



***We are a welcoming, caring  
community, called by Christ,  
and enabled by the Spirit,  
to share God's love by living  
our faith***



## Stitching up the end of an era

*By Pauline Finch*

Every Wednesday morning our quilting ladies pull up their chairs around a sturdy frame where brightly colored fabric is stretched tight as a trampoline.

They sit for hours patiently inserting thousands of tiny stitches into several layers of cloth. Each week, the completed portion is rolled under the frame until the quilt is done.



But for Gladys Roeder, Violet Rank, Ruth Huehn, Doris McCourt and Kathleen Windsor, their current project is a bittersweet experience. When a vibrant design called “Broken Star” is finished later this month, the quilt frame will remain empty.

They are the last active members of a group that started the same year as our congregation, first meeting in 1956 in Rev. Delton Glebe’s basement, then in the original 1960 church. When Mount Zion built a new sanctuary and teaching wing in 1985, they moved again.

Although the women acknowledge that getting older was a factor in deciding to retire the group after 62 years, surprisingly, it wasn’t the main reason.

“We’re so few now and we’ve run out of quilt tops,” explained Gladys Roeder, 92, who has co-managed the group with longtime friend Ruth Huehn since the mid-1990s. “They just aren’t used so much in homes anymore.”

Art-quilts, for which Waterloo Region is internationally famous, are a different thing altogether. These



complex and visually stunning display pieces can sell for thousands, and are often destined to hang on a wall, rather than keep an everyday bed warm. But frugal and functional quilts made of carefully pieced leftovers, and designed to be washed over and over again, are slowly disappearing.

“My mother put a quilt frame up every winter ... a lot of rural women did,” Gladys noted, and taught her as a child how to piece fabric leftovers and worn-out clothing into cozy coverlets, then hand-stitch graceful designs over the surface.

Doris McCourt learned to quilt by making a doll’s bed coverlet as a young girl, while Ruth Huehn learned later in life, starting on a single square with an embroidery hoop, but she says “doing it on a big frame is a lot easier.”

In past decades, the quilting group often had enough members to fit around two frames, one with women quilting and another filled by those who preferred knotting – a faster traditional method of keeping blanket layers together. There were even “overflow” groups meeting in the evenings to work on blankets.

Gladys remembers what a difference it made when the late Hilda Huehn, a charter member, shared a method for undoable knots. It was a game-changer for her.

“When my son Gerry was young, he would always wake the earliest, so he would find ways to amuse himself quietly until his brothers got up ... One day I found a pile of little yarn pieces on the bedroom floor; I discovered that Gerry had picked the knots out of his blanket!”

One of Gladys’ favorite memories however, is a remarkable “trick” played on Ruth Huehn. A few years ago, husband Bert wanted to give her a special Christmas gift and felt only the Mount Zion quilters were good enough to make it. When fabric in Ruth’s favorite colors of pink and cream appeared on the frame, Gladys and the others made up a slightly devious story that the quilt was for a “friend.” Ruth stitched away for months none the wiser, until Christmas morning when she opened Burt’s magnificent gift.

All of the current Mount Zion quilters appreciate their weekly sessions as a time “to be ourselves with good friends.” Added to that is the feeling of accomplishment at turning their collective talents into good for others, which was always the official reason for the group’s existence.



By stitching scores of quilt-tops on commission for Mount Zion members and others in the community, they have raised enough money to purchase major equipment and appliances, such as an industrial dishwasher, or refurbishing various rooms.

They have donated many quilts, wall hangings and other fabric art to places such as Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and Trinity Village. A number of Mount Zion clergy and staff have also been recipients of custom-designed quilts. Most of these projects leave the quilting room with carefully appliquéd labels on the back, recording the date and names of each person who worked on them.

As well as producing up to half-a-dozen quilts a year at the height of their membership, the quilting women



also assembled numerous baby layettes to be sent all over the world by Canadian Lutheran World Relief.

The women are occasionally asked if men are ever allowed to try quilting and there's always a good-humored response. Mark Harris, former Mount Zion pastor and now Dean of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, put a few stitches in each quilt during his tenure "but I once caught him using a double thread (a quilting no-no)," Gladys said with a knowing grin. "It was near the edge where you couldn't really see ... so we left the stitches in."

Each week, the long sides of the quilting frame roll in a few more inches as "Broken Star" nears completion. With the last stitch, Mount Zion's dedicated quilters will quietly mark the end of an era.



