

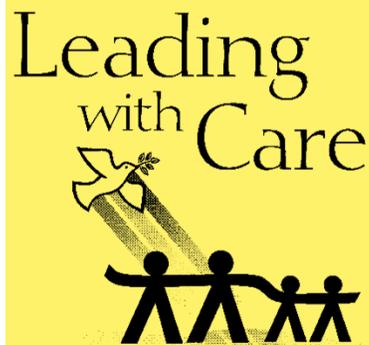


Annual Report



2019

**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 8th, 2020

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)

2019 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

7th Pathfinders/Rangers Report

The unit was busy with bridging events with other levels of guiding while completing crafts and program. Some crafts included sewing stuffed owls, string art, painting and soap sculptures.

The pathfinder/rangers continue to participate in baking shortbread cookies for Christmas Cheer. At Christmas we started a tradition of assembling and decorating gingerbread trees for our families.

We had our first ever Pickle Pot Luck where we enjoyed everything pickle flavored to eat. The girls enjoyed their Winter Adventure Camp Weekend at St. Kateri and the time they spent in their cabin during the Spring Fling at the KOA Campground.

The unit looks forward to participating in the Sunday Sundae event by helping serve refreshments and then enjoying the homemade ice-cream.

Respectfully submitted

Maureen Hollingsworth

Westminster Church Scout Group

(Affiliated with the Christian Education Committee)

2019 Annual Report

While it was necessary to shut down our Cub Pack this Fall, we were pleased to have a new Venturer Company form (our first since 1998!). So we were able to continue through the year with three sections.

In January the Beaver Colony had four registered members, but shortly after dropped to just one, and remained so until the Summer break. This lad chose not to return in September. Starting off in the Fall, we had four youth showing an interest, but by November were back down to one. A new lad appeared just before this recent Christmas break, intending to join if a conflict with another activity can be resolved.

The Cub Pack continued on after the 2018 Christmas holidays with two lads, as the third had transferred to another Pack. While other prospects tested the waters in the Spring, only those two prevailed through until Summer. With Rod's withdrawal as Akela, and without other leaders stepping up, the Pack folded before the Fall session. One lad had decided not to return in any event, while the other moved on to another local Pack.



The six Scouts all returned following New Year's and remained through to Summer. Come Fall, the two senior Scouts moved up to the new Venturer Company. Of the others, three returned to the Troop where they were gradually joined by four new recruits.

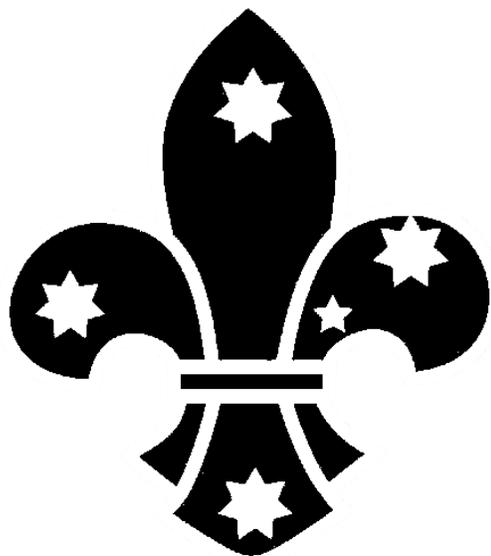
Our newest section, the Venturers, started in September through December with our two graduating Scouts, soon joined by another, a former Scout from another local group.

Therefore, at the close of Calendar 2019, our Group stood at one Beaver and one prospect, seven Scouts, and three Venturers, remaining stable number-wise since the beginning of the year.

