

# McDougall UNITED CHURCH



# 2023 Annual Report

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## From Minister Rev. Joanne Anquist



This past year has been a bit of a roller coaster! On the one hand, with COVID no longer a pandemic emergency, we were able to

open our building and our programming to more fully live our mission to be a community of faith where everyone has a place at the table. Our invitation to all has been renewed: “Welcome. Take Your Place. You Belong Here.” At the same time, we mourned the loss of so many in our community this past year. There were weeks when we didn’t want to open our emails for fear that we’d find another notice of passing. Memories of what was and what used to be flooded in. I’m reminded that renewal rarely happens without some kind of grief. That’s why it’s so hard.

But as you look through the pages of this Annual Report, you will see how God is at work in our Community of Faith. Our worship services with Ogden United have benefited from the gifts of three ministers. The music program is growing in strength and provides grounding for our services. We continue to seek understanding of scripture and theology in a contemporary way as we all try to muddle through with compassion.

Outside of Sunday, you’ll see the many opportunities folks have to deepen their faith, through book studies and Bible studies. Our Open Table program (formerly Messy Church) reaches people in our community that might not want a Sunday experience. How welcome it is to have a place to open yourself to the Spirit among us.

Of course, our fellowship groups continue to provide opportunities to get to know each other. Pancake breakfasts and suppers, Christmas lunches and dinners, monthly card games, sandwich making, and so much more give folks an opportunity to get together to deepen relationships and connections.

Pastoral Care is the backbone of any Community of Faith and McDougall is a community that really cares. I always say the grapevine is very strong in this church! But new software tools and the addition of Rev. Bill to our pastoral care team has strengthened our ability to carry each other through all the struggles of life.

Our community outreach is thriving with intergenerational conversation groups, Opera Buddies as well as Taste and Try. These programs are a soft opening to the life of our church and encourage folks to take a place and belong.

Our Social Justice initiatives are making a difference as we continue to build right relations with Indigenous peoples (check out that reconciliation mural at our entrance!) and support refugee families as they adjust to Canadian society. Other projects like the Feed the Hungry Dinner and the Acadia Pantry continue to alleviate poverty in our city.

And on top of all that, we created new model of ministry as we piloted a shared ministry team initiative with Red Deer Lake United and Ogden United in the fall, which will be fully implemented in 2024. Hopefully, this will build on our strengths and lead us into the future with strength.

So much good stuff is happening here. And yet we struggle each year with budget challenges, and this year is no exception. In fact, it is hard to see a way to continue ALL the good work that McDougall does. Tough decisions are on the

horizon. I encourage you to consider what you value in this community as you read through these pages. Some things may have to die in order for our community of faith to live. That is the hard reality. But as I consider these things, I'm reminded of a passage in Second Isaiah. It is written after the Babylonian exile as the people are trying to figure out how to move forward. "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new

thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." We don't know the future, but we remain faithful to the call of Jesus Christ to set a table where everyone has a place and our assurance to all: "You Belong Here."

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Joanne Anquist,  
Worship & Congregational Leadership Minister**

## Report from McDougall's Board of Trustees

Current members of the Trustees are Valerie MacLeod, Daren Patterson, Jim Fitzowich, Jim Porter, and Barrie Clayton. Meetings were held March 19, October 25, and December 20, 2023.

In fulfilling our responsibility for long-term building maintenance, we reviewed the Baseline Property Condition Assessment Report and identified some regular maintenance items, long-term projects, and discussed priorities. Urgent repairs to part of the flat roof areas were completed, and hot water heaters replaced. Trustees are in regular contact with the McDougall United Church Foundation, which has been providing funds for the larger building maintenance expenses. In 2023, \$96,000 was transferred into the Church account for this purpose.

The City of Calgary assessment is now \$1,660,000 (tax exempt). The church property continues to be insured under the United Church of Canada UCC Protect Plan with an insured value of \$10,249,989, which includes

building loss risks, general liability, and UCC directors and officer's liability insurance coverage.

Insurance premium costs for all churches have been increasing rapidly over the last 4 years. As a result, in 2022, the UCC decided to convert the UCC Protect Plan to a captive insurance model involving a partial self-insurance plan. This new approach has given the Trustees some concern, and there are some administration deficiencies, but we have decided to stay with the UCC Protect Plan for now. The premiums have been reduced by about 15% under the new plan.

Negotiations with Telus for possible installation of a cell phone tower on church property are in process.

I wish to thank Trustees for their service on this fundamental church board.

**Barrie Clayton, Chair of the Board of Trustees**

## McDougall Staff in 2023



Rev. Joanne Anquist  
Worship and Congregational  
Leadership Minister



Rev. Danah Cox  
Family and Community Minister



Bill Weaver  
Pastoral Care Minister  
(April 1 – December 31, 2023)



Jen Heidebrecht  
Office Administrator



Sarah Reuangrith  
Communications Coordinator



Jerimiah Laquette  
Caretaker/Handyman



Saadeeyah Meleek  
Sunday Morning Kids Table  
Helper



Tanya Wan Lim  
Worship Service Musician,  
Contemporary Music Leader



Justin Macosky  
Choral Music Leader



John Naylor  
Facilities Coordinator



Rev. Bob Mutlow  
Honorary Minister

## McDougall Council in 2023

**Co-Chairs** – Daren Patterson, Joanne Pritchard

**Treasurer** – Norma May

**Assistant Treasurer (Budget)** – Bruce Munro

**Secretary** – Marilyn Bates

**Chair of Trustees/Regional Council Rep** – Barrie Clayton

**McDougall Foundation Chair** – Phil Edwards

**Members-at-Large** – Alex Bradley, Marjorie MacRae, Nick Perrin, Mari Croizier, Ken Turnbull, Leslie Stoddart, Margaret Holden-Scott, Esther Petersen

### Ministry Team Leads/Co-Leads

**Worship and Spiritual Development** – Rev. Joanne Anquist

**Pastoral Care** – Rev. Joanne Anquist/ Rev. Danah Cox

**Family and Community** – Rev. Danah Cox

**Outreach and Social Justice** – Rev. Bob Mutlow

### Vision Team Leads

**Affirming Vision Team** – position vacant in 2023

### Council Working Groups

#### Operations Working Group

**Lead** – Joanne Pritchard

**Ministry and Personnel Lead** – Peggy Jorgensen

**Convenor** – Mari Croizier and Sonai Dodd

**Property Co-lead** – Barrie Clayton

**Minister** – Rev. Joanne Anquist

**Treasurer** – Norma May

**Assistant Treasurer – Bruce Munro**

**Ministry and Personnel Working Group**

**Lead – Peggy Jorgensen**

**Member – Marilyn Bates**

**Property Working Group**

**Co-Leads – Barrie Clayton, John Naylor**

**Communications Working Group (January - April 2023)**

**Lead – Nick Perrin**

**Members – Ken Turnbull, Sarah Reuangrith**

**Marketing and Fundraising Group (Created October 2023)**

**Lead – Sarah Reuangrith**

**Members – Frank Kurucz, Valerie MacLeod**

**Vision Working Group**

**Lead – Daren Patterson**

**Members – Marilyn Bates, Sarah Reuangrith**

## Reports from McDougall Ministry Teams

### Family and Community Ministry Team

#### Youth Group / LINKages Intergenerational Program

A weekly Friday evening youth group (5:30 - 9 pm), ran from January through June in 2023. Youth Leader Nik Sloat did wonderful work with the five kids who regularly attended. They would often cook together, spend time reflecting on a timely topic and then play games or do other activities. They also supported other ministries: e.g., cleaning and dishwashing for adult spiritual development programs run by the church. Also, they did several activities outside of the church together, such as going to an amusement “panic room” and to the UCC Kids Trek event in Drumheller, where they were the largest contingent from any UCC church in Alberta. While my limited time did not allow us to restart the Friday night youth group this past

fall, I have been in touch with the youth, and am working on ways to continue to engage them at the church.

Our Friday afternoon intergenerational LINKages groups run from September to June. In 2023, the January to June program had 27 high school students and 11 seniors. The new group this fall has 31 high school students and 8 seniors. Last year the team consisted of myself, Nik Sloat as youth leader, 2 staff members from the high school, and 4 high school student leaders. This year’s group has the same number of teachers and student leaders. Besides myself as the program leader from McDougall, we also have Sylvia Steventon, who volunteers to set up



tea, juice, and hot chocolate. Students help with clean-up and dishwashing.

