

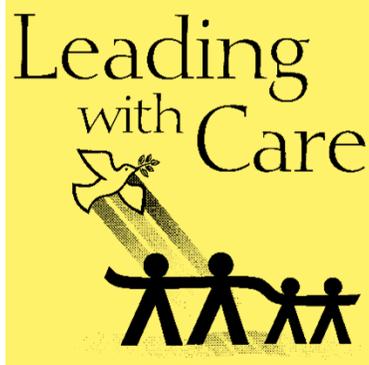


Annual Report



2018

**Westminster Presbyterian Church
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
www.westminsterchurch.ca**



It is the policy of The Presbyterian Church in Canada that all persons – and, in particular, all children, youth and vulnerable adults – who participate in the denomination's programs/ministries and/or use the denomination's facilities will be cared for with Christian compassion and will be safe.

Annual Meeting - March 24th, 2019

Message from the Ministers

Romans 12:12: *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer.*

I have this scripture passage written on a piece of note paper on my desk and it seems to surface now and again. I know why I would have copied this verse - I liked these words and I wanted to remember them - but I no longer remember when I wrote this note to myself. It must have been at a time when I needed the reminder that being joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer are all connected in our lives as Christians.



This past year has taken patience as John and I continued on in our role as interim moderators. Sometimes it felt like there was not enough time to do all of the duties we wanted to do. Sometimes we felt that we did not give our full attention to Westminster when we had the other churches as well. I think I simply did not know that it would take some time to feel proficient at organizing worship and such for three churches.

Still, life at Westminster has continued as people remained faithful in prayer and hopeful for the church. John and I handed out 91 food boxes to those who called and booked for one. I had not realized when we started this program that we would get to know some of the people. This year we have listened to those who had something they needed to tell, prayed for a person who was having surgery and was concerned, and rejoiced with the person who had finally received an apartment. Thank you to everyone who remembers to bring food at the first of the month for the Food Bank so we can provide this service to our community.

John and I began a new initiative on Wednesday mornings when the Bargain Box is open. We have begun offering to pray with those who come to shop. About two to three people a month act on this offer and we have been able to share God's love and care with them.

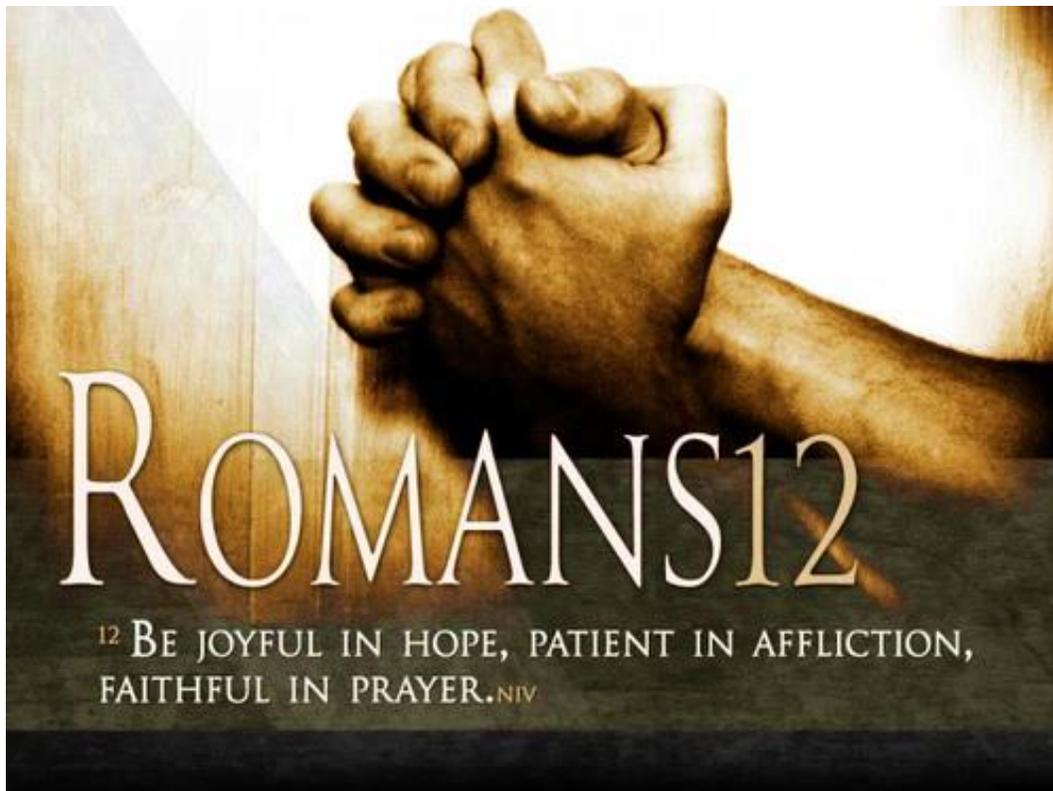
I want to thank those who had the suggestion that we, as a church community, should get together for food and have some pot luck dinners again. There was a difficult start to this idea as we picked the day with a snowstorm but those who came quite enjoyed it. Another happened in the fall and I have heard that there is interest in more.