Photos: P Finch

## *Singin'* *for all God's Children*

Gloryland Chorus  
and special guests presents a  
benefit concert for  
*Open Sesame Headstart Preschool*

May 6, 2018

3:00 p.m.

Mount Zion Lutheran Church

Free will offering

GloryLand Chorus directed by Bob Loeb sack



## Mount Zion Café *Now Serving Lunch*

**May 9 & May 23**

from 10 am,

with lunch at 11:30 am – 12 noon.

Bring a friend or meet a new friend. Transportation will be available to those who need a ride. Please call the church office with a request for a ride.  
(519 886 5820)

# More than just a green roof

Tim Ehrlich

Several years ago, during one of our many planning initiatives we identified a desire to become a “greener” congregation looking at any environmentally responsible changes we could make and being better stewards of our space. While there were some initiatives which were undertaken such as collecting used batteries, spiral bulbs and eyeglasses, other things were deferred or fell off the radar for one reason or another. One might possibly conclude that environmental concerns were no longer a priority. Well, just because an idea doesn’t have a committee or budget line driving it forward does not mean it is forgotten or ignored. Slowly but surely Mount Zion has become remarkably greener and the results are becoming more and more obvious.



One of the first things that happened quietly, with little notice, was the replacement of thermostats in the Sanctuary and auditorium with programmable ones. This enables us to have comfortable temperatures when we need them and not worry about the heat or air conditioning being left on when no one is in the building. We also have motion detector switches in bathrooms to keep lights from being left on.



Another little publicized effort involves the Community Garden. Due to the efforts of Alfred Brunger, a rainwater capture system was set up which not only reduced water usage but resulted in a small credit on the church water bill for storm water reclamation. One of Alfred’s last projects for the garden was to successfully secure a grant to build and install a compost station for gardeners.

The largest project has been ongoing over the last two years and involves the lighting throughout the building. In 2016, we applied for a grant from Waterloo North

Hydro to replace all the floodlights in the Sanctuary with LED bulbs. This has had two very big benefits. As one who has been called on to replace some of those old bulbs, I can assure you it was a risky and downright scary endeavour. With a life expectancy of 10 years, we don’t have to worry about risk to life and limb on a regular basis. The other obvious benefit is reduction of energy usage. Depending on the level of usage, payback on the investment is expected in a couple of years. Another key benefit has been the ability to configure the lighting to better suit our needs and overall better coverage.



Another overlooked energy drain was the lights outside the main door which were on all night, every night, gobbling up kilowatt hours. Replacing them with efficient LED lights made an immediate difference. Most of our other hall lighting has been also replaced with LED bulbs on an ongoing basis and our enterprising property committee looked upstairs for the next challenge. Towards the end of last year,



we received a \$2000.00 grant from ELFEC towards lighting upgrades as well as applying for another grant from Waterloo North Hydro to do the Lange Auditorium and Glebe Fellowship Hall. While they were at it, most of the other rooms such as the board room were done as well. Over 80 new fixtures have been installed resulting in better, more efficient light. Has it made a difference? You bet! Despite rising hydro costs and increased usage from all of our renters, we have seen a small decline in hydro costs year over year.



Another recent change was the replacement of the gas stove in the main kitchen. The old stove had several pilot lights that were always on using gas. Replacing them has had a measurable effect on our gas bills.



The final piece of the puzzle is our recycling efforts generally. We have obtained several more blue recycling bins and now green organic waste bins (you may have seen them in the washrooms.) We will continue to educate our members and renters about the amazing number of things we can recycle, cutting down the amount of garbage we put into the landfill and encouraging awareness of waste and reducing packaging. This will have a greater impact as more and more people embrace the principle.



With all of these efforts flying a little under the radar, I submit that we at Mount Zion are embracing environmental stewardship and becoming a "Green" congregation - also with a green roof.

## OPEN SESAME Receives Grant for new playground equipment

Carol Ziegler

In December Open Sesame Headstart Preschool applied to the May Court Club of Kitchener-Waterloo for financial assistance in order to purchase outdoor equipment and toys for our proposed "natural playground". I am happy to report that May Court has notified us that we will be receiving \$2,040, as requested, for our new playground.

We are very grateful for their support and we also congratulate them on their 50th Anniversary of helping families in our community.

### Adopt a Cause

## Service Committee: Looking ahead April through August

We want to take more time to educate members about the work done by CLWR. It is an agency that works in partnership with the ELCIC.



