

## Ministry 2021 Annual Report

*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you (Isaiah 60:1)*

*Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).*

In Advent we prepare for Messiah's birth; at Christmas we celebrate Messiah's birth; and during Epiphany we try to figure out what it means to live as a people of faith who have seen a great light.

According to Merriam-Webster, the word "insight" has two essential meanings. The first is the "ability to understand people and situations in a very clear way." The second is "an understanding of the true nature of something." This second meaning is reflected in the words of St. Paul to the Corinthian Christians: "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given the discernment of spirits" (I Corinthians 12:4-7). As we enter 2022, it seems like any understanding we thought we had of the Covid-19 pandemic has either evolved, grown, or changed completely. As the lyrics of a contemporary pop song opine: "The more things change, the more they stay the same; the more things stay the same, the more they change."

But what has not change is our abiding appreciation for you, the congregation, for your spiritual evolution both liturgically and technologically. This report is really a huge expression of gratitude. It is dedicated to all those who strive tirelessly to support, sustain, and enrich the work and witness of Cordova Bay United Church; to those who exercise unfaltering leadership, some who labour under enormous personal burdens exacerbated by the pandemic. We are especially grateful for the life and memory of Dr. Richard Nuttall for his faithful service.

We were saddened by the abrupt departure of Dr. Garry Froese as our music director but will always treasure his talent, competence, comradery, and dedication to the ministry of music.

But this expression of thanks would be woefully inadequate without acknowledging our undying affection for Jane Shumka, cherished friend and colleague and administrator extraordinaire. Every decision, activity, and service eventually flows through her office—our ecclesiastical version of an atmospheric river!

*Bill Cantelon & Nancy Walker*