A hymn sing on the first Sunday of each month has been added to the worship service. We have enjoyed singing your favourite hymn even if it was rather new to us. I hope with this hymn sing that as a congregation we will appreciate the great number of favourite hymns that we have among us.

May we as a congregation continue to be joyful, to be patient and to be faithful in prayer as we look to God for our strength. May we continue to pray together seeking God's direction for us as we continue to make Jesus Christ known to those around us. May the Holy Spirit guide us in all that we do so that we might be the body of Christ.

In Christ's Service

Reverends John and Charlene Wilson



Session Committees

Christian Education

On behalf of the Christian Education Committee, I thank all who have helped with each of our programs.

The **Sunday School** continues using a new Curriculum using a set of stand-alone lessons that coordinate with the Church Lectionary. These stand-alone lessons accommodate students who are occasional visitors to our Sunday School classes. Our 4 teams of 2 each take one week per month.

The **Nursery** is open each week ready for our youngest children as needed. Continued thanks to Susan Lapish for coordinating this program along with her 6-8 volunteers.

Bible Studies took place for 6-8 weeks per session several times throughout 2018.

Our Scout Groups and Guide Groups continue to offer their programs to local children. Thanks for the many leaders of these groups.

Each of these programs is provided by the teams of volunteers that give their time on a weekly basis. Thank you to all.

Linda Finlayson, Chair
Christian Education



Nursery

The nursery is available every Sunday, open and staffed during the service hours for children up to 4 years of age. There are plenty of toys & entertainment for the children. Following the service, the doors are closed & locked to prevent any damage to the toys and equipment.



We are located at the bottom of the stairs just off the Brock Street doors and look forward to seeing even more children. When we have children, they are cared for by 2 adult supervisors.

Currently we have only 4 volunteers, all with police checks, who look after the children. We still need a few more volunteers. So if you would like to help out, please contact Susan.

Respectfully Submitted
Susan Lapish, Nursery Convener



Girl Guides of Canada at Westminster Church

(Affiliated with the Christian Education Committee)

2018 Report



7th Guides: So for this year the guides have been working on multiple items including Bingo at the Davey Home, collecting toiletries for girls and women in Africa as well as cookie selling and many different activities that work towards leadership and badges.

7th Brownies: This year the brownies have been working on structures playing with LEGO's. We have completed a paintnite with the girls and have done a few outings to a local bakery and visited the fire hall.



Respectfully submitted

Amanda King

7th SSM Guides and Brownies

Pathfinders/Rangers Unit: This multi branch unit has been busy with activities. The unit has planned meetings, sleepovers and bridging events.

We have played games, determined our “bird” identities, had a bridging night with brownies doing fun and messy experiments, made wire pumpkins, baked pumpkin cookies/bread and cake, decorated snowman hats, made cinnamon buns, went shopping at the mall for a teenage girl for donation to Christmas cheer, and with Vera’s help baked “dozens” of shortbread cookies for Christmas cheer.

We had a winter sleepover where we sewed stuffed owls to hold our cell phones, made string art designs and cooked over a fire.

The Rangers are working on an “emoji” themed night for a spark unit and have had meetings discussing women, role models, and their lifelines (past, present and future).

The Pathfinders have deciphered codes, had an enrolment challenge, made cake pops and are working on planning a Guide visit with a “Time Machine” themed night.

Respectfully submitted

Maureen Hollingsworth

Westminster Church Scout Group

(Affiliated with the Christian Education Committee)

2018 Annual Report

Our Scout Group was able to retain three active but much curtailed sections – Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts – over this latest calendar year.

