

Spring Garden Church
ANNUAL REPORT
June 2020



OUR VALUES



We believe in a humble God who came not to be served, but to serve. Therefore we engage in sacrificial and active service to those around us. We strive to be good stewards of God's gifts and talents by serving one another in humility. We aspire to regard others as higher than ourselves, which liberates us to creatively take risks in serving others for God's glory.



We believe in a God of grace who came to save the world, not to condemn it. Therefore, as we are continuously receiving the gift of God's grace, we seek to grow in that grace and extend it to others. We strive to define ourselves by what we are for, not what we are against.



We believe in a God who knows us, and who desires to be known. Therefore we embrace a journey of faith that requires us to constantly strive for a personal, intimate and transformative knowledge of God. We strive to be led by God's Spirit in supporting and encouraging one another in working out our faith.



We believe in a creative God. Therefore we are open to expressing our faith in new and creative ways that reflect the beauty and complexity of our creator. We are called to use our creative gifts in worship and service as we engage with our world. We take joy in the diversity of gifts that allow us to delight God and participate in His ongoing story.



We believe in a triune, relational God who calls us to come together as a diverse community of believers. Therefore, we want to walk together, supporting one another physically, emotionally and spiritually. We strive to be a welcoming, inclusive family that goes through the joys and the trials of life together, acknowledging that God uses this community to deepen and mature our faith.



We believe in a God who loves this broken world and wants to reconcile us to Himself. Therefore we are commissioned by Christ to go out into the world, meeting the holistic needs of the local and global community. God calls us to participate in a redemptive work that he has already initiated; in humility, we will partner with others to work alongside and chase after Him.



We believe in a God who is our center. Therefore where we are on the journey is less important than that we are moving towards a deeper relationship with Christ. We believe and participate in God's redemptive work in all people, which gives us the freedom to come as we are, and to accept others as they are. We each are on a unique journey to become who God has created us to be.

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LEADERSHIP

Pastoral Reports



Greg Kay
Co-Lead Pastor

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous;
be strong. Do everything in love.
-1 Corinthians 16:13-14

I remember reading this verse while I was in a time of prayerful discernment—seeking to hear God’s voice speak over my life as to whether becoming a Co-Lead Pastor at Spring Garden was the Lord’s will for me and the church. A number of months before that Margaret Sutton, our then recently retired Pastor of Seniors and Pastoral Care, told me that when she prayed for me Joshua 1:9 always came to mind: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord Your God will be with you wherever you go.” When I read the Corinthians passage while seeking God’s leading, I felt it was an important verse for me to hear personally.

Now I have been in the role with Sam for over a year, at first as interim and, as of last December, as ‘permanent’ (really what is permanent besides the love of God?). Over and throughout that time I have regularly come back to those verses and cannot think of a more succinct and apropos way of expressing the hopes, challenges, and encouragements of the past year. For myself and perhaps for all of us.

Be on your guard: “Be alert” is another translation. Be watchful, eyes open. Not just for potential challenges and difficulties, but watching and aware of changes and new pathways that God presents for us. Being aware of the movement of the Spirit in worship, in the community and in the neighbourhood. Oh my goodness has COVID-19 ever given cause to be alert and on guard, open to change and willingness to flow with current realities!

Stand firm in the faith: The faith that Jesus is truly the light of the world and the living bread; that his life, death, resurrection and ascension is our hope in the midst of great suffering, illness and upheaval; the faith that the Holy Spirit is with us, guiding us and bearing fruit in us.

Be courageous: I think it’s true for many of us during this world wide pandemic to say that each and every day requires courage. I need the regular reminder

that God says “you can be courageous, because I am with you”, and this hope keeps me going.

Be strong: Like courage, my strength does not come from myself, but from the One who is more present to me than I am to myself—a daily reminder that we can take another step forward because God’s power is made perfect in our weakness.

Do everything in love: All of our alertness, all of our faith, all of our courage and all of our strength is for one purpose, one goal, and stems from one Source: Love.

Sam and I have sought together to be watchful and alert, and to lead together through the unknowns of this time in adapting to the constant changes; we have sought to stand firm in the faith—our personal faith which is the faith of the Church—and to teach, pray, sing, serve and express that faith in a way that shares the hope, joy, and peace of Jesus with you all. We have prayerfully sought courage and strength to do so, and above all we have sought to come back, again and again, to our primary call to love. And of course, we have been imperfect, and done all this imperfectly! But we have done it with a thanksgiving to God for you and for the opportunity to serve in this way.

I am also aware that, more than anything we’ve given, we have received from you as a family love that brings us strength, courage, and faith. We have received this from the amazing Leadership team of Deacons, Elders, and the rest of the pastoral team (Jeremy and Dale, and Lily when she was with us). And we’ve received this from all of you as we have laboured alongside one another, serving Christ and the church. So thank you!

Speaking of doing everything in love, one beautiful place where I have seen this so strongly in our community was, when COVID-19 and the ramifications of isolation hit Toronto, so many of you were willing to step up to show practical acts of care for others. While it is fortunate that we did not have extreme need from too many, the willingness and the ways that many of you have cared for others has been a beautiful expression of the love of Jesus in Toronto. If you are reading this and you are in a place of needing help, please let me know and I can connect you to some wonderful people! gregkay@springgardenchurch.ca

This value of caring for others is expressed of course not only in this team of people offering, but from the church as a whole, particularly through our Caring and Sharing Offering that goes to those in financial need. That this is a priority for us as a community speaks volumes to your heart to care for others.

Over the past year another place of continued encouragement, strengthening and building up of faith has been in our worship time together on Sunday mornings. As always, a beautiful piece of our worship is that there are many different voices involved in ‘platform leadership’; that Spring Garden’s voice in worship is lead not just by pastors but by so many in the community through prayers, music, scripture, blessings, stories, and creativity through the creative team and other artists, not to mention the behind the scenes people running sound, projection, preparing and cleaning up communion, ushering, greeting, welcoming... While

we have tried during COVID-19 to keep that value and include as many people as possible, the beautiful mosaic of so many people coming together to lead our Sunday morning worship amongst the gathered community has been what I have missed the most.

While we still do not know what the next few months, never mind the next year, has in store for us as to how we worship and serve together, I cannot tell you enough how thankful I am for your deep care and support for me and Sam and our families. Thank you for your trust in us as leaders, and for the opportunity to serve alongside of you.

