson- Chair of Council

I declare this annual meeting open for all business that may
come before us in the name of Jesus, the head of the church.

Meeting called to order by Bryce Anderson at 10:07

Anne Arnott-Ministry & Personnel

Anne thanked our dedicated staff for their work behind the scenes which helps our church to run smoothly. The congregation recognizes your efforts and Anne extended thanks from the Ministry and Personnel committee and the congregation.

I have decided to follow Jesus;

I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
No turning back, no turning back.

Call to worship - Trustees Dennis Gilmore

Welcome to this place of love and grace.

Jesus invites us into loving community.

The Holy Spirit of grace leads us in hope and perseverance.

We walk with peace

We walk with courage,

We walk with Faith.

We worship God together.

Candle of Hope Diane Becken – In Touch Committee

As we remember and honour the people who have gone before us.

Rev. Harvey read the names aloud.

(Remembering those who died in 2023 page 18 of the Annual Report)

And also, Paul Taylor, Marie Magie, Maxine Brittain.

We pray along with our church family for the well being of Tim Zavitz and Geraldine Zavitz, Tim McCarthy, Tom Dumont, and the Johnson family. We pray also for our families and church family, people of the Ukraine and Russia, Palestine and Israel we pray for peace.

Lord hear our prayer and in you love answer.

Gentle Shepherd come and lead us
For we need you to help us find our way
Gentle Shepherd come and feed us
For we need your strength from day to day

There's no other we can turn to
Who can help us face another day
Gentle Shepherd come and lead us
For we need to you to help us find our way

Life and work of the Church Ginny Paterson–Boutique

Thank you for donating to the Bargain Boutique and for volunteering and shopping. Continue to spread the news and continue to donate, volunteer and shop. We have partnered with Habitat for Humanity, the Soup Kitchen, the ESL students and Project Share.

We need gently used luggage, 5 blankets for queen sized beds as well and single beds. This Boutique is our store, the church's store, so keep spreading the word.

Dan Monteith – Property

We're in good shape.

We've had some pretty interesting years, but things are looking up.

There'll always be certain things that pop up especially on a hundred-year-old structure and the increased activity in and around the building. Additional activity means additional wear and tear, water usage, heat, electricity and so on.

Our Custodian (Lucie) is doing an awesome job and we've added a few hours a week with Shannon to assist on the additional cleaning work load and an On-Call guy for snow removal, salting ect.; both are in direct relationship with the added activity. We are a busy church.

Right at this moment we're monitoring a leak situation in the sanctuary roof that may or may not be behind us. In any case we'll have to repair the damage and move on. The spring will tell us the whole story there.

We have received an estimate for a new handle on the elevator door for \$1079.15. It's one of those things that can't be ignored and has to be done.

There are windows in the gym, a heating system valve, sanctuary lights, and front doors that are on our to-do list and will be addressed at some time in the near future.

Our property committee is composed of 10 people that lend a hand whenever and wherever possible or needed.

There's a few of us that meet pretty much every Monday for a few hours to do minor repairs, painting, cleaning and so on; so, if you're inclined, and willing and able - come on out and join us; we do have fun sharing our talents, and we could use the help.

Don't forget to read my report on page 29 of the 'Annual Report'.

The church is in good shape. The additional activity with the DSBN and Ukrainians means additional heat, electricity and wear and tear on the building. Lucie Is doing a wonderful job with the help of Sharon Fisher. We are monitoring leak in Sanctuary roof, we'll know better in the spring when we get rain.

We have received an estimate for a handle for the elevator \$1073.00, we can't fix it, it has to go through Brock Elevator for this service. Windows in the gym. Sanctuary lights, are on the list to look into in the near future. There are 10 members of the property committee some who meet on Mondays and anyone is welcome to join us. Full report on page 29 of the Annual Report.

Offertory Anthem - Church in the Wildwood - Bryce and Pauline Anderson

Offertory Hymn

We offer You our failures,
we offer You attempts;
The gifts not fully given,
the dreams not fully dreamt.
Give our stumblings direction,
give our visions wider view,
An offering of gifts,
An offering to You.

Offertory Prayer Ray Marshall - Treasurer Finance—In 2023 we experienced planned and unplanned expenses which we have met.

Sewers, fire panel and fridge expenses have been covered and we have paid off all loans.

We are in a good financial state at this time.

Time for Growing Souls

“Woman here is your son.” “Here is your mother.” – John 19:26-27

***Hymn 333 Sandra Cowan - Christian Education**

Several groups fall under Christian Education: Sunday school, children's night, children's and junior choir, summer camp, and bible study. Adult volunteers are always welcome to help. Consider being part of the committee or attend the different events to volunteer and support.

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Sermon Your Church Rev. Harvey Tobey

Our church is in good shape because we abide by what Jesus has told us. To look after one another. To care for one another. How people pick up their place in our faith community. People take on responsibility that they haven't before, but rise to the challenge. The choir showing up to lead a congregation in song and praise for example. In our faith community you have people around to support and understand. People just come and sit because they know.

Rev. Harvey thanked Dennis Gilmore for his dedication over the past number of years as the Chair of Trustees and Dennis is now passing on the role to Mary Dempsey.

We leave what we have in good shape. It's time to establish a committee for transition, Rev. Harvey is not giving us a date. He will wait until we're ready to fill the position.

The best thing is to prepare for a transition, we need to prepare properly and Rev. Harvey is asking us to hire a new minister. He will retire when the church is ready. Rev. Harvey is asking us to start to prepare for a new minister. It's a busy church now since covid. It's important to find the right minister that will lead this congregation into the future. Rev. Harvey will support that minister during the transition. Form a committee to get things started to move into the transition stage.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Adapted from Communion Liturgies for the Whole People of God *by Alydia Smith*

Barbara Cole - Worship and Congregational Concerns

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God!

It is right to give God our thanks and praise!

For you created the heavens, earth, and all that is in them:
you cast sunbeams through the snow, open eyes and ears,
to see and know that You could sustain all of your creation.

But you asked us to be your people.

Thank-you for the wonders of creation and for your great trust in us. Thank you for our family tree of Judges, Prophets, and Disciples, providing words of wisdom as we continue building your kingdom.

Though humanity sometimes weeps,

We wait lovingly for you, God.

We still need you to be our God.

We praise you for Jesus, Christ, who lives among us
as a teacher, healer, and friend,
giving us a sacred path to follow,
eternal as your love, our bond to one another.
We rejoice with all your people of every time and place,
and with angels and archangels,
we proclaim the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one
Who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest.

On the night before Jesus died,
he took a loaf of bread,
gave thanks, broke it, and said,
“Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me.”
After supper, Jesus took the cup, saying,
“This is the new covenant, remember me.”

We do remember.
In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again.**

Holy Mystery, God the Spirit,
we call on you to transform these familiar things,
as you continually transform the world around us,
empowering us to faithfully share your love with all of creation.
Bless this bread and this cup,
the wheat and the grape,
the seed and the sower,
all who taste and see.

That we might catch a glimpse of what it is to be
in communion with you and with one another,
this day, for tomorrow.

Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, God most holy,
now and forever.

Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Cup

The body of Christ,
the bread of life.
The cup of blessing.
Remember Him.

Anthem Many Gifts, One Spirit

Prayer after Communion

Alastair Davis - Mission and Outreach

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life.
**We are fed by your love;
we are strengthened by your life.
May our worship and work be one in this world
as we live into the visions
God has laid on our hearts.**

We are now commissioned to:
**Feed as we have been fed,
forgive as we have been forgiven,
love as we have been loved.**

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

Feb. 23 Euchre Fun Night – Bring your friends to Play
All adults start play at 7:00 Call Carolyn 289-969-7135
Feb. 24 Coldest Walk for Project Share

Feb. 25 Special Olympics Doughnuts
are available after church for a donation
supporting the work of our mission and outreach committee.

