



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – March 2019**

# LEADERSHIP REPORTS

## PASTOR'S REPORT    Curtis Korver

### *shift* (verb)

There are shifts all around us.

There are shifts in the church. There are even more and bigger shifts in the world all around us.

It's scary. It's exciting.

We are shifting from being confident that we know how to do church.

We are shifting to not knowing the shape of ministry that will be compelling to so many who fell away from church.

We are shifting from having a healthy mix of young and old and all in between and shifting to an aging population; the single biggest age demographic is retired. This is not all bad! Many retired people are healthy, imaginative and willing to give time, talent and treasures to ministry!

We shift from having little trouble meeting a budget to some concern about having enough money to fill the second staff person we have long assumed would be a part of our church.

We have long assumed that a mature follower of Jesus is one who attends Sunday morning worship regularly, gives money with increasing generosity and takes a turn volunteering at various church ministries. We are shifting to a time where people have quite a different idea of what Christian maturity is and we need to find a way to minister to them.

Church councils have long been good managers of church; we know how to do things well. We are shifting from being managers to being 'discerners.' In other words, we shift from asking "are we doing thing right?" to "Are we doing the right things?"

Much changes around us, but Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. The style of ministry may change but the substance won't. The appearance may shift slightly but the core does not. Jesus remains the head of the church. He is still the King of kings and Lord of lords and in his name alone is salvation found. That makes for one more shift:

We shift from handwringing and worry about the future of the church to confidence that the body of Christ will not die, even if it comes to look quite different.

## **COUNCIL REPORT**

This past year, the council has been learning to “think grey.” That doesn’t sound too cheery. We can explain.

We remain convinced that Jesus is and always will be the head of AVCRC and we have a purpose in the world and in Port Alberni. But we’re not sure what our work will be or how we will do it. We spend time in the place between being:  
completely sure of what we are doing and  
completely avoiding the unknown.

Thinking grey, we wrote a new council manual that includes annual goals and hopes for the coming year; it will need regular updates because we must always learn new things. We practice a thing we call “check-in” at the beginning of a meeting: we tell one another what we believe God is teaching us – we believe God will give instruction to the whole council through any one of us. We spent a day with the Tapestry CRC which was fun and filled with ideas and possibilities.

This past year, Rob Penny left and we’re unsure whether to hire someone for that position. Thinking grey is sometimes challenging when answers do not appear easily or quickly. We are deeply grateful to all worship volunteers who help carry extra responsibility.

Thinking grey sounds quite uncertain and even risky. Don’t let the color fool you. The council see much color and joy and hope for what God might do among us and through us.

### *Milestones:*

Since the last AGM, we have rejoiced and grieved.

Julie K and Megan V publicly professed their faith in Jesus.

We celebrated the birth and baptism of Robin G, daughter of Rajin and Amy and the baptisms of Rylan, Hudson and Dawson - Rob and Chelsea P’s sons.

We said our final goodbyes to Lien K, Henk R and Alice C.

The Cs moved to Thunder Bay and Vs moved to a church closer to home in Qualicum.

Council members are Willem C (chair), Joanne K (vice-chair), Patty T (clerk), John d, Theo V, Ruth U, P, John R.

## **DEACONS’ REPORT**

The Deacons currently serving on council are John R, Pete Bitter and Patty T. Erin K helps with collecting and counting the offering on Sundays. John’s term as Deacon will be completed in June (he is our computer guy). We meet monthly to record the giving and discuss our various responsibilities.

At Christmas we distributed hampers to families within the church and also the community for the total value of approximately \$700. The church also gifted the Bread of Life with \$1000.

**(deacons' report cont.)**

We feel a shift happening as our giving is on a slow decline. We are looking into alternative ways for the congregation to submit their giving (eg. on-line, e-transfer, credit card, automatic bank withdrawal.) Classis is also responding to the shift by reviewing how ministries are funded by local churches.

In February 2019 Pete, Patty, and other council members, attended a workshop in Nanaimo 'Helping without Hurting', where the importance of healthy relationship was emphasized. We strive to work with a person to meet needs rather than working for them.

