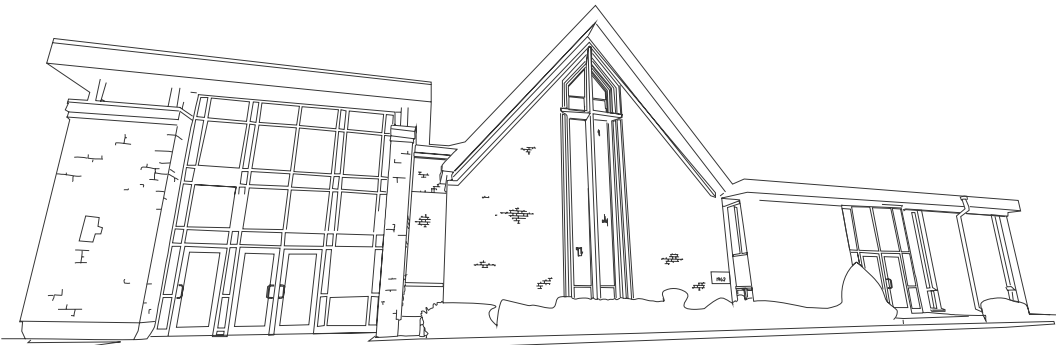


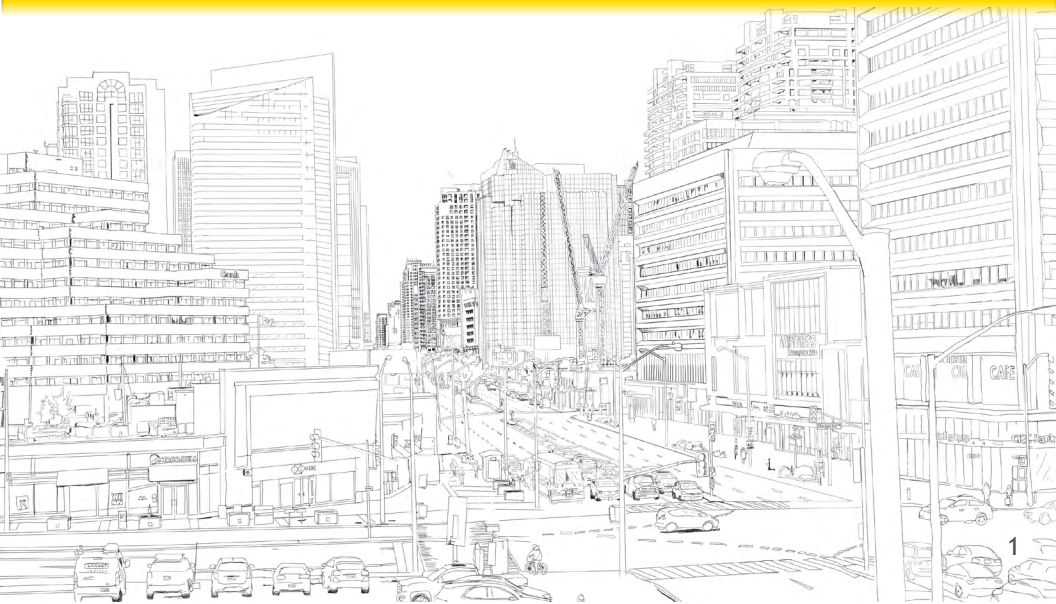
Spring Garden Church



JUNE 2022



ANNUAL REPORT



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



Sam Lee
Co-Lead Pastor

Acts 3:19-21:

“Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”

By God’s presence we belong, we are sent and, we are renewed. This past year, we as the leadership team of Deacons, Elders, and Pastors sensed from God that these three themes were what we were to focus on as we moved forward in this new season. As I was reflecting on these three areas, I realised that the common thread that holds all three of these areas together is the very presence of God. We cannot belong, we cannot be sent, nor can we be renewed without the presence of Christ in us, around us, and ahead of us. So in the midst of our desire to move forward in belonging, sending, and being renewed is to remember that it is only in Christ that we can do any one of these things.

One of the main ways we seek out God’s presence is through our Sunday morning worship. I appreciate how Greg leads us in worship by emphasizing the importance of communal worship where the people of SGC participate together in worshipping God. We tried to reflect this through our sermon series and the Kaleidoscope Community was our desire to see how we can continue to embrace the diverse community that our Triune God calls us to be. I am thankful for Anne, Colin, and Jeremy who led our worship bands and to Brandon and Dale without whom our sound and live stream would not be possible.

Another way in which we sought out God’s presence was through our leadership team. We held a half day retreat for our leadership team where we were led by Pastor Curt Erb in a time of seeking the presence of Jesus. It was a great morning of retreat where we spent time together in worship and listening to Jesus.

I am thankful to our Deacons and Elders who have made this year a great year of serving together. The Deacons had a lot to deal with and did an amazing job of leading us from that of finances and property, to that of polity and structure. The Elders continue to pray for the church and its

community. Thank you for your desire to pray and to keep us trusting in God.

We had a few community building events that I wanted to highlight. To kick off Lent, we had our International House of Pancake Supper where we were able to gather for first time since COVID in sharing a meal together. It was a great way to be with one another and to raise some money for our refugee family. Easter Sunday was also a highlight for me as many of us were able to celebrate the risen Christ and then gather on the lawn for some lemonade and an egg hunt. Lastly, 8 men gathered together to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity where we helped with a housing project out in Oshawa. It was a great experience of bonding through service. We hope to have more ways of belonging together and look forward to more opportunities this coming year.

This year was the first time since Gene’s retirement that we have had a full staff complement. Though we were only able to be a full team for about seven months (with my sabbatical and then Greg’s), I am very excited for the possibility of what this team can do together! Please continue to pray for the team that we will serve God and you with humility and trust in God.

Lastly, what I found to be cool about our focus this year on the presence of God is that if we believe that this is what we have discerned from God, then God is the one who wants us to seek His face. This means God wants us to seek His presence, to spend time with Him, to commune with Him. When I see the word repent in Acts 3, I see more than just our need to repent but for God’s desire for us to turn back to Him. The God of the universe known to us in the person of Jesus wants us. How cool is that? Isn’t this love? That He loved us first? The amazing truth about our God is that He is the one who loved us so much that He came to be with us. We did not seek Him out but rather it is He who sought us out first and continues to call us to Himself! All we have to do is to respond to His invitation by saying yes. So we enter into this new season with open hands and open hearts, knowing that God wants to be with us and is calling us to Himself. May we, as His people, continue to seek Him as He seeks us.