The Beaver Colony started the new year with only one lad returning after the Christmas holidays, but he was joined by three new youth signing up, only to have them withdraw after a few meetings, one to another Group, and two brothers when their family realized we had no full summer program. However, another three new lads signed up for the fall session commencing in September.



The Cub Pack had ten youth in January but with the start of the fall session this number had fallen to three, where it remained as of Christmas break.

The Scout Troop had seven youth at the start of the year but that fell to five when one withdrew and another moved out of town. The fall brought all five as returnees and one new recruit, where it stands as of year-end.

So our Group's numbers as the 2018 Calendar Year closed consisted of four Beavers, three Cubs, and six Scouts, down 28% from the start of the year.

The number of volunteer Scouters also experienced a down-turn. **Christina Speer** has continued with Beavers, supported by a Venturer and new leader prospect in **Paige Benoit**, and **Nicholas Speer** as available from his Troop duties. While gaining a Cub Scouter in **Cory Case** for the spring session, he was unable to continue come fall. This left **Jim Rogers**, with **Craig Diotte** agreeing to assist part time but finding himself doing full time duties. Both decided to leave in the middle of the fall term due to increased work demands. Suddenly, we were without Cub leaders, so **Rod McDonald** stepped in to help, and by moving the Cub meeting night to Wednesdays

(at least for the present) could solicit the support of the other leaders as possible. The Troop retained their complement of leaders in **Felicia Wilkins Noel, Nicholas Speer,** and **Greg Hutton,** with **Nicholas Larmond** assisting as a Rover and **Bob Filipowicz** as an alternate leader. **Wayne Godfrey** (Church liaison), **Greg Hutton** (treasurer), and **Rod McDonald** (Group commissioner and registrar) served as administration for the Group throughout the year.

While the Beaver Colony and Cub Pack had little in the way of outdoor activities or Area events this past year (due our leadership issues, including injuries), the Scouts have been very busy with Winter, Spring, and Fall camps, including a trip to North Bay for the annual Rendezvous camp and an overnight canoeing trip into the heart of Lake Superior Provincial Park. This Fall the Troop has been taking on activities relating to wilderness experiences (e.g. ice rescues) and continue to serve the community such as the Remembrance Day services.

As always, we wish to thank the Church and its various committees for its continued sponsorship of our Group. We also thank the Ministers and the members of the congregation for their support and continuing participation in our fund-raising activities and Church Parades.

We recommend that families consider Scouting/Guiding for their young ones, and welcome any adults interested in volunteering as Scouters or as activity resource people. If you know of any adults or children – in or outside of the Church – who might be interested, please contact a Committee member or the Church office. Beavers are senior kindergarten through Grade 2 (typical ages 5 to 7), Cubs from Grade 3 through Grade 6 (typical ages 8 to 10), Scout Troop typical ages 11 to 14, and Ventures 15-18. Scouting is non-denominational and all are welcome.



Yours in Scouting,
Rod McDonald
Group Commissioner/Registrar

Worship and Music

2018 Report

During 2018, five Communion services were conducted at our Church. Communion was offered on Easter Sunday and also on World Communion Day, October 7, 2018.

On Good Friday, a joint service was held at St. Andrew's together with Central United Church. Special music was provided by the joint choir of the three participating Churches. We also had a joint service on September 30, 2018 with St. Paul's and Victoria Churches, continuing what may now be called the annual joint service with our fellow Presbyterian churches in Sault Ste. Marie,



Special mention should be made of the All Saints Sunday Service held on November 4. On this day, deceased members and loved ones of our congregation are honoured and remembered. This was a very special service of acknowledgment and thanksgiving for those who have gone on before us.

Our chancel choir, under the direction of Peter Scoffield, presented a cantata based on scripture readings selected by Dr. Wilson. The service was entitled "Let There be Light" and featured musical selections relating to the biblical verses chosen. Our gratitude is extended to the choir for this very meaningful presentation. We thank the choir and Peter for their musical offerings in 2018.

Other special services this past year included the service led by Teen Challenge North (February 25) and the "Truth & Reconciliation" service with our guest speaker Lana Grawberger, lay minister in the Anglican Church of Canada at St. John's Church on Garden River First Nation and the Bishop Fauquier Chapel at Algoma University.