We are in the process of updating our benevolent fund policy with the help of the Diaconal Ministry liaisons based in Nanaimo. We look forward to serving the needs of the church and are excited about some possible changes in the near future.

In His Service - John, Pete and Patty

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Worship Committee meets every month. We serve the church by working along with staff to create a Sunday morning environment which encourages us all to turn our hearts and minds to the Worship of God.

We were involved in planning and setting up the sanctuary for Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas as well as other important times on the church calendar. This group also gives helpful feedback and direction to the staff with regard to all aspects of leading Worship including preaching, music, communion and other expressions of Worship.

*Some highlights of our involvement in 2018 included:*

Maudy Thursday - Seder Meal

Good Friday - Joint service hosted by AVCRC

Celebrating 3 Grade 12 graduates - with videos of them from infancy to graduation.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Christmas production: *Christmas with Narnia*

The committee expresses their deep thanks to all worship volunteers, especially Annemarie, Pat and Shannon who shoulder a little more responsibility as we are currently without a music and worship coordinator.

*Committee members:* Bev H, Ruth U, Elaine V, Pat V and Curtis K. Many thanks to Joan W who recently completed her second term.

## **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

The current members of the Administration Committee are: John , Matt G, Alsie S, Moe U, Jake v (chair) and Theo V (council liaison). *Thank you to the outgoing members: Al V, Jake C, Anita B, Joanne K and Curtis L.*

There are two sub-committees - *The Finance Committee* and *The Building and Maintenance Committee*. In part, *our mission statement is "to work in managing the financial and physical resources of the church."*

**(administration committee cont.)**

Along with the routine maintenance and repairs of the buildings and grounds, the committee is tasked with the expansion of the foyer. This frustrating as we are not able to be our own general contractor. At present we are waiting for a quote from one contractor while another contractor is also reviewing the blueprints.

The sound system has also been a concern and we continue to look into how to fix it.

A special thank you to all those who clean up after storms and clear the parking lots, cut grass, etc. And we would like to thank Bert B, our treasurer.

Respectfully, Jake v (Chair)

## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

The Social Committee strives to provide events that are welcoming to regular AVCRC attendees, visitors, individuals and families. The events we organize include a light Easter Sunday lunch, a potluck lunch for the Church in the Park Fall Program Kickoff, the Christmas Dinner and other events as directed by Council. We are blessed to have the support of volunteer helpers who assist with setting and cleaning up, and also the amazing volunteers who help with food preparation.

We are aware that social events are a form of outreach, so continue to strive to make the church fellowship room as welcoming as possible to all.

Respectfully, Lois L, Marjie A

## **SAFE CHURCH**

We strive to be a safe place for everyone, and we will take special care to protect vulnerable people. The safe church team maintains background checks and regularly reviews our policy with all volunteers. We work for an environment in which abuse is not okay but talking about abuse is. Abuse can thrive in darkness but at youth group Bible studies, on a Sunday morning, at council meetings we will shine a light in dark corners and work to be a safe church. The Safe Church Team is Alsie S, Patty T and Pastor Curtis

## **NURSERY UPDATE**

It has been another wonderful year caring for our wee ones. It's been a bit of a roller coaster; some weeks with no children and the next week with a handful. Our helpers are awesome and faithfully show up for their turn in the Nursery, regardless of whether there are children to play with or not. We have a few youth helpers who love to give of their time also. Thank you to all of you!

Erin K, Co-ordinator

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

Every Wednesday evening, Pastor Curtis, along with John K or Alsie S, meets with 8 – 10 youth for Bible study. We have talked about how to make decisions and searched the Bible for wisdom. We studied the book of Philippians and made our way through each part of the Lord's Prayer.

New this year is the monthly City-Wide Youth Event. On the second Friday of each month, youth from all churches, and anywhere else, are invited to an event that includes a carefully planned fun event and moves towards singing and a talk from one of the youth leaders. We hosted "The Amazing Race" in January and Curtis spoke at the March event.

We will send a group to History Maker in May.