Abby Davidson Pastor of Missional Discipleship

Our theme going into this year has been “By God’s presence: we belong, we are sent, we are renewed”.

The thought of God’s presence is so familiar at times that I don’t think twice about it, taking it for granted. Then other times, God’s presence surprises me and I am moved to tears knowing that He has chosen us, his people, as the dwelling place for His Spirit. Coming out of a period that has been defined by restrictions, this thought of God with us, God in us gives me comfort and hope. It has been so easy to focus on what we can’t do. Yet I have seen how making space for gathering in worship to offer both lament and joyful praise has opened up new avenues to experience and share God’s presence with each other and in our city.

Many of you have found in a place to belong in one of our Life Groups. In the Fall, our groups went through a common curriculum based on the book Beautiful Community by Irwyn L. Ince Jr. Groups read scripture and had conversation around unity in the midst of diversity with a focus on racial and cultural diversity. These were tough conversations to have and I know that many were challenged by them. I trust we can continue to have these important conversations as we seek to be a church where people aren’t just welcomed, but find a place to belong. I am aware that many new people have come to Spring Garden during the pandemic, most who are new to the neighbourhood and also new to the country. Many of them have told me how much Spring Garden feels like their home. Praise God for that! So many of our new friends arriving are also new to the faith and so in January we started up an Alpha program. We meet twice a month to have lunch together, watch a short film and discuss life and faith. It has been a great way to get to know each other on a deeper level and also ask honest questions. Thanks to Anne and Garth Barron who have been leading that group with Pastor Jeremy and me.

We gather for worship and the Word and then we are sent out to share God’s love and God’s story with others. We had a few opportunities for this sharing. During the summer of 2021 we joined Toronto City Mission in their first Pen pal project. Four volunteers from Spring Garden Church were matched with children living in an under-resourced area of our neighbourhood. Every week they wrote letters and chose a small gift for their pen pals. I had the privilege of delivering the letters each week and seeing the joy on the kids’ faces as they read about their new friends. It was chance for them to practice their reading and writing and get to know new people. It was a chance for us to get to know neighbours outside the church too!

Throughout the summer and fall we continued our Missions’ nights: evenings set aside to learn about mission and different organizations. We went through the documentary series “Helping Without Hurting” which offers a de-colonized view of mission that empowers and encourages those being helped. We also heard from an organization called Dawn for the Poor that sponsors education for children living in poverty in the Philippines. In November we invited filmmaker Steph Vizi and Pastor Ben Peltz to come and share the documentary called “Survivors” and then host a Q&A with us on reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours. Our most recent Missions’ Night was led by our Refugee Action Team. We heard from our sponsored Syrian family the Rasos (Risous) and learned more about their life in Lebanon as refugees. Please remember to pray for their safety and that their application to come to Canada would be approved quickly!

In December we wanted to provide a space for lament as Christmas can be a particularly difficult time for those who are grieving. We held a Blue Christmas service and invited people to gather for a more contemplative style of worship. We had Spring Gardeners share about their own journey with grief and heard about the hope that Jesus offers us in the midst of grief. The Christmas season also brought news of the conflict in Afghanistan as the West pulled out of the country and the Taliban took control. Canada welcomed thousands of refugees and many arrived in Canada with nothing but the clothes they were wearing. As a church we collected winter jackets and clothing and were able to deliver them to refugees settling in Toronto. We were able to support the refugees living in Matthew House by providing them with a Christmas Dinner. We were also able to support a need of a newly arrived family through our Caring & Sharing fund. Thank you for your generous donations to this fund which has supported many in our community by offering help for groceries, rent and counselling.

I am aware of the strong heart that exists in our church to love and support those who are newly arrived to Canada. Whether it is long-term support for the Risou family or meeting the short-term needs of those just landing in the country, it has been amazing to see how God’s Spirit is working through you as you are sent to those being sent to Canada.

Seeing the ways in which you are prompted by the Spirit to serve has been a source of renewal for me. God is alive and active and at work through his Church. We are just a small part of the greater Church body and yet God’s presence is apparent right here at Spring Garden Church. The prophet Isaiah wrote that those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. We live in a world where hope is promised by many but often disappoints. For us who hope on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness, we may be surprised, but we won’t be disappointed. God is with us, God is in us, all glory to God!



Jeremy Ranasinghe Children & Youth Pastor

“2 When you pass through the waters,
 I will be with you;
 and when you pass through the rivers,
 they will not sweep over you.
 When you walk through the fire,
 you will not be burned;
 the flames will not set you ablaze.
 3 For I am the Lord your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour”
 - Isaiah 43:2-3

The last few years have been significant for us as a community. We’ve had moments of joy, sadness and frustration caused by varying circumstances in life and through the effects of the pandemic. There has recently been a feeling of relief as the lessening of restrictions has allowed us to gather more in person. This passage in Isaiah is powerful for me as I think of our ministry over this time and as we continue. While we’re not entirely free from the effects of Covid-19, this ministry year provided the opportunity for us to do good things together, and I see that as a part of God’s leading.

Before the ministry year began, Pastor Sam, Ben Reynolds (Deacon of Children and Youth Discipleship), and I met to review our policy for working with children and youth. We recognized that our policy at the time was created in 2012 and needed an update. We then began a yearly membership with Plan to Protect/Winning Kids and had them audit and help us update our current policy. We’ve since made this review of the policy an annual occurrence. As this is a new part of our operation, a budget code (5055) was created for our policy and membership fees. The amount for that line is still being determined following our yearly review and policy audit. However, apart from that budget, all-volunteer screenings and police background checks will continue to run from the primary Net Discipleship budget (5050).

In my role, which oversees the children, youth and (new) young adult ministries, we began with a trajectory of having in-person gatherings. This choice was made as we observed the restrictions and guidelines given for working with children and youth. As part of our due diligence, we felt it was best to follow the direction of our closest school boards, as their operation

is what primarily affects the overall health of our children and youth. In January 2022, Jeremy Heidt joined our team as a ministry intern and assisted me with various needs. Jeremy H ended his time with us following Easter, and we are grateful for his presence and contribution during his internship.

