

**July 2018 – June 2019**  
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# Minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care

Submitted by the Rev. Michelle Slater

*“Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.” Esther 4:13-14*

Dear friends in Christ,

The book of Esther tells the story of how Queen Esther, a member of the Jewish people, risks her life to use her position in the royal Persian court, to save her people. It is her cousin Mordecai who convinces her to take the risk, with the stirring words above.

In our own time, we here in the “developed” western world, may be tempted to believe that the huge forces of change at work in the world, will not impact us – or at least, not yet, or not as severely as other parts of the world. Whether it is the climate crisis or the ever growing numbers of political, environmental and economic migrants; the alarming rise in extremist rhetoric or the ongoing violence and discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community; we are called, like Esther, to use our places and positions of privilege in the world, to bring relief and deliverance to those in need.

This past year, we have been exploring together, just what it would mean if God has indeed placed this community of faith, Oak Bay United Church, on this corner, in this neighbourhood of Oak Bay, “for just such a time as this”. As we look back on the last church year, considering the ministries we have been involved in, we celebrate all the ways we have been living God’s love in our neighbourhood and the world.

The ministry of **Spiritual Transformation** included the following:

- “The Way of Love” weekly Bible Study for discussion of the readings for the coming Sunday’s worship service
- Pub Theology continued to provide casual opportunities to discuss some of life’s big questions, meeting monthly in the Chapel, with beverages and snacks provided by donations.
- “The New Parish” book and discussion group, met regularly to read and explore how we are called to love and serve our physical neighbours.

The ministry of **Welcoming and Hospitality** included:

- Our commitment to be an Affirming congregation continued as we expanded our sense of who is part of our community of faith, and how to offer truly radical hospitality. We experimented with different signs for the washrooms, aiming to provide clear

communication that trans and non-binary/gender-fluid people are welcome and safe in whichever washroom is appropriate for them.

- After worship hospitality time continued to be hosted by teams of church members, coordinated by Devon in the office. We said “goodbye and thank you!” to some stepping down, and welcomed others to this ministry.
- Greeters (coordinated by Pauline Stephen) and Welcomers (coordinated by Dawn Williamson) continued to make people feel welcome as they arrive for worship.
- The Refugee Committee welcomed the Haboush family to settle in Victoria!
- We hosted a booth each month (June through September) at the Oak Bay Night Market, engaging market go-ers in making art.
- We hosted a craft booth at the Oak Bay Light Up in late November, offering the opportunity to create hand coloured Christmas tree ornaments, with the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love.

The ministry of **Worship and Community** included the following:

- Worship experiences, both regular and occasional, continued to be the beating heart of the congregation’s life. Regular Sunday morning worship fed us all in preaching, song, prayer and community sharing.
- Special worship gatherings included “When Christmas is Tough” worship, Good Friday worship (with Fairfield United, at OBUC), and Easter sunrise service with Fairfield United, at Willows Beach.
- Prayer and music in the style of Taize continued to be a beautifully grounding and meditative experience, of candlelight, chant, scripture, silence and prayer.
- Pastoral care visits were offered by Rev. Susanne Abbuhl and a team of faithful lay visitors, as well as by Rev. Michelle.
- Rev. Susanne led quarterly worship services at Oak Bay Lodge on behalf of the congregation which were very much enjoyed.
- Seniors Tea with the Minister continued and was very well attended and appreciated. It includes a social time of conversation with tea and goodies, a short devotional or reflection and prayer by Rev. Susanne, and music and singing. Special thanks to the team of Susheela Dason, Laurie Hurlburt, Betty O’Coffey, Jacquie Schaus, and Mary Ann Tuller for their service and support.
- The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to offer a tangible way of offering the support, love and comfort of Oak Bay United Church as a part of Pastoral Care. The shawls are knitted or crocheted at home with prayers and concern for those who may receive them. The shawls are brought to the office, blessed in worship and distributed when needed.
- The Wellness Group continued its faithful monthly ministry of devotions, support, friendship and prayer.
- The Men's Club Dinner continued with monthly evening of interesting conversation, good food, and fellowship.

- Congregational events and gatherings included the Fall Beach Day, Open House Sunday and BBQ, and Christian New Year's Party at the beginning of Advent.

The ministry of **Serving the World** included the following initiatives:

- The Thrift Shop and Annex serve in a number of ways: diverting usable goods from the landfill; assisting those who need to move from their house to a smaller home or care facility; providing quality goods for a fraction of the cost to many in need; directing goods to various other organizations (like the Compassionate Warehouse) that help the needy in our community and around the world; and providing a strong support system of pastoral care and community, for the volunteers and customers alike.
- Regular appeals for various causes receive enthusiastic support, whether for Our Place Society, Cool-Aid Society, Burnside-Gorge Housing Society, and others.
- We continued our partnership with the Threshold Youth Housing Society, leasing them St. Columba House as a supportive home for 7 young people at risk of homelessness. It provides them with a stable and safe home base, along with staff support to complete high school, attend university, find meaningful work and develop life skills.
- The congregation continued our partnership with Ukulapha Outreach Project in Slangspruit township, South Africa. Slangspruit. Together we provided five special nutritious meals per year to the over 1,200 students at Slangspruit Primary School, where many of the children eat only one meal a day, the school lunch provided by the government. We also continued our sponsorship of Asanda Ngcobo to the Alexandra High School, a co-ed multiracial school with world-class academics and sporting facilities. The congregation has committed to pay Asanda's school fees until high school graduation.

I am also involved in wider leadership. In the Oak Bay community, I am the clergy representative to the Oak Bay Remembrance Day planning committee and I find this very meaningful and a privilege. In the wider church, I serve on the Board of Governors of Vancouver School of Theology (my alma mater), and I am glad to contribute to the formation of others for ministry in the church. This past year, I also moderated a panel at the Centre for the Study of Religion and Society (UVic) as part of the John Albert Hall Lectures, on the topic of women and church.

I feel deeply privileged to be part of the leadership of this community of faith. Your staff team is faithful, hard-working, cheerful and enjoy working together, and for you! We have seen a few transitions in the staff team over the past year.

