

## Stewardship Committee 2023 Annual Report

In 2023 the committee met, by Zoom, on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, except July, August and December and it has been a challenging year for our committee for a number of reasons.

Partway through the year 2 members of the committee left Victoria to take up residences in other parts of the country and they were greatly missed.

We have had a number of faithful supporters of our congregation pass away during the year and some others who have moved away.

Council decided into the year that we would not be holding our traditional Spring Fair or Fall Fair, which right there was going to mean a shortfall in our budget of close to \$40,000.

We have also had to deal with some unbudgeted expenses - severance pay and legal expenses in relation to the end of the contracted services of one minister.

However, in early fall we realized that as we were facing a serious shortfall in our budget we would have to initiate a Stewardship Fund raising Campaign, so on November 12 a special Stewardship Worship service was held and the plans for the campaign were announced.

Members of the congregation were requested to consider making a special donation to the church to help reduce the \$40,000 deficit brought about by the missing Spring and Fall Fairs and contribute they did.

By year end \$34,900 had been received in free-will offerings toward the campaign, our Pastor Beth Parsons and husband Glenn presented a wonderful concert, "Sing We Now of Christmas" and had C.D.s for sale, the Caring Committee initiated and organized 2 very successful sales in conjunction with their monthly Cordova Café outreach events and near Christmas, Poinsettias were sold and so by year end and the end of our campaign we were able to show that \$42,330 had been raised which exceeded all expectations. Sincere thanks are extended to all those folk in our congregation who enabled this to happen. What a great effort.

Our year did not end quite as we might have hoped due to the unbudgeted expenses mentioned earlier but in general and with the challenges we faced during the year we feel very thankful for the support of the members of this congregation and look forward to the new year. However, we deem it of paramount importance to find some manner in which the revenue previously received from the Fairs can be replaced in this coming year and beyond.

This year we are also hoping to be able to add another couple of members to our team.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Clare Walker, Peggy Dayton, Ria Korteweg, Robert Silver, Pastor Beth Parsons*