Children’s Ministry

One area of importance that I want to highlight is our Summer Camp ministries which ran in person this year. We were so happy to be able to provide camp for our community. As we operated our camps with a strict cohort model, our summer staff found creative ways to implement those complexities as part of our camp environment. I am grateful for the summer staff, who were very dedicated to providing camp to our community with the given guidelines.

Our children’s ministry began in September; we limited our numbers to fit covid guidelines. We are happy that we can provide in-person worship to our children for Nursery - Pre-K, JK- Gr 2, and Gr 3 -5. We have also had Hall Monitors on patrol to provide extra support. A special thanks to our ministry volunteers, who are why we were able to provide Sunday worship for our children. Looking ahead, we are excited about the prospects of opening our children’s worship to be in a similar structure as before the pandemic. We encourage all our congregants to consider serving with us as we’ll need more involvement to make this happen.

Some final highlights of the ministry year include two child care nights (A-Night-Out) and our Easter egg hunt for our church and community. Our childcare events brought out a smaller number than expected, but both events had a core group of children with whom we had an excellent opportunity to connect. We played building-wide games during the childcare nights and enjoyed each other’s company after not having the chance to do so for a couple of years. It was amazing to see how much the kids have grown during the time, and we are glad they could join us. Our Easter egg hunt was a big hit with our community as we had over 75 kids and youth join us after our Easter worship.



Youth Ministry:

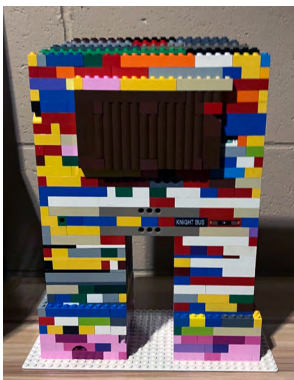
This has been a good year for our youth group. As we've been online for the last few years, being in person has brought back some feelings of normalcy. While a lot can be said for this year, I will highlight some of the best moments that capture what it has been like.

Our youth leaders were Brittini Lewis and Kaitlyn Ranasinghe. I am very thankful for their involvement in leading our Girls Life Groups and their presence during youth events and retreats. Without their involvement as leaders, much of what we had this year would not have been possible.

Our focus for the year was connecting with God through embracing and recognizing our individual and collective creativity. Creativity, in this sense, is part of the Image of God, which highlights our uniqueness and diversity as individuals. Our Image of God is also what connects and defines us as a faith community. We continued to focus on building and nurturing healthy relationships between leaders and youth during our fellowship nights. However, from a structural perspective, we split the monthly events to focus on high-energy games and activities, as well as creative arts and crafts. During our fellowship events, we implemented a creative group project when we felt there was an opportunity. These collective works beautify our youth lounge with items our youth feel involves and represents them as a community. Together we've created a few things you can see at end of the next page.

A significant highlight of the year was our Jr and Sr High Retreats. As our original plans were postponed due to weather and restrictions, both retreats took place during March break. Our Sr High youth met during the early part of the week, while our Jr High youth met over the weekend.

Our Sr High Youth traveled to different parts of the city and visited both the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Royal Ontario Museum. In touring the city, we conversed about faith and church traditions/history and the importance of community. We ended our time together at a small restaurant on our last day out.



Our Jr High Youth partnered with the youth group from Immanuel Baptist Church. Over the weekend of the March break, we spent time at each other's building and ended our time together at Tyndale. Over the weekend, we debated cows vs horses, ate good food, and worshiped together. We also had conversations about being made in God's image, the eternal value we have as God's children, and the importance of being active in our faith community. The retreat felt so good that youth from both groups expressed a desire for more activities together.

Young Adults:

Our young adult ministry had an initial launch; however, we're still in the building phase. Recognizing the faith needs of our young adults and some new members of our church, Pastor Abby and I partnered to lead an Alpha group alongside Anne and Garth Barron. We plan to continue meeting after we finish Alpha together to have more conversations about Jesus, faith and life.



The Deacon's Board

Report from Krysten Cameron



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 (Chair), Cheryl Chapman (Worship), Martin Dewar (Community Life and Missions), Esther Penner (Membership), Scott Moore (Vice-Chair, Secretary and Property), Debbie Templemeyer (Adult Discipleship and Pastoral Care), Jeff McGee (Finance), Ben Reynolds (Children and Youth Discipleship and Property).

We have worked hard this year with the whole Leadership Team to discern, focus on, and follow the plans God has for Spring Garden. 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 hybrid services and COVID-19 management.

The house at 106 Spring Garden was a major project for Deacons last summer and into the fall. We managed to complete major renovations and rent it out to a wonderful family. The renewal and rejuvenation of the property committee has been a topic at many of our meetings and we hope you have noticed some of the work that has been going on to keep the church up and running.

Not nearly as exciting, but just as important - 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, policy and procedure reviews,

and staffing and personnel matters. We continue to monitor our finances and also trust that God will provide. The past few years have left many of us facing challenges, and the Deacons are no exception. We continue to be grateful for the hope and joy that has also been present and the ways our church has supported its community.

As we slowly begin to gather together in person and in a hybrid format for some, we know that we will continue to partner together to see, share and demonstrate to one another and to the community the love and grace of God.

As the chair, I have sensed and experienced God using the gifts he has given each Deacon, to serve in meaningful ways and to support one another in His work. What a blessing and joy it is to be able to serve the church in this way! I would like to take this opportunity to formally and publicly thank the whole team for your time, your faithful service, your attention to supporting one another, your willingness to share your gifts and acts of service, your participation in my inclusion activities and your prayerful presence on the Board. I have grown in my own leadership and it has been a pleasure to serve alongside this team.

I know the team joins me in welcoming our new Deacons for the upcoming year. We ask our fellow Spring Gardeners to continue to pray for our church and for the Deacons as we work together in managing church resources. May we be able to discern together and follow what God has planned for us, and may we know joy in serving this way.

Elders

Report from Anne Barron



As Elders of Spring Garden, we are entrusted to pray for the church, to offer spiritual advice and to support the church body in various ways. We consider this to be both an honour and a privilege.

Prayer is at the center of all that we do. We meet monthly with Sam and Greg to provide prayer support and accountability to them and the other Pastoral Team members as they lead us as a congregation. Each Elder also connects with a Staff member on a regular basis to pray personally for them and their families. We have also offered prayer coverage for events that have been happening such as Light of The World, Alpha and the Prayer Retreat.