The other focus will be on our relationship with the People of the Six Nations Reserve. Our combined efforts have resulted in the creation of two amazing programs emphasizing music, relationship-building and community. Stayed tuned for lots of good news!

- Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)
- Music for the Spirit - summer camp
- Music for the Spirit - after school program

Ginny Ehrlich



10<sup>th</sup> Waterloo would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to Mount Zion for their support of our recent e-Waste and Bottle Drive day. With your help we were able to collect over 7000 pounds of electronics and raised over \$1100 dollars that will help support our youth headed to the World Jamboree in 2019.

Thanks again. Your partnership means a lot to us.  
Bryan Hastie, Group Commissioner  
10th Waterloo Scouting

## “Sitting on the sidelines is not an option.”

By Pauline Finch

More than 120 gathered at Mount Zion on March 20 to hear veteran Queen’s Park reporter Robert Fisher share insights gleaned from nearly a dozen previous Ontario elections.

The evening was hosted by Waterloo Lutheran Seminary’s Centre for Public Ethics to help us better prepare for the next provincial vote on June 7. CPE director John Milloy described his organization’s mandate as promoting dialogue, and helping Canadians get over their reluctance to discuss faith and politics together.



*Robert Fisher,  
veteran Queen’s  
Park Reporter*

A short cartoon video created by Conestoga College students demonstrated how people of faith can contribute to better election outcomes for all Ontarians by being informed beyond TV “sound bites,” attending and participating in candidates’ meetings, and challenging elected officials to develop long-term solutions to major problems.

Robert Fisher continued on the theme of cutting through sensationalized and “fake” news that does little more than stir up unfocused anger. Most election promises, he warned, are based on “wasteful thinking” and result in very little long-term support for problems such as child poverty, mistreatment of seniors, drug addiction, domestic abuse, or the neglect of First Nations communities.

He also shared concerns about the rise of populist candidates like PC leader Doug Ford, who lure

marginalized voters with promises of immediate but unrealistic benefits. Polls are another liability, since their findings are quickly invalidated current events.

But after 50-plus years dealing with elected representatives, Fisher still believes “there is good and value in all people ... in all parties.” The key for faith communities he stressed, is that their voices and actions can insure “no one is left behind.”

Fisher’s observations provided ample material for designated respondents Andrew S. Thompson and Fauzia Mazhar.

Thompson, head of Amnesty International Canada, senior fellow at Waterloo’s Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), program officer with the Balsillie School of International Affairs, and a Waterloo Lutheran Seminary board member, distilled his years of experience in international human rights and fragile states into a single blunt assertion, “I don’t like politics ... I like democracy.” He advised listeners to bypass the predominant nastiness of typical election campaigns and come together for the collective good for all Ontarians.



Photo: P. Finch

Fauzia Mazhar, chair of the K-W Coalition of Muslim Women, noted that in her faith of Islam, political engagement is a religious duty and reminded listeners that most religions began as grass-roots social justice movements. Her key recommendations were that voters should support political parties whose platforms align with their faith’s teachings; civic responsibility lies

beyond individual interests; public discourse must focus on issues that affect everyone; governments must commit to long-term, sustainable programs; and coalition governments can be effective.

Topics raised in a dynamic questions-and-answers segment included fears of tax retribution if churches become too politically active; elected women being

undermined by pervasive sexism; and whether Proportional Representation can work.

But the overall challenge was aptly summed up by Fisher, who stated “You can be involved, you can make change ... Sitting on the sidelines is not an option.”

- *Pauline Finch*

## Around Mount Zion last month



The old kitchen is undoing going a major facelift. Members of the property committee ae installing new cabinets, paint and tiles. Seen here are Martin Juergensen (left) and Kurt Swanson at work. A new stove will be part of the renovation. Before and after pictures next month.

Photos Dennis Eaton

# Ecumenical Welcoming Committee welcomes Baby Ben

Members of the now retired Ecumenical Welcoming Committee held a shower and celebration of the arrival of Ben, a new member of the family of Shinga and Esperance.

As with any shower there was a potluck and cake, but unlike any shower, the family was joined by friends and they sang their thank you. Shinga and Esperance also spoke of their journey and how much they appreciated the work of those who made it possible.



Baby Ben, who was mostly unaware of the celebration.



Friends and family all took part in their joyfully sung thank you.