The LINKages Intergenerational Program this fall has been even more successful because many of last years' students returned as 12th graders. I believe this sustained interaction has helped me to truly build authentic connections with many of the students. Recently, several youths have begun to approach me with questions about the church and have taken part in other church activities. Several have come to me with genuine pastoral concerns, and one youth even asked me for a Bible. This bond building has also been happening with the senior participants, and I have witnessed organic bonds developing between the different age groups. This genuine concern for each other is filling the need for deeper connection with others. Statistics show such relationships help

combat the loneliness epidemic faced by people in these two demographics more than any other, particularly post Covid.

While, sadly, the LINKages nonprofit group permanently closed at the end of 2023, Lord Beaverbrook High School has committed to participating in the McDougall program through 2025. As our program was LINKages' most successful program, the LINKages GROUP awarded us a gift of \$4,995 to help sustain our program. I am confident that 2024 has great potential to foster more participation of these youth into other church activities, and, hopefully, even parlay them into a larger, more traditional church youth group.

**Submitted by Rev. Danah Cox, Family & Community Minister**

## Camp Kasota



Every year in June, McDougall United hosts a family camping weekend at Camp Kasota. The planning team for the 2023 camp included Rev. Danah Cox, Stephanie Hawes, Sarah Lambert, and Sarah Reuangrith. A huge thank you to Stephanie and Sarah L whose participation at previous Kasota camps was a huge asset during planning!

The 2023 camp happened June 9 to 11. We had 13 families join us for a beautiful weekend of fun and relaxation.

There were many challenges this year with camp. When we reviewed the budget, it became clear that we had to raise the price for the first time in many years to account for rising

food costs and inflation. In our closeout discussions from 2022 it was clear that getting enough volunteers to cook and clean up after meals might be difficult. The team looked at various options on how we might manage all these concerns before deciding to hire a kitchen team (Rev. Danah with Chantelle and Redman Everett). Our cooks were amazing and worked at a reduced rate as they understood what we were trying to do.

Because of price increases as we came out of COVID and our aging population, there was a real struggle to get enough families to run the camp. We had to stretch our net wide to recruit new people. Unfortunately, we still came up short. To save the camp we were able to incorporate a theme of "Diversity" into our talent show and craft to reallocate funds from a different budget line that had not been utilized. This meant we could run the camp with the smaller group that we had.

The group that attended was amazing and a good time was had by all. All the feedback was really inspiring and encourages us to continue this important ministry.

As we move into the planning for 2024, the budget for this event is at the forefront in our mind. Fish Creek United has agreed to partner with us so that we can hopefully increase the number of families that attend. We learned a



lot in 2023 and have a few tricks up our sleeves.

**Submitted by Sarah Reuangrith, on behalf of the Camp Kasota Team**

## Open Table



Open Table is a community ministry program for families of all shapes and sizes. Open Table events in 2023 were led by Rev.

Danah Cox with assistance from Sarah Reuangrith and Nik Sloat (until June). In November, Marilyn Bates stepped up to help us with some of the volunteer recruitment. This program could not happen without a lot of volunteers. A special shout out goes to those who helped in the kitchen: Marilyn Bates, Norma May, June Clarke, Carol Clayton, and Paula Sangster.

In 2023 we hosted seven different events, including pumpkin carving and gingerbread decorating, which was followed by a Christmas

dinner that included additional people from the congregation. We also hosted the Reconciliation Mural painting days and unveiling. It was a busy year! We learned that partnerships with other groups in the church are very important as we



struggle to find volunteers, especially for the kitchen shifts. We learn from every event and continue to make small adjustments as we move forward. We are looking forward to continuing to run these events in 2024.

**Submitted by Sarah Reuangrith, on behalf of the Open Table Team**

## Taste & Try

Taste and Try (T&T) was run in collaboration with Carya (the old Calgary Family Services), with Carya providing funding for staff and the food and McDougall providing the space and the chef.

In the summer of 2023, the Acadia Carya lost its funding and withdrew their participation. The call for volunteers went out. Barb and Andrew Vogan joined Rev. Danah Cox to ensure the continuation of the program. We called the new



program T&T reboot, with changes including a suggested donation of \$5. We have had 20-25 seniors (with a waitlist!) join us each month to socialize,

learn recipes and kitchen hints and then break bread as we enjoy what we created. We have managed to be financially self-sufficient up to

this point, due to the generosity of our participants.

**Submitted by Barb Vogan,  
on behalf of the T&T group**

## Outreach and Social Justice Ministry Team

**Outreach & Social Justice Ministry Team Members** – Lead Rev. Bob Mutlow, Community Social Worker – Viviana Reinberg, Chinook Winds Indigenous Minister – Rev. Tony Snow, Marilyn Bates, Barrie Clayton, June Clarke, Christine Kennedy, Shauna Kennedy, Marjorie MacRae, Daren Patterson, Nick Perrin, Pat Shea, Gloria Snow, Teresa Snow, Strathie Tompkins, Ken Turnbull, Sarah Reuangrith.

## The United Church of Canada Mission & Service Report

A key component of McDougall's Outreach & Social Justice Ministry Team mandate is connecting with the wider United Church, promoting programs addressing Climate Change, Right Relations, Refugees, Racism and Church Growth. Outreach & Social Justice Ministry Team members and supporters are encouraged to sign up for the following:

- **The United Church of Canada** – for the latest information: [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca)
- **United in Learning** – Educational opportunities for lay & clergy: [united-in-learning.com](http://united-in-learning.com)

- **EDGE** – Growing Edges in church life – Email: [edge@united-churcdh.ca](mailto:edge@united-churcdh.ca)
- **United Church Foundation** – provided two grants to McDougall – Right Relations, Ministry

McDougall donations to the UCC Mission & Service Fund support worldwide partners and projects in Canada. Our M&S gifts in 2023 were \$29,743.00 as compared to \$26,374.00 in 2022.

Thank you, McDougall donors!

**Submitted by Bob Mutlow,  
Outreach and Social Justice  
Ministry Team Lead**

## Right Relations Report

The Right Relations projects in 2023 were funded by the Chinook Winds Region and the United Church of Canada Foundation Healing Fund which “supports healing initiatives for survivors of the residential school system and its ongoing intergenerational impacts.”

By offering safe and spiritual healing spaces, we welcomed participants to reconnect to knowledge systems, and experience learning and traditional teachings to gain perspective, comfort, and spiritual connection. The sessions in ribbon skirt, beading, and drum making offered participants the chance to listen, learn,

connect, and discuss practices of wellness and healing with certified wellness instructors, traditional crafters, and each other. All sessions were free with meals, snacks, and beverages provided.

The National Truth and Reconciliation Day event was held in partnership with Fish Creek United. This inspiring event was attended by 110+ participants and included discussions around Indigenous history, the impacts of residential schools, and a participatory round dance signifying healing for all.



The Reconciliation Mural project was hosted in partnership with the Family and Community Ministry. 74 Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists of all ages contributed to the beautiful

mural installed at McDougall. The project offered opportunities for true engagement between members of our community of faith, Indigenous participants, and leaders.

2023 ended with the annual Stoney Nakoda Christmas Feast. Gifts and donations were gathered and distributed to Indigenous Elders and families.

We strive to build meaningful relationships and participate in ReconciliACTION.

**Submitted by Shauna Kennedy,  
Right Relations Lead**

## Acadia Network & Action Group Report

The purpose of ANAG is for community groups located in Acadia to network with one another, to plan actions that meet a community need and to support one another.

In 2023, the group had representatives from Christ Moravian Church, McDougall United Church, Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, St. Vincent de Paul attached to St. Cecilia Parish, Cornerstone Chapel, the Acadia Community Garden & Arts Society, the Acadia School and Acadia School Parent Council, CUPS Acadia Place, Acadia Community Association, David Thompson School and David Thompson School Council, the Acadia Food Pantry, Ward 11 Staff, the City of Calgary Community Social Work Program and residents who are not affiliated to any group.

Highlights for 2023 included:

- The work of the **Acadia Food Pantry**, a distinctive initiative providing free food to anyone in need and functioning with a total of 33 volunteers affiliated to different groups and from the large community. The pantry served an average of 61 households and 202 people per month. Those numbers increased in the last quarter of 2023, and it's expected that this will be a trend.
- Support to the Indigenous learning space at David Thompson School
- The community social work program continues to provide support to ANAG as well as financial support to the Community Garden & Arts Society in the form of a neighbourhood grant.