We continue to provide discernment and prayer support as we meet as a combined leadership of the church - Deacons, Pastors, and Elders. These times of coming together allow us to hear from God and each other in an extended time of prayer and growing together spiritually. We are continually amazed at how God uses these times to focus us and move us forward as a church.

Throughout the year we have blessed and prayed for you, our church family. We have walked with those who have had health struggles, those who have lost loved ones, those who are experiencing job loss, mental health issues and the burdens of everyday life. Being able to worship in-person this year has allowed us to connect with those who need prayer or even just a kind word after the service. We have also encouraged you to submit prayer requests through a confidential mailbox on our website. These requests are passed on to the Elders and are kept confidential and are not put on the prayer line unless you request it. Please feel free to reach out to one of us through our contact information in Delve, through the confidential mailbox or in person at church. No matter how small the request is we would love to

pray for you.

As we have continued to pray for the church this year during the pandemic, we have felt the heaviness that this challenge has brought to all of us. It has been important to pray for each other as we pray for the congregation through these changing times.

I would also like to thank Koon and Clem for serving as Elders the past three years and pray that God would bless them as they rest and continue to serve you in other ways at Spring Garden.

We give thanks to God for the many answers to prayer this year, for the protection and strength he has provided and His faithfulness to us in so many ways. May He continue to guide us and protect us as a congregation and show us His path as we seek to Belong, are Refreshed and are Sent Out to build His Kingdom.

LOVING GOD & LOVING OTHERS

Communal Worship

Submitted on Anne Barron

On our website it says, “We believe that communal worship is when God’s people gather together as a particular community for ENGAGEMENT in ROOTED and COMMUNAL worship, giving glory to God and witnessing to His Kingdom.”

We are all called to worship. As Psalm 150:6 says, “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.” The beautiful thing about worship at Spring Garden is that when we gather together on any given Sunday morning it is not one person, it is not a Pastor leading some singing, it is a whole host of people bringing their gifts to participate in and to facilitate our worship to God. It is truly communal.

We began this ministry season still worshipping on-line in our homes. When we opened the doors in September for in-person worship we were greeted with hand sanitizing stations, screeners, ushers; many people serving on the “Welcome Crew” to help us to gather for worship safely.

Before a Sunday morning gathering even begins the “Creative Team” has prepared the platform with a display to reflect the current sermon series as well as slides and other visuals to help us to engage with all our senses in worship.

As our time of worship begins, one of four teams of musicians has practiced and prepared to lead us in the musical and liturgical aspects of our worship together. Throughout the gathering there are many others participating in worship by, blessing the children and youth, leading us in the prayers of the people, reading scripture, writing liturgy, sharing stories, preaching the sermon... Each of these pieces has someone co-ordinating and scheduling the participants for each week. As well, when we celebrate communion, specially baked allergen free bread and communion cups are prepared, and servers distribute the elements and offer a blessing.

Another group of people are up in the balcony during the gathering serving on the “Technical Team”. Setting up microphones, operating the computer to change the slides for the songs, managing the sound, the on-line streaming, changing camera angles are only some of the things these volunteers do every Sunday. Special mention to Dale and Brandon for the many hours put in during the week to coordinate the technical aspects leading up to Sunday morning.

Blessings and Thanks to everyone who participates and serves in our beautiful, communal Spring Garden worship.

Lunch Together & Bible Discussion

Submitted on behalf of all of our participants, Victoria Shipmaker

Over the years Spring Garden has welcomed people in our community to join us in our Bible studies. This was often achieved by an hour of lunch together where Spring would provide the tea and coffee and invite anyone who wanted to meet new people, practise their English or “hang out”. Some people would choose to stay for the Bible discussion which was such a blessing as we would get new perspectives! Of course Covid has changed our routine and this year we have not been able to host our Lunch Together nor do much advertising outside of our church. We miss this intentionality about being a place of belonging for those who are seeking fellowship. We did however manage to pivot to Zoom, with old friends joining in from across Canada for the Bible Discussion. We have journeyed together since last June with a break in the fall. We have been doing the discussion through Zoom and onsite simultaneously.

Our series started in June 2021 with a study on the Holy Spirit present with God’s people from as far back as Genesis. We discussed the role of the Spirit in our lives and in the life of the Church. We observed Advent using the book “The Women of Christmas” by Liz Curtis Higgs. It was enjoyed by both those who appreciate the historical and theological context and those who enjoy storytelling. In both of these series there was a hope for renewal for us as individuals and as a church after losing so much fellowship together and navigating being a church in separate places.

We next read Philemon and then Colossians. It was upon discussing Colossians that we realised how much depth there is to discussions about sin, salvation and grace and that an overview of these ideas might be helpful leading into Easter. We hoped to attract a few people who are not familiar with the Bible. At the end of May we will have finished this theme which started with our story in God starting with the Garden of Eden and finishing with John the Baptist. We have done a shallow survey of the time of judges, Saul, David and Solomon, the role of the prophets, the fall and exile of the northern and southern kingdoms and the return of the exiles to Jerusalem. We have tried to imagine how these stories speak to us today to not only understand the Bible more but to envision how we can live out our lives as followers of Christ wherever we are found.

Our group has been blessed with a variety of backgrounds and perspectives. One participant stated “(I) have rarely been in a Bible study that encompasses so many, very realistic points of view”. We would be more fully representative if a few more men could join us.

I am taking a break from leading for the summer. My hope is that after the summer we will be able to invite the community to drop in with a time of food and fellowship before the Bible discussion. It is expected that as more people are able to come on site that we will work to accommodate those who can only participate via Zoom. However, the Bible study is a ministry of Spring so if someone would like to continue throughout the summer or beyond or has new ideas and approaches please let Abby know.

Wednesday Refresh

Report by Faith Holwyn

Refresh has met weekly through the past year on Zoom. We tried one week at the church in September but felt the risks were too high so immediately returned to our Zoom format. We have between six and ten women who meet weekly, to study a short part of the Bible, share our challenges and faith journey and to pray for each other. Jennifer Chrystman and Faith Holwyn have shared leadership and Beverly Holtzman has continued to be our support and communications guru through this challenging year when she has had increasing pain.

We are looking forward to being able to meet in person again, as not everyone who has been part of our group in the past, is comfortable with Zoom or interested in meeting in that way. So as this year draws to a close we give thanks to God for guiding us through this time and we look forward to what next year will hold as we enter a time of re-opening and reconnecting in person.