Shinga and Esperance both thanked the group with the help of a friend who acted as interpreter.



Photos: K. Gastmeier



# Are we a Generous Synod?

Jeff Pym

There are few congregations in the Eastern Synod that don't have financial troubles. If worried conversations about money are the norm in your church, take some consolation from the fact that you're not alone.



Since the vast majority of congregational revenue comes from what people give in their offerings, it is logical to assume that our financial problems stem from inadequate giving. Logical, but wrong. The numbers tell a completely different story. Even after being adjusted for inflation, per capita giving in congregations was 44% higher in 2016 than in 1986! This is a story of ever-increasing generosity by members of Eastern Synod churches.

So if we don't have a per capita giving problem, why do our churches have problems balancing the budget? Quite simply, too few capitas. We can see just by looking around on Sunday morning that attendance at worship has dropped significantly in the last few decades. If total membership had held steady at the 1986 level, our churches in 2016 would have had almost 50% more money than they actually did – and no worries about deficits! There are fewer of us, but those of us still in church are giving more, on average, than we ever have.

That is not to say that some of us couldn't do better. The familiar 80/20 rule applies to church giving: 80% of the money is given by about 20% of the people. And that isn't necessarily the 20% with the highest incomes. In many cases the most generous supporters include people who are living on income from a combination of pensions and retirement savings.

The other thing we know about charitable giving is that most people who support their church also make donations to other charities. In fact, Statistics Canada reported in 2015 that people who participate in religious activities at least once a week are considerably more generous than other Canadians in total giving to *all* charities in Canada.

We thank God for the faithful giving of our members who make it possible to conclude that yes, we are a generous Synod.



*Jeff Pym is the Director, Stewardship and Resource Development for the Eastern Synod. Most importantly he is the son of member Jack Pym.*

*Reprinted from the Eastern Synod Lutheran April 18.*



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[Karen@gastmeier.ca](mailto:Karen@gastmeier.ca)

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**The Mountaineer is available either by print or by email. Please email the office if you wish to change your delivery method.**

## Financial Update– March 2018

### *A note from Finance*

Our financial status for the three month period ending March reflects a deficit of \$10,432 in the “**Ministry & Mission (current) Account**” compared with a budgeted deficit of \$13,205. The favourable deviation of \$2,773 was due to higher income accounting for \$1,762 and lower expenses accounting for \$1,011.

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Better/(Worse)</u>
Total receipts	\$67,137	\$65,375	\$1,762
Total Disbursements	<u>77,569</u>	<u>78,580</u>	<u>1,011</u>
Deficit	\$(10,432)	\$(13,205)	\$2,773

#### Comments:

Member regular envelope contributions were \$588 better than plan.

Facility and parking income was \$317 higher

Other income was higher by \$857 due primarily to \$1,079 in higher than planned earnings on our Endowment funds.

Disbursements were \$1,011 better overall for the period.

Your support of **Benevolence** to the Synod and other designated causes totalled \$30,331. Included in this are grants of \$9,000 for Open Sesame, and \$12,117 for Six Nations/TRMA Partnership. Regular benevolence totalled \$6,397 which was remitted to Synod. Donations to other causes was \$2,817.

## **Bridges VBS**

**Coming July 9 to 13, 2018**

**9 am to 4 pm**

**Mount Zion Lutheran Church, Waterloo**

Our theme, Rolling River Rampage, invites us to  
"Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!"

**Bridges VBS is an area-wide, Vacation Bible School with  
ELCIC churches participating from around Waterloo Region**

Registration will be open to all children ages 5-11 (by Dec. 31, 2018)

Cost is \$100 per child for the week including all lunches, snacks and a t-shirt.

Youth completing grade 6 and up are welcome to join the fun as helpers and volunteers!

**Registration opens March 1, 2018**

**Watch for details coming soon on  
facebook or at [bridgesvbs.weebly.com](http://bridgesvbs.weebly.com)**

You can be part of this event! Area congregations are invited to help out by volunteering or donating supplies.

For more information check out [bridgesvbs.weebly.com](http://bridgesvbs.weebly.com) or email Heidi Van Schaik at [bridgesvbs@gmail.com](mailto:bridgesvbs@gmail.com)

**Our program is run entirely by volunteers like you!**



*When you pass through the waters,  
I will be with you. (Isaiah 43:2)*

# Financial Update – Three Months ending March 31, 2018

By Richard Brubacher – Treasurer & Chair, Finance Committee

The summaries below reflect the actual cash flows for the three month period ending March 31, 2018, and the position of our bank accounts. Comparative data is displayed for our budget commitment and the prior year.