We were blessed to welcome **Rev. Dr. Susanne Abbuhl** as part-time Minister of Pastoral Care in the fall of 2018. (She had retired for a grand total of 5 weeks before we snapped her up!) Susanne's warmth and approachability, as well as her academic accomplishments, are a real gift to us. We continued to enjoy the thoughtful and authentic preaching of **Rev. Dr. Keith Howard** regularly over the past year. And we continue to be blessed with the gifts of **Amy van Wensem** as our Music Minister, and are grateful for her commitment, faith and passion.

In the fall 2018, we said goodbye to **Tressa Brotsky** as Children and Family Ministry Coordinator. We continue to be blessed by Tressa's vision of a ministry that truly honours children and youth as well as reaching out in innovative ways to the wider community. We are glad that Tressa and her family continue their membership in our community of faith. **Amy van Wensem** took on a part-time, temporary role coordinating this ministry in the winter of 2018-2019, and we are grateful for the time and energy she gave.

The youth ministry continued to be blessed by the leadership of **Zach Burrill** in the past year. His knowledge, deep faith, commitment are a gift not only to the youth, but to all of us. **Frances Tickell-Kirkland** provided loving care to our smallest and youngest members each Sunday.

In the church office, we are so thankful for **Devon Tillie-Brownsey**. We are benefiting from her organizational skills, initiative, energy and cheerful good sense. **Douglas Round** continued as our permanent custodian and we thank him for his work to make our physical spaces clean and well-cared for.

**Sarah Shumanski** continued as our Sunday Morning Support, opening the building each Sunday, preparing the sanctuary for worship, operating the sound equipment and sometimes the Powerpoint during worship, and closing up and securing the building afterward. All done with good cheer and commitment.

I am especially grateful to all the staff for their hard work while I was on combined sabbatical and study leave, from January 1 – May 7, 2019. I know each of them took on more responsibilities so that the impact on the congregation would be lessened. My sabbatical involved lots of time to rest and read works on the revitalization/renewal of the mainline church, as well as some travel to San Francisco, Seattle and Portland, to visit and experience new and emerging expressions of church. My sabbatical leave has brought me back greatly refreshed and renewed, and I know how blessed I am to have had the opportunity. Thank you all, so much!

I am equally grateful to the lay leadership in this congregation. You have been served by with great commitment by the Church Board over the last year by the following:

Dan Schaus – Chair

Andre Clouthier - Treasurer

Jackie Cox-Ziegler - Secretary/Presbytery representative

Mike McAuley – Property/Presbytery representative

Cheryl Thomas – Development Team

Russ Raine – Trustees

Cathy McAuley – Ministry and Personnel

Beth Bourke - Presbytery representative

Many Board members also serve as the lead of their committee or ministry team. Your church Board does their work with prayer, faithfulness, humour and diligence.

Finally, I am grateful for each one of you, and for the amazing ministry God has entrusted to us in this place. Thank you for your presence, for your prayers, for your phone calls and “drop-ins”, and for your faithfulness to the good news of Jesus Christ.

in Christ,

Rev. Michelle Slater







**THE WAY OF LOVE**  
*Practices for Jesus-Centered Life*

## Minister of Pastoral Care

Rejoice with those who rejoice,  
weep with those who weep. Romans 12:15

The apostle Paul calls us to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. We do this every Sunday during worship when we share the joyous experiences that have been ours during the past week, along with the worries and concerns that we bear.

Since my appointment in October as the part-time Pastoral Care Minister, it has been a pleasure to join with all of you in caring for members of the Oak Bay United community, and it is truly a joint effort to which all of us are called. At the risk of missing out on an important ministry, I would like to share some of the ways pastoral care occurs in addition to Sunday mornings: (1) there is a talented team of visitors, who do a superb job of making sure our shut-ins stay connected to the community; (2) there is a Wellness Group and a monthly Seniors Tea; (3) there is a prayer shawl ministry; (4) there is the Christmas Poinsettia delivery; (5) the Thrift Ministry meets not only physical needs but also a variety of social needs in the wider community; (6) there is a prayer chain ministry; and (7) there is a Healing Pathways ministry. There is also the quiet, unnoticed care so many provide to others by having a quiet word, or asking about a known concern, or providing a ride somewhere.

We are truly only a church when we care for each other, and so I would encourage everyone to continue the good work you are all doing as we live out our calling to be God's hands in the world.

Blessings, Rev. Susanne



## Report of the Board Chair

This was my second year as your chair, and it continued to be both informative and interesting. Last year I had mentioned we the Board would continue to focus on our long-term sustainability.

All of you are aware we held open houses and visited the neighbours in the area to keep them abreast of where we are with the project. In August of 2018 we submitted our proposal to the



Town of Oak Bay's planning board. It may take up to 18 months before public hearings take place.

The project team has been working diligently on your behalf. The work in this endeavour continues and hopefully has a positive result in the coming months.

We have seen increased membership and a growing and vibrant congregation. Our Ministries extend well beyond the walls of the church building and we are excited about the work we are doing in our neighbourhood and within the wider community.

May all of you find hope, joy, love and peace in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted  
Dan Schaus  
Chair

## **Music Ministry**

It's been a year of worship and spirit at Oak Bay United Church. Under the leadership of Amy van Wensem (and the capable interim leadership of Christine Chepyha), there have been many meaningful moments of song. Sunday mornings have been filled with powerful musical imagery and new hymn offerings and weekends have seen many great nights of music.

Michelle, Amy, Casey and the choir have been intentional this year about building on the strong musical hymn tradition of the United Church by bringing in new songs into the fold. A few powerful examples have been Walking Art ("we are all walking art"), Fierce Hope, "hope is living here, and City Lights "we are light, we are fire" by February Birds. We've also loved the music of the worship collective called Porter's Gate (bringing together anglican and evangelical, gay and cis, young and old) with songs like We Labor Unto Glory by Liz Vice. We've also appreciated integrating music by the Brilliance and Tom Wuest into our worship. Our intent is that we can continue to sing the much-loved hymns of our tradition (ex. How Great Thou Art, O God Beyond All Praising etc.) as we continue to do while also bringing in new breath and new life to our faith tradition through these new pieces.

Amy has also made a special effort this year to highlight young musicians and their many gifts into our worship and special events (including at Cabaret). A few special musical treats that the community enjoyed were "Voices of Remembrance" where the talented, young soprano Evelyn de la Haye, clarinetist Larry del la Haye and Pianist Marie Jung In serenaded the audience with powerful voices and images from the first world war. We also had the music of young musicians Sascha Enns (drums), Rowan Farintosh, Sam Laramée, Marvin Thiele (the Floogo Jazz Quartet) led special music both in the summer and at Christmas. Young, energized fiddle troupe "Coast Lines" led by Ivonne Hernandez amazed the audience at the March Cabaret and also brought extra life and energy to our Easter morning service.