We also had the privilege of having Reverend David Whitecross as a guest speaker at our service held on Anniversary Sunday, October 21, 2018. Despite the many years that have passed since David was with us a student minister, we renewed our friendships with ease. We received an excellent message from him.

We again extend the congregation's thanks to the group of people from Westminster who, on a monthly basis, provide a service of music, praise and fellowship to the residents of Van Daele Manor. This is very important mission work.

We extend our appreciation to our teaching elders, John and Charlene Wilson.

In His Service

Ben Pritchard

Worship and Music Committee

Choir Report

The choir meets Thursday nights from 7:30 to 9:00. Come and join us for fellowship through music.

If you know of someone interested in learning more about singing, we have the Myrtle Wood Scholarship Fund. The scholarship provides private singing lessons with a qualified teacher. For more details you can ask myself or Sharon.



Please take a moment to thank the members of the choir for their ongoing dedication and service to the worship services at Westminster.

The pianos and organ are in good condition and maintained regularly.

Thank you to the Congregation, Board of Managers, and Session for the continued support.

**Sincerely,
Peter Scoffield, Director**



Mission and Outreach

2018 Report

- We are thankful for the volunteers in our church who give their time and talents to help with our activities and those in need - Soup Kitchen, Christmas Cheer, and visiting
- Thanks to the coffee hour volunteers, scripture readers, ushers, nursery sitters, and rally Sunday helpers.
- Thanks to those who help with the Christmas Cheer program by working in the Hall each December. The Christmas Cheer families appreciate your kindness.
- Thanks to the Westminster Church Scout Group, Beavers, Cubs and Girl Guide leaders for their dedication to our youth.
- Thanks to our choir director, Peter Scoffied, and the choir for their faithful participation during our Sunday services and funerals.
- Thanks to Pam Dearing, coordinator of the Pastoral Visitation Committee and team of visitors. This group visits those who cannot attend church..
- Thanks to those who conduct a worship service of readings and hymns at the Van Daele nursing home.
- A special thank you to the Bargain Box workers who help us financially. They need more help.

Respectfully submitted

Alan Carscadden Convener,

Mission & Outreach Committee Convener



Pastoral Care Year End Report

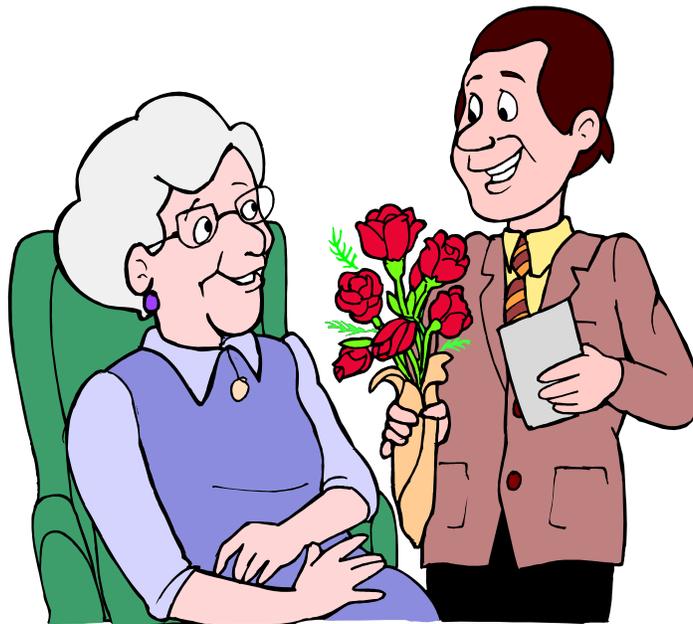
We presently have sixteen shut-ins in the Nursing homes but, unfortunately, this year we lost three of our members.

Thank you to Marla Prichard and Linda Buchan for their visitations, also Reverends John and Charlene Wilson.

I will continue to send Christmas, Easter and Birthday cards to our confined members.

Should you wish to do Pastoral visitations kindly contact the undersigned. A Police check is required.

**Respectfully submitted,
Pam Dearing, Co-ordinator**



Mid-Week Groups

Ladies Aid

2018 Report

Ladies Aid continue to work diligently to support as many functions as possible within the church in order to provide financial assistance for the church. We were still able to support & provide luncheons for funerals, host special events & church celebrations along with the weekly operation of our thrift shop “The Bargain Box”.