SHOWING GOD'S CARE & SHARING GOD'S STORY

Garden Team

Submitted by Brenda Forder

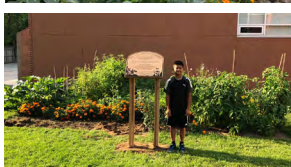
The Community Garden has become a place for people to meet and gather, particularly a blessing during COVID-19. Over the 2021 season it also drew in several neighbours from the community who planted plants and came to water the garden.

During the spring and fall of 2021 we expanded the garden to almost double the previous size so it's now about 280 Sq ft. Abby and Dale also designed and had a beautiful sign made for the garden which has been a wonderful addition to share about the garden with the community.

Having this garden provides space and opportunity to engage with and honour all of Creation, and in doing so, creates space and opportunity to engage with and honour God our Creator. As we learn and grow and commune together right alongside these fruits and vegetables, busy bees and sneaky squirrels, we are gifted a beautiful harvest that we can in turn gift to those in our community facing food insecurity, and care for our neighbours.

For the past 2 years, we have partnered with Eva's Satellite, a local shelter for homeless youth aged 16-24, sharing produce from the garden with them. They provide 3 meals/day plus snacks to about 17 youth. Prior to COVID restrictions they would also provide community meals for 50-60 people. Over the course of the 2021 season, 13 deliveries of fresh produce were made to the kitchen at Eva's Satellite. Our harvests included radishes, beans, tomatoes, zucchini, hot peppers, carrots, and herbs. The staff at Eva's were very gracious and grateful to receive the produce, I'll share a thank you note from them:

"Just want to say thank you! The produce has been amazing. It's so fun for me to get to cook

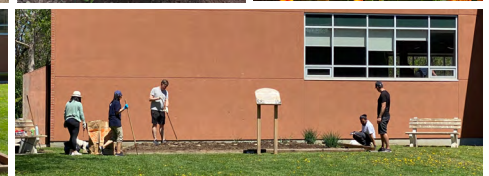


with such great ingredients and gives the youth so much more variety in their diet.

We are so fortunate to be the recipients of healthy, local, delicious produce for our residents to enjoy. Please extend my gratitude to all the volunteers who helped make this happen."

Thank you to all of our volunteers who put in many hours of sweat equity this season: Alice and Martin Bouwma, Eva Sham, Erin Chapman, Cliff Shipmaker, Maria Spear, Colleen Stevens and Brenda Forder, all the children, and Anja Turner who made the weekly deliveries. Last but not least, a special thank you to our hundreds of 6 legged volunteers who tirelessly visited all our flowers, assisting with the delicate and essential task of pollination.

This year is off to a great start as the edging has been reinstalled after the expansion and the garden is ready to be planted on May 29. Eva's has moved temporarily, so we will be donating our produce to NeighbourLink this year.



Refugee Action Group(RAG)

Submitted by Phyllis McGee

“Speak up for people who cannot speak for themselves. Protect the rights of all who are helpless. Speak for them and be a righteous judge. Protect the rights of the poor and needy.” Proverbs 31: 8-9

Hopelessness is overwhelming in Lebanon as over a million Syrian Refugees live in limbo, unable to return to Syria and prevented from assimilating into Lebanese society.

In 2016, Spring Garden sponsored the RISOU family (Sam, Tarik, Hanaa and the kids).

In the fall of 2020, Tarik Risou requested assistance in bringing his brother and his family to Canada as their situation was becoming increasingly dire with little work, crushing inflation, food scarcity, and no school for the children. After consulting with Pastoral Staff and CBOQ, a proposal was made and approved by the Deacons in April 2021. Hope was renewed for the RASO family—Soleman, Nesren, Dawod, Abd, and Rama as 5 spots were available in the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec (CBOQ)’s 2021 refugee allotment. Phyllis McGee and Tarik worked with them to complete the refugee application forms which were submitted to the Resettlement Operations Center-Ottawa (ROC-O) through CBOQ. The applications were accepted as complete in July, 2021. At that time there was an average 42-month wait time between application completion and arrival in Canada. With COVID and other world concerns this increased to 46 months.

The Refugee Action Group was re-established in July 2021 with the goal of supporting the RASO family in coming to Canada. The main responsibilities are raising adequate funds to support the family for 12 months and resettlement of the family. We have raised about \$17,000 but need need approximately \$70,000 to adequately support the family for a year. The members of RAG are from Spring Garden and friends of the RASO family involved in their resettlement.



An unexpected outcome of working together has been a sense of community and belonging even though we have never met in person as a committee—the marvels of Zoom. It has been wonderful to reconnect with Sam, Tarik, Hanaa and the kids. Tarik has been a member of the committee which gives him ownership in the process, and he keeps the lines of communication open between his brother and us. We have prayed together, not only for the RASO family, but each other and world events influencing the movement of Refugees. Given the possible length of time before the RASO family comes to Canada it is difficult to know how to keep SGC involved. In March 2022, the Pancake Tuesday Dinner provided an opportunity for Tarik to reconnect with many people he knows at SGC and meet new people, and he made the most wonderful Syrian desserts. Please see ongoing updates in DELVE about the RASO family.

Sponsoring a Refugee family will provide an opportunity for SGC to send out many members into the community to help the RASO family resettle in Canada as they learn English, set up a household, get enrolled in schools, obtain credentials, and obtain a job. We are so thankful for the household donations and financial donations that have been made this year. As we wait, we keep in touch with the RASO family. Soleman became very ill this winter; we as a church had the privilege of sending funds to Lebanon to pay for much needed surgery. He has recovered well, and is ready to work again.

Could you join with us in prayer for the RASO family, that the timeline would be reduced? We rejoice that it has improved to 45 months!!! Pray with us for opportunities to show love to both the RASO and RISOU family.

Respectfully submitted

The members and committee members of the Core Group are:

- a. Co-chairperson: Phyllis McGee and Jeff McGee
- b. Secretary: Carrie Wright
- c. Finance: Deb Templemyer
- d. Communication:
 - i. Internal Spring Garden: Jen Chrystman
 - ii. External: Lois Williams, Carol Cunningham
- e. Family Liaison: Tarik Risou
- f. Fund Raising: all members
- g. Pastoral Liaison: Abby Davidson
- h. Deacon Liaison: Deb Templemyer and Jeff McGee

Vocational Missionaries

Reports from Youth Unlimited™



Youth Unlimited™

YFC TORONTO

As a handful of Spring Garden's missionaries all serving at Youth Unlimited (YFC Toronto), we are deeply grateful for your sustaining prayers, encouragement, and provision over the course of the past year. We are grateful to be returning to in-person programming and your continued support is needed more than ever as we emerge from our long lockdown and come alongside our precious young people.