We have had fabulous performers (most under 25 years of age) who have been very popular with the audience: namely the Kingmixers, Fall Brigade (CBC spotlight finalists), Mildy Wild, the

young Acafellas, Coastlines and the Vic High R&B Band. The audience this year has grown since last year; our previous averages were usually about 75 attendees and now we're usually running at about 100 (120 in May). The artists who have performed in the space have been very positive about the sound quality upstairs as have the audiences. We have had enough left over proceeds this year at Cabaret that we were able to offer two \$500 scholarships to two talented teenagers/singers who graced our stage: James (Acafellas) and Hugo (Vic High). They both were incredibly grateful and encouraged by our support.

The choir also tried a new and exciting program called "Pickup Pentecost Choir" this spring, focused on singers between the ages of 5-15. This exciting program took place outside in our lovely Garry Oak forest and concentrated on learning upbeat, chill new worship music and one communal piece with the adult choir for Pentecost. It took place from 5:00-6:00 on Tuesdays and was well attended (8-10 singers). We hope to continue this strong tradition into next year with a few more pick-up choirs and more of a musical presence for our young (and talented) people.

Despite Amy being on medical leave again from February 24th to May 7th for her newly diagnosed "Addison's disease," the musical ministry continues strong. She and her family have been immensely grateful for the support and understanding of their community at Oak Bay United Church (particularly M&P) through this time as well to Christine Chepyha (and Sharon Prindle-Collins) for their excellent and stable interim leadership.

The choir was still very committed to leading the community in song. The challenge for the choir is often finding enough space in the choir loft; we have between 20 and 30 singers on Sunday with new members regularly. Practices run from 7:00-8:30pm on Thursdays and from 9:15-9:45 on Sunday mornings. The choir continues to be a joy to the congregation and one of the largest, healthiest support systems within our community. We also had a very successful "Carols & Cocoa" at Christmas which catered to young children (telling Tolkien stories, serving fair trade cocoa) and highlighting both popular and Christian carols. We want to say a huge thank you to our whole choir: you lead us and inspire us each week. Thank you for your dedication and sacrifice of time and talents so that we can worship more powerfully together! The choir also always welcomes new members.

Bring-It-On! Cabaret continues to happen on the third Friday of each month this year, starting in October and taking its regular break in December, April and in the summer and only happens because of its fabulous team. We want to throw a big shout out to: Cheryl Thomas, Mike McAuley, Bev March, Marie Kelly, Marilyn Samis, Barrie and Ann Bolton, Bob Maybank, Dan and Jacquie Schaus, Candis and Doug Elliot, Dee Burrows, Laurie and John Hurlburt, Jim Ricks (alumni), Casey and Amy van Wensem. We also want to thank the marvelous Devon in the office for designing our posters and helping with publicity.

The music ministry was also happy to offer music for the monthly Taize services on the fourth Sunday of each month. The participants in this important ministry have found it very life-giving. Pam, Shannon and Dustin Demontigny continue to be instrumental in keeping this service consistent and meaningful. Music has continued to be offered and appreciated at the Senior's

Tea once a month. Special services were also offered around Christmas and Easter with special music at each.

Throughout these changes, the music has uplifted the community. Worship is a key part of the life at Oak Bay United Church. On Pentecost, the choir loft was full of life as both adults and children worshipped together singing “There will be Peace” by Jim Papoulis.

This is the call of the music ministry. Singing in simplicity. Holding each other up in song. Affirming that “we are all walking art” made and loved by an Artisan God (February Birds). We are made to worship. This is our call.

Submitted by Amy van Wensem



## **Children & Family Ministry**

Children, youth and families are full participants in the life, work and community that is Oak Bay United. In the Children & Family Ministry we:

- Share the richness of biblical stories and other stories of faith, with open-ended, positive and non-judgmental engagement.
- Offer spiritual practices from our Christian tradition, and beyond, with a focus on: prayer practices, being in a community, serving others, and sharing what we have.
- Uphold Jesus as an important and positive influence in our lives, who is a current, relevant, on-the-ground teacher of love and radical welcome.
- Support families of all makes and shapes and orientations in tending to and understanding their children’s unique, personal inner faith-life.
- Provide space for each child’s own individual experiences of, and relationship with, God to deepen - in their own way, on their own terms.

We live out these goals and values in a variety of ways:

### **All Ages Worship**

We worship regularly with all ages together, practicing being a community of faith who are learning, growing, challenging, and loving one another just as God loves us. All Ages worship offers an opportunity for mentoring our youngest congregation members into the fullness of worship practices. Our All Ages worship has been on these Sundays:

Fall Celebration (September), Thanksgiving Sunday (October), Youth-led Worship (November), Paper Bag Pageant Sunday (December), Christmas Eve (two All Ages services), Palm Sunday (April), Pentecost Sunday (June).

### **Sunday Morning Worship & Song**

Sunday morning children’s ministry focuses on naming and sharing the light of Christ, hearing the sacred Christian stories and parables, engage in wondering about the stories of our faith, responding to God’s word and love with art, music, prayer and closer attention to the story of the morning, sharing the practice of breaking bread and giving thanks together, and building community between the children, leaders and families.

We call our Sunday morning ministry time “Church” as it honours the fact that the children and youth are continuing to worship, learn about, and experience God in their own ways and places, (rather than being a “school” where they are taught and instructed). Over the last year, our Sunday morning children’s ministry included PreSchool Kindergarten Church (for those aged 0-4 years), Children’s Church (5-8 years), Explorers Church (9-11 years) and Youth Church (11years+). We have over 30 children and youth actively engaging in these ministries.

### **Not Just Sundays**

Mid-week ministry offerings continue to build and grow our community of faith by loving and



welcoming others, no matter what their beliefs or practices, and highlights the rhythm of our Christian church year. Our mid-week ministry offerings included:

- Point of Grace Drop-In Play Group – weekly
- Family Meals – regularly
- Seasonal events – Summer Beach Day, Fall Celebration, Holy Halloween, Christian New Year’s Eve Party, Carols and Cocoa
- Camp Spirit – a week long summer day camp, led by the Camp Spirit team (BC Conference of the UCC), with volunteers from our congregation

### **Children’s Ministry Leadership**

The children’s church ministry team is a faithful group of adults from our congregation who have committed to the share their gifts and their faith with children.

