



# Annual Report

Beach United Church  
2016

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## Community Life

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**Inter-faith Lunch Program:** runs out of our building every Thursday during the fall, winter and spring and serves about 70 people a week. There are four other locations in the Beach, which enables folk to access a free and healthy meal five days a week. Committed volunteers give generously of their time. Without them this program would not be possible. When the **Cooking with Soul** group meet on Saturday morning they also provide food for the Inter-faith lunch.



**Christmas Marketplace:** All was prepared - the building was splendidly decorated, delicious aromas wafted out from the kitchen and angel wings were ready to create photographic memories. All we needed were people to come through the doors - and they did - in droves! Here is what one person said about their experience - *from the moment we entered the building we could tell it was extremely well organized, and so beautifully set up.*

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*"What an amazing job you all did for the Marketplace"*

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## Ministry Partnerships

**Jam Night:** people come together with their instruments and their voices; bringing favourite songs to share. This new idea started in the fall and brought together people from the community as well as folk from BUC. This is an exciting partnership which is continuing in 2017.

**Music for the Soul:** another new program that started in the fall of 2016, which enables young musicians to share their talents. We enjoyed Laura Bidner & The Visit and Victoria Marshall. Watch out for more in 2017!

**Lowdown Tracks:** screening of this moving documentary profiling musicians who experience homelessness & who find a voice through their music. Donations of \$ 2,773.59 went to support Fred Victor and their housing initiatives.



## LEADERSHIP: Council, Board of Trustees Ministry & Personnel Committee

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**Chair's Circle** - Paul Dowling, Leigh Bowser, Wendy Johnston

**Council** - Brian Gauthier, Marian Hilton, Barry Truscott, Barry Watson, Chris Bell, Mary Anne Lemm, Jim McKibbin, Marney Winn, Hastings Withers.  
Karen Dale [staff support]

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**Council:** As part of Presbytery's Mission Articulation Process [MAP], Council is defining specific goals, for our mission: Exploring Faith and Building Relations with God, People and the Earth. With thanks to the MAP committee (Elaine Graham, Marian Hilton, Karen Watson and Jim Winn), we have identified the following goals for Beach United over the next 12-24 months.

**Syrian Refugee Support...** Work in partnership with St. Aidan's Anglican Church and the community to sponsor and settle a Syrian refugee family. Safwan Bdiwi & Aisha Dilwati and their 3 daughters arrived in July 2016

**Housing & Homeless...** Identify areas of focus and action we can take to address housing and homelessness.

**Environment...** Develop partnerships with Beach Solar co-op to build capacity in other faith groups/community organizations to develop solar power

**Volunteer Coordination & Development...** To support and develop volunteer's ability to contribute and find meaning in all stages of their relationship with Beach United.

**South Lot Development...** Develop the 'south lot' into a Parking Lot as an ongoing source of revenue to support our mission and ministry goals.

**Building Maintenance ...** Develop leadership and dedicated resources to ensure ongoing maintenance and smooth operation of our building.

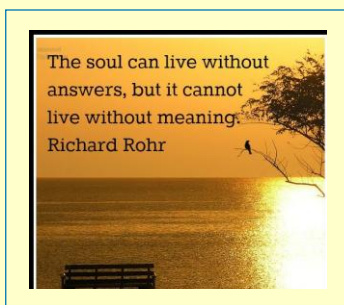
**Music Ministry...** Develop a viable, engaging music ministry for Sunday & beyond.

The **Ministry & Personnel Committee** has a dual role: it is consultative and supportive and aims to build positive and trusting relationships. The Committee reviews working conditions and remuneration for all staff, then makes recommendations to Council. 2016 committee members - Brian Bell, Jane Dickson, Danna Fitton, Nancy Harris, Barry Truscott [chair] and Jim Winn.

In 2016 we welcomed two people working on short term contracts: Suzanne Christie (Rental Co-ordinator) and Rev. Lawrence Nyarko (Minister). Steven Webb also joined us as Interim Music Director, then as of January 1, 2017 Steven was appointed Music Director with extended hours. We were pleased to welcome David Lewis in the role of Operations Manager and Brett Boyko as Student Minister. To Suzanne and Lawrence we say bon voyage and thanks for your meaningful contributions. To David, Steven and Brett we say welcome aboard, thanks for what you have already given to Beach, and we look forward to a mutually rewarding future.