## Ministry & Mission (Current) Account - Cash Flow Basis

	3 Months - 2018		Comments re: Differences to plan	3 Months
	Actual	Budget		Last Year
<b>Cash Inflow</b>				
Receipts from Members	42,414	41,826	- better than plan \$588	45,025
Receipts from Facility Rentals & Parking	14,971	14,599		8,788
Rental income reserved to Capital	(2,200)	(2,145)		-
Other Receipts - (Plate, Endow. Int., grant)	11,952	11,095		7,734
Deficit Reduction Response	-	-		300
<b>Total inflow</b>	<b>67,137</b>	<b>65,375</b>		<b>61,847</b>
<b>Cash Outflow</b>				
Disbursements - Staff & operating costs	77,569	78,580		69,819
<b>Total outflow</b>	<b>77,569</b>	<b>78,580</b>		<b>69,819</b>
<b>Net Cash (Outflow)/inflow</b>	<b>(10,432)</b>	<b>(13,205)</b>	<b>- \$2,773 better than Budget Plan</b>	<b>(7,972)</b>
Cash balance (overdraft)	(1,480)	9,858		21,256

## Benevolence Accounts - Cash Flow Basis

	Actual	Budget		Last Year
<b>Cash Inflow</b>				
Receipts from Members - General Benev.	6,397	6,000		6,214
Receipts for designated appeals	23,934	-	- Incl. Grants \$21,117	15,777
<b>Total inflow</b>	<b>30,331</b>	<b>6,000</b>		<b>21,991</b>
<b>Cash Outflow</b>				
Payments to Synod	6,397	5,750		6,214
Payments to other designated appeals	23,934	250		15,777
<b>Total outflow</b>	<b>30,331</b>	<b>6,000</b>		<b>21,991</b>

## Capital Accounts - Cash Flow Basis

	Actual	Budget		Last Year
<b>Cash Inflow:</b>				
Receipts from Members	1,485	3,553		6,304
Transfers from Ministry & Mission acct	2,200	2,145	- Rental income reserved from MM acct.	-
<b>Total inflow</b>	<b>3,685</b>	<b>5,698</b>		<b>6,304</b>
<b>Cash Outflow</b>				
Capital Expenditures	27,421	12,350	- HVAC & Lighting replacements	177
<b>Total outflow</b>	<b>27,421</b>	<b>12,350</b>		<b>177</b>
<b>Net Cash (Outflow)/Inflow</b>	<b>(23,736)</b>	<b>(6,652)</b>		<b>6,127</b>
Cash Balances	24,511	41,596		40,234

## Rental Property Account - Cash Flow Basis

	Actual	Budget		Last Year
<b>Cash Inflow:</b>				
Rental Income from Tenants	8,340	4,380		6,740
Transfers from Capital Account	-	-		-
<b>Total inflow</b>	<b>8,340</b>	<b>4,380</b>		<b>6,740</b>
<b>Cash Outflow</b>				
Current Expenditures - Properties	3,856	6,099		2,158
Capital Improvements to Properties	-	-		-
<b>Total outflow</b>	<b>3,856</b>	<b>6,099</b>		<b>2,158</b>
<b>Net Cash (Outflow)/Inflow</b>	<b>4,484</b>	<b>(1,719)</b>		<b>4,582</b>
Cash Balances (overdraft)	(651)	(6,853)		(18,953)



# May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Mountaineer 7:30 am Church Council 7:00 pm	2	3 Joint Choir Rehearsal with St. Matthews 7:30 pm	4	5 Bus Trip to Six Nations 8:30 a.m.
6 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Communion Service 10:00 a.m. Open Sesame Benefit Concert 3:00 p.m.	7	8	9 Mount Zion Café 10:00 am	10	11	12
13 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Communion Service 10:00 a.m.	14	15 Music for the Spirit After School Concert GREAT Theatre Oshweken 4:45 pm	16	17	18	19
20 Small group Rehearsal 9:15 Communion Service 10:00 a.m.	21 Victoria Day 	22	23 Mount Zion Café 10 a.m.	24 Mountaineer Deadline	25	26
27 Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Communion Service 10:00 a.m.	28	29 Church Council 7:00 pm	30	31		