Some on the team have been consistent leaders for decades, and others are new to the team. The children’s ministry is a priority in this congregation, and adults of all ages and genders are encouraged to serve the children and families in our congregation, by offering your time and energy to the children’s leadership team.

submitted by Rev. Michelle Slater

## **Youth Ministry**

Youth Group primarily meets on Sunday mornings and for weekend community activities; however, it is much more than the sum of these gatherings. Youth group is a space for exploring the mysteries of our faith, forming and sharing Christian community, and learning what it means to be part of an intergenerational community of faith. In short, youth group is a microcosm of everything that happens within our congregation, adapted and responding to a particular group of growing young adults.

At Oak Bay United Church we are blessed with diverse, engaged, and faithful youth. Members range in age from 11 to 18 but are primarily ages 12-16. Some of our members are from within Oak Bay, and others from across the region, and some join us for community activities but not Sundays. Some have been going to church their whole lives, and others have just started to explore faith in the last year. As I said, we are blessed with diversity. This diversity is the sign of a healthy community that can speak to, and care for, members at different stages of their faith and life journeys.

Sunday Youth Church follows the church seasons and congregation themes. Each year we return to some stories and add others, revisiting and refreshing ourselves with ancient, living stories of our faith. In the fall we studied the Way of Love mini-series alongside the congregation. In November the youth attended Evolve, a BC conference youth and young adult conference, and shared back some of the music, worship experience, and their personal questions in a youth led service. During Advent we studied Old Testament prophecies and who people expected Jesus to

be, which fed into and contrasted with our study of the gospel of Luke. As we approach summer, by popular request of the youth, we are exploring the fundamental questions of the nature of God, what faith means, and how prayer works. Suffice to say our youth are inquisitive and seeking answers to the fundamental questions of faith.

Perhaps most importantly though, our group is caring and welcoming. This is evident during Sunday youth church, in continued conversations after youth church, and during our weekend community-building events. Our weekend events are designed to include persons of all experiences and frequently welcome individuals who would not otherwise attend church, allowing our group to demonstrate and share Jesus' radical love outside of our usual Sunday community.

As I said at the beginning, diversity is a sign of strength and health. The increasing size and diversity of our youth group reflects that we are meeting a need that is felt regardless of class, geography, or even beliefs. Youth group is a special place for our members to build positive relationships of trust and care, and to explore their identity without pressures or pretences. At its best, youth group is about reciprocal vulnerability and learning to respect each other in these moments and spaces. Youth group is a unique in this way and, although not everyone can witness the growth and depth of relationships, we should be grateful for the opportunity to impact the lives of these impressive and important individuals.

Thanks and blessings,  
Zach Burrill

## **Affirm Ministry**

During our second year of being an affirming Ministry, we deepened our commitment to radical hospitality, which at its heart embraces inclusiveness, awareness and respect for those that are often marginalized, particularly as a result of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

The welcoming on Sundays by the minister makes a point of naming this inclusion of all, something along the lines of: "You are welcome here, no matter the amount in your bank account, the clothes you wear, your gender identity or sexual orientation, no matter which faith you come from, whether it's your first time or your 100th time: you're welcome here and your presence matters."

We participated in the Victoria Pride Parade and Festival in July 2018. It was fairly well organized with Rachel Carriere representing OBUC at the Victoria Presbytery United Church Pride meetings, led by Gordon Miller. Members of our congregation took part by marching in the parade as part of the wider United Church contingent, helped host the Presbytery booth at the festival following the parade, and making rainbow treats for people visiting our booth. Our banner for the United Churches in the parade read: Love is Love is Love. A couple weeks before the event we organized a sign and t-shirt painting day, as well as making a lot of the pre-made buttons we offered at our booth. At the table we provided treats, had a button maker (so visitors could make their own buttons) and ready-made buttons, information pamphlets about the different United Churches, and a prize draw.

We applied for and received a grant from the ProVision Fund of Victoria Presbytery, to do some external research on what kinds of spiritual needs the LGBTQ+ community has, and how we might be part of meeting those needs, and to coordinate the organization of the “Spirit Pride Victoria” event. We contracted with Chris-Ann Lake between June and August 2018, and then November 2018 through February 2019. Her findings are available from Rev. Michelle. The research was unable to be completed in total within the timeline allotted and so the Affirm Team will decide on how to proceed in this coming year.

We hosted the one day “Spirit Pride Victoria” event, on Sunday, July 29th, 2018, “piggy-backing” on the “Spirit Pride Vancouver” event. Chris-Ann Lake, our contract researcher, was part of the planning team for Vancouver and so we were able to utilize some of their speakers and resources. The conference began with a resource fair in the Community Hall with LGBTQ+ friendly merchant and businesses, as well as community support groups and resources. After the fair there was a panel that included Mathias Roberts (Queerology: A Podcast on Belief and Being), Lisa Salazar (Trans educator and activist), Lisa Helps (Mayor of the City of Victoria), Eileen and Jennifer Knapp (singer/songwriter, and activist) discussing their journeys as LGBTQ+ faith individuals. Following the panel was a BBQ dinner by donation. Jennifer Knapp then closed the evening with her performance of “Inside Out Faith”. The turn-out ended up being around 150 people and we received really positive feedback about the event. We hope to host a full weekend conference for LGBTQ+ people of faith and spirituality, in the summer of 2020.

In May 2019, we were thrilled to host the author, storyteller, educator and activist Ivan Coyote. Around 120 people took part, both “church people” and other members of the community, to hear Ivan tell stories about their growing up, and some of the ways life continues to be challenging for them as a trans person. We were challenged to go “somewhere over the rainbow sticker”, and live our advocacy of queer and trans people, in real and tangible ways. This evening was inspiring, moving and challenging and we were so grateful to Ivan for their open-hearted vulnerability, humour and passion.

We experimented with hosting a monthly gathering for LGBTQ+ people of faith, to provide a space that people could feel safe expressing themselves and their faith. After a low attendance, the gathering was opened to allies as well. The most people attending over the several months that I had hosted the gathering was 6, with inconsistent attendance. In the end, that particular event did not meet people’s needs so has been discontinued.