As for the leadership, the core administrators for the entire year remained **Wayne Godfrey** (Church liaison), **Greg Hutton** (treasurer), and **Rod McDonald** (group commissioner and registrar). Section Scouters for the Spring session were: **Christina Speer** as Contact Beaver leader

assisted by **Rod**, and **Nicholas Speer** as available (Paige found she was unable to assist); **Rod** as Contact Pack leader assisted by **Christina**, and **Nicholas** as available; and **Nicholas** as Contact Troop leader assisted by **Greg** and **Bob Filipowicz** (having lost Felicia Wilkins Noel, and Rover Nicholas Larmond from our Group and leadership team – our thanks to them for their past service). The Fall session started with the same leadership team, although Greg and Bob were now also serving as the new Venturer Company Advisors. Our Group was most fortunate to then receive offers from a Beaver mom, **Megan Rowlinson** (new to Scouting), to become a Beaver leader (the required training for which she then did in very short order!), and from one of our former Cub leaders, **Craig Diotte**, to assist as an Advisor to the Venturer Company! So, as of this calendar year's end, while still shy of a preferred team size and without any Pack leaders, we were at least positioned to move ahead with our current three sections.

Spring activities and events for the Colony and Pack included: a 'bingo' game that taught trail signs, followed by a practical exercise in tracking trail signs around the Church; a catch-up on what the lads had been doing early last Fall and the previous year under different leadership, in order to provide them with previously-earned but not-as-yet-presented badges/service bars; preparation of



their 'vehicles' for and participation in the Beaver Buggy/Kub Kar area-wide races held in Station Mall, plus an internal Group racing evening for their cars and, as a novelty, racing Easter eggs; participating in aquatics training/badge work testing at the John Rhodes pool; and touring the Sea Lamprey Control Centre holding facilities to cuddle with those cute little critters and learn about their life style. While our one Beaver was unfortunately unable to attend the Area's overnight Beaveree, the Cubs and Rod participated in the Area Cuboree weekend at Thayer's Acres. The Cubs were also presented with the Cub Proficiency Award (Nikki Reis) and the Cub Achievement Award (Mak King). As for the Troop, they: trained on winter first aid, fall-through-ice rescue, snowshoeing, and snaring as a survival technique; planned and

attended their own 'Deep Freeze' weekend -- sleeping in the snow in survival shelters they built and going ice fishing with tip-ups they made; built and slept indoors in forts made of cardboard; and attended the regional Rendezvous weekend camp in Sudbury, where two of the Scouts (Cam Hutton and Vaughn Diotte) were presented with their prestigious Chief Scouts awards – the only ones earned this year in Northern Ontario! One late-registering Scout joined with the members of the two younger sections in the John Rhodes aquatics testing. A mix of seven leaders and youth earned their standard first aid/CPR/AED certifications. A family BBQ was held June 19th in the Church parking lot to finish off the formal part of the 2018-19 Scouting year, including presentations to everyone of badges, crests, and/or awards. Troop did however have a Summer event, camping at Barrett River, visiting the pictographs, and hiking the coastal trail.

For the Fall, the Beavers started out with craft making and games, and our one eventual Beaver attended Apple Days, and Hallowe'en and Christmas parties, with the Troop. The Scout Troop attended the Memorial Gardens Remembrance Day service, while one Scout (Alex Rumsey) participated in Church Parade with Rod and Bob. He was also the lone Scout to sell popcorn for Group fund-raising. With several new members this Fall, a lot of emphasis has been on basic skills (stove and lantern lighting, knots, knife and axe use, equipment maintenance, camp preparation, and safety rules governing all). Troop also bicycled the hub trail and attended the area Fall camp. They are now preparing for winter camping and pioneer cooking. The Venturers had a first campout as a get-to-know-everyone, have been learning the intricacies of high finances with their own bank account, had a pool night of SCUBA training with Sault SCUBA (with another in the works), and a further night of training in mountain rappelling provided by a local professional outfit - in preparation for a big climb in the Spring. Troop and Company both participated in Apple Days, with the latter also choosing to fundraise through popcorn sales.



As in the past, we are most grateful to the Church committees, caretaker, secretary, Ministers, individual members, and the congregation in general for their on-going sponsorship of our Group and support of, attendance at, and individual assistance with our fund-raising activities and Church Parades, and providing us with a great place to meet.