March 2 Karaoke Night 6:30

March 16 Chili and Trivia 6:00 Book your ticket for table of 8

The Congregation was called to meet during worship at church on Sunday April 21
beginning in worship at 10:00 am. 100 people in attendance.

Please see agenda and attached documents sent to the congregation.

The Chair called the meeting to order, after the sermon, In the name of Jesus Christ the head of the Church.
10:52 a.m.

All the information will be added to church hub once approved and only Ministers who are looking for a new
position will have access to it.

The Region has to approve the documents at which time we can move forward, this is the document we will
be approving today.

Al Steip asked if the document can be amended once accepted by the congregation.

Answer: Yes, it can be amended on a regular basis.

MOTION: to approve the Community of Faith Profile of Stamford Lane United Church document
including the ability to support salary level “F” 75,385 as distributed.

Cris Beal

Don Brown

Moved by

Seconded by

Carried

MOTION: to approve the Position Description as distributed.

Barbara Cole—page 2 of job description under Community Justice...we don’t have a Community Outreach
chair... we have a Mission and Outreach chair. Needs to be changed. Done.

Jacki Hackett

Vivian Lapp

Moved by

Seconded by

Carried

Search committee works best by consensus, not majority rule.

The Search Committee must sign a confidentiality document and will not be able to share the information of the search process.

The search committee will attend a training session on May 14th.

The first documents have to be completed by Tuesday this week. The committee will start right away.

MOTION: to approve the search committee as Alastair Davis, Ann Arnott, Mary MacDonnell, Jane Shores, Michael Maddalena, Sara Maida-Nicol, Sandra Cowan & Dan Monteith.

Sharon MacDonnell

Will Foster

Moved by

Seconded by

Carried

Once we are approved by our regional office to search for a minister, the work of our search committee begins.

So that the search committee is clear about your needs and desires for a new minister we ask you to answer the following three questions and deposit your comments at: Search@StamfordLaneUnited.ca

or in the box at church between now and Sunday April 28.

1. What character traits or skills in a new minister are important to you?
2. Why do you come to church?
3. In the documents that we shared with you, is there anything that you think was missed?
- 4.

MOTION: to adjourn—Jacki Hackett 11:08

Adjourn - Hymn, Blessing, Choral Blessing

Horseshoe Falls Region

Horseshoe Falls Region held 2 meetings in 2024 – a hybrid in May 24-26 and a virtual meeting during the first weekend of October. The June meeting was a Tri—Regional Meeting at the Unifor Conference Center; Nancy Risto attended in person and Ray Marshall via a zoom link. The Fall meeting was online, again with both Nancy & Ray attending. Once again, the Region approved its budget, and once again with there were no dues added to the National Church Dues. Even though it is a deficit budget, the Region’s treasurer feels there are sufficient funds via National Grants and investments to meet the Region’s obligations. Also, at the Fall meeting, there were a number of proposals to the next meeting of the United Church General Council presented. These, and possibly others, will be vetted at two special meetings of the Region on February 4 and 8.

The Region continues to explore ways that it can be of more assistance and guidance to congregations and they have noted a disconnect with the loss of Presbyteries. To that end, they are continuing both gatherings of clergy and lay representatives. These took place a couple of times in 2024. Commission reports and minutes are always available on the Region Website: <https://hfrucc.ca/> as are various “toolkits” to support work in Communities of Faith. The next regular meeting of the region will be on June 13-15, 2025.

Respectfully submitted, Ray Marshall

In Memoriam

Gary Hodgson	February 10	Wilma Atkinson † ††	May 25
Maxine Ida Brittain † ††	February 14	Joan Foster	August 21
Mervyn John Arkinson	March 5	Shirley Chalmers †	September 5
June Amy Blodgett	March 6	Jane Shores †	September 9
Edmund Theiss	March 15	Vera Packham †	October 29
Algie Vant †	May 1	Christopher James Johns	November 23
Deborah Iaonnoni ††	May 12	Brett Murray Booth	December 17
Joyce Davis	Mar 15	Janet Pearson ††	December 20
Wilma Jean Morris	May 18	Roy Hunter	December 26

† Member

†† No funeral date at this time

Marriage Blessings

Michael John Abbruscato & Alicia Aileen Cripps	February 17, 2024
Christopher McLaughlin & Lindsay Davis Service officiated by Rev. Lorraine Davis	April 6, 2024
Harold William Rougoor & Angela Jane Hills	June 23, 2024
David Michael Mongeri & Maria Concetta Bruno	July 6, 2024
Jonathan Charles Garwood & Onalee Kathleen Solnes	September 13, 2024
Cameron Boucher & Shauna Lee Hnatiw	September 29, 2024

Baptisms

There were no baptisms in 2024.

Ministry and Personnel

This is a confidential and supportive committee for staff and parishioners. We meet as needed throughout the year.

Our volunteer committee consists of:

Paisley Janvary-Pool, Dan Taylor from Property, Jacki Hackett from Mission and Outreach, Paul Fast from Worship, Nancy Risto from Christian Education, and Anne Arnott from Finance along with the assistance of our treasurer, Ray Marshall when needed.

This year, there was an announcement that Rev. Tobey has plans to retire. We also hired an additional three (3) staff members.

Our committee is appreciative for our dedicated team:

Rev. Tobey, Lucie, Sara, Linda, Leslie, Bryanna, and our newest members Shannon, Maggie and Tiffany.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Arnott

Search Committee Report

Your search committee is diligently making full use of all available resources to find Harvey's successor. Having regard always to United Church of Canada required protocols and recommendations, we are continuing our best efforts to identify, evaluate, and interview, all candidates who demonstrate that they have the skills and temperament that match the needs of our congregation. Out of respect for the privacy and confidentiality of potential candidates, we cannot provide further details of our efforts until we are in a position to recommend Harvey's successor. With your prayers and support, we are confident that the Holy Spirit, which continues to

guide our efforts, likewise will lead the right candidate to us at the appropriate time. As a committee, we seek not to impose our own will or timeline upon this solemn task, but rather to discern God's will for our congregation. Thanks to all for your support, your understanding, and your patience as we continue this important work to choose the person who will lead Stamford Lane United Church into the future.

Anne Arnott, Sandra Cowan, Alastair Davis, Michael Maddalena, Sara Maida-Nicol, Mary MacDonnell, Dan Monteith

Christian Education and Development

It has been another busy year for our children! This past summer Sara, Reverend Harvey and many volunteers ran our third Art and Music camp which was greatly enjoyed by all! This past fall, Sunday school welcomed two new enthusiastic teachers, Tiffany Sacco and Maggie Kilts. We would like to thank Paisley Janvary-Pool and Brenda for their many years of time and love they have dedicated to our Sunday School. Your commitment and efforts are greatly appreciated! You will be missed. In June we enjoyed hosting our end of year barbecue, with many thanks to our volunteers at the grill. Sundae Sunday marks a sweet beginning to Sunday School start up in September. Our children enjoyed a shared Halloween party with members of our Children's choir. On November 29th we offered a free camp on the school PD day. We were excited to have a visit from Santa on Pageant day and thank the congregation for their food donations. We continue to sponsor campers at Cave Springs Camp through our sponsorship program. Here is to an exciting year in 2025!

Sandra Cowan

Bible Study

Bible study meets Tuesdays at 10:15 -11:45. The size of this group varies from 10 to 25 participants as people join as they are able. We check in with each other and discuss how the theme for the following Sunday meets our lives.