Scott Moore, Executive Director

2021 continued to be heavily influenced by the impact of COVID in every regard - how we did relationships with youth, how we ran programming, how we journeyed together as staff and volunteers, and how we engaged our financial partners.

We are grateful to God for His sustaining grace and mercy!

A large portion of my focus remains on navigating a significant leadership transition - last year we saw three long-term leaders transition from the organization and three new ones begin to take on their leadership responsibilities. The future is bright, but there is much work to be done to prepare our new leadership team to thrive and lead effectively.

This is the final year of our 4-year "Making Space" strategy. We continue to develop new initiatives for youth experiencing vulnerability, and maintain our focus on accompanying youth in the midst of mental health challenges. As local churches 'come to life' again with in-person presence, we are hopeful to deepen our focus on seeing young people integrate into neighbourhood churches. Thanks for being an important part of this whole journey!

Kathy Webb, Administrative Assistant



Thank you, Spring Garden family, for your continued support of my ministry with YU! Your prayers, encouragement and financial support are so appreciated and valued. The past year has brought a number of changes as I've resumed working full time hours after being part time for many years. This has allowed me to add new responsibilities in the areas of donation processing and human resources. I've had opportunities to learn new things, take a course, lead

info sessions for new staff and give support to fundraising events. A huge highlight has been having more staff coming into the office now that Covid restrictions are lifted. We've welcomed new leadership staff in the past year or so, which has led to the formation of the Support Services team - as part of this team I'm really looking forward to seeing how God leads and equips us to better serve our field staff as they come alongside young people in the GTA!

Monica Kay, LAUNCH Director



In June 2022, Monica will be transitioning to the role of Leadership Development Facilitator.

Thank you so very much for your prayers and support this past year. Some of the highlights of the past year include being able to successfully run our Gr.11 LAUNCH Leadership Class online, partnering with a young adult program to offer coaching to leaders, doing spiritual and leadership workshops with LEVEL UP (another YU program), as well as other speaking engagements at Camp Kwasind and Tyndale University. The year has been fruitful with much

to celebrate, yet this fall I sensed the Lord leading me to transition from my role as LAUNCH Director. Starting this July I will be the Leadership Development Facilitator for the staff of our Toronto Youth Unlimited Chapter. I have already been investing in the staff through a learning group called "Leading Teams," but will be adding to this portfolio other training sessions, coaching, and support on various levels. As inspired, please pray for a smooth transition. We are seeking a new leader for LAUNCH, and are discerning more specifics regarding my new role. I am excited to apply my school learning (Doctor of Ministry- Leadership focus) to invest in the YU staff and beyond. Thank you for partnering with us!

With love and gratitude,

Monica Kay

Clement Lee, Jane-Finch Community Director



Another COVID-influenced year has gone by and the YU team in Jane and Finch has been focusing on going deeper with the youth that we are connected with. It's been encouraging seeing the growth and development in our young people - whether it's seeing them serving as summer staff with YU, having great discussions with them, or watching them discover their God given gifts. It has also been challenging as we've also seen some youth slip into addictions and questionable habits. Please continue to lift our youth up in prayer. Thank you Spring Garden!

Other Vocational Missionaries

Report from Becki Lee (AIA)

As I reflect on the ministry of Athletes in Action (AIA) at the University of Guelph this past year, I see so many answers to prayer. We once again saw a number of (3) women athletes give their lives to Jesus, one of whom came from a totally unchurched background. The outreach we led in the fall where we gave away bottles of laundry detergent to athletes at their practices was a huge success and led to lots of great connections, including the initial point of contact with one of the women who became a follower of Christ.



Women's hockey chapel and football chapel were also great opportunities to connect with athletes on a regular basis through food and food for thought. Two football players and two women's hockey players joined us for our inter-university Athletes in Action winter retreat at Camp Lawah, just north of Kingston. It was a meaningful time to connect with athletes from other Ontario and Quebec universities and the first time we were able to host this event in over 2 years.

It was also very encouraging to see many new athletes get involved after such a long time of online meeting and social disconnection. We saw the Lord answer our prayers to bring new male athletes, particularly leaders, to take over from some of our faithful student leaders who are graduating and moving on. One such athlete is Aiden, a rookie football player who is joining our Student Athlete Leadership team for next year. He is eager and intentional, and although he is young, I believe that the Lord has great things in store for him as he develops as a leader.

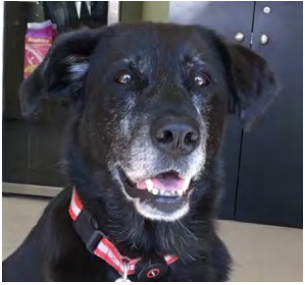


This year also marks a time of change for our AIA staff team, as my only remaining colleague is moving to Abbotsford, BC to take on a new role with AIA at our Power to Change Headquarters. Amazingly, and as a direct answer to prayer, the Lord has raised up a new staff member who was previously unknown to us. This is very rare in our type of ministry, and as such, all the more obviously an answer to prayer. Please pray for Mike, my new team member, as he works on building his prayer and financial support team. This process typically takes 8-12 months, so I will likely be on my own to some extent going into the fall.



Thank you so much Spring Garden for your partnership in ministry over the past 16 years! You have been such a stable presence through many changes of location and responsibility in my ministry with AIA. Although I am no longer going to be an official Spring Garden Supported Missionary, I will continue to drop in from time to time to say hi on a Sunday morning when I am in the neighborhood.





Report from Doorbelle (and Jen Chrystman) (OMF)

I've been the OMF guest home Doorbelle for the past 4.5 years and this past one has really had it's ups and downs. The best part is the morning walks in the park. My human Mom, Jen, calls them fitness walks but for me, they're traveling banquets - pizza crusts, bits of sausage buns and random breadcrumbs, that Jen says are for the birds. But I don't think so. They're great.

The challenging part of my job has been to bark when all the new people arrive and to remember all their fragrances. When two guests brought an aggressive puppy, that was stressful. It freaked me out when Jen drove off one day and came back with a puppy. OH, NO! I've had 12 of those but this one was way more active and bothersome. Then they both smelled of puppy. Sigh.