“May God be gracious to us and bless us, and make his face shine on us—
So that Your ways may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.”
Psalm 67:1





Sam Lee

Co-Lead Pastor

But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

-Psalm 86:15



In trying to reflect on this past year, it's hard to imagine what the world was like before the pandemic. Yet the more I reflect and think through the past ministry year, I am reminded of God's faithfulness for the past 70 years. This fall, we celebrated our 70th anniversary as a church. It was a great way of looking back in order for us to look forward. It gave us a sense of history and rootedness to

this community that we do not take lightly, and it speaks of God's faithfulness and presence with us then and now.

Pastoral Team



One of the ways in which God has shown his faithfulness is through our Pastoral Team. We went on a staff retreat this summer where we spent time to listen to God and to one another as we planned out what the ministry year would look like. It was a great time of team bonding and to be strategic in planning for the new year. In the fall, Jeremy was ordained as a pastor and we heard stories of how

God was faithful in the life of Jeremy. It was a time of celebration and affirmation as Jeremy was ordained to the ministry.

In December, we held a special congregational meeting to vote on Greg and I being the co-lead pastors of Spring Garden. The vote was passed with a very strong majority of 95.5%. I want to thank everyone who was involved in this long process of discerning God's will for us and this new model of ministry. From the deacons, to the IMC team to that of the 3C team, there were many people who were involved in this discernment process. Greg and I are grateful to God and to you for your support and desire to see us lead. In the new year, during our

Ministry Envisioning and Budget meeting, we approved the call of making Jeremy Ranasinghe as our full-time Pastor of Children, Youth & Young Adults. We also increased Dale's hours and approved the budget to provide room to hire another full-time staff person. Though the pandemic has changed the timeline of this new hire, we are still planning to go ahead with creating a job description so that we will be ready to hire as the pandemic ends.

Since the pandemic, the team has done a great job of adapting and working under the pressure and stress of this time. It has been great to see how the team came together each week to seek God and to respond to the ever-changing circumstances that surround us. I want to thank Colin, Wes, Monica, Brandon, and Kevin who all played a significant role in making sure that we could have our online worship gatherings. Without their help, we would not be able to do what we do every Sunday!



Leadership

One of the highlights with Deacons this year was at our first fall Deacon's meeting. Every year, we take time to think through which portfolio each Deacon will be responsible for. This year, we took time to use the discernment process in the distribution of responsibilities. It was a great process to be a part of and I am grateful for the openness and willingness of our Deacons to be led by God in this way. It highlighted the desire for us to seek God's will in all things.

Our Elders continue to be faithful in providing spiritual leadership and guidance for us. They meet monthly to pray for the congregation and for any other areas that need prayer. They provide pastoral care and support to the congregation but also to the pastoral team.

Every quarter, the leadership team of Deacons, Elders, and Pastors meet to discern together how God is moving in the church and in our community. This year was no different in that we spent much time discerning the new model of leadership and the makeup of our pastoral team. I am so thankful to be part of a church where we are intentional in meeting together to collaborate, to listen to God, and to listen to one another.

Children & Youth Discipleship Ministries

Ministry Volunteers

What can I say but thank you to our amazing ministry volunteers? Every year, they serve faithfully in our children & youth ministries as examples of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. We continue to focus on spiritual formation through building relationships and look for ways of creating a safe and loving environment. It is sad that we won't be able to celebrate those who served this past year with our annual lunch, but we will have one as soon as we are able to gather together!



Intergenerational Ministry

We believe that intergenerational ministry is necessary for us to be a healthy church community. Therefore, we continue to gather together as an intergenerational community to worship and be the church. One of the ways in which we enact this is through our intergenerational worship. I am very thankful to the Creative Team that plan and organize these worship gatherings. It takes a lot of creativity and maturity to create our prayer stations. Great job everyone and thank you!



Engaging Parents

We continue to believe that the best way for us to disciple our children and youth is through partnering with the whole family. This year we provided a few different ways of engaging and empowering our families. On November 1, we had a joint intergenerational event with CBOQ Kids. It was a great night of food, activities, and spiritual conversations for all generations. On November 23, we had our Night Out for our parents and caregivers where we provided childcare. We had 40 children who were babysat which provided some relief for 19 households. On February 2, we had our Faith at Table led by Amelia Bowler where she used art to help families have healthy conversations. I am thankful for her gifts and for providing resources to our families.



Community Life

Another area that has been part of my responsibility for the past season is in the area of community life. I want to thank Martin Dewar who was our Community Life Deacon this year who provided much support in this area. Here are some highlights from the past year.



Weekly Coffee Time

Thank you for all the volunteers who run this time of fellowship every week. This weekly time is one significant way in which we build community and we are thankful for all those who help in this area.

Camping Trip

This past July, we had our annual camping trip to Pinery Provincial Park. We had 59 people attend and it was a blast!

Newcomers Lunch

This was a new event that we tried this past February. It was a great way to welcome those who have been part of our community in the past year and to connect them with some of our seasoned Spring Gardeners!

Neighbourhood Potluck



We had our second neighbourhood potluck at the end of February. We gathered around four different homes with over 40 people around the city for a time of food and fellowship. It was a good way for us to gather together as the church in people's homes.

This year has been a very different year. As we are still in the pandemic, it is hard to recall what life was like before. But as we spent some time reflecting, there was much life before and much life to be had. In the reflection, it is evident that God has been faithful in the past and God will be faithful in the future. Even now as we are in the present, we know that God is faithful even when we might not feel it. We know we can trust in this God who is a faithful God. So, we trust in His faithfulness and look to what He will continue to accomplish through Spring Garden in the days ahead.



Jeremy Ranasinghe

Children & Youth Pastor

Normally as I get to this time of year, I'm in awe of how fast it feels the months have gone by. However, as I write this, September feels like a long time ago. The pandemic has made life feel strange for a lot of us. It has also drastically impacted how we live and do life with one another. This in turn, has affected our ministry as a church. Regardless of the situation, I wholly believe that God works in the midst of hard situations like the ones we currently face, and He brings the good out of it. In the following I will be highlighting some of what God has done in the ministries I lead prior to COVID and what is on the horizon for us moving forward.

Earlier this year, both Sam and Greg were voted as Co-Lead Pastors of the church. Following that decision, I was voted in as a Pastor full-time where I continued in my responsibilities leading the Children and Youth Ministry. The long term plan is for my role to also consist of a Young Adult ministry. However, as Lily Cheng's contract came to an end, her responsibilities were split between the rest of the staff. In the meantime, until the next Pastor is hired, I have also taken on the Spring Garden Initiatives.

