

Session Chronicles **Volume 1 December 2018**

Session held its regular meeting on November 27th, but met again on December 11th to discuss the proposed 2019 budget. Highlights from both these meetings follow:

- A request for copies of older Presbyterian hymnals was received through Presbytery from Dunwood Place seniors residence in New Westminster. We were able to donate a number of our old hymnals.
- The minutes of the Congregational meeting of October 28, 2018 were received by Session, to be approved by the congregation at its next meeting.
- Due to additional demand on his time the Minister is unable to schedule regular home visitations, but will respond to individual requests for visits by congregation members.
- Session granted the Minister two weeks of study leave between May 26 and June 10, 2019, to pursue courses at the Israel Institute of Biblical Studies.
- Plans are under way to provide a Christmas hamper to a local family through Adopt a Family.
- **White Rock Pharmacy** provided flu shots to those attending Lunch Hut and who wished to receive them.
- **White Rock Supermarket** has been very generous with their donations to Lunch Hut.
- Christmas on the Peninsula carols by candlelight at St. John's on November 15th was a great success. Service of tea, coffee and cocoa afterwards was arranged by the Outreach Committee.
- The Finance Committee is interested in adopting a model to chart weekly givings.
- The St. John's Legacy Trust fund, as of October 31st, had \$420,248.00 in it. Pay-outs year to date are \$86,220.00. Further details on the fund can be obtained from Elder Emily Wilson. Thought is being given to revising the rules for withdrawals from the fund, and recommendations in this regard will be brought to the

February 2019 St. John's annual meeting.

- The cause of a recent heating problem in the north hall was found to be with our furnace, which is working at only 60% capacity. It will need replacement.
- Emergency roof repairs should start early in the new year.
- The church boiler is over 40 years old and a new, higher efficiency one, is required, hopefully with the assistance of a government grant.
- Repairs will be needed to the sanctuary ceiling where leaking has occurred.
- Consideration is being given to replacing/repairing the banquet chairs used in the main hall.
- The Minister's request to carry over 12 days of 2018 leave to 2019 was granted.
- The wedding of Elizma van der Westhuizen to Alexandre Lehmann took place on December 9th at St. John's, with a reception following in the church hall. The van der Westhuizen family is off to South Africa from December 20th to January 13, 2019.
- **2019 Proposed Budget:** Treasurer Larry Eastwood has

proposed a balanced budget for 2019, in contrast to 2018's budgeted \$45,000 deficit (which looks to be on track). In spite of a reduction of one paid staff member mid-way through the year, attempts to cut operational costs, and income from increased rentals, envelope givings still persist on a downward trend. Individual givings will have to increase if we are to balance the 2019 budget.

- In the Minister's absence over the next few weeks, the Rev. Geoff Jay of St. Andrew's Newton will be available to provide emergency pastoral care. **If there is a pastoral need please contact the Clerk of Session, Keith Leishman (contact info. below) or your elder.**
- It is the prayer of all of us on Session that each and every one of you experienced a Christmas filled with the joy of the miraculous birth of our Savior, Jesus.

Keith Leishman, Clerk of Session
604-531-0702;
lkleishman@telus.net