After the three of them left, we had a large group of African people who came for a wedding and stayed a few weeks. Mom Jen was really stressed when the kids drew on the walls and doors with marker pens and threw stuff from her office all over the basement. She walked faster and smiled constantly. She said it was her therapy. Some missionaries finally came to quarantine in October and they were delightful. I wish Covid was over so we could have dozens and dozens of them again!

Then a guy who always wore his hoodie with sunglasses in the TV room thought I needed more food. I got fatter and fatter till Mom put the sign on the basement door, "NO dogs, lions or zebras allowed in the basement". The house got really calm again in December after he left and I could lose the extra pounds. We had four teenaged girls from Iran staying for several months and then, two teens from Colombia and Italy have been even better; they rub my tummy and put their leftovers right in my special "DF" plastic tub in the fridge. Mom prays for them a lot but only two went to church with her once. Mom also leaves Bible verses on the table down in the basement for the gentleman who lives there now. She's praying for him, too. Hmmm. I think she prays for all of them. Wow. Over 100 missionaries and monthly renters have been cared for and prayed for this year. Amazing.

Thanks so much, Spring Garden, for supporting us this past year. I'm not allowed to come in the church anymore, but Mom loves it so much. I wish I could meet all the grade 3-5 Sunday School kids that she's praying for. Did you know that she's asking God to help some of them to become missionaries when they're older? Oooops! Sorry! That was supposed to be a secret.

Report from Colleen Stevens (Neighbourlink North York)

Thank you, Spring Garden, for standing with me in my role of Outreach Worker with Neighbourlink North York. Throughout the summer and winter, I devoted my time to home visits, listening to people's stories, building a community care team, and developing partnerships with support agencies, including the school boards and the City of Toronto. Neighbourlink responds to requests for support within North York such as phone buddies, grocery shopping assistance and food bank delivery support to families throughout Willowdale. With COVID we weren't able to provide rides to medical appointments but we also tried to direct calls to other organizations such as iRide Plus. One of the greatest accomplishments of 2021/2022 was the opening of food produce distribution days in the basement of the main building at 415 Willowdale Avenue "Willowtree" and the residents chose to call it the 415 Food Hub. It is a landing place for community building, building relationships, youth training, volunteer involvement for the residents, and through the Hub, Neighbourlink is able to identify some needs and assets in the neighbourhood, in partnership with Toronto Community Housing. The fresh produce from Spring Garden's community garden will encourage the Food Hub this summer tremendously.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

STEWARDSHIP & ADMIN

Church Clerk June 2021 - May 2022

BIRTHS

Feb 14, 2022 Rushivka Hadassah to Rotna Kumar and Mary Anupama

DEDICATIONS

James Michael Priya Ranasinghe, son of Jeremy and Kaitlyn Ranasinghe
Rushivka Hadassah, daughter of Rotna Kumar and Mary Anupama

BAPTISMS

Sept 19, 2021 Iris Zhao
Sept 19, 2021 Mohammad Ahmadinejad
Dec 19, 2021 M.R. (unidentified male)
Dec 19, 2021 A.A. (unidentified male)
Dec 19, 2021 M.R (unidentified male)
Dec 19, 2021 A.A. (unidentified male)

NEW MEMBERS

April 2022 Emma
April 2022 Marcy Scott

MARRIAGES

none

MEMBERS TRANSFERRED OUT

none

DEATHS

June 24, 2021 Linda Irwin

ACTIVE MEMBERS 106

Noted that 29 members were moved to inactive

Respectfully submitted, Karen Cassel, Church Clerk

Property Committee (June 2021 to June 2022)

The Property Committee works to maintain the church building, grounds and our rental house at 106 Spring Garden in a state of good repair.

This past year, although the COVID pandemic has continued, we at Spring Garden have begun a slow return to normal operation. In-person services have begun this spring and the Property Committee maintenance work is also returning to normal.

Here is a list of repairs/changes we have completed:

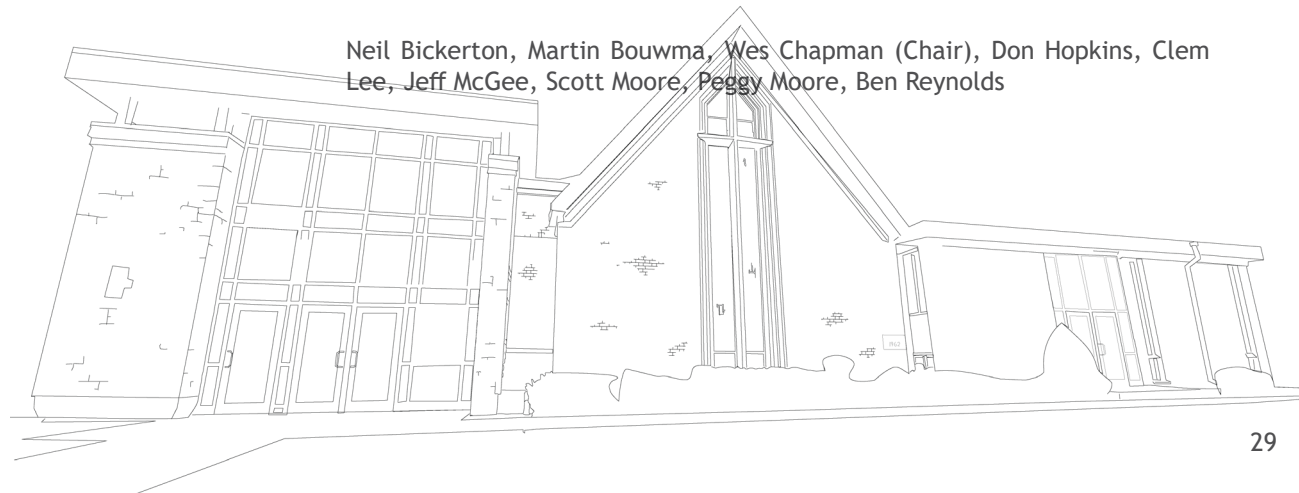
1. Sump pump repair, kitchen and bathroom tap replacement
2. 106 house interior upgrades
3. Repair to our outside wheelchair accessible door
4. Change of security companies
5. Salting parking lot now mostly handled by the Property committee to save money
6. Minor repairs to roof over sanctuary due to wind or an animal
7. Clearance of unused items from the premises
8. Many small tasks too numerous to mention

We would like to thank Fazil Mohammed for the weekly maintenance performed by him and his company, Moe's Cleaning.