Youth Ministry



Our youth ministry is made up of 4 components, Fellowship nights, Life-Groups, Sunday Gatherings, and Student Leadership (a pilot project introduced this year). In each area, the ultimate desire is to aid youth in their journey as they become lifelong followers of Jesus.

Our fellowship nights focus on building and nurturing healthy relationships between both leaders and youth. Life Group meetings are intended to create a safe space to foster those

relationships further as we share in doing life together. This year we planned on combining our Life-Groups with serving our community, however those plans were put on hold due to the pandemic.

Sunday Gatherings had an emphasis on teaching. In this space we work through the same sermon series as the adult congregation, however the conversation was catered to be more relevant for the youth.

Towards the end of June 2019, there was an expressed desire by a significant number of our Sr High youth, to go deeper in their faith. The Student Leadership team is a pilot project that was created to offer youth in high school, leadership opportunities with a focus on discerning God's will for our youth group. Youth in this position do not take on the full responsibility of a youth leader, however they are given decisive roles in the direction and operation of our youth ministry.

Under my guidance as well as other adult leaders, we use the discernment practice in Pursuing God's Will Together by Ruth Haley Barton. This is the same discernment practice that our church leadership uses. This practice allows us to navigate the needs and direction of our youth group as we seek the lead of the Holy Spirit. The Student Leadership position is offered to all youth from grades 9-12.

COVID Adjustments

Looking back on the last 10 months, there were many plans and desires that I had for our youth. As plans changed, we were only able to experience a small portion of them. As the reality of the pandemic began to settle in, how we functioned as a youth group required us to adapt quickly. We began by shifting our scheduled youth events to an online format. The format of our programming changed and I developed new immersive games for our youth. Building a healthy community under normal circumstances can be difficult, adding in dynamics of virtual meetings and other pandemic-related changes can make it all the more challenging. We are continuing to adjust and shift the ways that we are doing youth ministry to serve our youth and keep them engaged and connected. The programming is not what drives our youth group. The relationships and community that we have fostered drive our youth group. We know that as we adapt, this is what will continue to drive us forward, together.

We now meet online a few times a week. On Fridays we alternate between fellowship focused or "fun" online events, and a study on the book of Galatians. We also meet on Sundays at 1pm to catch up and split into our life groups. Our Student Leader group meets every other Thursday where we continue to discuss and discern how to better foster an online community. One way we hope to accomplish that is by hosting a Minecraft server this summer. In hosting this server, we hope to create a safe and monitored online space specifically for our youth. Youth will then be able to remotely log into the game to interact with one another and build a world using in-game resources.

Children's Ministry

Every year I am thankful for the volunteers we partner with who are dedicated to loving and discipling our children. I am encouraged by their dedication, creativity, and desire to express the love God has for each person in a way that is both felt and understood by our kids. As we began this ministry year, we continued with the organization of age groups as we had last year, with some minor adjustment to the older grades. This year the groups we had were the Nursery, 2-3 Year olds (Toddler/Pre-K), JK/SK, Grade 1, Grades 2&3, Grades 4&5.

During the pandemic transition, we cancelled all in person gatherings, including our children's worship on Sundays. Our kids are currently meeting online on Wednesday evenings between 7:00 pm and 7:30 pm. During our Wednesday Hangouts, Jen Chrystman and Diana Boisvert have volunteered their time to meet with children. Together we have the opportunity to catch up and discuss a children's ministry video provided by the Meeting House which allows the children to continue learning more about God and their relationship with him.

Spring Garden Based Initiatives

This year, even in the midst of the pandemic, and despite the fact that some of our plans had to be cancelled, we are still looking forward to a number of community initiatives. Unfortunately, our annual lasagna making event had to be cancelled. We have also placed the Summer Yard Sale temporarily on hold as we await further updates from the government. However, there are some wonderful moments from this year that deserve to be highlighted:

Light of the World

In December we enjoyed the fun that surrounds our annual Light of the World event. As we invited our friends and neighbours to a safe and fun evening filled with Christmas music, and various entertainment, we were able to celebrate the season with those who would not normally do so in a church building. Light of the World was one of my first experiences at Spring Garden and is something I look forward to each year. It is also one of the events that I think really speaks to who we are as a community of people following Jesus. This year we got to watch a professional hula-hooper use the talents that God gave her, to amaze and entertain us with her skills. We also enjoyed the musical talents of some of SGC's very own musicians.



Art and Bake Sale

In March we hosted our third annual youth Art and Bake Sale to support the work of Fight4Freedom and our local missionary, Kaitlyn Ranasinghe. The event was planned and executed by our youth and raised over \$1200 for Fight4Freedom's efforts in supporting survivors of sex trafficking.

Bike Blessing:

Every year we take a moment to bless bikes, walkers, scooters, and similar modes of transportation as well as the people who use them. We do this because we value the creation that God has given us. Using these forms of transportation not only allows us to be present in creation, but it allows us to care for it as well. While we won't be able to celebrate this occasion the same way we have in the past, we decided it was still important for us to do. And so we decided to bless these modes of transportation during our virtual worship on June 7th, 2020.





The Deacon's Board

Report from Shannon Loewen



The Board of Deacons is elected by Members of the Spring Garden congregation to oversee “the administrative and temporal affairs of the Church”. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month to discuss various matters of church business related to the annual operating budget, the church property, staffing and personnel issues, church ministries and missions, and membership.

This year, the Board of Deacons was made up of: Krysten Cameron (Vice Chair and Secretary), Sam Chaise (Finance), Martin Dewar (Community Life – social events and Coffee hour), Monica Kim (Membership and Pastoral Care), Joanne Laing (Missions), Shannon Loewen (Chair and Discipleship), Jeff McGee (Adult Ministries), Peggy Moore (Property).

This year, in addition to matters pertaining to the everyday operations of the church, the Deacons spent much of our time focused on overseeing the church’s transition to a co-lead model. In October, we received a report from the ‘Interim Management Committee’ (comprised of an Elder, three Deacons, and our co-lead pastors), who were responsible for assisting with the church’s management through the transition period and evaluating the co-leadership model in terms of its long-term potential, that recommended moving forward and making the co-lead model permanent. Through discussion and prayer with the full leadership team the deacons moved that the co-lead model be moved and then presented for a vote with the SGC membership. Once the Co-lead model was voted in we began the process of changing our by-laws to fit with the new leadership and are excited to present their adjustments to the community.