**Submitted by Viviana Reinberg,  
City of Calgary Community Social Worker**

## Christmas Hampers Report

The Christmas Hamper Program was a success again this year. With donations received, we were able to provide hampers with gifts, cookies, and a grocery voucher to 24 families

(including 4 families recommended by McDougall's Refugee Support Group) for a total of 94 people.



Referrals were received from the City of Calgary Community Social Worker Program, CUPS, Ogden, and

beginning the first Sunday after Remembrance Day. The hampers are delivered by the second week in December.

We hope to continue the program in 2024, drawing most of our referrals from the church community. Thank you to David Schlinker for taking on the role of Volunteer Driver Coordinator to ensure the hampers were delivered to the families. Once again, the generosity of this congregation with their donations, Angel Tree gifts and the volunteer hours needed to fill and deliver the hampers made this program a success. Thank you to all involved.

**Submitted by Cheryl Cordsen, Kathy Meuse, and Denise Patterson on behalf of the Christmas Hamper Team**

McDougall churches.

The Hamper Program began with a balance of \$3,347.59 and through the generosity of McDougall and Ogden churches we were able to raise \$3,285 for food vouchers and gifts not contributed through the Angel Tree. We will begin the 2024 program with a balance of \$1,083. The program begins with planning in October, with the Angel Tree and online list

## Feed the Hungry Dinner

Thank you to all members of McDougall United Church who supported the 2023 Feed the Hungry dinner through volunteering, financial support, and prayer. We co-sponsored the Sunday, October 29 dinner at St. Mary's Parish Hall, providing 30 volunteers and a financial contribution of \$3000. At the dinner, 334 guests were served, with 196 guests dining in and 138 taking out their meals. As well, 387 hamper packages were handed out. Our financial contribution of \$3000 was raised through a combination of donations and from monies raised at our September luncheon/book sale.



As we are now committed to sponsoring a dinner every other year, our next Feed the Hungry Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, October 19, 2025.

Donations to the Feed the Hungry fund are welcome throughout the year.

**Submitted by Daren Patterson, Feed the Hungry Dinner Coordinator**

## McDougall Scholarships Report



On June 25, 2023, eight \$1000 scholarships were presented to qualified applicants whose names

and church affiliation have been posted on the weekly Eblasts.

128 scholarships have been presented by McDougall Church since 1995. This year each scholarship was accompanied with a gift of a McDougall coffee mug.

The scholarship presentation followed a similar pattern with each candidate's acceptance speech outlining how they plan to use the funds along with their expression of gratitude. As they spoke, their photo connection to McDougall was posted on the screens.

As of January 2024, \$9,600 remaining in the fund for future scholarships. In order to continue this program in future years, a request for donations to the Scholarship Fund will be made to Scholarship Program supporters at McDougall in 2024.

I submit this 2023 Annual Report with pride, and have forwarded the scholarship report to Martha and Dave Taylor, whose Family Endowment contribution allowed us to extend our scholarship outreach to the many candidates who applied over many years.

Although many of our youthful recipients may not attend church regularly, they expressed sincere thanks. I believe this process accomplishes the outreach goals that McDougall ascribes to.

**Submitted by Nick Perrin,  
McDougall Scholarships Program Leader**

## McDougall/Christ Moravian Refugee Support Report

2023 was perhaps our busiest and most challenging year. In May, we were referred to two new Afghan families by the Centre for Newcomers. We have enjoyed getting to know the two single mothers who together have 4 small children. Neither parent spoke English, so we needed volunteer translators to communicate. Both parents are now working. We are fortunate to have group members with ESL experience to provide ESL weekly sessions. A significant current challenge is advocating for one of the parents who got scammed. The Royal Bank has told her she owes them \$4000.

Our original Afghan family is steadily progressing. The father has a full-time "survival" job transporting luggage at the airport. The mother can now communicate fairly well in English. Because the father was a translator for the Canadian army, he has been able to sponsor

family members. This connection to the Canadian military in Afghanistan has been a tremendous advantage for our first Afghan family. The likelihood of our newer Afghan mothers being able to sponsor family members living in truly desperate situations in Afghanistan and Pakistan is remote. We console ourselves by helping those who are here.

We grieve with our two Palestinian families who have lost over 100 relatives in what is clearly a scenario of genocide by Israel.

One of our refugee claimant families from Angola was deported last April. The second family has been waiting for a decision since February 2020.

On the plus side: We celebrated with two of our original refugee families who became Canadian citizens this year. We rejoice in small triumphs

as families settle in Calgary and children advance in school. We held two picnics and an indoor games afternoon at McDougall. With the help of a badminton set and snacks, the teenage boys managed to survive the afternoon without video games. It was fun to get together without an agenda and for group members to see each other in person (we conduct our meetings on Zoom).

Our group has 12 members. In 2023 we welcomed two new members from Christ Moravian church and three other members retired.

## Community Updates

**Calgary Interfaith Council** – Promoting Interfaith Conversations – a key program is hosting the World Interfaith Harmony Week in the first week of February. 2023 Chair Dr. Harjot Kaur Singh has provided excellent leadership at the opening ceremony at City Hall, the potluck fellowship meal with over 150 people taking part and on May 4, an interfaith breakfast co-hosted with the Mayor and a “fun” annual meeting on June 1, 2023, at Gurdwara, Sikh Temple.

**McDougall Stoney Mission Society** – Lead *Strathie Tompkins*

The Society offers Spring and Summer Commemorative gatherings at the historic site with the rebuilt church. They are also erecting a walk with plaques detailing the history of the area. A key part of the re-worked program is having the Morley Elders take a key leadership role. For more information check out [www.mcdougallstoneymission.com](http://www.mcdougallstoneymission.com).

**Calgary Alliance for the Common Good** – Lead – *The Rev. Ryan Anderson*

Help from food banks is essential for these families given the increasing cost of living in Calgary. They were very appreciative of the Christmas hampers provided by McDougall’s Christmas Hamper Program.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement throughout the year. We could not do this work without you.

**Submitted by Marjorie MacRae,  
Refugee Support Project Leader**

Check out their website to see the broad range of community activities as they provide leadership to City Hall and Community partnerships – this is the key group re: City of Calgary Issues.

**Chinook Winds Region** – *Presiding Officer – The Rev. Joanne Anquist*

Register for the regional newsletter and join in the Zoom town halls, 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 2:00 pm, to keep informed about the wider work of the church in this region that extends from Innisfail to the US border.

**LOOKING FORWARD – 2025 – 100th  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF  
CANADA**

Endowment Projects:

Foundational Endowment for McDougall, Indigenous Church of Canada, Racialized Congregations, Francophone Ministries

**Submitted by Bob Mutlow, Outreach and  
Social Justice Ministry Team Lead**

## Pastoral Care Ministry Team

The Pastoral Care Ministry Team is responsible for the spiritual and physical well-being of members of our community of faith. There are many ways that we care for each other, and all contribute to a healthy community.

In April 2023, I took on the lead ministerial responsibilities for pastoral care, with Rev. Joanne continuing to offer support for congregational care and Rev. Danah continuing his responsibilities for community care. The folks who really keep things going are the members of the Pastoral Care Ministry Team: Esther Petersen, Katie Mutlow, Sharon Hudspeth, Shirley Wilding, and Joan Johnston (Roll Clerk). Without their guidance and support, so much of this church's pastoral care ministry would fall far short.

There are so many initiatives that fall under the umbrella of Pastoral Care at McDougall, including coordinating and overseeing after-worship coffee, funeral support, Healing Touch, the Memorial Fund, the Memorial Garden, pastoral care phone-outs, McDougall's Prayer Circle, distribution of the remaining prayer shawls from the prayer shawl ministry, the Membership Roll and ongoing Roll Reporting, and the special services at scheduled at various senior's residences.

A special thanks goes out to Eleanor Anderson for her hard work sending out cards of appreciation and support, and to Shirley Wilding for her continued work on maintaining the phone-out data.

In 2023 the Pastoral Care Ministry Team began to offer support once again for funerals at McDougall by providing coffee, tea, and juice for after the service. This work has been faithfully tended by volunteers throughout the year, under the coordination of Joan Johnston.

The annual Seniors' Luncheon on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, was a great time for the 75 people attending. The student volunteers from



Foundations for the Future Charter Academy were a blessing. A big thank you to the McDougall volunteers who made it all possible.