The committee has also expanded with new members this year, and this is much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Your Property Committee

Neil Bickerton, Martin Bouwma, Wes Chapman (Chair), Don Hopkins, Clem Lee, Jeff McGee, Scott Moore, Peggy Moore, Ben Reynolds



FINANCE

Report from Jeff McGee (Finance Deacon)

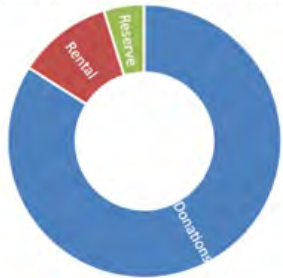
2021 Financials

Summary of 2021 Operating Budget

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual
Expenses	\$ 631.6k	\$ 545.1k
Revenue	\$ 631.6k	\$ 548.7k
		\$ 3.6k

See the 2021 Audited Financial Statements at <https://www.springgardenchurch.ca/s/SGBC-Financial-Statements-Dec-312021.pdf>.

2022 Financials



2022 Approved Operating Budget = \$649,974

Donations	83%	543,774	Ministries	5%	31,540
Rental	12%	76,000	Staffing	62%	407,202
Reserve	5%	30,000	Missions	11%	69,437
	100%	649,974	Property	22%	141,795
				100%	649,974

2022 Results as of April 30, 2022

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual
Expenses	\$ 216.7k	\$ 166.3k
Revenue	\$ 216.7k	\$ 137.3k
		\$ -29.0k

- We are controlling expenses and givings are up from 2021, but overall we are about \$29k below budget.
- Please give prayerful consideration to your tithe. We encourage those committed to Spring Garden to schedule monthly donations. For more information on how to set this up please contact Marion Cameron at marion.cameron@sgbc.ca.
- Caring and Sharing has a healthy allocation of over \$12k.
- The Syrian Refugee Sponsorship fund has over \$17k towards the target of about \$75k.
- The Reserve Fund + Special funds have combined over \$290k.

IT/AV Committee

Committee Members: 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. This was another COVID19 year.

A hybrid virtual and in-person approach was accomplished for our worship gathering this year. Some computer and AV equipment was updated. Some office equipment (such as some of the office VoIP phones) was replaced. A summer student was hired for IT office support this year, with funding from Canada Student Jobs program. There were some problems with the wifi gateway interfering with office computers, so it was removed from the network.

Please be aware that if you volunteer to serve in Sunday Service on stage, you are giving SGC consent to have your likeness and content to be recorded and distributed online, such as on YouTube. If you do not wish to be recorded, please do not enter the front stage area during Sunday Service. Please also be aware that certain portions of the church are under video surveillance, such as the entrance lobby interior, as well as the exterior parking lot. If you have concerns about your privacy, please speak with a deacon, as well as a member of the pastoral team/office staff to have your images removed or not recorded.

In the past, most of our support from the AV team, and digital or print media designs were done by the same volunteers who have taken on extra work. Thank you for those volunteers who have stepped up to support the AV and IT ministry in the background as we returned to in-person worship.

Resource Centre

Report from Karen Cassel

The purpose of the Resource Centre is to provide books, videos, and DVDs for general Christian growth, study, and leisure as well as to speak to the needs and events that are taking place in the wider church life. This year is has again been difficult to meet these criteria due to the Pandemic.

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. With people continuing to observe COVID guidelines indoors, or watching services from home, the library was underutilized again this year.

Usually there is a monthly feature in Delve to introduce new books, but this year there were several months where no contributions were made.

We are still awaiting the return of many books that were borrowed before March 2020.

Some of the new books added this year include What is God Like by Rachel Held Evans, Abundant Simplicity by Jan Johnson, Spiritual Disciplines Handbook by Adele Calhoun, and Hope in Times of Fear by Timothy Keller.

The Resource Centre is online, and you can look up and request books from the church website. Go to:

<http://springgardenchurch.ca>

Click on Resources, Library

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 from Meghan Valentine

As in past years, the Nominating Committee worked diligently to find and nominate members to fill important roles within the church, including Deacons, Elders, Nominating Committee and Church Officers. The Nominating Committee met through Zoom to discuss and prayerfully consider those members who seemed a good fit to fill the above positions. We are grateful to all the members of our church community who were approached and took the time to consider serving in this way. The Nominating Committee Report is the result of this process. Thanks to Cliff Shipmaker, Koon Wah Leung and Anita Yip for being an integral part of the 2022 NomCom.

For those thinking about being on the Nominating Committee, keep in mind that it is a relatively small commitment that serves an important purpose. It is a 2-year commitment that includes a few meetings at the beginning of each year. In consultation with the pastoral team, the hope is to find members who represent the diverse make-up of Spring Garden Church. If this is something that appeals to you, please consider serving on the Nominating Committee in future years.

Deacons (3 year term)

Current Deacons	Finishing Year
Martin Dewar	2022 (ending)
Krysten Cameron (extend 1 year)	2023
Ben Reynolds	2023
Cheryl Chapman	2023
Debbie Tempelmeyer	2024
Scott Moore	2024
Nominees	
Jeff McGee (renominated)	2025
Darlene Boyd	2025
Esther Penner (extended 2yrs)	2024

Elders* (3 year term)

Current Elders	Finishing Year
Koon Wah Leung	2022 (ending)
Clem Lee	2022 (ending)
Gonzalo Librado	2023
Margaret Sutton	2023
Myrna Frost	2023
Nominees	
Anne Barron (renominated)	2025
Shannon Loewen	2025

Officers (1 year term, renewed)

Position	Current Officers
Moderator	Mike Penner
Vice-Moderator	(unfilled)
Treasurer	Geoff Moore
Vice-Treasurer	Marion Cameron
Clerk	Karen Cassel

Nominating Committee Members (2 year term)

Current Members	Finishing Year
Meghan Valentine	2022 (ending)
Cliff Shipmaker (extend 1 year)	2023
Anita Yip	2023
Nominees	
Anja Turner	2024
Koon Wah Leung (renominated)	2024

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

*added after original posting following requirements as per section 50.03 of the bylaws.



spring garden church

Spirituality Grace Community

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Copy Editors

Sam Lee
Esther Penner
Karen Cassel

2022