There are no required readings before hand although some have found preparation part of their daily devotion. We are thankful for very capable leadership among the group when the minister is away. You are invited to come and be part of theological discovery that supports each other where we are, and shapes the vision forward. Show up in the friendship room with a Bible.

Kid's Night

Kids night ran its course through the winter into Spring with sporadic attendance but we played lots of games, ate lots of Pizza and made creative art projects. We painted door mats, vases and Tititorea sticks as we learned about hospitality and community.

Rev. Tobey and Anne Molnar, along with Miss Sara and Miss Linda, ran another summer camp in early July that saw 29 children come together for Choir and Art. The camp focused on the spirit that washes over us as the fruit of the spirit grows. Painting apple T-shirts, a banner and cards, waves over sand and garden rocks, cement mushrooms, and singing together, all built community. We were led by that theme through the summer into a celebration of the gifts of the Spirit at Thanksgiving.

Appreciation Garden

The Appreciation Garden Committee met on April 10, 2024. Present were Bryce Anderson, Anne Arnott, Janet Harris, Paisley January-Pool, and Dan Taylor. Mary Ann Harrison was not able to attend. We reviewed the nominations that we had received, although there were not many for this year compared to the past. The committee decided to honour Alda Ferreira and Beverley Jamieson and to recommend them to council. Council agreed with the recommendation and although neither one could attend the church service on May 26, 2024 we feted them for their devoted service to Stamford Lane United Church. It was our privilege to honour them on behalf of the congregation.

Your Appreciation Garden Committee for 2024: Bryce Anderson, Anne Arnott, Paisley January-Pool, Dan Taylor, Mary Ann Harrison (retired from council and committee), Janet Harris.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Harris

Walking and Exercise Group

Our seniors exercise and walk indoors for an hour every Monday and Thursday mornings from 10- 11 am from September to June.

Then we break for social time at Tim's. We do chair exercises for about 15 minutes for our stretches and then walk however fast or slow as you want for half an hour.

Anyone who would like to walk with us is welcome. The more the merrier! We have about 13 walkers that are 90, 80- and 70-year olds. So, feel free to join us anytime.

Gail Goar

The Sewing Mission Group

Our mission is to sew and knit baby apparel for the Niagara Warehouse of Hope, located at Port Weller in St. Catharines. They ship cloth bags full of baby items to new moms who are in Guatemala and Honduras.

We get together on Friday mornings in the Activity room at 10:00 am. We welcome anyone who would like to join us for a few hours on Friday. We have made these items during 2024.

Bags-- 40

Blankets-15

Dresses-17

Hats--30

Nightgowns--18

Slings—64

Thank you: Alison Wills, Bonnie Fletcher, Bessie Ladas, Carole Jarvis, Donna Mongeri, Karen Corey, Lynn Young, Penny Soulsby

Submitted by Penny Soulsby

In-Touch Committee

The In-Touch Committee met in February, May and November. Luncheons were held in January, March, May and October.

Resignations were received from Ginny Paterson, Debbie Hertrich, April Zavitz, Janet Harris, Gail Goar and Joanne and Paul Fast. Also, Jane Shores passed away.

We welcomed Jacki Hackett and Carolyn Monteith to our Committee.

As requested by Rev. Tobey, sympathy, thinking of you and get well cards were sent and cards were also sent to our Veterans. Cards were sent or delivered to our Shut-Ins for Valentine's Day, Easter, Summer and Thanksgiving.

Poinsettias were purchased again for our Shut-Ins and Bereaved families and 49 were delivered.

As the United Church enters its 100th year, we congratulate our own centenarians. Doug Roszel turned 102 on November 6, 2024 and Ruth McDowell turned 100 on June 4, 2024. Norman Jones will turn 100 on March 30, 2025.

Please continue to keep our church members in your thoughts and prayers.

In-Touch Committee: Rev. Harvey Tobey, Diane Becken, Ray Marshall, Barbara Cole, Jacki Hackett, Mary Ann Harrison, Paisley Janvary-Pool, Lynn Marshall, Carolyn Monteith, Donna Walker, Dawn Young, David Young.

Respectfully Submitted, Diane Becken and Ray Marshall, Co-Chairs

77th Annual Turkey Dinner

On November 23rd, the 77th Annual Turkey Dinner took place, and I'm thrilled to announce that it was a huge success!

This year, we once again provided more than 300 dinners. The success of this event is undoubtedly attributed to the dedicated volunteers who played a crucial role, and my heartfelt gratitude goes out to each of them for their invaluable contributions. Special thanks to the entire team from Stamford Lane and the volunteers from Toronto who generously devoted their time to ensure the event's success.



Our Turkey Sponsorship Program achieved remarkable success this year, with the combined net proceeds from the dinner and sponsorships reaching an impressive total of over \$10,000.

Sincerely, Afshin and the Turkey Team!

Mission and Outreach Report

Another very good year of action, outreach and caring for others in need. Our congregation continues to make generous contributions for Mission & Outreach. The Grand Total of all givings was an amazing **\$45,813.01** exceeding last year's tally of \$36,111.10. In addition, Stamford Lane Walkers CNOY team raised \$9,082 directly to Project SHARE.

Mission & Service Fund – contributed a very respectable \$22,074.26 which fell a little short of our annual goal of \$25,000 to support initiatives of the United Church of Canada locally, nationally and internationally.

Local Community Outreach – responded to the unique and special needs of our community through discussions and meetings with charity leaders to learn of GAPS we could support. With a \$5,000 Seeds of Hope grant from the United Church of Canada Foundation, proceeds from the Bargain Boutique and special events we helped quite a number of organizations (see *Mission Givings Chart for 2024*);

- Birchway Niagara – with gift cards for essential needs
- Niagara Falls Soup Kitchen – funds for food and winter clothing
- Niagara Nutrition Partners – championed the introduction of a new Breakfast Program at Orchard Park Public School which now is fully self-sustainable.
- Pathstone Mental Health – garage sale and Boutique proceeds for the day sponsored a special program.
- Caribbean Farm Workers - served light luncheon to over 100 attendees at special Sunday church service in NOTL.
- Project SHARE
 - School Backpacks providing supplies, snacks, shoes, etc.
 - Laundry/dish soap
 - Thanksgiving Food Drive
 - White Gift exceptional contributions from the congregation and Mission Committee allowed us to sponsor 94 local families to have a Christmas meal and gifts for their kids.

-Coldest Night of Year walkers walked 5kms on a chilly evening and raised \$9,082 for Project SHARE – we are fortunate to have hardy and seasoned walkers who know how to walk, fundraise and have fun (Ginny Paterson, Sharon MacDonnell, Maureen Bradshaw, Carol Morningstar, Jacki Hackett, Mary Beth Blackman, Ayla Leblanc, Carolyn & Dan Monteith and Alastair Davis)

Bargain Boutique experienced its first full year of operating with superb sales of **\$12,817** made possible by our exceptional volunteers (Ginny Paterson, Bonnie Fletcher, Joanne Brown, Camilla Murray and Ron Russell and ESL student volunteers). They are all so focused on sorting and merchandizing donations and providing wonderful welcoming service to all our shoppers. The Boutique attracts community donors and shoppers and has become a meeting place for so many. The Boutique fulfills our goal to produce self-sustaining funding for the Mission Committee and also contribute a portion to the Operating Income for Stamford Lane.

Jr Choirs – participated in a number of events raising funds and touring the Soup Kitchen.

Garage Sale had another very good year with the calm and resourceful leadership of Vivian Ward. Again, this year the sale was a combined garage sale and Bargain Boutique event with over 40 volunteers involved.