On October 21, 2023, McDougall's Pastoral Care Team also hosted Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins from the Chinook Winds Region for a Pastoral Care workshop called "The Art of Spiritual Care". Participants joined from all over Southern Alberta.

Our Longest Night service in December saw a larger-than-normal number of people in attendance, for what proved to be a meaningful and sacred time of acknowledging our weariness and grief, and naming those from our congregation who had passed in 2023.

This year, we transitioned into using a new pastoral care database program to enhance our efficiency and ability to respond to pastoral care concerns. It has been a steep learning curve for me to fully integrate into the life of McDougall, but I have certainly seen an improvement in our ability to connect with many more people over the phone and with pastoral visits, as we work to faithfully support this community.

As we look to 2024, it is my hope and prayer that you know you are loved, and you are not alone. We will continue to build on the progress we've made in this past year at extending that promise through our pastoral care ministries in the year to come.

**Submitted by Rev. Bill Weaver,  
McDougall's Pastoral Care Minister and  
Pastoral Care Ministry Team Lead in 2023**



## 2023 Roll Report

**Membership, January 1, 2023**                    **269**

**Received into Church Membership:**        **+5**

By baptism +4

Reinstated from Appendix +1

**Removed from Church membership**        **-23**

By death -19

By removal to our Appendix -1

By certificate of transfer out -3

**Membership, December 31, 2023**            **251**

### **Members deceased in 2023:**

Joy Bekker, Ron Burns, David Dyck, Marion Enta, Tom Foster, Betty Fox, Ron Franklin, Bob Hacock, Marion Halpen, Kathleen Hatlelid, Merle Heise, Art Hironaka, Clowie Jickling, Gord Jamison, John McHutchison, Evangeline (Jean) Smith, Marjorie Stoley, Ron Stoley, Dorothy Torpe

**Respectfully submitted, Joan Johnston, Roll Clerk**

## Worship and Spiritual Development Ministry Team

In Worship, we had several series which were presented over several weeks, including:

1. During Lent we used a weekly series of scenes from a resource called "Going Deeper," about people trying to understand Jesus and sacrifice. Thanks to Adam Schlinker, Peggy Jorgenson, Jennifer Heidebrecht, Wally Shoults, Ron Bierwirth, Margaret Holden-Scott, and David Swanson for helping with these skits!
2. We commissioned a Lenten wreath (similar to Advent), and a candle was extinguished from the wreath each week by congregation members along with a short reading from a resource called "Lenten Candles." The wreath will be used in subsequent years.

3. We had a series on Acts over the summer – a tough slog!
4. In September we started a series called "God Speaks Science," which integrated science and theology.
5. We used the resource "How Does a Weary World Rejoice" by Sanctified Art During Advent. Lots of thought-provoking art, poetry and liturgy that enriched our Advent.

Special Services this year included:

1. We held an Ash Wednesday service this year, as opposed to a service of ashes after the Shrove Tuesday event.
2. On Good Friday members of our congregations read monologues featuring people who were around Jesus at the time of crucifixion. Thanks

to Doug Berridge, Ron Bierwirth, Daren Patterson, Isabella Berridge, Jennifer Heidebrecht, Marianne Medhurst, Xander Harris and Christine Kennedy for their contributions in our service.

3. We held a Holy Saturday service, but it was poorly attended. We used the Resource “Stations of the Cross” by Martin Erspamer that featured beautiful artwork.
4. We presented “It’s Cool in the Furnace” on June 4 – a multi-generational telling of the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. What fun!



5. We learned about Diwali with the Kumar family during our service on November 19, and after the service we enjoyed samosas and Indian sweets.
6. We held our annual Longest Night service on December 21, which included a jazz underscore to the service. It was a wonderful service of peaceful meditation and reflection.

7. On Christmas Eve we had two services – one at 4:00 pm led by Danah Cox that featured a set of scenes performed by the Kid’s Table children. The 7:00 pm service featured the choir and other music. We served communion as cookies, juice, and chocolate (the spirit in us!). Good energy and attendance at both services.

For Spiritual Nurture we provided an array of opportunities, including:

1. In January, we began a weekly Bible Study focusing on the reading for the upcoming Sunday. Great discussions that helped shape sermons!
2. During Lent, the series “The Ridiculous Journey: Following a Nobody from Nowhere” was facilitated on Wednesday night with dinner, and Thursday as a Zoom meeting. This series included film clips from contemporary thinkers including Richard Rohr, Brenné Brown, Nadia Bolz-Webber, and others.
3. During Advent we had a book study of “Heaven & Earth” by Will Willimon on Wednesday nights with dinner and on Thursday Zoom. The attendance at Thursday Zoom was low enough that we discontinued it.

**Submitted by Rev. Joanne Anquist,  
Worship and Spiritual Development  
Ministry Team Lead**

## Technical Team Report

Over the years technical support for worship services and other events at McDougall has evolved considerably. A team of volunteers has operated the sound system for many years. Then we added a projection system and thus power point preparation and operations people were needed. With the addition to our ministry of recording and live streaming ability, more volunteers and equipment were needed. Technical support services are provided for worship and funeral services, and other events

such as meetings, concerts, and theatre productions, often including rehearsals in advance. The Tech Team roster includes volunteers for sound, video, and camera set up and operation. While preparation of the power point is usually done by ministry, communications, and administration staff, systems maintenance is done by team members.



Thanks to the following people who have served in on the Tech Team in 2023:

Val MacLeod, Pat White, Aidan Scott, Bryan Scott, Audrey Scott, John

Naylor, Dave Schlinker, Christopher Kuntz, Shannon Kuntz, Brennan Berry, Mari Crozier, Kyky Reuangrith, Patrick Meenagh, and Barrie Clayton. We look forward to welcoming some new members to the team in 2024.

**Submitted by Barrie Clayton,  
Tech Team Leader,  
Worship & Spiritual Development Ministry**

## Reports from the Leadership Council:

### Leadership Council

Within our current governance structure, the Leadership Council is responsible for decisions related to

- Vision, mission, and strategic goal setting and evaluation of progress.
- Policy development and organizational oversight, including delegation of responsibilities laid out in The United Church Manual.
- Annual budget and major deviations from budget.
- Reporting and responding to the Congregation.
- Relationship with Chinook Winds Regional Council and the UCC General Council.
- Official matters related to pastoral relations with paid accountable ministerial staff and the creation of new staff positions.

The Leadership Council membership includes: Co-Chairs, Treasurer, Secretary, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Chinook Winds Regional Representative, McDougall Foundation Chair, up to 10 members-at-large, Worship and Spiritual Development Ministry Team Lead, Family and Community Ministry Team Lead, Pastoral Care Ministry Team Lead, Outreach and Social Justice Ministry Team Lead, Ministry and Personnel Working Group Lead, Operations

Working Group Lead, and Property Working Group Lead.

The 2023 Leadership Council held seven meetings which included four regular meetings and three extraordinary meetings, and one congregational town hall meeting. The council co-chairs, working group leads, and ministry leads provided reports to the congregation via Eblast and links on the McDougall website.

Meeting highlights included:

- Welcoming of new leadership council members-at-large.
- Communication Working Group report and recommendations.
- Inception of a Marketing and Fundraising Working Group.
- Change of congregational reporting from every three months to every four months to better match the church calendar.
- After extensive discussion, the council voted in favor of The UCC Remit #1 – Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada.
- Gave the Trustees the go-ahead to pursue a cell tower lease with Telus.
- Supported the shared ministry initiative between McDougall, Ogden, and Red Deer Lake United Churches.

- Initial discussions regarding the 2024 budget.
- CEBA loan repayment.

I would like to thank all council members who have taken an active role in the work of

## Affirming Vision Team

The Affirming Vision Team continues to celebrate McDougall United's inviting and inclusive spirit.

Our Team members include Tara Jorgensen (Lead), Jean MacEachern, Alex Bradley, Marilyn Agnew, and Marilyn Bates. We want to thank Tara for her leadership as she has stepped away for other pursuits.



We held a movie night in February showing the film *The Prom* starring Meryl Streep. Attendance was low but fun was had by all. The following day we celebrated our 6th year as an Affirming Community with a

special service, a guest speaker from the Centre for Newcomers, and a luncheon. Donations of over \$300 were collected and given to the Rainbow Railroad. We held PIE Day with many congregation members donating homemade pies. Thank you to all who took time to support and help with our various events.

**Submitted by Daren Patterson,  
Leadership Council Co-Chair**

Alex participated in the Pride Parade with Jean and Marilyn B taking their lawn chairs to enjoy. The parade lasted 2.5 hours with everyone engaged and having a great time.