As a Board, we have also continued to look at matters related to budget (including consideration of special projects or expenses outside of our approved annual budget), existing and proposed ministries, our role in local and global mission initiatives, maintenance of and upgrades to our property, and staffing and personnel matters. Regarding the latter, we approved increasing Jeremy Ranasinghe’s hours to full time, and we called Jeremy into the role of pastor. We continue to work closely with Sam and Greg on fulfilling another staff position and calling forth a search committee.

This year has been full of joys and trials. As we journey together in this new space in SGC with our leadership structure, but also the effects that are yet to be seen with COVID-19, I am confident that we will see God’s provision and love through everything that we face together. It is a joy to serve alongside one another and to serve the church in this way. In closing, I’d like to thank the Deacons who will be finishing their 3-year terms this June: Sam Chaise and Peggy Moore. We also thank Sam and Peggy for continuing on into early fall as consultants with the new board as we navigate through COVID-19. (Thanks

also to Joanne Laing who has agreed to extend her term by one year in order to provide some continuity to the Board.) Thank you for your faithful service, for your thoughtful contributions, and for your prayerful presence on the Board. It is a privilege to serve alongside you all and I look forward to welcoming our new deacons to the board and serving with them. Please continue to pray for the Deacons as we move forward together in managing the church resources. May God grant us discernment, wisdom, unity, and joy as they serve unity, and joy as they serve.



Elders

Report from Garth Barron



As Elders at Spring Garden Church, we are entrusted to pray for the church, offer spiritual advice, and provide support and accountability to the Lead Pastor(s) and to others in the church body, while living as disciples of Christ. We feel honoured to serve the congregation and our Pastoral Team in this way.

Prayer is at the heart of what we do. The Elders organize the prayer team in the Prayer Room each Sunday after the worship service. The prayer team consists of Elders and other experienced members of the congregation, and they are available at that time to pray for anyone who would like prayer. The Elders are also privileged to pray for people during the week, by request. If you would like prayer about something, please go to the Prayer Room after worship, or talk with one of the Elders during the coffee time, or contact one of us. Our contact information can be found in Delve.

We provide support and accountability to the Lead Pastors in our Elders’ meeting, about once a month. We also are in contact with each Pastoral Team member in the intervening weeks to pray for their needs and to encourage them. We thank God for each of them and the many ways they bless our faith community.

Over the past year much of our focus has been on evaluating the success of the interim co-lead model for the pastoral team structure and working with the deacons and pastors to discern God’s will regarding continuing with this model. We are happy that the congregation has voted to accept the recommendation to use the co-lead model on an ongoing basis moving forward.

At present we are primarily focused on helping SGC navigate the uncertain and disruptive season we are currently journeying through. The challenges to our church life together as a result of the pandemic are many, but we are also seeing small mercies from the hand of God.

We give thanks to God for his faithfulness, his protection, and his guidance. May his Spirit continue to guide us, to protect us, and to enable us to grow in grace.



LOVING GOD & LOVING OTHERS

Wednesday Refresh

Report by Faith Holwyn and Beverly Holtzman



Refresh underwent a change in leadership this year, as our loved and capable leader of many, many years – Tanya Salituro – retired from her leadership role, although she thankfully still joins us whenever possible. We want to acknowledge how significant her leadership and wisdom have been in the many years she has led the group – thank you Tanya.

We adopted a new leadership model – with four of us, Beverly Holtzman, Jen Chrystman, Colleen Howat and Faith Holwyn sharing the facilitating and planning role and Beverly and Faith being the liaison with the church.

While we could still meet at the church, before the Pandemic changed all our lives, we were enjoying the introduction to our faith through a video presentation of Alpha followed by discussion and prayer. We would reserve one Wednesday a month for more sharing and prayer together in creative ways.

Since the social isolation began we have met weekly on Zoom, encouraging

each other, sharing burdens and concerns, looking at parts of the Bible that God has led us to, and reminding each other that although we couldn't be together physically no one was forgotten.

Prayer for each other has always been a vital part of our group and so we have time each session to share concerns and Beverly our excellent communicator, sends out an email listing all the concerns that people are comfortable sharing, so we can pray for each other throughout the week.

We welcome other women to join us on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30 on Zoom. You can contact any of the four leaders for information:

Faith Holwyn - 416-805-7529 - faith.holwyn@gmail.com
Jen Chrystman - 647-688-9046 - jenchrystman313@hotmail.com
Colleen Howat - 647-522-4570 - colleenhowat@hotmail.com
Beverly Holtzman - 416-809-8046 - holtzb@rogers.com

We are grateful to God for His guidance in this year of change and challenge. We are looking forward to a new year as God continues to show us the way and to be our strength and joy as we share His Hope.

Thursday Bible Discussion

Report by Victoria Shipmaker

Thank-you for considering our group to receive some financial assistance. We are open to anyone at who is interested in discussing passages from the Bible. We meet all year with a few weeks off at Christmas. Most of us attend Lunch Together the hour before so we get a chance to talk about daily lives before we reflect on God's story. We are blessed to have people drop in as they can.

Given that we are an open group we try to keep the passages we choose ones that can be discussed by all levels of knowledge and without needing to be present every week. This year we found it helpful to add the book Next Door Saviour by Max Lucado to our resources. Though it is a little bit dated and American in culture we have really been enjoying the book and the questions that Lucado offers. It has also been helpful for those who miss a week to catch up. The chapters can be studied in any order which allows us freedom. We plan to use our budget to choose another book in the future which we hope will be used by other groups. Let us know if you have any suggestions!



Sunday Morning Bible Study Group

Report from Garth Barron

Your word is a light to my feet and a lamp on my path

– Psalm 119:105

Now in its twelfth year, the Sunday Morning Bible Study Group is a small but dedicated group of people who meet at 9 AM each Sunday. The group is always open to anyone who would like to join us. From last September to early March of this year we read through and discussed Ephesians, Esther, and Zechariah.

Our strategy is to understand first what scripture would have meant to its original readers, and then think about how it applies to us today. We also want to see each passage in its wider context, and to get the big picture of the Bible's story. To this end we do an in-depth study of a biblical book. Participants are encouraged to feel free to share different views, thoughts and opinions while respecting other perspectives. We want to know the scriptures, but also to become better disciples of Christ through them.

When we are close to finishing a particular book, we normally decide as a group which book(s) will be our next project. We don't meet during July and August, but we are hoping that we will be able to resume in September and would be happy to have others join us when we do restart!