Christmas Pizza Lunch - again this year we co-hosted with the ESL Instructors, the fun filled Christmas Pizza Lunch in the Gym. About 130 attended including 12 from Transitions Canada.

Thank you to all the volunteers and congregation for your kindness, generosity and commitment to supporting the vulnerable in our community.

Respectfully submitted, Alastair Davis, Chair Mission & Outreach

Stamford Lane United Church MISSION GIVINGS - 2024

World Mission	Member Givings	Good News Unit	Mission Committee	Garage Sale	Bargain Boutique	Karaoke Night	Pancake Luncheon	J&A Thompson Endowment	Total
Mission & Service Fund (UCC)	\$17,775.61	\$1,000.00						\$3,298.65	\$22,074.26
World Development Fund	525.00								525.00
World Mission Subtotal	\$18,300.61	\$1,000.00						\$3,298.65	\$22,599.26
Local Mission									
Blue Sea Philanthropy Inc.	\$605.00								\$605.00
Birchway Niagara (WPSN)			\$500.00						500.00
Niagara Falls Community Outreach	1,200.00					\$618.10	\$1,007.00		2,825.10
Pathstones Foundation				\$1,082.40	\$579.00				1,661.40
Project Share	960.00		3,500.00						4,460.00
Ronald MacDonald House	100.00								100.00
Special Olympics Ontario			147.25						147.25
White Gift	5,000.00		3,750.00						8,750.00
White Gift Surplus	2,665.00								2,665.00
Local Mission Subtotal	\$10,530.00		\$9,397.25	\$1,082.40	\$579.00	\$618.10	\$1,007.00		\$23,213.75
Grand Total	\$29,359.11	\$1,000.00	\$9,397.25	\$1,082.40	\$579.00	\$618.10	\$1,007.00	\$3,298.65	\$45,813.01

Stamford Lane Coldest Night Walk: \$9,082 was donated to Project Share. Food & Mittens were also donated.

The Mitten Tree

Thank you for the support of the mitten tree. The tree at the St John entrance has continued to bring a sense of warmth that reaches out into the community. Five local schools each received 14 pairs of Mittens and some hats with a big box of big and little items delivered to Project Share.

Rental Committee

We do our best to make Stamford Lane an accessible, safe place for the community to gather. We are accommodating ballroom and line dancing, Dance-it, Treblaires, Tops, and two meetings of AA in a safe clean space at a reasonable cost. Our long-term arrangements with Unifor, Transitions Canada, and now The District School Board of Niagara enable us to better meet our budget demands as all costs continue to rise. We are grateful to the property committee who work to reduce costs while gathering for regular maintenance and repairs to the building. Our caretakers Lucie and Shannon and our administrator, Leslie, work hard to make the building available, and we appreciate that everyone has been adjusting to the increased use of this wonderful facility. While we continue to be available for events where families and children can gather and play together, we are aware of our limitations and liabilities that require booking ahead, insurance, and responsible supervision. We are an active church in Niagara Falls every day.

Submitted by Leslie Maddalena

Transitions Canada—Niagara

Oh my gosh, the year just flew by! As most of you are aware we are an abilities centre, so we are all learning new life skills, and having a great time practicing them and socializing with our friends. We have had some new participants here on a trial basis, but alas a few weren't a good fit. Our two Brock students Ava and Shae, finished in December and we will be having two more students on placement towards the end of January. Thank you, Maggie and Jayde, for our yoga classes and Harvey for including us in the activities at the church. Even though winter has just started we are all anticipating spring and summer so we can get back outside to the splashpad and the parks for our BBQ's and picnics. On a side note: If anyone has 24 – 100 piece puzzles they no longer use we would appreciate them. Thank you. We hope everyone was able to enjoy the holidays and are in good health. Cheers to this coming year. Let's make 2025 amazing!
With warm regards, Rose Quong

Yoga

The gentle yoga classes at Stamford Lane United had a small glitch in early 2024, due to an unexpected medical issue with one of our instructors. We were still able to offer classes as consistently as possible. Once classes consistently began again, we were able to provide our one hour class up until the end of December of 2024, including a well-attended summer session.

The group is fortunate to have three well-qualified instructors who can usually fill in for each other. The Instructors are Kristyn Wilson-Schram, Maggie Neuroth and our newest instructor Pam Gillespie.

The gentle class is held on Thursdays at 11 am, and is geared to our senior population with an emphasis on balance, gentle stretch, joint mobility, range of motion and mindfulness practices. Standing, sitting, and floor movements are all incorporated, and participants modify their movements to suit their particular needs. The cost of the class remained at \$10 drop in price or \$50 for a 6 class pass. The class has been relocated to the friendship room adjacent to the Secretary Office. It is a lovely room with plenty of space, lots of chairs and climate control if needed.

The Transitions Group were fortunate to gain Jaidyn Atkinson as an instructor who taught this group as part of her Yoga Teacher Training program. She was able to plan for an hour class each week with the Transitions Group from mid-September onwards. The class was held on Thursdays at 12:15 pm and both students and teacher were pleased with the outcome. The class was free for the participants. Any donations for the class were directed back to the Church.

Class sizes have been steady for both groups at around 5-8 participants per week.

It has been a pleasure to bring these yoga experiences to Stamford Lane United and we are always open to provide summer classes and additional yoga-based classes if enough interest is expressed.

Sincerely, Maggie Neuroth, Kristyn Wilson-Schram, Pam Gillespie

Worship and Congregational Concerns Committee

Throughout all of 2024, Sunday morning worship services were shown live on Facebook and posted later in the week on the church's website.

On Jan. 7, there were 22 people who joined the church. I believe this is the largest number of persons to join our congregation in a long time, if ever. On Jan.14 Al Steip delivered the sermon; his topic was "Climate." On Jan. 21 Paul Fast delivered the sermon; his topic: "As A Little Child." Janet Harris preached on "Thin Places" on Jan. 28. Alastair Davis preached on "Life" on Feb. 4.

The theme of the service on Feb. 11 related to Valentine's Day. This was also the first Sunday of Lent and Pancake Sunday. The AGM was held on Feb. 18 as part of the worship service and generally well received done this way. The worship theme on Feb. 25 was "Paradise."

Easter Sunday was on Mar. 31. The worship services earlier this month focused on Jesus's words while on the cross, including "Thirst" and "Finished." Communion was held on Thursday evening Mar. 28 in the Friendship Room and on Mar.29 the Good Friday service

took place at The Church of the Good Shepherd at 10:30 am. On Easter Sunday Rev. Tobey was assisted at the communion table by Rev. L. Davis and Rev. G. Nicol-MacDonald.

April worship took us into the Biblical time of the Resurrection. Themes of the four services this month were "Have you seen Jesus?," "Messiah," "King/Saviour," and "Tabitha." There was a congregational meeting after the service to inform the congregation about the process of searching for a new minister, Rev. Tobey having announced his intention to retire.

May 19 was Pentecost Sunday. "The Apostle Peter" was the topic of the sermon. May 28 was Appreciation Sunday. The topic of the sermon this day was "James."

Throughout June the Beatitudes were the subject of Rev. Tobey's sermons. On June 2 was the special service: "Be Our Guest." At appropriate times throughout the service, songs from various Disney movies were matched with the Beatitudes. All choirs contributed to the joy which came through the various pairings of songs and scripture passages. After the service there was a barbeque, which many attended. On June 9 the bells played 2 special numbers. The signups for the new church directory began. The Sunday after Father's Day holy communion took place. The Canada Day service was on June 30.

The last two Sundays in July we were blessed with sermons by Paul Fast and Rev. Doug Mitchell. There were guest worship leaders on the first three Sundays in August, as well. These were: Rev. Gwen Nicol-Macdonald, Rev. Lorraine Davis, and Brian Packham. The first September Sunday was the last of our summer services, and the topic of Rev. Tobey's sermon was "Ministry Together."