Some other experiments we are pondering include:

- Hosting a “Trans Shopping” evening occasionally, to benefit people transitioning to a different gender expression, to try out clothing in a safe and welcoming place.
- An “out” in the community bi weekly event, where a group of LGBTQ+ and allies can do an activity together. Maybe a giant picnic, laser, tag, bowling, etc.
- A gender aware/perspective bible study group.
- Working with UVIC to host info sessions on Gender and Womens studies around things like language, definition of diversity, how to be inclusive etc.

The Affirm Team has had a number of changes in membership over the last year. Rachel Carriere was elected chairperson in May 2018. The other team members included: Dan and Jacquie Shaus, Raidon Amann-Blake, and Sarah Shumanski. At year end, the current team needs a new chairperson, as Rachel has moved to Prince George, as well as some new members. Look for ways to take part in this important ministry of radical hospitality, in September!

Submitted by Rachel Carriere , Affirm Team Chair and Rev. Michelle Slater



## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Prayer Shawl Ministry is one way we may put the love of the Spirit into action. It offers the support, love and comfort of Oak Bay United Church Community by creating shawls to be used as a part of the congregation's Ministry of Pastoral Care.

The shawls are knitted or crocheted at home with prayers for those who may receive them, blessed in worship and distributed at the discretion of Rev. Michelle & Rev. Susanne. They are used as gifts of love and connection in the celebration of baptism or other special circumstances, and as reminders of the support and love of the congregation to folks in grief, illness or situations of stress and anxiety.

Many thanks are extended to the dedicated shawl creators who have donated approximately 120 prayer shawls in the last year. If you would like to participate in the Prayer Shawl Ministry, please contact the office for more information.

submitted by Amie McColl

## **Wellness Group**

The Wellness Group meets at 1:00PM on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Community Hall for tea and conversation. The Group enjoys attending the Seniors' Tea once a month. We appreciate the support we receive from Rev. Michelle Slater, Rev. Dr. Susanne Abbuhl and the University of Victoria Speakers' Bureau. New members and drop-ins are most welcome.

Respectfully submitted, Joy Gregory



# Poinsettia Outreach



## POINSETTIA PROGRAMME YEAR END REPORT FOR 2018

This year we delivered 53 plants and 2 boxes of cookies (to our blind parishioners) to our bereaved and shut-in members. Again we delivered during the first week of Advent so they may be enjoyed through the whole season.

Kudos to our POINSETTIA PALS who took time during such a busy time of year deliver and visit. Your caring is so much appreciated. What a wonder GIFT to our bereaved and shut-ins.

Jacque Corrigan  
Helen Ellis  
Don O'Coffey  
David- King  
Betty McLean  
Barbara McLeod  
Suzanne Albuhl  
Pauline Stepen  
Beverly March  
Betty Thacker  
Mike and Sandy Ralph<sup>2</sup>  
Richard Demontigny  
Magie Kelly  
Joanne Hill

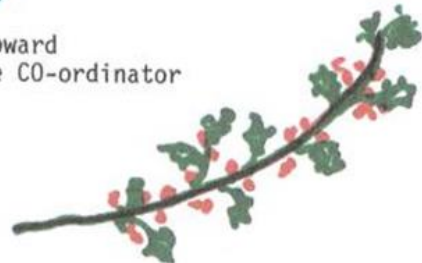
Suzanne Vogt  
Bob Erickson  
Graham Howard  
Rob and Michlle O'Neil  
Robert Collison  
Dave & Beth Bourke  
Dawn Williamson  
Jim Ricks  
Bill White  
Jan McArdle  
Ken & Margaret Adsett  
Mary-Jean Smith

I receive "Thank Yous" via the internet but our older members still put pen to paper and sent a note either to the office or directly to me. When I receive these messages I am again reminded how important this outreach is.

Respectfully submitted

*Meryle Howard.*

Meryle Howard  
Programme CO-ordinator



## **Victoria Refugee Initiative**

The Habbosh family of 6 arrived in October 2018 to a large welcoming group of our Sponsorship Team and their Victoria relatives. With only several weeks notice of their pending arrival we were fortunate to rent a small house in the Shelbourne/Feltham area and furnish it for their arrival day with much assistance from our Thrift Shop and that of St. Aidan's.

The two boys attend elementary school close to home and the parents attend ICA for English language classes. To assist them with English, tutors from our congregation and the community have been assisting them. The two girls and the boys very much enjoy riding the bikes we provided from generous donors.

In January we hosted a birthday celebration for the children. They were wide eyed and excited with the party and gift bag they each received. The parents beamed with appreciation.

We have regularly scheduled meetings with the parents to be on top of issues and any concerns. At a recent meeting they hosted us with an abundant, delicious lunch prepared with great care. It was a joyous occasion for our Team of 4.

We are identifying activities for the summer which would include outings and programs for the children. The relatives provide on going communication and support for the family. They have helped with the banking, various appointments, familiarizing them with the city and appropriate stores as well as more recently providing them with a vehicle.

Currently we are focused on preparing the family to be able to function independently in the Fall which includes employment possibilities for the father.

We are most appreciative of the support received from the congregation in supporting the family.  
Respect fully submitted, Bill White Chair Victoria Refugee Initiative Sponsorship Team

## **The Thrift Shop/Annex**

### **THRIFT SHOP**

Our Thrift Shop continues to help so many in need. We are growing rapidly. More customers, plus donations each week, keep us going happily along. New faces, along with our old faithful friends. One customer informed us she had been visiting our shop for over 30 years!

Our half-price sales are very popular, with happy people leaving with arms full of great finds. Our problem is only two change rooms, when we could use four.

Our Place, The Compassionate Warehouse and Value Village are sent 10+ more bags weekly.

Now it is time for me to hand over to others. I will retire on June 14<sup>th</sup> knowing everyone will continue to assist those in need, as we do have a dedicated staff.

Respectfully submitted - Lucy Holland

### **ANNEX**

2018-2019 has been a phenomenal year for our Thrift Annex. Lots of new customers, and still more come that say they didn't know we existed! The quality and quantity of donations continues to amaze us: estate furniture, jewelry, and art, as well as many other treasures. Makes unpacking every box and bag like Christmas!