SHOWING GOD'S CARE & SHARING GOD'S STORY

Christmas Care Packages

Report from Kaitlyn Ranasinghe



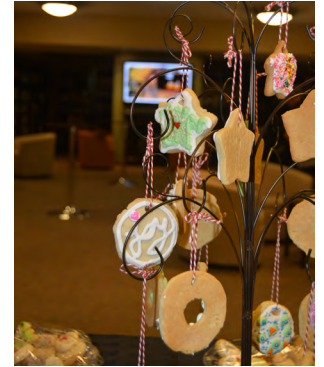
This year at Christmas, we came together to share the joy of Christmas with survivors of human trafficking. In partnership with Fight4Freedom, we collected and distributed Christmas gifts for more than 15 individuals and families. We were able to share some needed items, fun gifts, day trips, and really meaningful presents. The people that we shared these gifts with were so thankful and felt truly honoured. We are so grateful to each person who put together gifts, donated money, and prayed for the folks that we support. Your love brought hope and joy to people's Christmas; things that are so meaningful to those who sometimes struggle to feel it for themselves.

ESL Café

Garth Barron, Facilitator

The ESL Café exists to give newcomers to Canada an opportunity to practice speaking English and engaging in conversation with others. On Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 students gather in the east lounge to practice and improve their English, and to make new friends. The time is spent in discussions on a wide variety of topics, in reading exercises, as well as occasional grammar instruction.

Our numbers vary considerably, with from 2 to 8 students coming out on a given week, depending especially on the weather. If you know someone who might benefit from an opportunity to practice their English speaking and listening skills, please let them know about the ESL Café.



Spring Garden Initiative Team & Special Project

Hallowe'en - Hallowe'en has become a tradition at Spring Garden, it a great way for us to connect with the community and be a presence.

This year we had a great team of volunteers helping us from all age groups. We were blessed with volunteers to help by donating candy, carving pumpkins for display and attending at the church to engage with the neighbourhood children and parents. It was unfortunately a cold damp night, great weather for ghouls and goblins. We were able to set up inside the doors of the church close to Kenneth Ave. and invite the children and parents inside to get out of the weather. Hot chocolate was served to all comers including the parents. The children went away with some treats. We were astounded at some of the costumes. Lots of super heroes, princesses and a very creative family with two boys who were dressed as a TTC subway car and a GO train car. The TTC car even had a missing wheel, another delay on line 1 as the story goes.

A big thank you to all the volunteers that made this great night happen. Hope to see you again this year.

Submitted Cliff and Victoria Shipmaker

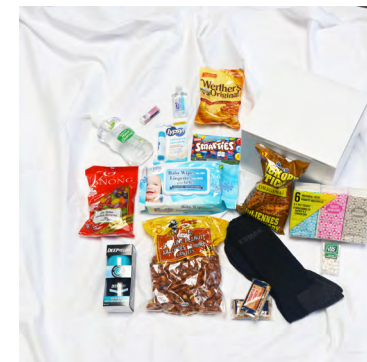
Garden Team - during the harvest of the garden last September, we invited the community to join us in the fun and have the children take a little of the bounty home. It was a time for us to get our hands dirty digging for kale, beets, beans, tomatoes and carrots, help the kids learn about the joys of gardening, and spend time as a community. Throughout the harvest season, we were able to offer the Drop In bags of fresh vegetables, and open up a part of the garden for our neighbours to pick from.

With the need for social distancing, gardening will be a little different this year but its purpose is still the same: we hope to show God's care by creating a space for the neighbourhood to come and join us as we grow vegetables for the underhoused in our community. The team is looking forward to another great garden season and getting to know some of our neighbours.



Morale Mail - Our second year of Morale Mail was a great success! Parcels were put together by groups and individuals in the church to be sent by Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC) to soldiers serving far from home. We did about 46 packages! The packages were well received and we had some feedback from soldiers in Baghdad, South Sudan and Latvia. One special recognition was from a Toronto soldier who was cheered to receive a parcel from fellow Baptists! The kids of Spring Garden were thanked for their "terrific cards". Here is a word of thanks for everyone who gave of themselves in different ways: "There was so much stuff that I couldn't just hoard it all to myself so I shared it with some of the guys in my unit and they're also very thankful. Gestures like this for us during the holidays mean so much because it shows how much support we really do have at home and makes our job just a little bit easier."

Submitted Victoria and Cliff Shipmaker



Vocational Missionaries

Reports from Youth Unlimited



We, your "YU Missionaries" who call Spring Garden both home and family, want to express our sincere gratitude for your faithful outpouring of support of the work of Youth Unlimited across the GTA. Your partnership buoys us in our work among the vulnerable youth, families, and communities of our city. You are making a significant difference in our lives, and in the life of YU, and most importantly, in the lives of hundreds upon hundreds of young people in our city!

We would love for you to read our annual impact report at impact.yugta.ca.



Monica Kay, LAUNCH Director



Dear Spring Garden,

Thank you so much for your prayer and support this past fiscal year. LAUNCH is a leadership development program of Youth Unlimited (TYFC). We pour into young leaders between the ages of 14-25, helping them to grow spiritually, in character and in leadership. In the last year we have been able to inspire and equip around 2000 young people with our Workshops, and we have had 15 students go through our Gr. 11 accredited Leadership Course, as well as a handful of young leaders in our LAUNCH Equip Program (this program is for those who have an idea to make a difference but are not interested or in the age bracket for the course). Every person in the program has a coach who meets with them and helps them grow, offers insights, encouragement, accountability and a listening ear. We are thankful for the 30 volunteer coaches we currently have - but are in need of more if you are interested and think this might be a good ministry fit for you! This year, students' community projects have varied from a conference for young women and moms that focused on social media issues, creating a clothing brand where the proceeds help street involved youth, fundraising for a missions trip, making scrunchies that help "bunchies" of young women who are meeting to study God's Word and then help others as well, and so on. These young leaders are so inspiring! Thank you for helping me, and LAUNCH pour into the next generation! To find out more go to: 321launch.ca. Thanks again. (below: 15 students completed our for credit Grade 11 Leadership Class. Photos are them sharing their learnings and their community impact projects! An amazing day!)



Clement Lee, Jane-Finch Community Director



Dear Spring Garden family. Thank you again for the many ways you partner with Youth Unlimited and our work in the GTA. Throughout the years, SGC has been extremely accommodating to our ministries; opening up the church building for us to hold workshops, meetings, and all sorts of gatherings related to YU. This past year, our Jane & Finch Community Development coordinator and the group of young creatives that she supports needed a place to

gather. They ended up here at SGC. Our church's openness and hospitality has led them to be deeply appreciative and inspired to the point that praying for our church has become a regular part of their meetings. Thank you again for your hospitality!