Bargain Box: Our thrift shop continues to see an increase in customers as well as an increase in funds to support the church. The shop has become a popular spot each Wednesday as a place to purchase clean, gently used merchandise. We receive many compliments regarding our shop in regard to the condition of the items for sale, the way we display & clean items & keeping our merchandise at reasonable prices. Our shop has become a community meeting place for people & there is a positive interaction between customers & our volunteers. Coffee & treats are served each week. We provide outreach & help if needed in a confidential manner. We also donate to other charities if we receive items we cannot use or have a surplus of clothing. We continue to receive donations from our church members, our customers & many people in the community. Our biggest demand is for household items, casual clothing & furniture. During our three week Christmas break, the store received a thorough cleaning. I encourage our church family to reach out to people in the community to visit our shop & bring us their donations. There are still people who don't know about our thrift shop.

Highlights for the Year:

- Prepared & sold turkey & beef mini pies. As of writing this report, we still have some beef pies in our freezer as we ended up making an extra batch.
- Prepared apple & fruit pies for sale.
- Special Event – Sundae Sunday: Held in April with help from the Pathfinders.
- Volunteered at the Tuck Shop at the Davey Home in March.

- Purchased cakes to honour elders emeritus & Anniversary Sunday.
- Made four cakes for Rally Sunday in September.
- Decorated the church for Thanksgiving & Christmas.
- Provided a light supper of soup, sandwiches & dessert for the special event of the visiting Presbyterian Choir from Southern Ontario. Help was provided by Victoria Church & St. Paul's Church for refreshments after the concert, serving plates of loaves & cheese.
- Provided a Christmas luncheon for members after church of sandwiches & treats.
- Volunteered at Christmas Cheer washing toys.
- Gave \$10.00 gift cards from McDonald's for teens to Christmas Cheer.
- Collected warm socks for the Soup Kitchen & St. Vincent's Shelter.

Thank you to all the members of our church who support the work of Ladies Aid by volunteering for events, baking for funerals & celebrations, setting up & taking down for events & any other jobs that came up. Special thanks to our custodian, Ken Vipond who provided so much support on Bargain Box days – carrying in donations, parking & controlling traffic & keeping the line-up at the door under control. He is a big help & we appreciate his support. Thanks to Sharon Selkirk for keeping our minutes & financial records. Thanks to the minister, John Wilson for helping my husband Robert McCron on occasion with furniture pickup.

Another year of many achievements. Well done everyone!

Respectfully submitted
Vera McCron, President, Ladies Aid

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Board of Managers

Board Members: Les Dool, Mae Filipowicz, Robert Filipowicz, Wayne Godfrey, Helle Hull, Don Lillie, Elda Masters, Carl Meierhoff, Marla Pritchard, Denzil Rathbone, Wanda Rathbone, Melinda Sagle, Sharon Selkirk, Iain Smith, Kay Smith, Beth St. Onge, Ken Vipond

2018 Report

I would start off by thanking the Ladies Aid for their hard work and generous donation to the operation of the Church.

A special thanks to Sharon Selkirk for all of her work on our behalf in keeping the Board abreast of current actions.

Thanks to Iain Smith, Chair of the Finance Committee, Wayne Godfrey and Ken Vipond, Property Committee and all the members of the Board of Managers for their work in keeping our Church property in good repair.

*Thank
You*

Thank you to Reverends Charlene and John Wilson for their support.

And thanks to the entire congregation without which none of this would be possible.

For further details on our projects, please refer to the Property and Financial Reports.

**Yours in the faith,
Don Lillie
Chair of the Board of Managers**

Property Report

During the last year the Property Committee has continued to maintain the church and property.

The following is a list of the projects that have been completed:

- The kitchens have been completely cleaned. The stove, the filter, overhead hood, and the ceiling fan. A couple of the tiles in the kitchen needed to be replaced.
- The floors in the upper hall have been cleaned, stripped of wax and 5 coats of new wax have been applied to the floor. Hopefully this will protect the floor until we can afford to have them refinished.
- We had some problems with one of our tenants. We hope to have all the rental properties rented soon.



As always the Property Committee will continue to maintain the church property as best we can with the funds made available to us.

Ken Vipond & Wayne Godfrey
Property Committee