Sincere thanks to all our helpers who carry on each week unpacking, sorting, washing or polishing, pricing and displaying the items, despite some uncertainty about our future with the redevelopment project and its timelines. We carry on until we know we can't. Meanwhile we are open to suggestions as to how we might offer other services to the community and our potential residents, as we know the value of our outreach ministry, not only to our partners, but also to our helpers who enjoy the sense of community and camaraderie.

You will read in the "Serving our Community" section of the report about the many ways we are able to give people a hand up, both locally and around the world because of donations to the Thrift Shop/Annex. We feel blessed to be able to share the resources of the Thrift Shop/Annex to offer fellowship and tangible outreach to our community.

We're always happy to have more willing hands and strong backs to help. Come along any Wed. morning or Friday - you'll be surprized at what goes on!

### **SERVING OUR COMMUNITY-LOCALLY AND ABROAD**

Many of our community outreach projects both local and worlds away, are possible because of donations to the Thrift Shop and Annex. Our congregation is always generous when we have special requests for money or specific goods.

The following local projects have been supported by Oak Bay United Church:

Burnside Gorge Housing Outreach Program: assists low income, often single parent families fleeing abusive relationships or newly arrived immigrant families, with several young children, to find safe accommodation. This year we assisted more single dad families, and we assisted families affected by a major apartment fire. Families often have no money for essential furniture and household goods. Sometimes they need children's clothing and we always find cuddly toys and books to add to their collections. This year we helped 16 families with 25 children. The grateful thanks of the families, often teary eyed, and notes of appreciation from the Outreach Workers attest to the importance of this tangible support for families.

We also assisted with furnishing two 3-bedroom transitional housing suites for emergency temporary family housing in Evergreen Court which have been occupied almost 100% since they opened, which shows the need for safe, affordable housing in the region.

Mustard Seed: operates a food bank, a new food distribution center and offers programs in their Family Center to assist low income families. We have provided slow cookers, hand mixers and blenders and hundreds of mugs. Several members of the congregation help at the center on a regular basis and members of our Youth Group with Zack and several adults from the congregation helped serve over 100 dinners one Saturday evening.

Our Place: serves the homeless and vulnerable citizens of our city. We contribute to this vital non-profit society by:

- Providing weekly bags of clothing, bedding, suitcases, pet items, and personal care items. Thanks to Bob Erickson for his drop-offs of over 300 bags.
- Contributing baking and other foods for special events
- Giving Angel Gifts at Christmas-a program initiated by OBUC many years ago
- Several members of our congregation assist on a regular basis at mealtimes and in other ways
- Making cash donations

We no longer make direct deliveries to Sandy Merriman House, who provides emergency shelter to homeless or inadequately housed women and their children, as the two organizations share donations.

Coldest Night of the Year Walk: this year donations were shared between Mustard Seed and Our Place. Oak Bay United's team of 21 walkers raised \$1393, through donations by the congregation and friends. Zach Burrill was our team captain with a good contingent of our youth walking at least 5K before dinner at the Mustard Seed.

Out of the Rain Youth Program: provides safe, warm, dry shelter and meals for homeless youth in Victoria's downtown area. We provide warm socks, gloves, hats, scarves, back packs during the cold months of Oct. to March

Reading Tree: picks up unwanted books in good condition as well as unsalable books and sorts them. Books in good condition are provided to social service agencies and to children's libraries in low income areas. Unsalable books [ torn or worn, or out of date encyclopedias, books of knowledge etc.] are sold for pulp and money received is used to purchase age appropriate new books . We kept over 4700 pounds from our landfill last year, but sadly this service is no longer economic and has been terminated.



Syrian Refugee Families: We welcomed our second family to Victoria in Oct. 2018, and with St. Aidan's, our partner church sponsor, we provided furniture and household goods for their new home. The family of six had a wonderful time trying on clothes, the little girls choosing clothes with lots of sparkles. We continue to receive occasional requests for help for "government sponsored" families who do not have as much personal support as "privately sponsored" families.

Shelbourne Community Kitchen: partners with three churches in Shelbourne Valley to teach low income and vulnerable people cooking and food preservation. Canners, and canning jars, have helped with this program.

Threshold Housing Society; provides safe accommodation and daily living skills for at risk youth in our community. We have a 5 year lease for Threshold House across our parking lot which accommodates 7 youth, and programs are provided there for youth from their other 3 homes. Occasionally we fill requests for furniture for 'graduating youth' who move to independent living. Watch for a possible repeat of our fun fund raiser evening of silent and very lively auctions for bursaries to assist youth to complete post secondary education. A good time was had by all for a good cause.

We also reached out to support projects across the world:

Compassionate Resource Warehouse: This non-profit small but mighty organization partners with many organizations to provide essential items for people affected by poverty, disease, political upheaval or natural disasters around the world. We deliver bags of children's clothing, especially new born size, toys, children's books, Bibles, bedding, unbreakable dishes and pots, medical and school supplies weekly. One lady makes gorgeous afghans out of small bits of wool which brighten the day for an elderly patient. For more information see their 2018 Newsletter and their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/CRWarehouseVictoria](http://www.facebook.com/CRWarehouseVictoria)

Ukulapha (South Africa) School Meal Program: We continue to fundraise to provide nutritious meals for school children in Slangspruit, South Africa, at five times per year. Initiated by Oliver Dason, the congregation has taken on the challenge of continuing this meal program. We also currently provide a scholarship to one student, Asanda Ngcobo, for high school fees. We've provided him a computer with graphic arts and design software, to nurture his artistic ability.

Mission and Service Fund: A national United Church Fund, works with partners around the world for peace and justice. Over \$10,000 was contributed by the congregation in 2018-2019.

- Submitted by Betty Thacker

## **Native Plant Garden**

Many people in the community have been concerned that all the Garry Oak trees and oasis at the back of the duplex will disappear if the building project goes ahead. It is reassuring to see the schematic drawings of rain water management which include rain gardens, permeable paving and retention and enhancement of the gardens and tree canopy on site for use by residents and community.