We look forward to taking the opportunity to be more intentional in this work in 2024. We anticipate inviting speakers and collaborating with other churches to further our understanding of 2SLGBTQ+ work and issues in the year ahead.

**Submitted by Marilyn Bates,  
on behalf of the Affirming Vision Team**

## Chinook Winds Region Representative

As McDougall United Church's representative to Chinook Winds Region (CWR), I attended the annual conference in Medicine Hat in May 2023. Joanne Anquist is Presider (chair) of CWR Council. In common with other mainline churches, the UCC is experiencing declining membership, ageing congregations, and many older facilities. Many Communities of Faith are preparing for a different kind of ministry in the future based on the current needs of their community and realistic expectations. The Region can help facilitate some of the change

and renewal needed. Collaboration between Communities of Faith is encouraged to help continue some community services in which the UCC has been involved in the past. However, some projects will need to be abandoned due to lack of funds and volunteer support. Through my involvement in the property working group of CWR, I have found a great need for better use of church capital resources to properly fund new ministry projects. These will be the key to survival of our church as a meaningful presence in south Alberta communities. It is my hope a

more streamlined governance will allow this to happen.

**Submitted by Barrie Clayton,  
Representative for McDougall United to  
Chinook Winds Region**

## Communications Working Group

The Communication Work Group was retitled to Perceptive Communication & Response Work Group. Members of this working group included Nick Perrin (team lead), Ken Turnbull (contributing member), Sarah Reuangrith (McDougall Communication Coordinator) along with contributing support feedback members: Marylin Bates, Daren Paterson, Joanne Pritchard, Joan Johnson, Eleanor Anderson, and Marianne Medhurst.

This Working Group submitted a summary report to Leadership Council in March 2023 for consideration and implementation. The report was based upon formal and informal surveys with various McDougall members. Having achieved their stated mandate of a summary report, the work group was dissolved.

**Submitted by Nick Perrin, Team Lead**

## Marketing and Fundraising Group

At the Leadership Council meeting in October, the Marketing and Fundraising Group was formed. The purpose of this group is two-fold: 1) to increase the amount of money brought in through our current ongoing fundraisers and 2) to look at other fundraising or marketing opportunities that can bring money into the church.

team partnered with Valerie to provide food for those who wanted to have dinner before the movie. This kind of event shows how multiple groups coming together in partnership allows us to create bigger events than we might be able to on our own.

This group is under the leadership of Sarah Reuangrith, who is in the process of building a team. In 2023 she worked with Valerie MacLeod (Mamma Mia Fundraiser), Frank Kurucz (in charge of the Fundscrip Program) and Shauna Kennedy and Rev. Danah Cox (Reconciliation Bookmark Fundraiser).

Similarly, Right Relations and Family Ministry put on a successful and ongoing bookmark fundraiser where we sold bookmarks that showcased panels from the Reconciliation Mural. Extra bookmarks were made up that are available for purchase at the church office. We are hoping that we can sell more of the bookmarks throughout the year and during the upcoming Chinook Region conference that will be held at McDougall in the spring.

We might be a new group, but we were able to assist with two fundraisers so far: Mamma Mia and selling Reconciliation Mural Bookmarks.

In 2024 we are hoping to have a fundraising team established that can work on some larger fundraisers.

Valerie MacLeod organized a Mamma Mia Sing-Along Event to raise money for the choral music leadership in November. The Family Ministry

**Submitted by Sarah Reuangrith,  
Council Working Group Lead  
for Marketing and Fundraising**

## Ministry and Personnel Working Group

Ministry and Personnel is the only required committee/working group for United Church congregations. We are charged with ensuring that employees (both staff and contract employees) are compensated properly, that issues between members of the congregation and staff are dealt with, and that annual reviews are done. I work with Marilyn Bates with as-needed support from Joanne Pritchard and Margaret Holden Scott, when developing contracts and job descriptions, and with the Assistant Treasurer, Bruce Munro, who does the budget-related spreadsheets related to staff salaries and benefits. We very much need at least one more person to join the McDougall M&P team to start learning how things work.

Highlights from 2023 included: the retirement of our long-time custodian Harpal Chahal and the hiring of Jeremiah Laquette as our part-time Caretaker/Handyman; Retirement dinner / Staff Appreciation dinner in October; work on calculating the hours/payment required for the pilot Shared Ministry Project with Red Deer Lake United Church; then the ministry and personnel work required to move from the pilot into a longer agreement .

M&P coordinated staff coverage over the summer for holidays/study leave and Rev. Cox's medical leave for his knee surgery. We also completed the required paperwork to change Rev. Joanne to .75FTE to allow her to spend time with her family during family illnesses and set up a secondment agreement with Ogden United Church for .25FTE of Rev. Bill's time to cover Joanne's Pastoral Care hours. We also supported the request for additional hours for the Office Administrator to be used specifically for grant writing.

As McDougall's M&P Lead, I have been appointed by Council to be part of the Joint Ministry and Personnel Committee that will be responsible for M&P tasks and ministerial support related to the 2 full-time and 2 part-time ministers in the Shared Ministry Project. We are committed to reviewing quarterly how things are working. Annual reviews for all staff will also be conducted early in the new year.

Below is a list of the McDougall staff and contract employees in 2023.

| Position                                       | Incumbent           | Type of Position                       | 2023 Notes  |
|--|---------------------|--|---|
| Worship and Congregational Leadership Minister | Rev. Joanne Anquist | Full-time/ .75FTE ministerial position | Moved to .75FTE as of April 1, 2023 for personal reasons                        |
| Family and Community Minister                  | Rev. Danah Cox      | Part-time ministerial position         | 20 hours/week   |
| Pastoral Care Minister                         | Rev. Bill Weaver    | Part-time ministerial position         | Seconded from Ogden to assume pastoral care ministerial duties on April 1, 2023 |
| Office Administrator                           | Jen Heidebrecht     | Part-time staff position               | 24 hours/week   |
| Communications Coordinator                     | Sarah Reuangrith    | Part-time staff position               | 15 hours/week   |
| Custodian                                      | Harpal Chahal       | Part-time staff position               | Retired as of September 1, 2023. Now working on a casual basis.                 |

|                                  |                   |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Caretaker/Handyman               | Jerimiah Laquette | Part-time staff position         | 21 hours/week<br>Hired beginning September 1, 2023.  |
| Sunday morning Kids Table Helper | Saadeeyah Meleek  | Part-time staff position         | Started September 2023   |
| Worship Service Musician         | Tanya Wan Lim     | Service Contractor               | Paid per call for Sunday morning worship services and accompaniment for McDougall Singers and Sonica weekly rehearsals |
| Contemporary Music Leader        | Tanya Wan Lim     | Service Contractor               | Paid per call for leadership of band for monthly contemporary worship services and rehearsals                          |
| Choral Music Leader              | Justin Macosky    | Service Contractor               | Paid per call for choral music direction of McDougall Singers and Sonica   |
| Bookkeeper                       | Courtney Den Boer | Service Contract                 | Paid monthly upon receipt of invoices submitted for requested services   |
| Facilities Coordinator           | John Naylor       | Agreement with McDougall Council | Receives a percentage of rental income   |
| Honorary Minister                | Rev. Bob Mutlow   | Honorary position                | Receives no remuneration except for occasional pulpit supply   |

**Submitted by Peggy Jorgensen,  
Ministry and Personnel Lead**

## Operations Working Group

The Operations Working Group (Operations) has been an integral part of the McDougall Leadership Council’s governance structure since 2019. The Operations team met on Zoom on the third Thursday of each month in 2023 to handle the administrative business and budget oversight for the church. Council Co-chair Joanne Pritchard has been the Lead of Operations since its formation. Other members of this dedicated team this past year have included Rev. Joanne Anquist (Minister), Norma May (Treasurer), Peggy Jorgensen (M&P Lead) and Barrie Clayton (Property Co-lead). Bruce Munro (former Council Member-at-Large and now Council Assistant Treasurer/Budget) filled the Operations Member-at-Large position in 2023. The Operations Convenor role has been filled by Mari Crozier and Sonia Dodd as well as Council Members-at-Large when needed. Other

Council Leads and members of the McDougall staff attended portions the monthly Operations meetings as needed. The Record of Business (ROB) Notes from each Operations meeting were communicated to staff and Council members immediately following the Operations meetings.