The Jane & Finch team has brought on a new staff member to work in our soccer and road hockey outreaches. He has reached his support raising target and is raring to go. Now we only have to wait for Covid-19 restrictions to ease so we can restart our sports programs!

This year has also seen some encouraging growth in many of our youth. Young men and women that our staff have been journeying with for many years have shown some significant growth this past year. We truly are blessed to see God's work in the lives of the young people we serve.

We are continuing to work on our four year strategic plan of Making Space. One of the Jane Finch team's goals has been to integrate youth into the local church. This has been challenging, but we continue to work towards this. The pandemic has also brought a fresh take on how we do ministry. We've done our best to implement virtual gatherings where we could and we continue to explore innovative ways to do ministry.

Thank you again for your support and love.



Scott Moore, Executive Director



It is hard to reflect all the way back to June 2019 given the intensity of these last few months! I was so excited to launch our new four-year strategy in July, called "Making Space" - you can read all about it at making-space.yugta.ca. Over the past year, I have invested a significant amount of energy to begin exploring new ministries to develop at YU based on the needs of young people in our city, as

well as exploring how we can grow our staff and volunteer team in order to see more young people invested in meaningful, long-term relationships which are the heartbeat of transformation. I've been hugely proud of how our YU team has "pivoted" in this COVID-19 season to continue to be relevant and engaging with our young people. You can read a ton of encouraging short stories at covid.yugta.ca about this! It is a privilege to continue to lead the Toronto chapter of Youth Unlimited and I am so thankful for my Spring Garden family and all of the support you bring to our work.

Kathy Webb, Administrative Assistant



It has been a joy to continue serving at YU this past year. I have the privilege of providing administrative support to our staff in a variety of ways - from orienting new staff to coordinating our daily prayer calendar, from website updates to overseeing YU's involvement in fundraising events like the Toronto Waterfront Marathon. Some new responsibilities and areas of training have recently been added to my role which I am looking forward to in the year ahead! A heartfelt

THANK YOU to my Spring Garden family for your faithful support, prayers and encouragement.

John Wilkinson, Executive Coach and Strategist



I continue to enjoy my role as a resource to our ED (Scott Moore) as well as a Shepherd to our Central Services Team (18 staff). In addition, I have been seconded to our National team as a resource to the EDs in our Ontario and Quebec Chapters and as the senior advisor to the National Director. I am so thankful for these opportunities to serve as they fit well with my many years of experience with YFC and bring me great joy. Bless you all for standing by me

in prayer, support and encouragement.

Other Vocational Missionaries



Report from Becki Lee (AIA)

I am now in my 14th year serving with Athletes in Action (AIA), the sports ministry of Power to Change! As a ministry our mission is to help people know Jesus and his power to change the world, though sport. I work in the campus division of AIA, helping university athletes know Jesus and make Him known in the sports world and beyond. My specific role is as the Hub Director at the University of Guelph (U of G). This means I lead a team of three other staff and our AIA ministry

of athletes at the U of G.

We have continued to see growth within the ministry at the U of G, particularly in the area of new first and second year athletes getting involved, which was a focus this year. We have seen three athletes choose to follow Christ on our campus this year, and have many not-yet-Christian athletes who are firmly rooted in our community and learning what it means to follow Jesus. Please pray for my leadership of our staff and student leaders. Please also pray that we would see new student leaders raised up for the future, as well as seekers putting their faith in Christ.

Kaitlyn Ranasinghe



Thank you, Spring Garden, for your continued prayer and support this past year. I have the honour of leading Fight4Freedom's aftercare team of staff and volunteers as we support survivors of sex trafficking across Ontario. I also have the opportunity to participate in community education projects and our fundraising campaigns. Our aftercare programming offers outreach, case management, therapy, housing support, mentorship, financial assistance, and spiritual care to survivors across the province. In this last year we have been able to support more than 30 survivors in various ways. Having been with Fight4Freedom for nearly three years, I am beginning to see the long-term impacts of our support. It is so beautiful to see people overcoming challenges and growing into the people that God created them to be! I am beyond grateful for the love and support of our community. Thank you for being part of this ministry with me!

Report from Jen Chrystman (OMF)



How did an Ethiopian raised to hate Christians react to the vision of Jesus at 3 a.m. and His call to follow Him and preach the good news? How did a Russian Jewish military officer end up with a gospel tract on his hospital nightstand and talk a local pastor into baptizing him? How did a young lady from Oz end up being a leader among missional professionals in China? How did a Japanese guy learn about Jesus when 99.8% of his countrymen haven't yet been reached? It was just another normal

week, listening to stories of Jesus' miracles of grace. Pastor A from Ethiopia was in the room next to Boris from Russia. Down the hallway was "Beth" from Australia who works in Shanghai while Shingo from Japan and Preeti from India enjoyed other rooms at our OMF guest home. If you'd like to hear the stories, you'll have to come for breakfast sometime. You could even pray with Neri who smuggles food into Venezuela for prison inmates, Dr. Lydia who escaped from her hospital "prison" in a mostly Muslim country or Brian who chairs an international leadership group in SE Asia.

Thanks Spring Garden, for keeping me managing our OMF guest home here in Toronto. What a privilege to welcome and care for so many amazing people. Several from our community have also volunteered in the kitchen when life was very hectic. One day, a doctor, nurse and teacher joined me chopping veggies, stirred pots and created delicious meals.



God's heart is for all nations. There continue to be so many ways to join God in sharing the good news of Jesus in all its fullness. I wonder who will PRAY, LEARN, MOBILISE, SEND, WELCOME or GO?



STEWARDSHIP & ADMIN

Church Clerk June 2019 – May 2020



BIRTHS

Nov 19, 2019 Sara to Kamila Wegener Junqueira de Carvalho and Alyson Carvalho | Dec 17, 2019 Elior to Karen and Sabas Garcia



DEDICATIONS

None



BAPTISMS

Nov 10, 2019 Kamyar Ghelichkhani



NEW MEMBERS

Marcus Barnes



MARRIAGES

None



MEMBERS TRANSFERRED OUT

None



DEATHS

Feb 7, 2020 Ubirajara da Silva



At the time of this report

135 active members

Respectfully submitted, Karen Cassel, Church Clerk

Property Committee

(June 2019 to June 2020)

The Property Committee is accountable to keep the facilities and grounds of the church and our house next door in good working order. To do so takes a budget of \$120,000 and lots of volunteer labour.