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 are Grade 3 through Grade 6 (typical ages 8 to 10), Troop typical ages 11 to 14, and Venturers 15-18. Scouting is non-denominational and all are welcome.

**Yours in Scouting,
Rod McDonald
For the #11 Westminster Church Scout Group**

Worship and Music

2019 Report

This past year, on the first Sunday of most months, our worship service has included opening with a “Hymn Sing” of requested favourite hymns enjoyed by the congregation to give praise to God.

Our Holy Communion services were conducted on February 10th, Easter Sunday April 21st, June 9th, October 6th being World Communion Sunday, and December 8th.

We appreciate those providing leadership in conducting services for us when our ministers were away on vacation and in their study leave to Israel. We express our thanks to Susan Myers, Mary Alice Policicchio, and Louisa MacGlashen for their service.



Westminster hosted the Good Friday Service with St. Andrews United and Central United Church clergy participating and the joint choirs providing the special music of choral anthems for the occasion.

Westminster congregation was invited to attend the Induction service for the Reverend Dr. Sean Kim at St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church on May 13, 2019. We welcome the Reverend Dr. Kim and his family to our community, looking forward to sharing with them in worship and service of our Lord with our sister congregations of St. Paul’s and Victoria Presbyterian Churches.

In September 29th our congregation joined with St. Paul’s congregation at Victoria church for our annual joint service of the three Presbyterian congregations. The Joint Choirs provided the special music and Dr. Charlene Wilson delivered the message.

In December our Chancel Choir presented a Cantata service based on “O Come Emmanuel” including choral anthems under the direction of our Choir director Peter Scoffield, with related scripture readings chosen by Reverend Dr. Charlene Wilson. On Christmas Eve we gathered to worship in a service of Lessons and Carols.

We appreciate the commitment of the members of our congregation who attend monthly to provide a service of praise and worship for the residents of Van Daele Nursing Home.

We acknowledge the ministry of music by the faithful members of our Chancel Choir and our Musical Director, Peter Scoffield, and thank them for their dedication to providing music to the glory of God.

We thank our teaching elders, the Reverend John and Reverend Dr. Charlene Wilson, for their leadership in ministry and guidance for our congregation in service to our Lord.

In His Service
Marla 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 Scoffield, 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 ten shut-ins in the Nursing homes and unfortunately, this year we lost five of our members.

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

I will continue to send Christmas, Easter and Birthday cards to our confined members, plus Sympathy and Get-well Cards to the Congregation when necessary.

A special thanks to Reverend Charlene for suggesting we have the congregation sign cards to the shut-ins in addition to me. This has gone over very well and is much appreciated.

Should you wish to volunteer to do Pastoral visitations kindly contact me. Charlene Wilson & Volunteer. A Police check is required.

**Respectfully submitted,
Pam Dearing, Co-ordinator
705-945-8414**



Mid-Week Groups

Ladies Aid

2019 Report

Ladies Aid continue to work diligently to support as many functions within the church as possible in order to provide financial assistance for the church. We were still able to provide luncheons for funerals as requested, hosting special events and church celebrations along with weekly operation of our thrift shop.

Our main means of fund raising is the Bargarn Box Thrift Shop. This past year our thrift shop continued to see an increase in customers and funds to support the church. The Bargarn Box is not just a means to fund raise for the church, it serves a need in our community both by providing reasonably priced merchandise and a kind place to interact socially with others. We are doing outreach every week by providing coffee and treats, a kind hand and word to those who need it.

Outreach is provided privately should a need arise. We receive many compliments regarding our displays, the clean condition of the items for sale and our reasonable pricing. We also donate to other charities if we receive items we cannot use or have a surplus of clothing - e.g. The Pregnancy Centre, Sault Ste. Marie Helping Hands, Restore Store (who in turn donate to us what they cannot use), and the Kidney Foundation. I encourage anyone within our church who has not witnessed the works of the thrift shop to come by on a Wednesday. Should you wish to become a volunteer please give me a call - extra hands are always needed. Our members are the best way to let people know what we are doing at the Bargarn Box. If you know of someone who is downsizing, cleaning out a house etc. please suggest donating to our thrift shop. Our biggest demand is for household items, casual clothing and furniture.