“Quadri Mestre” (every 4 months) reports from both Operations and the Treasurers were provided to the Leadership Council and made available to members of the congregation through the McDougall website and Email Blasts. These reports are housed on the McDougall website for future reference. Some key items addressed at 2023 Operations meetings included:

- Oversight of monthly financial statements including the Restricted Funds.
- Quarterly review of McDougall's Annual Budget.
- Input to the 2023 draft budget that was presented at the January Leadership Council meeting and the AGM in February.
- Input to budget line name changes for the 2023 budget year to align with the approved changes to our governance structure.
- Review and update of rental rates for September 2023.
- Oversight of service contracts for our music leaders and the Family and Community Worker.
- Hiring of a new caretaker/handyperson.
- Approval of Rev. Joanne's request to temporarily reduce her working hours and the hiring of Rev. B. Weaver to temporarily take over 10 hours/week of pastoral care work.
- Lease renewal for the Jesus Baptist Church's rental of space in the church basement.
- Approval for additional admin hours specifically for preparing grant applications.
- Oversight related to the re-keying of the church's external doors.
- Request to the McDougall Foundation for the transfer of funds for major roof repairs and hot water system replacement.
- Supporting the Trustees' negotiations with Telus for a cell tower agreement.
- Development of an agreement with Red Deer Lake UC and Ogden UC for a Shared Ministry Team Pilot in the fall.
- Assistance with the envelope stuffing, labeling and distribution of the stewardship packages.

My sincere thanks go out to all who contributed to the work of the Operations Working Group in 2023!

**Submitted by Joanne Pritchard,  
Operations Lead/Council Co-chair**

## Property Working Group

The major expansion and renovation of our building in 2006 afforded us with several years of minimal building maintenance costs, however maintenance needs are now increasing as the building ages. Since McDougall no longer has a Property Committee, oversight of property maintenance has been taken on by volunteers John Naylor and Barrie Clayton with on-call help from Rudy Rumpel, Doug Dyer, Brennan Berry, and Jonathon Prevost. Landscaping assistance from the Degenhardts, Medhursts, and others is much appreciated. Regular inspections by qualified persons are required for such things as alarm systems, HVAC, water, gas, fire protection, elevators, and kitchen facilities. Snow removal is contracted. Numerous tradespeople are contracted to make

repairs as needed; however, arrangements for these takes considerable time. The main elevator required major repairs, upper Hospitality Hall lights were converted to LED due to continued breakdowns, and the outside doors and some interior doors were re-keyed. Larger, long-term maintenance projects are supervised by Trustees with funding supplied by the McDougall United Church Foundation. These projects cost \$96,000 in 2023 and included partial flat roof repairs and replacement of hot water heaters. A billing error by Enmax resulted in utilities being under-charged in 2022 and over-charged in 2023; this is now corrected.

Harpal Chahal continued as our main custodian until September when Jerimiah Laquette joined



staff as our part time Caretaker/Handyman. We welcome Jeremiah's talents and ability to make many repairs as well as efficient janitorial work. Harpal and Patrick Meenagh continue to fill-in on a casual basis as needed.

Early in 2022 we were fortunate to arrange the lease of a considerable portion of the lower level to Jesus Baptist Calgary Church, a new, primarily Korean congregation. Due to growth of their congregation, they requested more space this year, so some reallocation of space

and renovation was required. The Holy Grounds room is being renovated to accommodate new McDougall programs, the Burning Bush room was renovated for extra meeting space, and Room 3 is now allocated to Acadia Pantry (at no cost), and room 14 for McDougall's Family Ministry program use. Danah Cox has a studio in one large basement room. Ogden United Church still has storage space in room 9.

**Barrie Clayton and John Naylor,  
Property Working Group Co-leads**

## Vision Working Group

The Vision Working Group's purpose is to provide opportunities for the Leadership Council and Staff to engage in visioning and strategic planning. Members of the Visioning Working Group include Daren Patterson, Marilyn Bates, and Sarah Reuangrith.

Highlights from 2023 include:

- Creation of the following working statements:
  - Welcome. Come take your place. You belong here.
  - Forward thinking Christians who are creating hope through our Ministry.
  - We each live these statements through Worship, Christian Education, Pastoral Care, Fellowship, and Outreach and Social Justice.
- Meeting with the Ministry Team Leads to discuss the following questions:

- How is your group creating hope within McDougall and the community?
- How does your group handle budget aspects so that you are creating a lasting legacy?
- Can you think of any big or small collaborations that you might be able to do with other groups within McDougall or the surrounding community?

Vision for 2024 include:

- Supporting the budget process by having Leadership Council and congregation members envision how we can continue to be a flourishing congregation within the community.
- Continuing to provide means to support the Leadership Council with strategic planning.

**Submitted by Daren Patterson,  
Vision Working Group Lead**

## Groups Meeting at McDougall

McDougall has several traditional Fellowship Groups as well as other groups that meet at the church on a regular basis to share interests and build community.

## Friendship Club

The main purpose of Friendship Club is to provide an opportunity for seniors (mostly, but not exclusively!) to gather together in friendship, laughter, and support of one another. These days, this is usually done over a board game or game of cards at church on the third Thursday afternoon of the month. As well, a Christmas luncheon is held, and a bit of a windup in June.



Opportunities exist for other types of programming, should an interest arise.

On average 20-30 members attend each month and contribute \$2/meeting for coffee and goodies. Our present balance is \$325.36.

If you think this program might be of interest to you, please contact us for further information and come check us out. We'd love to welcome you!

**Respectfully submitted by  
Gord and Marsha Degenhardt,  
on behalf of the Friendship Club**

## God at the Movies

God at the Movies generally meets the first Tuesday of the month at a movie theatre where we watch a movie and then go out for coffee afterwards to discuss what the movie was about or what lessons it may have shown us. We usually have anywhere between 10 and 35 folks attend these evenings. We all enjoy our night at the movies and the get togethers afterwards.

Thanks to Marilyn Chaney and Noreen Avey who chose the movies and host the coffee times afterwards when I am away. We look forward to another year of good movies, coffee, and conversation!

**Submitted by Mary Stevens,  
On behalf of the God at the Movies group**

## Heritage Time Out

Heritage Time Out is a ladies group who meet for the purpose of socializing through crafting and creativity. Our group is made up of an executive as well as approximately 50 members.

hiatus due to Covid. Our group had a book exchange paired with a food drive for the Acadia Food Pantry.

Heritage Time Out meets Wednesdays 9 - 11:30 am. There is a Fall, Winter, and Spring Session. Each session is 12 weeks long. In 2023, we had our usual groups of Knitting/Crochet, Card making, Do as You Wish, Quilting, and Embroidery. On the last week of each session, we have a potluck breakfast.

Our vision for 2024 is to continue to support one another in creative pursuits and friendship.

In 2023, we gave a donation of \$6,000 to McDougall United. This was a larger donation than previous years as Time Out had been on

We will continue to foster a connection to McDougall United by donating to the church, as well as encouraging members of McDougall United to join Time Out. We advertise and encourage our Time Out members to partake in McDougall United events such as movie nights or the bookmark fundraiser.

**Submitted by Lorraine Rohs,  
on behalf of Heritage Time Out group**

## Ladies Fellowship Group

Eleanor sent 55 cards to members of the congregation.

Joan sold 10 United Church Calendars to the office staff.

Cost of ingredients for sandwiches totaled \$403.88 for 2023.

**Submitted by Marilyn Bily,  
on behalf of the Ladies Fellowship Group**

## Ladies of Literature

Hello McDougall Friends!

We have been so fortunate to welcome three new insightful members to Ladies of Literature: Lynette, Karina, and Leslie. This brings us to a lucky number of 13 members/friends. We've enjoyed learning from the newest members and each other while we read through this year's booklist:

Sept. 18 *Uncommon Type* by Tom Hanks

Oct. 16 *Carnegie's Maid* by Marie Benedict

Nov. 20 *I'll Give You the Sun* By Jandy Nelson

Dec. 11 *The Secret Diary of Hendrik Groen, 83 and ¼ Years old* by Graeme Simsion

Jan. 15 *Magpie Murders* by Anthony Horowitz

Feb. 12 *Starlight* by Richard Wagamese

Mar. 18 *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman

Apr. 15 *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult

May 13 *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak

We meet on the above days at 7pm on Zoom and were blessed to meet once in the summer to share companionship and see each other in 3D.

Here's to good books, great health, and safety for all in 2024.