During the last 12 months we have completed many initiatives ranging in size from the small and quick (example; install a door stop) to the large and ongoing (example; install video surveillance system) and at any given moment the committee has many different items requiring our attention. This takes time, energy and dedication and our committee has worked hard to keep our church home a welcoming place.

Thanks to Fazil Mohammed and his crew from Moe's cleaning for keeping floors, windows and furniture clean and for dealing with some of the regular repairs. As almost no one is in the church during the Covid 19 crisis they have been handling special cleaning and disinfecting tasks instead of the usual ones. The rooms are really looking great! Thanks also to Neil Bickerton for his work on maintaining our walls with paint touch-ups and plaster/drywall repairs. Thanks to Cheryl Chapman, Opal Fuller, Joanne Laing and Peggy Moore for their work in keeping our kitchens in great shape!

The committee would like to personally thank Peggy Moore who has represented Property at Deacons over the last several years. She has done a wonderful job.

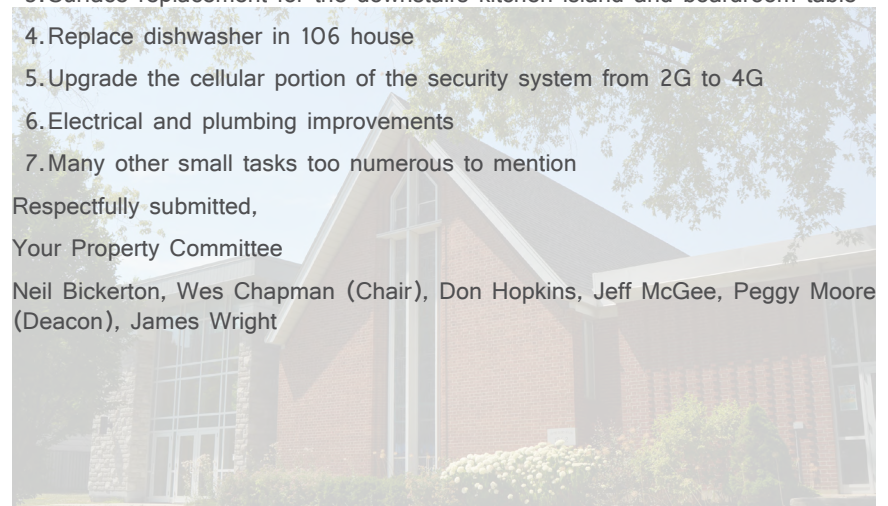
From June 2019 to June 2020, the committee has completed the following projects:

1. Lock improvements to doors, inside and out
2. Installation of video camera surveillance system for parking lot
3. Surface replacement for the downstairs kitchen island and boardroom table
4. Replace dishwasher in 106 house
5. Upgrade the cellular portion of the security system from 2G to 4G
6. Electrical and plumbing improvements
7. Many other small tasks too numerous to mention

Respectfully submitted,

Your Property Committee

Neil Bickerton, Wes Chapman (Chair), Don Hopkins, Jeff McGee, Peggy Moore (Deacon), James Wright



FINANCE

Report from Geoffrey Moore (Treasurer)

2019 Financial Results

2019 Budget – Operations, Mission and Property	\$568,322
Cash Receipts for Operation, Mission & Property	\$587,151
Net Positive Result	\$18,829
Actual Expenditures	\$551,985
Net Cash Position at 12/31/2019	\$635,000

2019 Comparison to Approved 2019 Budget

	2019 Budget	2019 Result
A. Operations	483,680	478,703
B. Missions	72,142	60,993
C. Operations	12,500	12,289
Sub-Total	568,322	551,985
C. Property	55,860	(50,688)
Net Budget	512,462	536,463

Caring & Sharing Fund

The C & S Fund helps those people related to the Spring Garden family who are in a time of need.

Donations to the C & S in 2019 were \$12,264 and expenditures were \$13,058. The Cash Balance at December 31, 2019 in the C & S Fund was \$4,997..

Audited Financial Statements – have been completed for 2019 and will be released at the June 14th Annual Meeting.

Comments

A huge “thank you” to Marion Cameron for her business acumen who handles all the accounting functions! And to our 4 Count Teams, coordinated by Darlene Boyd, who faithfully count the Sunday offerings.

The Average Annual Receipts for the past 9 years are \$559,000 - a low of \$522,532 in 2014 and a high of \$587,151 in 2019.

Covid-19 Pandemic in 2020 has been a world wide event. This has impacted

the Church Ministry because we cannot gather together, with only 5 people allowed to meet until at least June 2020. The Staff have done an excellent job in streaming the Sunday Services which have been well attended.

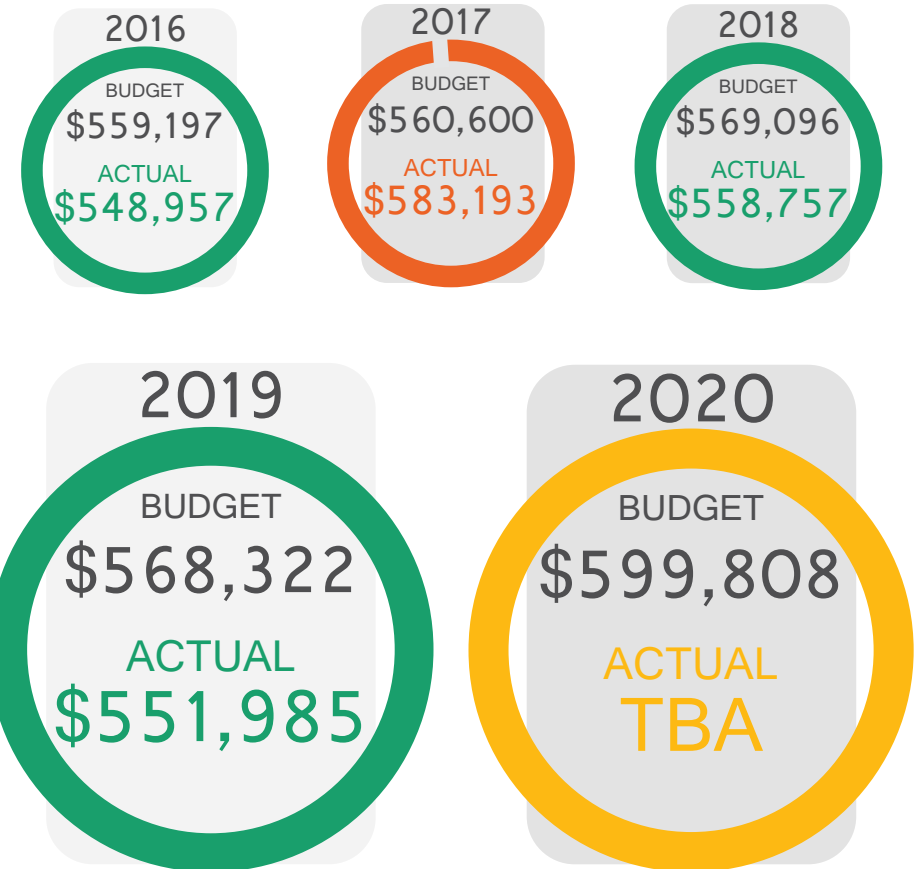
In 2019 we were blessed with a gift of over \$300,000 by Ruth Thompson, a longtime member of Spring Garden who looked after the library for many years. We were also received bequests from Thelma Anderson and Jim Bilimoria for which we are very thankful.