Sunday School began again on Sept. 8. With ice cream in the gym after worship, our annual "Sundae Sunday" took place. The Blessing of the Animals was a big part of the Sept. 15 service; Rev. Harvey introduced the first of the themes from the summer Art & Music camp. The main theme carried through the services until and including Thanksgiving. This was "The Fruit of the Spirit is. . ." Love & Joy, Peace & Patience, Faithfulness and Gentleness, Self Control & Thanksgiving. We had communion on Thanksgiving Sunday.

On Oct. 20 Michael Maddalena preached on Matthew 12:34 ("For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks"). On Oct. 27 Rev. Gwen Nicol-MacDonald spoke on John 13: 31-35 ("Love One Another As I Have Loved You").

Nov.03 we welcomed our guest speaker, Rev, Dr. Japhet Ndhlovu, Executive Minister for the National Church in Mission. His main theme was "We are known by our love." Nov.10 we observed Remembrance Day; Paul Fast delivered the sermon. The last Sunday of the month Rev. Tobey spoke on "Jesus Leads the Way."

Advent began on Dec. 1. On the first Sunday, Hope, Rev. Tobey's sermon was "Hope, The Way." Dec. 8 was the second Advent Sunday, Peace. The third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 15, was Joy, and the fourth Sunday, Dec. 22, was Love. The Christmas Pageant was given this Sunday, and it was amazing. This pageant involved the children's choir, the junior choir, the adult choir, & parent readers. They were assisted by audio (Dan MacDonnell & Bobby Nicol), visual (Bryanna Johnson & Bryce Anderson), video (Kevin Gibson & Sara Maida-Nicol), & the costume makers (Penny Soulsby, Carol Jarvis, Mary MacDonnell, Caren Corey, and Lynn Young). On Christmas Eve, the traditional candlelight service, along with communion, was held.

The last worship service of the year was on Dec. 29, and we had the "Happy Birthday, Jesus" cake to enjoy after the service.

The Worship Committee wishes to thank all those persons not acknowledged by name for their contributions to helping make our Sunday services so meaningful. The greeters, the ushers, the guest musicians, the flower committee, and those who helped decorate the sanctuary for the various seasons of the year. You are indeed appreciated!

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Cole, Chair
Worship & Congregational Concerns

Music

What an exciting year for the music program at Stamford Lane! In March, the JR choirs rejoiced in another successful fundraising campaign, in support of our local Soup Kitchen. Their efforts, raised via a karaoke event and pancake lunch, helped provide three separate meals for our community in need. In April, the Adult choir was invited to sing at the Stamford community, Good Friday service, held at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. On Easter Sunday, we invited all of the choirs to participate in an uplifting service (and a full church). In May, our Adult Choir participated in our local music festival, alongside other church choirs, with glowing results. The JR Choirs ended their season with a special Disney-inspired service, based on the Beatitudes. In July, the music team collaborated once again with Christian Ed. to offer a summer camp focused on art and music. The JR Choirs were invited to sing "O Canada" at the Meridian Centre for a professional Canadian basketball team, the Niagara RiverLions. It was an exciting summer afternoon spent with many from our church family. Two players from the team joined us at our camp BBQ and the kids did a special performance of camp songs celebrating the "Fruits of the Spirit".

Early fall brought some new JR choir members (28 in total this year) but also some goodbyes to our graduates, who were long-standing members. We will miss Lyla Sharp & Ziyanda Moyo.

We welcomed them back, however, for our 100th Anniversary music video, celebrating the youth music ministry at Stamford Lane. The video, "Look Up, Child" included a number of production days and hours of careful editing with professional videographers. Each production day began and ended in prayer, counting our blessings and thanking God for this opportunity to make music and share together with our congregation. The video premiered at our Christmas Family Service that featured a pageant narrated by the parents of the Sunday School and JR Choirs. We welcomed our special guest "Ash" the donkey, who helped bring the Christmas Story to life for everyone. Advent this year also featured beautiful music from our thriving bell choir (lead by Laura Sparkman). We were definitely filled with hope, peace, joy and love... all season long.

This year, we were also blessed to have a number of professional and student musicians, from the community, enriching the music during service. We continue to support the young student musicians who play and sing throughout the year as part of our musical community outreach.

Lastly, I must acknowledge the extraordinary musicians from our own congregation who continuously offer their talents, making our music ministry truly exceptional each and every Sunday. Our Adult Choir has worked extremely hard this year, bringing their love of music to you each week, to deepen worship. We currently have 25 members who go above and beyond in order to offer variety and diversity in our music.

I am so grateful to Linda Bruch, the most wonderful musician and person I've had the pleasure of working with. Any achievements I've made, as Music Director, are a direct result of the support I've received from Rev. Harvey, the team I work with and my church family. We move forward with more incredible music in 2025, reminding us all to "look up" and lift our spirits and our eyes to the One that holds us through all seasons of life.

Submitted By: Sara Maida-Nicol

Audio Group

We have three individuals that help to deliver audio enhancement to your Sunday services, funeral services and special events. We welcome any others that may be interested to join.

Thanks to Paul Fast, Afshin Malekzadeh.
Dan MacDonnell, Audio Chair

Projection Group

Your projection group is tasked with producing and projecting the images that are used in the service. The group is made up of Bryanna Johnson, our newest member Bobby Nicol and myself. We are very excited that Bobby has joined the group and has quickly learned how to operate the program. The church is very fortunate to have Bryanna as a key member of this group as she does all of the creative input for the regular services and the special events. Our next task is to get Bobby trained to do the input so that we have some backup for Bryanna. There is always room for one more if this type of activity is interesting to you.

Bryce Anderson.

Property Committee

2024 was an amazing year for the property committee. We had up to 7 workers on any given Monday (many hands make light work). This means an enormous quantity of work was achieved around your church.

Your property committee has shown a great deal of dedication and we owe these people a big pat on the back: Cris Beal, Joan MacKenzie, Dan Taylor, Dan MacDonnell, Don Brown, Doug Craig, Michael Sandercock and unofficially Bryce Anderson, and Ray Marshall. Also, there's more than just the property committee that lends its support to the upkeep of this building and there are a few names I'd like to mention, in the persons of Rev. Harvey Tobey, secretary Leslie Maddalena, and custodians Lucy McCarthy and Shannon Fisher.

It's our 100th Anniversary next year and we're maintaining a structure with sections that are nearly as old. This is a busy church with multiple activities including DSBN, Transitions, Sunday school, choirs, Boutique, our own everyday activities, and so on. There's a lot to do and we're trying keeping up in make the church a wonderful place to worship and visit.

We appreciate your kindness and consideration while our efforts are being exercised. A challenge has been placed before us, and we accepted this challenge, with God being our helper.

Dan Monteith, Property Chair

The Fundscrip Program

Annually, our church takes part in ordering gift cards through the Fundscrip fundraising program. A percentage of each gift card ordered is donated back to the church. This year, the orders placed earned our church \$742.74. Thank you to our church for supporting this program, and thanks to Barb Tobey for all her efforts in making this program a success over the years. Since this program originated, our church has earned \$6,747.67.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Dempsey

Trustees Report

Currently, the Trustees of the church are Bryce Anderson, Anne Arnott, Mary Dempsey, Dennis Gilmore, Marion Lennox, Paisley January-Pool, Joan MacKenzie, Paul Patterson, Reverend Harvey Tobey and Tim Zavitz.