Meanwhile, we continue to remove invasive plants, weed and water as necessary. Butterflies, birds, deer, racoons, and pesky squirrels all flit or amble through the garden, adding to the enjoyment of this tranquil space, though the deer are dreadful pruners. They seem to have a preference for the best plants just coming into flower! “Now you see it-now you don’t” happens frequently. There are special things for children to discover and the back lawn provides a great space for play and laughter. The picnic table is always available and there is a bench at the far end for those who prefer solitude. Anyone interested in helping to weed or water is most welcome-or just come to sit beneath the trees and enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells. You will leave rested and restored.

submitted by Betty Thacker

## **Chemainus Theatre “Bus Getaway Trip”**

In 2018 Clare King and Mary Ann Tuller took over the Chemainus Theatre trips after Betty Forgie retired from hosting these trips. For the 2019 season they will be going to “Mamma Mia” on July 27 and “Miracle on 34th Street” in November. Once again, we have the best seats in the house and the best price in town. The ticket price includes the cost of the bus, the (great) buffet lunch, the show and all the gratuities.

## **Angel Gifts**

In 1997, Carolyn Stevens, a member of our congregation, had an idea - an idea that would be implemented and, over time, expand far beyond the four walls of Oak Bay United **Church**. Carolyn felt that individuals in our congregation might be interested in doing God's work in very small but direct way, by purchasing a Christmas present for a person using the services of Open Door. She knew that many of these people would not be receiving any gifts; that they seldom had the luxury of anything brand new to wear; and that warm clothing was always in need during the winter months. Our Place was asked to send some first names with sexes and sizes, and a few members of Oak Bay United were delighted to purchase gifts for these people. The Angel Gift programme was born.

Various churches and organizations heard about our initiative and felt that they too would like to participate. As a result, over the years, this outreach programme has expanded dramatically. Last year, 803 gifts were donated by 19 churches, 11 schools, 1 group of employees from a government office and several individuals. The Angel Gift programme has become a bit of a Christmas tradition in Victoria. To see all these gifts filling the pews at St. Aiden's Church, where they are now collected prior to delivery for the Our Place Christmas party, is heartwarming indeed. A bus driver in the city said he can always tell when the party has been held because so many of the people from Our Place are wearing brand new clothing the next day.

About 2 weeks before the programme begins, we let the congregation know that the sign up date is coming up. We show a very moving video made by Our Place, discussing this outreach programme and showing recipients from other years opening their gifts with great excitement and anticipation. There are also announcements at Sunday services and in the bulletin. Many of members of our congregation would have already purchased a gift, however, as they start keeping an eye out for something special to purchase as soon as the fall season begins. On the big date, donors choose the person or people they would like to buy for from a list provided by Our Place. The list includes first names with each person's gender, age and size so we can all try to give something that is as personal and appropriate as possible. We are encouraged to put a personal note in our gifts.

Many of us who participate in the programme say the Angel Gift is our favourite present to shop for each year. We get great satisfaction from buying for a specific individual and feeling that our gift is needed and will be truly worthwhile. It is a beautiful opportunity to share our own good fortune, live the real meaning of Christmas and to celebrate God's love. And it all started at Oak Bay United Church!

Submitted by Pauline Stephen

## **“Fitting Room” Fringe Festival Rehearsal Group**

Oak Bay United Church is more than just a rehearsal space for the emerging artists who worked on *The Fitting Room* (written by Ellery Lamm and directed by Anna Marie Anderson). It was a safe place to make discoveries, take creative risks, and grow as people and artists. To be welcomed into such a safe and warm space to develop a piece of work that explores coming of age, mental health, grief, love and sexuality meant so much to the creative team on *The Fitting Room*.

Highlights of our rehearsal period at Oak Bay United Church included “hello’s” from the wonderful community at Oak Bay United; whether it be in the garden, kitchen, or while watering plants in the chapel, it was always so clear we were welcome. We also loved spending time with the Oak Bay United Youth group last summer playing games and capture the flag; we hope to be able to do something with the Youth Group again this summer.

Sometimes, after long rehearsal days we would all take a moment to honour all of the work we had done in the space by sitting together and eating fudgsicles! Being able to have this period of time to just be in the space and celebrate the work and passion was not custom in many of these artists training, so it was incredibly special for them to have this time.

Oak Bay United is where all the magic happened for these artists. All of the artists who worked on this project left as stronger and more well-rounded artists. If it weren't for this space, who knows if it would have been possible for this production to have been shared with the world. The importance of this play proved true in summer 2018 when *The Fitting Room* won "Bravest Show" and "Overall Favourite Show" in the YYJ Fringe Festival.

It also established its importance with teens in Vancouver when playwright, Ellery Lamm, had some high school students read a scene from the play at an assembly. Later those teens came to the production and shared their love for the play and discussed with us why this story is so important for young adults to see. Because of the community and welcoming from Oak Bay United, it was possible for this show to positively impact so many people. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to everyone at Oak Bay United for welcoming us into the space. We can't wait to be back for our next project: *Summer Bucket List*.

## **Ministry and Personnel Committee**

The Ministry and Personnel (M & P) Team is a confidential, consultative body for the purpose of providing support and supervision to personnel, and to handle conflict resolution when needed. We are a communicating link between the mission of the congregation and activities of our staff. Current members include Cathy McAuley, Jacquie Schaus, Steve Clark, Elizabeth Shumanski and Simon Owen. Last summer we were sad to receive the resignation of Tressa Brotsky, from our Children and Family Ministry. That vacancy plus the direction at the congregational meeting to recruit a part time Pastoral Care Minister created the question of combining those positions. A formal committee (MPS), separate from M&P, was established for this and those positions were posted as temporary until completion of the report. We were blessed to have Rev. Dr. Susanne Abbuhl join our team as our Pastoral Care Minister. Unfortunately, we were unable to fill the Children and Family Ministry position. Thanks to Amy van Wensem, our Music Minister for providing leadership during some of those months and the devoted volunteers who continued the Sunday morning Godly Play programs. During the year we also had a change of the Sunday Morning Support person as we said goodbye to Sam Beaver and welcomed Sarah Shumanski. During Rev. Michelle's months of sabbatical leave, we were grateful to have increased leadership from Rev. Keith Howard. We give thanks to Christine Chepyha who provided wonderful music ministry during Amy's leave and we are so glad to have Amy back.