Some highlights from our year:

- Prepared and sold Chicken and Beef Mini Pies.
- Sold fruit pies and butter tarts at the thrift shop.
- Volunteered one week at the Davey Home Tuck Shop.
- Small contribution to World Day of Prayer.
- Sundae Sunday - April 7th - involved Pathfinders at this event.
- Provided luncheon for Good Friday, 3 funerals.
- Held a customer appreciation day in September for Bargarn Box - bbq hot dogs.
- Rally Sunday - decided to go with cupcakes instead of cake.
- Purchased wreath for Remembrance Day.
- Decorated church for Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Volunteered at Christmas Cheer - 3 persons washed toys for a morning and purchased gift cards for teens.

- Christmas luncheon for church members after church -sandwiches and treats.
- New event in December - Christmas Dessert tea - very successful.

Thank you to all members of our church who supported the work of Ladies Aid by volunteering for events, baking and sandwich making for funerals and celebrations, clean up after events, and volunteering at thrift shop. Special thanks to our caretaker Ken who provides so much support on Bargain Box day by way of carrying in donations, parking and traffic control and helping keep the store running smoothly. Thank you to Sharon our Treasurer for keeping our records up to date. Thank you to our bargain box volunteers including our minister Charlene for filling in on occasion. Another year of many achievements - well done everyone!

Respectfully submitted

Vera McCron, President, Ladies Aid

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

*To Westminster Ladies
Aid for the 2019
donation of \$76, 500!*

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, Beth St. Onge, Ken Vipond

2019 Report

I would start off by thanking the Ladies Aid for their hard work and generous donation to the operation of the Church in the amount of \$76,500 in 2019.

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 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



*To Westminster Ladies
Aid for the 2019
donation of \$76,500!*

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 were completed:

- Again this year the ramp had to be fixed. New boards have been put in place to replace the ones broken from the falling ice and whole ramp had to be levelled.
- The kitchens have been completely cleaned. The stove, the filter, overhead hood, and the ceiling fan. The fridges and cupboards were cleaned.
- We have Rays Contracting ploughing our parking lot. They are doing a great job. One time the ice and snow come off the roof down into the driveway and we had to have them come and clear out driveway. They also arranged to remove all the piles of snow from our property.
- We had some problems with the Fire Alarm System so ATS had to be called to come and fix it. They had to replace some parts. Our Fire Alarms System is checked monthly and Safe and Sound does our annual inspection.
- During the summer months we had the Custodian strip the floor and then apply five coats of wax on the entire upper hall floor again this year.
- We had some problems with the elevator. Twice we had someone stuck in the elevator. We had to call the elevator repairman to come and reset the elevator.
- We had a new Memorial Plaque installed at the back of the church by Lock City Monuments. This was necessary as the original plaque is full.
- We had Commercial Heating inspect and check all the furnaces in September before the winter season.



- Safe and Sound changed all 53 light bulbs in the sanctuary to energy efficient LED light bulbs. The bulbs we were using were no longer available. The replacement bulbs will use less electricity and last a lot longer.
- We had Classic Signs replace all the lights in the sign in front of the church as they had burnt out. They were the original lights in the sign when we had the sign installed 5 years ago.
- We had a new sign mounted on the wall in the driveway that stated “No Parking in the Driveway Drop-offs Only”. This sign has been fasten to the wall so that no one can walk off with it.
- In the first of October, we had a flood in the basement at 136 Brock St. We ended up with 10” of water because our sump pump failed. The water rose into the furnace destroying all the electronic and firebox of the furnace. The furnace could not be repaired and therefore had to be replaced.
- Other general maintenance had to be done: The snow blower belt had to be replaced and the throttle cable on the snow blower had to be changed. The toilet in the Choir Room needed all new parts in the tank. The sink in the Ladies wash room in the lower hall had to have all new plumbing.

Ken Vipond & Wayne Godfrey
Property Committee