Please remember that we have a 2020 Budget of \$599,808. Please faithfully support this Ministry!

Count Teams

We have 4 Count Teams headed up by Darlene Boyd to ensure that offerings are counted weekly without any delay!

Historical Budgets vs. Actual Receipts (includes property revenue).



IT/AV Committee

Collaborators: Colin Chapman, Wes Chapman, Kevin Lai, Sam Lee

The IT/AV Committee coordinates the technology requirements for audio/visual needs at church which often span different church ministries and departments. We try to meet at least once a year to discuss, recommend and coordinate the technical aspects of supporting church ministry. This year, we did not find time to meet because Kevin was too busy. Not much was done this year, until COVID19 hit.

There has been some explorations on giving the church AV systems a brand new overhaul. We are currently in the planning stages still.

The front office requested some upgrades to the monitors for graphic design, so a 4K high quality monitor was purchased for Dale's great multimedia work. Greg got a new, fast laptop for portable work (before we knew the pandemic was coming). Some software was purchased to go along with some of the office work. The boardroom TV, PC, and webcam came in handy this year for Zoom meetings which facilitated the Interim Management Committee meetings during the pastoral team transitions.

The installation of the security cameras at the church was initiated by the church office and property department, but did not involve the IT/AV Committee. When Kevin was eventually informed of this installation, he met with the pastoral team to discuss the implications, and then proceeded to negotiate with them on modifying the installation to address some privacy and security concerns. The topic of privacy, security, and surveillance will need further ongoing discussions by the church leadership.

COVID19 pandemic changed how the church delivered its Sunday Service and ministries in a matter of a week. Jeremy, Brandon and Colin (with Kevin's last minute troubleshooting network issues) managed to rapidly deploy streaming services that rivalled professional setups. There has also been some equipment and software purchase decisions that were made quickly in order to adapt to this new way of doing church. The IT/AV Committee will be supporting this important ministry as we move forward.

Fortunately, Kevin had the foresight that remote work was coming before the pandemic started, and had already positioned the IT systems for secure VPN, portable VoIP extensions, clientless Remote Desktop, and cloud file sharing. This enabled him to support the pastoral team, despite being busy himself with pandemic preparations for his medical clinic moving to virtual care. Unfortunately, there are now a backlog list of tech requests that will have to wait while the pandemic occupies our time and energy.

In the past, most of our support from the AV team, and digital or print media designs were done by our wonderful church volunteers. However, this means also we rely on volunteers to help troubleshoot technical issues for the office staff when problems arise. If anyone is interested in serving in this area of IT, AV, or

media arts, please let us know! We need more help in managing the day-to-day issues that arise, designing and publishing media, as well as special projects.

Resource Centre

Report from Karen Cassel

The Resource Centre provides books, videos, and DVDs for general Christian growth, study, and leisure. The library resources are provided to speak to the needs and events that are taking place in the wider church life. Reading materials are an invaluable resource for personal and spiritual growth. We are able to offer important resources that cannot be found in the public library system.

We are so fortunate to have a book budget and have the ability to purchase books to meet our objectives, and to support the teachings we enjoy each Sunday.

There is a monthly feature in Delve that gives a synopsis of books and DVD's recently added, and/or supports the messages of that month. During the months of quarantine due to COVID 19, no new materials were purchased. Instead of featuring print books in Delve, links were provided to ebooks from the Toronto Public Libraries and to other sites with material related to the theme of the messages.

Over the past year, some of the new titles added include:

Invitation to a journey: a road map for spiritual formation, by Thomas Mulholland

As I recall: discovering the place of memories in our spiritual life, by Casey Tygrett

Beautifully broken, DVD

Overcomer, DVD

The Resource Centre is online, and you can look up and request books from the church website. Go to: <https://www.springgardenchurch.ca/>

Click on Resources, Library or [click here](#).

This will take you directly to a search screen where you can input your search terms (title, author, subject, etc.) to discover what is available in the library.

You can submit a request for a book, and it will be emailed to me.

Nominating Committee Report

Deacons (3 year term)

Current Deacons	Finishing Year
<i>Sam Chaise</i>	2020
<i>Peggy Moore</i>	2020
Martin Dewar	2021
Joanne Laing	2021
Shannon Loewen	2021
Krysten Cameron	2022
Jeff McGee	2022
Monica Kim	2022
Nominees	
Ben Reynolds	2023
Cheryl Chapman	2023

Elders (3 year term)

Current Elders	Finishing Year
<i>Darlene Boyd</i>	2020
<i>Brad Sider</i>	2020
<i>Garth Barron</i>	2020
Anne Barron	2022
Koon Wah Leung	2022
Clem Lee	2022
Nominees	
Gonzalo Librado	2023
Margaret Sutton	2023
Myrna Frost	2023

Officers (1 year term)

Position	
Moderator	Jane McClean
Vice-Moderator	Mike Penner
Treasurer	Geoff Moore
Vice-Treasurer	Marion Cameron
Clerk	Karen Cassel
Nominees	
Moderator	Jane McClean
Vice-Moderator	Mike Penner
Treasurer	Geoff Moore
Vice-Treasurer	Marion Cameron
Clerk	Karen Cassel

Nominating Committee Members (2 year term)

Current Members	Finishing Year
<i>Brad Sider</i>	2020
<i>Jin Lee</i>	2020
<i>Esther Penner</i>	2020
Kevin Lai	2021
Cliff Shipmaker	2021
Kathy Webb	2021
Nominees	
Meghan Valentine	2022
Art Laing	2022
Koon Wah Leung	2022

We extend our **thanks** to those who have served and those who continue to serve our church.



spring garden church

Spirituality Grace Community

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