Through most of last year, we had a great run of weekend events such as bowling, gymnastics or a day at the lake but for that to continue, we will need some parents to help the youth plan the events.

## **COFFEE BREAK**

We ladies have continued to meet weekly, with an average attendance of 7 or 8, although we've had 12-14 once or twice too!

We studied the book of *Daniel* from October till Spring Break, but will now move on to a new topic or Right Now Media presentation, so this would be a good time to come and check us out! Ruth U

## **FELLOWSHIP GROUPS**

Some time ago we had our 'Fellowship Group Sunday' and as a result of that 2 families expressed their desire to join one of the 6 existing groups. If you are still looking to join such a group, contact John d.

Successful small groups have this in common: trust, honesty, love and the word of God. Bless each of us as we devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to breaking of bread, and to prayer. **(Acts 2 – 42)** John d

## **LIBRARY**

The use of library is about the same for avid readers as it has been in the past. We have an excellent variety of material.

We always welcome suggestions of good books. As in the past, we have tried to order books that would be of interest to everyone.

We are trying to update the spiritual living books by discarding those outdated and replacing them with current ones. Any suggestions? Let us know.

I know we are in the electronic age, but it is still nice to pick up a good book and turn the pages. We know all the reading material is wholesome, which is sometimes difficult to find. Happy reading! Alice V and Bev H

## MISSION EMPHASIS TEAM

AVCRC has been very busy this past year in many wonderful ways.

- We continue to support Naji U and Anne Z and their boys with our prayer and regular offerings. They will visit this summer, leading on Sunday August 4 and in town for a few other occasions.
- We remain committed to The Center Del Alcance in Guatemala City. Just as important, they remain committed to us, faithfully praying for us and we pray for them.
- Ministry and fun with our neighbors continue with **We ♥ PA**. When the weather cooperated, we held block parties on the grass on 8th Ave and as winter set in, we met here at the church and then at Glenwood Center. We are learning to do this work with the people, involving lots of people in the planning and the actual events. We seek to discover the community's assets and find ways to help develop them.
- Young Life and Wyld Life are a part of our work. Becca R is the area coordinator and several others from our church lead, participate, drop in for a visit, bake cookies and all of us pray. We continue to support the work financially.
- We spent a few Sunday afternoons with families at Kackaamin treatment center.

We learned a lot and found much encouragement at a "Helping Without Harming" workshop in Nanaimo in February. Led by people from *Diaconal Ministries Canada* and *World Renew*, we learned about doing ministry *with* people rather than simply *for* them. *Contact Willem C or Pastor Curtis for more info.*

## SEAFARERS MISSION REPORT

This past year, 27 vessels visited our port to take on loads of logs and wood. At the Seafarers Centre in Harbour Quay, *our guest book was signed 1089 times*. The number of ships visiting Port Alberni was about half the number of the year before. Nevertheless, our time spent with the crew was very rewarding.

We are very thankful to Quality Foods for supplying birthday cakes and tubs of ice cream at a discount. We are now celebrating birthdays on the ships so that crew members can join the party even while on duty. Twelve birthdays were celebrated during 2018.

Our volunteers continued to give complimentary rides for local shopping as well as occasional outings for walks in the woods and to Robertson Creek Hatchery/Stamp Falls to see the salmon run. Some seafarers are worried about getting eaten by bears! We reassure them that they are not on the menu - local bears are really quite timid and don't like human interaction.

In July, Dick and Jane V hosted two crews to their house for a swimming party at Sproat Lake one evening. A few weeks ago, a returning crew member mentioned that this is something he will never forget.

We are thankful for the efforts of church members (including Mitzi C and fellow knitters) for providing the toques as Christmas gifts. Other community members have also been instrumental in making Port Alberni a memorable place to visit by welcoming seafarers into their homes or baking cupcakes. These 'human touches' are certainly not provided in most seaports around the world, where seafarers often feel forgotten. We work hard to change that reality by sharing our faith and praying with and for them. Most like show us pictures of their families. We thank those who have contributed financially to this wonderful work of God and helping to keep our doors open.

Matt G