

Caring Ministry Team 2023 Annual Report

The Caring team comprises – Rev. Beth Parsons, Arnette Anderson, Noreen Nash, Orma Paton (Secretary), Carol-Ann Staples, Ruth Schulz, Elizabeth Surerus, Joanne Thomas (Chair) and Marcia Goodwin, our newest member. Blyth Hughes is an affiliate member and provides support by visiting those in residential care. While Joanne was involved in time-consuming church tasks earlier in 2023, Jean Hazemi took over chairing the committee from January through June. We were sorry to lose Jean when she moved to Burnaby.

The Cordova Cafés held once a month have been well attended with 28 – 32 coming regularly and over 50 when there are sales. The Cafés have been well advertised in the community and often there will be one or two new faces from the neighborhood. New banners put out front provide a friendly welcome to all. At the October Café there was a mini-sale of books, jewelry, purses and scarfs that attracted many people from the community and raised \$2662 for the church budget. The bake sale at the December Café raised almost \$1145 bringing the total fundraising efforts to over \$3800.

In October, Dr. Debra Sheets, Professor Emeritus from UVic, spoke on her research in dementia and her initiatives to help reduce social isolation and stigma for people with dementia. This event was well-advertised and brought in several people from the wider community.

Earlier in the year, the Dementia Caregiver Support Group met monthly, facilitated by Rev. Wilda Cottam. In November, the format changed with Rev. Cottam offering monthly one-on-one support to those who need it; her time can be booked through Jane Shumka.

Our Caring Resource library in the Friendship Room has a selection of helpful resources (caregiver support, dealing with grief, guides for seniors, health, meditation and healing, etc.) that can be borrowed or browsed through.

Joanne Thomas and Margaret Bates work together as a team to provide body energy work to those unwell, in pain, or recovering from an illness or operation. This year we have provided healing energy support to Annie Huus and Grace Childs and are willing to offer this service to anyone who would be interested.

Working with Rev. Beth Parsons, the Caring team actively tries to support our congregation and reach out to the community; we would welcome any new members who might like to join our committee.

Respectfully submitted
Joanne Thomas, chair