The **Board of Trustees** is responsible for holding the property of the church, and making decisions on issues that arise through the year related to protecting that property. This responsibility also includes managing the insurance coverage which was reviewed this year. The Trustees continue to oversee the CIBC's management of the Manse and Memorial funds, the income from which is reported in the overall financials of the church.

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Words to live by.



## Worship, Caring, Stewardship

There are many ways we care - here are just a few

- We care for our earth by cleaning up garbage in hard to get at places. Eleven garbage bags were filled on the latest clean-up.
- We care for friends who are unable to get to church by delivering flowers at Easter and Christmas. In addition 167 phone calls & 38 visits were made. Spiritual support was shared through 71 pastoral conversations and many cards were sent. These are just the numbers that we know about!
- We care for our bodies & spirits in the darkest time of the year through yoga with meditation.

A few highlights from worshipping together -

- Remembrance Sunday when the children created a wreath of peace with rainbow poppies and our veterans were honoured,
- The vivid colours, beautiful patterns & textures of the hundreds of vests, hats and blankets that adorned the main hall. They were a blessing to us and to those who received them in parts of the world where pneumonia is a killer.
- It was wonderful to see people bringing their bikes up the stairs and into the main hall to be blessed and to experience the communion table filled with bike helmets.
- Music is always a highlight of worshipping together and the Christmas Cantata "Go Sing it on the Mountain" was fabulous.
- Jazz & Reflection continues to draw in folk with the high caliber of musicians and words that connect to life.

### BUC Financial Snapshot

\$ in Thousands	2016 Plan	2016 Actual	2017 Plan
<b>Revenues</b>			
Giving	190	178	174
All Others	141	133	185
Total Revenue	331	311	359
<b>Expenses</b>			
Personnel	298	251	310
All Other	157	132	159
Total Expenses	455	383	469
<b>Deficit</b>	-124	-72	-110

<b>Bequests</b>		682	0
<b>Capital Expenses</b>		50	150
<b>Capital Funds</b>		1150	890



Children remember peace



Blessing of vests & bikes



Winter Solstice Candlelit Yoga



Clean-up of under-pass at Lakeshore

**"2016 finished ahead of budget, driven by reduced expenses."**

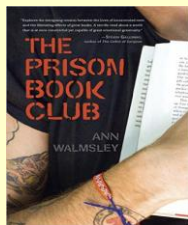
## Growing in Faith, Justice & Outreach



### Growing in Faith

**Lectio Divina:** This group used a method of prayer that goes back to the early monastic tradition. Monks gathered in chapel to hear a member of the community reading from scripture. Through this exercise we learned to listen to scripture and each other, with our hearts.

**Speakers Series:** thought provoking authors widen our horizons through their writing & speaking.



### Justice & Outreach

**Beach Cares:** Last fall we celebrated a birthday with Safwan Bdiwi and Aisha Dilwati, the Syrian family Beach United has helped sponsor. Safwan, the father turned 40. The two older daughters, dressed in princess dresses, led us in singing Happy Birthday in English. Safwan is attending literacy classes and Aisha, the mom is getting private English lessons at home.

Sadly we also mourned with Safwan & Aisha over the deaths of Aisha's sister and 3 nieces who were killed in the fighting in Aleppo. A service of prayer and solidarity was held at St. Aidan's on Dec 17, 2016.

**Housing & Homelessness:** On July 23, 10 people from BUC were part of a Habitat build at Danforth & Birchmount. In addition we continued to learn about the issues surrounding housing & homelessness through "Lunch and Learn" sessions after church.



*Exploring Faith and Building Relations with God, People and the Earth.*

### Staff at BUC

Cate Duff	office administrator
Sharon Krieger	accountant
David Lewis	operations manager
Victoria Connor	custodian
Kirk Clarke	custodian
Steven Webb	director of music
Karen Dale	minister

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The Board of Trustees of Beach United Church for 2016 included, Kathy Clemens, Jean Collins, Henny Delange, Rosalie MacFarlane, Martin McFarland, and Barry Watson (Chair). Karen Dale was an ex-officio member of the Trustees. Mid-way through the year Rosalie MacFarlane moved to British Columbia to be with family and consequently resigned from the Board of Trustees. Peter Tabbitt has agreed to stand to fill the vacant position.