The Trustees hold congregational property in trust for the congregation as part of the United Church of Canada. Congregational property means all property and assets owned by the congregation, including land, buildings, funds, investments, and any other kind of property.

Investments

The investments of the church are held by IG Private Wealth Management, managed by Huebert and Associates. Our portfolio is classified as a moderate/conservative portfolio.

2024 IG Investments

December 31, 2023 balance	\$842,508.49
Bequests Received	20,262.44
Surplus funds transferred from bank account June, 2024	50,000.00
Transfer to bank account for operating expenses December, 2024	25,000.00
Change in value	147,431.05
December 31, 2024 balance	\$989,939.54

Insurance

Effective December 1, 2022, the United Church of Canada launched an insurance program called UCC Protect. Stamford Lane United has been part of that program since 2023. In December, our renewal saw our premium increase to \$8,433.72 for the upcoming year. In October, the Trustees voted to have an up-to-date appraisal for insurance purposes obtained in 2025. It has been some time since our last appraisal and the Trustees feel it is prudent to ensure our coverage is adequate.

Planned Legacy Giving

This year, we received bequests from the Atkinson and Chagnon families. We are very grateful for their continued support of this church in memory of their loved ones. Please consider making a gift in the form of a bequest, annuity, life insurance or RRSP/RRIF/TFSA.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Dempsey, Chair

Women's Group - Good News Unit

Co-Presidents -Suzanne Parnell and Vivian Lapp, Secretary-Carolyn Monteith, Treasurer-Jacki Hackett

This report is dedicated to our friend Jane Shores. Jane was the leader of the Good News Unit from 2018 until her passing on September 9th 2024. Jane led in a very organised and calm manner, events were always a pleasure to take part in with lots of laughter.

The Good News Unit meets on the second Wednesday of each month from September to June at 7:00pm. We are a small very active group always welcome to new members. The meetings open with a devotion, followed by planning for upcoming events, an activity or guest speaker and refreshments all provided by the members.

Highlights of 2024 included:

- January 10th we each brought in a picture with a story which provided many laughs.
- February 21st we finalised plans for chili/trivia and made a craft with Suzanne Parnell of a gnome for St. Patrick's Day.
- March 10th we met in the Friendship Room after service to assemble auction items and enjoyed lunch.
- March 16th we hosted chili/trivia with silent auction. Thanks to the ladies for cooking the meal, to Dan Monteith for being the trivia host and to everyone who donated auction items.
- April 10th we planned the Spring Fling Luncheon for the ladies of our church, a motion was passed to transfer \$1,000 to mission and services and \$2,000 to the general fund. We made floral bouquets in colourful vases provided by Jane Shores.
- April 27th we met at the church to prepare food the luncheon.
- April 28th we took part in the service followed by the luncheon.
- May 15th we discussed having a fashion show with Licia in September or October. We each brought a favourite kitchen gadget or suggestion from our ancestors that we could not do without.
- June 12th we had a pot luck dinner at the home of Barb Tobey. We discussed fund raising ideas and approved transferring \$2,000 for the gymnasium window repairs.
- September 10th meeting was chaired by Barb Tobey, the devotion was given by Barb remembering Jane's joyful spirit. Plans for Jane's funeral were shared by Chris Watling, our ladies will provide baked goods and serve at the reception. Suzanne Parnell and Vivian Lapp volunteered to be co-presidents of the Good News Unit.
- October 9th meeting we planned a bake sale for December 14th after the Treblaires concert and December 15 after service. Kristyn Schram led us through chair yoga.
- November 13th we discussed the bake sale and dates for chili/trivia in 2025. We made beautiful snowflakes with Suzanne Parnell.
- December 14th and 15th we held a bake sale and raised \$716.00, many thanks to everyone who donated baked goods.

We are very proud of the contributions we have made to our church and the community under the leadership of Jane Shores and plan to continue on this path.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Parnell and Vivian Lapp co-presidents

2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR GOOD NEWS UNIT

RECEIPTS

Balance forward Dec 31, 2023	\$ 2,059.40
Collections	\$ 415.25
Ticket Sales	\$ 2,260.00
Trivia Silent Auction	\$ 1,667.95
Trivia Kitchen Sales	\$ 222.00
Donation	\$ 26.08
Ladies Lunch Free Will Offering	\$ 230.00
Bake Sale	\$ 716.00

\$ 7,596.68

DISBURSEMENTS

Mission & Service Fund	\$ 1,000.00
SLUC General Fund	\$ 2,000.00 Trivia
Trivia Expenses	\$ 696.39
Ladies Lunch Expenses	\$ 252.46
SLUC Gym Windows	\$ 2,000.00
Balance on hand Dec 31, 2024	\$ 1,647.83

\$ 7,596.68

Respectfully submitted
Jacki Hackett, Treasurer

Men

The Men's Club meets regularly to promote a sense of community and fellowship with the men of the church. We host one major event every year which is the Turkey Supper in the fall, which continues to be a major fundraising event for the Church. Since many members are on other church committees, our get-togethers also allow for networking and discussions on problem solving, sharing contacts, and new ideas for a wide variety of projects. The men's club is open to all the men of the church and we welcome and encourage more men to join us.

Dan Taylor - Men's Club Chairman

Finance Committee Report

Once again, the Finance Committee wishes to thank you, the congregation, for your many financial gifts in 2024. We end the year with a positive bank balance. Give yourself a pat on the back for your financial commitment to Stamford Lane.

Leslie and Ray continue their efforts to keep us informed of our position each month and we thank them for their faithful commitment. Our Ukrainian Church friends decided to leave us so they could worship on Sunday mornings, but the DSNB English as a Second Language program is continuing through at least August of 2025. Our rental income continues to assist us with our ongoing expenses. The Finance Committee felt that it would be wise to have some of the General Funds earn income. So, we invested \$50,000 from June through November with our Investment Account. In December it was felt prudent to bring \$25,000 back to the TD Account. The remaining \$25,000 will likely be needed in 2025 and will be returned then.

The proposed budget for 2025 is asking for an increase of more than 15%. This is driven primarily by a UCC-mandated 3% increase in payroll, an adjustment in the hours of our Administrative Assistant & Choir Director, and the need to plan for more maintenance to our aging building.

In 1 Peter 4:10, we read: “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” (NIV) Please prayerfully consider your offering for 2025 as we venture into the year ahead.

In Faith,

Finance Committee

Tim Zavitz, chair, Leslie Maddalena & Ray Marshall, treasurers,
Bryce Anderson, Anne Arnott, Marion Lennox, & Afshin Malekzadeh

Church Givings for 2024

Church Donations by Families who supported the local church in 2024

<u>Donation</u>	<u>Number of Families</u>
Less than \$50	7
\$51-\$100	17
\$101-\$200	18
\$201-\$500	33
\$501-\$1000	28
\$1001-\$2000	37
\$2001-\$3000	10
\$3001-\$5000	4
More than \$5000	5