**Submitted by  
Michelle Chaffee and Jennifer Weaver,  
Leaders of the Ladies of Literature Book Club**

## McDougall Library

The McDougall Library, which is located next to the church office, has more than 2000 mostly-donated books shelved. Sections include children and youth books, devotions, spiritual growth, references, Indigenous, Affirming, community care and wellness, gardening, biographies, and fiction books. Librarians Janet Hansen, Marilyn Bates, and Carol Clayton meet most months to catalogue books and refresh the collection, sending culled books to sales to

support charities. There is no library budget, so donations are welcome. The library is open after worship every Sunday as well as during the week. Our enthusiastic librarians welcome you to borrow whatever piques your interest. See you soon!

**Submitted by Carol Clayton,  
on behalf of the McDougall Library Group**

## Monday Homeschool Group

Homeschooling requires a community and our Monday meet up group strives to meet this need among the homeschooling families in south Calgary. We provide a safe place to come and learn together. We meet on Mondays from 11 am – 2 pm. Our usual schedule is to start with a movement activity (parent led), followed by lunch, show and tell (a huge highlight for the kids) and then an activity or experiment (parent led).

In 2023 we ran three different sessions. Our first was in January and included 13 homeschooling families (around 37 kids ranging from baby to 13 years old). Then we ran a session in March that included 12 families (30 kids). After a break for the summer, we ran a session starting in September that included 16 families (27 kids). The administrative work is done by Sarah Reuangrith with help from Jasmin Ogroske. All the parents are expected to

help plan something that gets the kids moving as well as an activity or experiment.

We had a lot of fun in 2023 with some special guests including: a chiropractor brought in a skeleton to teach the kids about bones, we were treated to a violin solo from a professional musician, taught a music lesson from a school music teacher and had a visit from Santa himself! We also learned a lot from the talented group of parents that share their gifts with us. We celebrated all the seasons and special events for Easter, Halloween, and Christmas.

In 2024 we will continue to meet and build relationships within the families. We are also working on a partnership with the Family Ministry to do a joint fundraiser.

**Submitted by Sarah Reuangrith,  
on behalf of the Homeschool Group**

## Baptisms and Wedding Services

### Baptisms:

Harris, Karina, baptised February 19, 2023  
Reuangrith, Kyky, baptised March 19, 2023  
Reuangrith, Thea, baptised March 19, 2023  
Reuangrith, Skyla, baptised March 19, 2023  
Skoretz, Krista, baptised September 17, 2023  
Skoretz, Nicholas, baptised September 17, 2023

### Weddings:

Prevost, Jonathan Roy & Tanya Jessica Wan Lim, married August 4, 2023

## In Loving Memory

Merle Heise: June 4, 1941 - February 2, 2023  
Marg MacKenzie: September 2, 1930 - February 10, 2023\*  
Bob Hacock: March 4, 1938 - March 18, 2023



Art Hironaka: October 30, 1934 - April 8, 2023  
 Betty Fox: November 4, 1934 - April 19, 2023  
 Ron Burns: July 4, 1934 - April 20, 2023  
 Joy Bekker: March 26, 1939 - April 24, 2023  
 Kathleen Hatlelid: December 17, 1923 - May 3, 2023  
 Betty Letal: December 27, 1931 - May 12, 2023\*  
 Ron Stoley: May 19, 1925 - May 17, 2023  
 Dorothy Torpe: June 3, 1929 - May 21, 2023  
 Marion Enta: June 14, 2023  
 John McHutchison: October 1, 1937 - June 18, 2023  
 Ron Franklin: August 21, 1935 - July 10, 2023  
 Bill Hawkins: September 1, 1929 - July 10, 2023\*  
 Stella Patel: July 2023\*  
 Dean Perry: July 2, 1968 - August 1, 2023\*  
 Marjorie Stoley: March 1, 1931 - August 2, 2023  
 Don Kerslake: May 3, 1932 - August 2, 2023 (Not pictured below)\*  
 Marion Halpen: May 31, 1929 - August 21, 2023  
 Mark Bedford: September 13, 1930 - September 10, 2023\*  
 Wyn Bailey: September 6, 1930 - November 14, 2023\*  
 Tom Foster: November 29, 1929 - November 21, 2023  
 Clowie Jickling: November 27, 2023  
 Mary Megley: August 14, 1932 - December 9, 2023\*  
 Dave Dyck: July 28, 1945 - December 20, 2023  
 Evangeline (Jean) Smith: April 30, 1929 - December 28, 2023