A key indicator we started tracking last year to measure some activity:

% of staff\* who have had an annual review within the past year = 66%

(\*excludes temporary and casual staff)

A HUGE “THANK YOU” to the many volunteers who contributed and supported our staff, congregation, each other and our community during this interesting year.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy McAuley, M & P Team Lead

## **Presbytery Report**

Presbytery report to December 31, 2018

The new structure of the United Church of Canada with its three courts (Communities of Faith e.g. congregations, Regional Councils and General Council) came into effect January 1 2019. Oak Bay United Church is part of the newly formed Pacific Mountain Region. Moving from a four-court system (Communities of Faith, Presbytery, Conference and General Council) did not just mean Presbytery was being deleted. The roles of all the groups would be changing. In preparation for this structural change, members of Victoria Presbytery and other key congregational leaders met regularly to provide updates and discussion regarding the transition that would be required. Carol Martin continued her work as consultant, communicator and researcher for this move. Her enthusiasm and attention to detail was particularly helpful at this critical time. In December, we held a final gathering of Presbytery at which we celebrated our accomplishments, grieved our losses and looked forward with hope and excitement to our new way of being the United Church of Canada in this area.

Oak Bay United Church’s Lay representatives to Presbytery were Beth Bourke, Jackie Cox-Ziegler and Mike McAuley. Carol Martin sat on Presbytery as a Member-at-Large.

## **Property Report**

We are still holding a number of major building maintenance projects in abeyance as the housing project moves forward. The repointing and front stairs of the Sanctuary will be addressed as part of the project and the balance will not be required as buildings are removed to make way for new construction.

You may have noticed new LED lights on each side of the choir loft. These lights are part of a lighting project previously begun by Gordon Miller that also included a change to a virtual digital lighting board from the physical analog board.

Minor building maintenance is ongoing and is done by volunteers where possible. Brian Maclean continues to spend many of his Wednesdays at the church painting, changing lights and fixing things.

Our contractor James cuts the grass and does yard and parking lot cleanup. The rest of the landscaping and grounds work is done by volunteers. While there are others, Annette Morrice and Merle Newberg are often there a couple times a week tending the gardens. Brian is a one man clean up crew when the leaves start to fall.



If you are interested in becoming more involved in the Oak Bay United Church community, consider volunteering with the Property Committee or as part of the property maintenance team. If you have time to spare, we can always use your help. All necessary training and equipment will be provided.

Respectfully submitted.  
Mike McAuley  
Property Chair

## **The Trustees Report**

The Trustees of OBUC have met formally on two occasions during the past fiscal year, in November and in May, and as a joint meeting with the Board in May. As well they have communicated via internet and personal contact regarding specific items of business such as the endorsement of documents to allow the OBUC Property Development to move ahead. Our membership includes: Ken Adsett (Chair), Beverly March (Secretary), Russ Raine (Board Liaison), Lyn Volk, Graham Howard, David King, and Betty O’Coffey. All incumbent members have agreed to serve the 2019 - 2020 term. Rev. Michelle Slater, OBUC Lead Minister, attends most meetings as well. Members of the Property Development Committee have also attended our meetings to keep us apprised of the on-going plans and negotiations concerning the future of our property. On behalf of the congregation I would like to thank all of these people for their time and their sense of responsibility.

The Trustee mandate is primarily one of oversight of the Church’s property and resources. To this end, individual Trustees have worked with members of the Church Board and Staff to maintain a watchful eye on: Church Funds, Property and Liability Insurance, Mortgage renewal, and the Physical Properties including Inventory and Property Taxes.

Respectfully Submitted - Ken Adsett, Chairman

I would like to nominate the following as OBUC Trustees for 2019 - 2020:

Ken Adsett, Beverly March, Lyn Volk, Graham Howard, Russ Raine, David King,  
Betty O’Coffey.

# Envelope Secretary's Report

## Givings Secretary & Collection Counters Report May 2019

My job as Givings Secretary is to record all monetary donations made to the church throughout the year. I provide our minister & treasurer with monthly reports and issue the income tax receipts for the previous year in January. I also order the givings numbered envelopes in August for the following year. Generally, I keep track of all the monetary donations.

The Sunday morning collection is counted after church each week by one of five teams (three people each) and then deposited into the bank by the team leader.

A huge thank you to the team leaders Lynne Rippon (week 2), Wendy Smith (week 3), Jacquie Corrigan (week 4) & Jim Fisk (week 5), who keep everything on track. I am team leader for week 1. A big thanks to counters Meryle Howard, Pam DeMontigny, David King, Dan Schaus, David Gillespie, Monica Pinch, Sharon Fisk, Lyn Volk, Pauline Stephen & Cheryl Thomas for all your help. This couldn't happen without you!

We need one more counter for week 5 (only ½ hour commitment, 4 times per year!). If you can help, please email me at [marjorie.raine@shaw.ca](mailto:marjorie.raine@shaw.ca)

### WAYS TO DONATE

There are several ways to make your monetary donations to Oak Bay United Church:

Cash or cheque in collection plate:

- anonymous cash (no income tax receipt)
- cheque (income tax receipt issued if name & address are on cheque)
- 

Envelopes: UCC issued, numbered envelopes:

- applications available on top of the library shelves in the lower hall
- confidential, as each number corresponds to a specific person or family
- to remain confidential, please do not write your name on the envelope
- income tax receipts are issued
- envelopes are free, please request if desired

Pre Authorized Remittance (commonly known as "PAR"):

- a designated (by you) amount of money is withdrawn each month (around 17/18th of the month) from your bank account by head office of UCC
- applications to start, change or cancel PAR are available on top of the library shelves in the lower hall
- to start PAR, a void, blank cheque must accompany your application
- please deliver all forms to the church office in a sealed envelope for your privacy
- income tax receipts are issued
- PAR remittances are free to the donor

Respectfully submitted by Marjorie Raine, OBUC Givings Secretary

## Service Attendance

Month	Average	Average
	Attendance	Attendance
	2018	2019
Jan	148	125
Feb	149	133
Mar	141	127
Apr	145	123
May	139	114
Jun	103	
Jul	103	
Aug	106	
Sep	136	
Oct	134	
Nov	135	
Dec	136	

## We Lovingly Remember

We lovingly remember each person - member, adherent, or supporter – who has died since our last report to the congregation. We also remember those who died and were formerly associated with our community.

*Emily Beaton*

*Cathy Brown (Doris Purdy's daughter Ann's partner)*

*Meta Campbell*

*Maureen Cook*

*Dorothy Duquette*

*Paul Fraser*

*Betty Kennedy*

*Tasma Lacroix (Thrift/Annex regular customer)*

*Norma Lewis*

*Grace Martin*

*Barbara McLintock*

*Jack McDonald*

*Les Oakes*

*Arnold Ranneris*

*Stephen Stewart*

*Lila Young*