**Stamford Lane United Church
Receipts and Disbursements
for the year ended December 31, 2024**

INCOME	<i>Year to</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>% of Budget</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>2024</i>
Local Offering	\$177,953.83		101.7%	175,000	
Loose Collections	2,896.05		144.8%	2,000	
Initial Offering	60.00		60.0%	100	
Christmas Offering	675.00		45.0%	1,500	
FundScrip	742.74		185.7%	400	
Misc. – Bargain Boutique	12,817.55		71.2%	18,000	
Misc. – Easter Offering	290.00				
Misc. – FUNd Ctte			0.0%	500	
Misc. – Good News Unit	2,000.00		100.0%	2,000	
Misc. – HST Rebates	6,224.98		249.0%	2,500	
Misc. – In-Touch Ctte			0.0%	1,000	
Misc. – Summer Camp	852.24		85.22%	1,000	
Misc. – Thompson Endowment Fund	3,298.66		131.9%	2,500	
Rent Revenue	82,999.38		150.9%	55,000	
Sunday School Offerings	160.00		128.0%	<u>125</u>	
Turkey Dinner Proceeds	2,021.75		80.9%	2,500	
Turkey Sponsorships	<u>8,200.00</u>		136.7%	6,000	
Sub-Total Income, 2020		\$301,192.18	111.5%		\$270,125
Balance of Faithful Footprints Grant (Boiler)	1,00000				
TOTAL INCOME		\$302,192.18	111.9%		\$270,125
Surplus (Deficit)		\$10,846.73			(\$46,025)
EXPENSES	<i>Year to</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>% of Budget</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>2024</i>
SALARIES					
Salaries, Wages	\$166,805.66		101.0%	\$165,120	
Minister’s Travel Allowance	2,418.35		60.5%	4,000	
Supply – Sabbatical, Pulpit, Organ, Custodian	<u>4,104.00</u>		91.2%	<u>4,500</u>	
		\$173,328.01	99.8%		\$173,620
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS					
Church’s Share of Employee Benefits	34,559.37		98.7%	35,000	
Minister’s Continuing Education & Book Allowance	<u>1,731.00</u>		100.0%	<u>1,731</u>	
		36,290.37	98.8%		36,731
100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION					
Expenses			0.0%	3,000	(Nov.2024)
			0.0%		3,000
BARGAIN BOUTIQUE					
Bargain Boutique Disbursements	7,599.68		81.4%	9,333	
Bargain Boutique Expenses	<u>537.42</u>		13.4%	<u>4,000</u>	
		8,137.10	61.0%		13,333

EXPENSES (continued)	<i>Year to</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>% of Budget</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>2024</i>
WORSHIP & SERVICE					
Advertising			0.0%	100	
Appreciation Garden	291.00		52.9%	550	
Choir Expenses	55.30		11.1%	500	
Fellowship Hour	356.49		356.5%	100	
Licencing (CCLI)	393.00		60.5%	650	
Organ and Piano Tuning	-		0.0%	400	
National & Regional Assessment	12,119.00		100.0%	12,119	
Sanctuary Flowers, Gifts	349.43		58.2%	600	
Worship Expenses ((+Conference Delegate)	<u>2,175.93</u>		87.0%	<u>2,500</u>	
		15,740.15	89.8%		17,519
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT					
Children's Time			0.0%	100	
Financial Assistance – Cave Springs Camp	140.00		70.0%	200	
Library			0.0%	300	
Special Events	560.32		70.0%	800	
Summer Camp			0.0%	100	
Sunday School Supplies & Curriculum	56.88		7.6%	750	
Youth Work	<u>-</u>		0.0%	<u>200</u>	
		757.20	30.9%		2,450
OPERATING EXPENSES					
Custodial Supplies	2,341.85		66.9%	3,500	
Fuel	9,860.67		65.7%	15,000	
Office Expenses	4,285.20		95.2%	4,500	
Equipment Renewal (Audio-Visual, 2024)				2,000	
Office Telephone & Internet	1,551.77		77.6%	2,000	
Utilities	<u>7,692.93</u>		96.2%	<u>8,000</u>	
		25,732.42	73.5%		35,000
BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND					
Elevator Maintenance Contact & Licence	3,100.71		124.0%	2,500	
Fire Monitoring	1,494.43		37.4%	4,000	
General Repairs, Equipment & Maintenance	18,563.64		123.8%	15,000	
Insurance	<u>7,358.16</u>		73.6%	<u>10,000</u>	
		30,516.94	96.9%		31,500
CONTINGENCY					
	<u>843.26</u>		28.1%	<u>3,000</u>	
		843.26	28.1%		<u>3,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES					
		\$291,345.45	92.2%		\$316,150
RECEIPTS LESS DISBURSEMENTS(Deficit)					
		\$10,846.73			
GENERAL FUND BALANCE at BEGINNING of Year					
		\$ 39,929.89			
GENERAL FUND BALANCE at END of Year					
		\$ 50,776.62			
Note: \$25,000 of the General Fund Balance is included in the Investment Report Balance					

STAMFORD LANE UNITED CHURCH DIRECTED FUNDS YEAR END 2024

<i>Category</i>	<i>Balance, Jan. 1, 2024</i>	<i>Received this Year</i>	<i>Paid out this Year</i>	<i>Balance, Dec. 31, 2024</i>
Audio Visual	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,561.62	(\$ 1,561.62)	\$ 0.00
Benevolent Fund	1,373.16	0.00	(0.00)	1,373.16
Broadview (formerly Observer)	0.00	180.00	(180.00)	0.00
Cave Springs Camp	0.00	0.00	(0.00)	0.00
Choirs	5,079.37	260.00	(2,073.95)	3,265.42
Church Garden	244.92	475.00	(490.47)	229.45
Fun Committee	0.00	712.00	(242.18)	469.82
FundScrip	0.00	13,255.00	(13,255.00)	0.00
Good News Unit	2,059.40	5,537.28	(5,948.85)	1,647.83
In Touch Committee	1,117.14	4,098.40	(2,323.94)	2,891.60
Kids Night	0.00	1,923.00	(752.03)	1,170.97
Library	568.05	0.00	(0.00)	568.05
Memorial Fund	1,490.20	3,830.21	(358.21)	4,962.20
Mission & Service	0.00	22,074.26	(22,074.26)	0.00
Mission Committee	10,544.68	12,106.48	(14,822.44)	7,828.72
Niagara Falls Community Outreach	0.00	1,200.00	(1,200.00)	0.00
Organ Fund	1,364.94	0.00	(0.00)	1,364.94
Planned Legacy Giving (TD)	0.00	20,262.44	(20,262.44)	0.00
Project Share	0.00	960.00	(960.00)	0.00
Ronald MacDonald House	0.00	100.00	(100.00)	0.00
Student Fund	3,669.78	0.00	(0.00)	3,669.78
Summer Camp	0.00	1,860.62	(1,860.62)	0.00
Tri-M	485.47	0.00	(80.00)	405.47
White Gift	0.00	7,665.00	(7,665.00)	0.00
World Development	0.00	525.00	(525.00)	0.00
Youth Work (Fisher Fund & McCall-MacBain Foundation)	4,537.05	200.00	(3,145.93)	1,591.12
TOTAL Directed	\$32,534.16	\$98,606.31	(\$ 99,701.94)	\$31,438.53

INVESTMENTS	
	Investors Group
Value, December 31, 2023	\$ 842,508.49
Amount Invested	70,262.44
Amount Withdrawn	25,000.00
Change in Value	147,431.05
Value, December 31, 2024	\$ 989,939.54
Note: Investment Value Dec. 31, 2024 includes \$25,000 of General Account funds.	