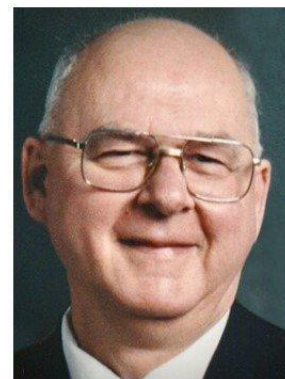
\*Not part of McDougall Roll Call



Merle Heise



Marg MacKenzie



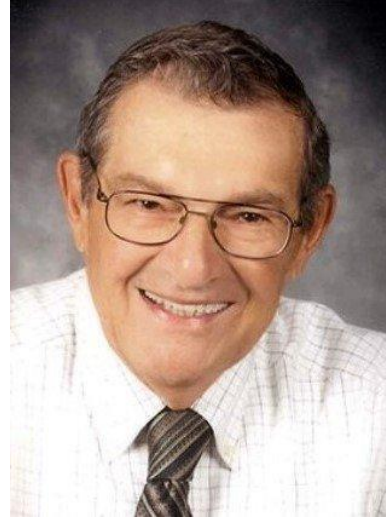
Bob Hacock



Art Hironaka



Betty Fox



Ron Burns



Joy Bekker



Kathleen Hatlelid



Betty Letal



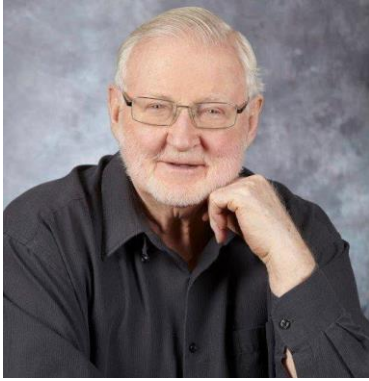
Ron Stoley



Dot Torpe



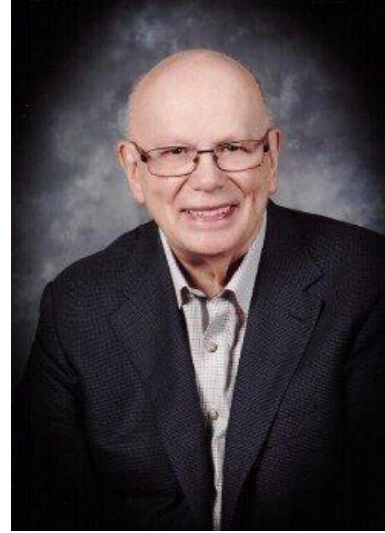
Marion Enta



John McHutchison



Ron Franklin



Bill Hawkins



Stella Patel



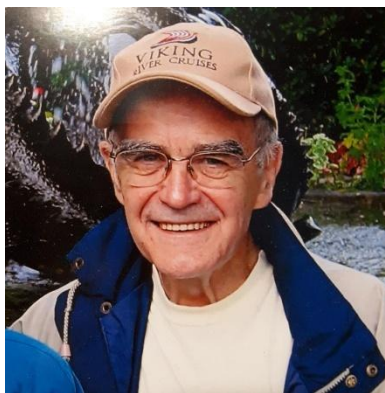
Dean Perry



Marjorie Stoley



Marion Halpen



Mark Bedford



Wyn Bailey



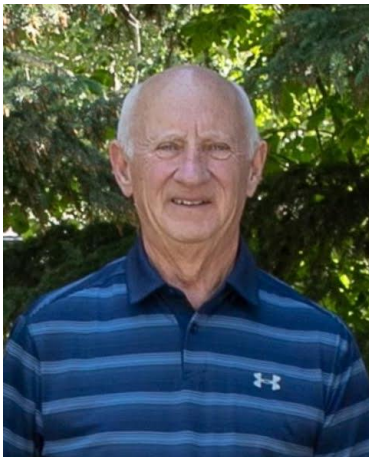
Tom Foster



Clowie Jickling



Mary Megley



Dave Dyck



Jean Smith

## The McDougall Memorial Garden 2012–2023

### Memorial Garden Interments:

Agatha Edna Mercer: June 8, 1912 - April 6, 1977

Tristine Alexandra Broatch: December 19, 1982 - April 1, 1983

Alan Martin: July 7, 1936 - March 17, 2006

Bruce Donald Broatch: November 19, 1936 - January 8, 2007

Dellas McKee: November 23, 1921 - January 26, 2008

Jean Frances Branson: January 1, 1922 - February 26, 2010

Stefan (Steve) Megley: August 28, 1929 - November 2, 2011

Allan Frederick Peirce: February 28, 1935 - January 25, 2013

Heather Jane Allan (Holt): November 6, 1965 - December 13, 2013

Sheila Gardner: June 21, 1926 - March 30, 2014

Douglas Sparrow: May 19, 1932 - May 4, 2014

Mona Katharine Cozart: October 26, 1916 - June 18, 2014



Grant Ben Hans: February 2, 1933 - August 10, 2014  
Sheila McHutchison: April 4, 1941 - October 10, 2014  
Wayne Edward Keil: February 8, 1949 - May 28, 2016  
Alexander McLaren Rankin: June 18, 1927 - October 31, 2016  
Dorothy McKee: August 8, 1923 - June 6, 2017  
William (Bill) Paynter: July 22, 1935 - October 21, 2017  
Tom Enta: January 8, 1932 - January 5, 2018  
Heather Peirce: February 14, 1939 - February 26, 2018  
Ted Steventon: October 19, 1938 - October 22, 2020  
JoAnne Rotz: February 13, 1937 - July 20, 2021  
Julia (Judy) Rankin: April 1, 1928 - March 08, 2021  
Donna Paynter: August 9, 1939 - October 13, 2021  
Brian Veale: August 31, 1934 - February 21, 2022  
Joseph Merveyn Enes: October 10, 1951 - April 5, 2022  
Keith Hansen: May 2, 1936 - April 20, 2022  
Arthur Hironaka: October 30, 1934 - April 8, 2023  
Marion Enta: June 1930 - June 14, 2023

## Minutes from 2023 Congregational Meeting

Annual General Meeting Draft Minutes, February 26, 2023

### **McDougall Annual General Meeting Minutes February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 In-Person, Zoom and Live Stream**

#### **PRESENT:**

**Zoom- Tara Jorgensen, Shauna Kennedy, Phil Edwards, Teresa Lang, Charlie Marshall, Dick and Shirley Fillo, 3 unidentified**

**In-Person- Daren Patterson, Joanne Pritchard, Peggy Jorgensen, Jim Porter, Pat Shea, Ken Turnbull, Marg Heidebrecht, Marj Heidebrecht, Marjorie MacRae, Larry and Marilyn Chaney, Bob and Eleanor Anderson, Roma Shafer, Karen M. Ormond, Sylvia Steventon, June Clarke, Jean MacEachern, Rudy Rempel, Drew Agnew, Esther Petersen, Sarah Reuangrith, Alf and Ann Berridge, Katie Mutlow, Bruce Munro, Denise Patterson, Rev. Joanne Anquist, Rev. Danah Cox, Marsha and Gord Degenhardt, Nick and JoAnn Perrin, Evelda Love, Millie Veale, Janet Hansen, Mack and Sherill Holt, Margaret Hay, Marilyn Bates**

1. Welcome and Call to order

Daren opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees at 1:00 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement - Daren Patterson
3. Opening Prayer – Rev. Joanne Anquist
4. Election of Chair and Secretary for Congregational Meeting - Joanne Pritchard  
**Motion: Daren Patterson acts as Chair, and Marilyn Bates as Secretary for this congregational meeting.**  
**Moved by: Joanne Pritchard    Seconded by: Peggy Jorgensen**  
**CARRIED**

5. Determine Quorum (min. of 20 required) - Daren Patterson

Daren confirmed that the number of attendees met the required number for a quorum.

6. Extending Voting to Adherents – Daren Patterson  
**Motion: That members of the congregation who are entitled to vote at all meetings in full membership, whose names are on the Roll of the Church, give consent that adherents, who regularly contribute to the life of the Church, may vote on all matters in this AGM.**  
**Moved by: Esther Petersen    Seconded by: Pat Shea**  
**CARRIED**

7. Adoption of Agenda  
**Motion: That the agenda be adopted as circulated.**  
**Moved by: Ken Turnbull    Seconded by: Marsha Degenhardt**  
**CARRIED**

8. Adoption of Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022.  
**Motion: To dispense with the reading of the minutes from February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and approve as circulated in the Annual Report.**  
**Moved by: Jim Porter    Seconded by: Sylvia Steventon**  
**CARRIED**

9. Business Arising from the minutes of February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

No new business was brought forward.

10. Approval of the 2022 Annual Report

The Report this year is in a new format. Thanks were extended to Sarah Reuangrith, Ministry Teams and each of the contributors to the Annual Report.

**Motion: To approve the 2022 Annual Report as circulated via the McDougall website.**

**Moved by: Marilyn Chaney    Seconded by: Denise Patterson**  
**CARRIED**

11. (a) Presentation of nominees for McDougall's 2023 Leadership Council – Joanne Pritchard  
(b) Request for nominations from the floor – Joanne Pritchard

Nominees for Leadership Council vacancies - Margaret Holden-Scott, Esther Petersen and Leslie Stoddart.

A list was shared indicating vacant positions with request with any interest after this meeting contact Daren Patterson or Joanne Pritchard.

Request that Bruce Munro be added as Assistant Treasurer. He will also remain as a Member-at-Large on the Leadership Council.

Joanne P. acknowledged and thanked those leaving their Leadership Council positions:

**Claire Myers- Leadership Council Member and Office Admin Review Group Member**

**Pat White- Leadership Council Member, Operations Convener and Governance Pilot Review Group Member**

**Tara Jorgensen- Co-Chair on Leadership Council and Affirming Lead**

**Motion: That nominations for positions on the 2023 Leadership Council be closed.**

**Motion: That those listed on the 2023 McDougall Nominees for Leadership Council, as well as any nominations from the floor, be elected to the Leadership Council for 2023-24.**

**Motion: That the Leadership Council be authorized to fill vacancies on the Leadership Council and its working groups as needed prior to the next AGM.**

**Motion: Bruce Munro be added as Assistant Treasurer.**

**Moved by: Joanne Pritchard      Seconded by: Jean MacEachern  
CARRIED**

12. 2022 Year-End Review of Financial Statements – Norma May

Norma went over the December 31, 2022 financial statements. Daren extended thanks to Norma May, Bruce Munro, and Jennifer Heidebrecht for all their work.

**Motion: That the 2022 Financial Statements be approved as presented.**

**Moved by: Norma May      Seconded by: Larry Chaney  
CARRIED**

13. 2023 Budget Presentation – Bruce Munro/Joanne Pritchard

Bruce shared the details of the 2022 Stewardship Campaign and reported he looked at pledges to determine how many and if they actually give what they pledge. Based on his analysis he set the givings at 320,000.00.

Rentals are supported by a recently signed 5-year lease to Jesus Baptist Church.

Bank interest earned on CEBA loan which is being paid back at the end of 2023.

The draft budget includes a 4 hours/week increase to the office hours. Justin, Choral Director and Nik, Youth Support Worker remain until the end of June. It is unclear whether we can support longer. A review will be done in and around May to make this determination. If contracts are extended a new contract will be done.

Bruce reported there are building repairs to be done in the coming year including upgrade to the security system which was carried over from last year's budget.

**Motion: That the 2023 Annual Budget be approved as presented at this meeting.  
Moved by: Bruce Munro                      Seconded by: Nick Perrin  
CARRIED**

14. Temporary change of hours request from Rev. Joanne – Peggy Jorgensen

Peggy reported Reverend Joanne for personal reasons will move to working  $\frac{3}{4}$  hours until the end of December. In her absence interesting solutions for Pastoral Care have been found. There will be no impact to our budget.

15. Other business

No other business put forth.

16. Sending Forth – Rev. Danah Cox

17. Adjournment – Daren Patterson

Next AGM on February 25, 2024.

Daren extended thanks to the Tech Team who made it possible for attendees to join by Zoom and through Live Stream.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

\*Please send any feedback regarding this meeting to Daren Patterson ([daren.denise@gmail.com](mailto:daren.denise@gmail.com)) or Joanne Pritchard ([jmpritchard@shaw.ca](mailto:jmpritchard@shaw.ca)).