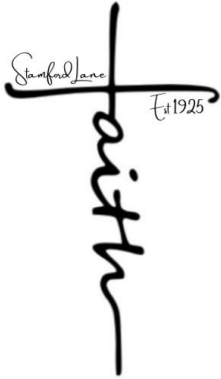
STAMFORD LANE UNITED CHURCH PROPOSED BUDGET 2025

	Actual, 2024		Budget, 2024		Proposed, 2025	
<u>INCOME</u>						
Local Offering	\$177,953.83		175,000		\$180,000	
Loose Collections	2,896.05		2,000		2,000	
Initial Offering	60.00		100		100	
Christmas Offering	675.00		1,500		1,500	
FundScrip	742.74		400		400	
Misc. – Bargain Boutique	12,817.55		18,000		12,000	
Misc. – Easter Offering	290.00				200	
Misc. – FUNd Ctte			500			
Misc. - Good News Unit	2,000.00		2,000		2,000	
Misc. – HST Rebate	6,224.98		2,500		3,000	
Misc. – In-Touch Committee			1,000			
Misc.—Summer Camp	852.24		1,000		1,000	
Misc. – Thompson Endowment	3,298.66		2,500		3,000	
National & Region Dues			100			
Rent Revenue	82,999.38		55,000		45,000	
Sunday School Offerings	160.00		125		125	
Turkey Dinner Proceeds	2,021.75		2,500		2,500	
Turkey Sponsorships	<u>8,200.00</u>		<u>6,000</u>		<u>7,500</u>	
Sub-Total Income		\$301,192.18		\$270,125		\$260,325
Balance of Faithful Footprints Grant (Boiler)	1,000.00					
TOTAL INCOME		\$302,192.18		\$270,125		\$260,325
Surplus (Deficit)		\$10,846.73		(\$46,025)		(\$113,206)
<u>EXPENSES</u>						
SALARIES						
Staff Salaries	\$166,805.66		\$165,123		\$183,294	
Minister’s Travel Allowance	2,418.35		4,000		4,000	
Supply – Sabbatical, Pulpit, Organ, Custodian	<u>4,104.00</u>		<u>4,500</u>		<u>4,500</u>	
		\$173,328.01		\$173,623		\$191,794
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS						
Church’s Share of Employees’ Benefits	34,559.37		35,000		38,000	
Minister’s Continuing Education & Book Allowance	<u>1,731.00</u>		<u>1,731</u>		<u>1,788</u>	
		36,290.37		36,731		39,788
100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION						
Project					10,000	
General Expenses			<u>3,000</u>	Nov.2024	<u>2,000</u>	
				3,000		12,000
BARGAIN BOUTIQUE						
Bargain Boutique Disbursements	7,599.68		9,333		7,200	
Bargain Boutique Expenses	<u>537.42</u>		<u>4,000</u>		<u>500</u>	
		8,137.10		13,333		7,700

STAMFORD LANE UNITED CHURCH PROPOSED BUDGET 2025

	Actual, 2024		Budget, 2024		Proposed, 2025	
WORSHIP AND SERVICE						
Advertising			100		100	
Appreciation Garden	291.00		550		500	
Choir Expenses	55.30		500			
Fellowship Hour	356.49		100		275	
Licencing CCLI	393.00		650		650	
Organ & Piano Tuning			400		400	
National & Region Assessment	12,119.00		12,119		15,574	
Sanctuary Flowers, Gifts	349.43		600		1,000	
Worship Expenses (including Region Delegate)	<u>2,175.93</u>		<u>2,500</u>		<u>2,500</u>	
		15,740.15		17,519		20,999
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT						
Children's Time			100		100	
Financial Assistance – Cave Springs Camp	140.00		200		200	
Library			300		150	
Special Events	560.32		800		800	
Summer Camp			100			
Sunday School Supplies & Curriculum	56.88		750		<u>1,000</u>	
Youth Work	_____		<u>200</u>			
		757.20		2,450		2,250
OPERATING EXPENSES						
Custodial Supplies	2,341.85		3,500		3,500	
Fuel	9,860.67		15,000		12,000	
Office Expenses	4,285.20		4,500		4,500	
Equipment Renewal (Audio-Visual, 2024)			2,000		7,000	
Office Telephone & Internet	1,551.27		2,000		2,000	
Utilities	<u>7,692.93</u>		<u>8,000</u>		<u>9,000</u>	
		25,732.42		35,000		38,000
BUILDING MAINTENANCE						
Elevator Maintenance Contract & Licence	3,100.71		2,500		3,000	
Fire Monitoring	1,494.43		4,000		2,000	
General Repairs, Equipment & Maintenance	18,563.64		15,000		21,000	
Church Property Appraisal					5,000	
Insurance	<u>7,358.16</u>		<u>10,000</u>		<u>9,000</u>	
		30,516.94		31,500		40,000
SEARCH COMMITTEE						
General Expenses					3,000	
New Minister Expenses					<u>15,000</u>	
						18,000
CONTINGENCY						
	<u>843.26</u>		<u>3,000</u>		<u>3,000</u>	
		<u>843.26</u>		<u>3,000</u>		<u>3,000</u>
TOTAL		<u>\$291,345.45</u>		<u>\$313,156</u>		<u>\$373,531</u>
MISSION AND SERVICE GOAL		\$22,599.26		<u>\$25,000</u>		<u>\$25,000</u>

Sunday to Sunday at Stamford Lane United Church 2025



January 26 Paul Fast

February 2 Rev. Gwen Nicol-MacDonald

Feb 7. 6:30 Valentine Craft Night sign up

February 9 Bryce Anderson

Feb. 15 at 6 **Chili & Trivia**

\$20 each in tables of 8. Auction items appreciated.

February 16 Annual Congregational Meeting

Bring sandwiches or sweets to share

Coldest Night of Year Walk Stamford Lane United is participating in the Feb 22th, 2025, walk to raise funds for Project SHARE. Alastair Davis 905-641- 5925 alastairdavis9@gmail.com invites you to participate as a walker or donor. Donations can be made online at **CNOY.org** for a Stamford walker, or to the church by cheque/cash or e-transfer to givings@stamfordlaneunited.ca (specify CNOY)

You Are Invited to:

- Quilt With Us Mon. 10-2pm
- Walk With Us Mon. 10-11am
- Line Dance Mon. 6:30pm
- Bell Ringers Wed. 6:30-7:30pm
- Bargain Boutique Tues. 10-2pm
- Bible Study Tues. 10:15-11:45am.
- Treblaires practice Tues. 6:30-9:30pm
- AA Tues. 7pm
- AA Wed. noon
- TOPS Wed. 5:30-7:00pm
- Church Council 1st Wed. 7:00pm
- Good News Women 2nd Wed. 7:30pm
- Bargain Boutique Thurs. 10-2pm
- Walk With Us Thurs. 10-11am
- Yoga Thurs. 11-12noon
- Ball Room Dance Thurs. 6:30pm
- Adult Choir Thurs. 6:30-8pm
- Sew With Us Fri. 10-2pm
- Children's Choir Sat. 11am
- Junior Choir Sat. 12:00noon
- Sunday School Sun. 10:00am
- Worship Sunday 10:00am

www.StamfordLaneUnited.ca

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Choir@SamfordLaneUnited.ca

Minister@StamfordLaneUnited.ca

Givings@StamfordLaneunited.ca

905-354-8841

February 23 Al Steip

March 1, 6-8 Karaoke Family Night - Pizza

March 2 Mission Family Sunday

Pancake Lunch after church.

March 9 Lent 1 Water & Wine

March 15, 6:00 FunDue - fondue evening

March 16 Lent 2 Fire & Ashes

March 21 In-Touch lunch at noon RSVP

March 23 Lent 3 Sand & Stone

March 30 Lent 4 Coins & Debts

April 6 Lent 5 Light & Darkness

April 13 Palm Sunday Branch & Oil

April 16 Holy Thursday

Healing Communion at 7:30pm.

April 17 Good Friday here at 10am.

April 20 Easter Family Communion

April 27 Harvey Retires

May 4 Rev. Gwen Nicol-MacDonald

May 11 Mother's Day Good News Women

May 18 Paul Fast

May 25 Hymn Sing

June 1 Al Steip

June 6 - Kids' Choir at Niagara River Lions

Meridian Centre

June 8 100th Anniversary

of this Congregation

and The United Church of Canada

Family Service

Celebrating
100 Years
of Deep • Bold • Daring

