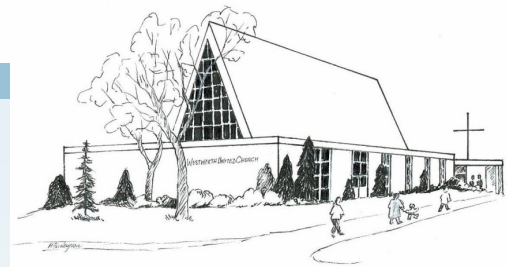


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# Westworth News

February 2017

## Report from the Chair of the Board

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone has emerged from the deep freeze that gripped us for much of the beginning of this year with renewed energy and excitement for the coming year. Globally, I fear we will continue to live in interesting times, but closer to home, I believe we have reason for cautious optimism. In Winnipeg, I have taken comfort in how the anti-semitic actions of an isolated few have united all faiths in seeking and promoting tolerance in our community. And even closer to home, here at Westworth we can look forward to the spring's Lenten interfaith study as another opportunity for us to grow our understanding and appreciation of other faiths within our community.

Within the Church, I also have optimism for what the coming year will bring. As you have no doubt heard, our Board accepted the recommendations of our Governance Committee and is implementing a new governance model, on a trial basis for the coming year. This new structure, with a Council and team ministries is intended to create efficiencies, as well as opportunities for members of the Congregation to focus on their particular interests. We will have a Council which will guide the Church and set policies and directions which are consistent with our mission and values. Along with this smaller Council, there will be a number of team ministries (filling the roles of our current committees) which will focus on doing the work of the Church. The model we have approved does still meet all the basic governance requirements of Presbytery.

We have organized a number of information sessions before and after Sunday services, and information is available on the Church website. You should also feel free to chat with members of the Board whenever you see us, as we would be happy to answer any questions you may have. As I have emphasized previously, this model is being implemented

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## Lent and Holy Week

**March 1, 7:30 pm**  
Ash Wednesday  
Taizé Service Quiet,  
meditative chants & silent  
meditation with  
opportunity for  
administration of  
ashes or anointing  
of oil.

**April 9, 11:00 am**  
Palm Sunday  
Intergenerational  
Service

**April 11**  
Interfaith Seder Meal at  
Shaarey Zedek  
Synagogue (more  
details to follow)

**April 13, 8:00 pm**  
Maundy Thursday  
Service

**April 14, 10:30 am**  
St. Andrew's United  
Church has invited us to  
their Good Friday service

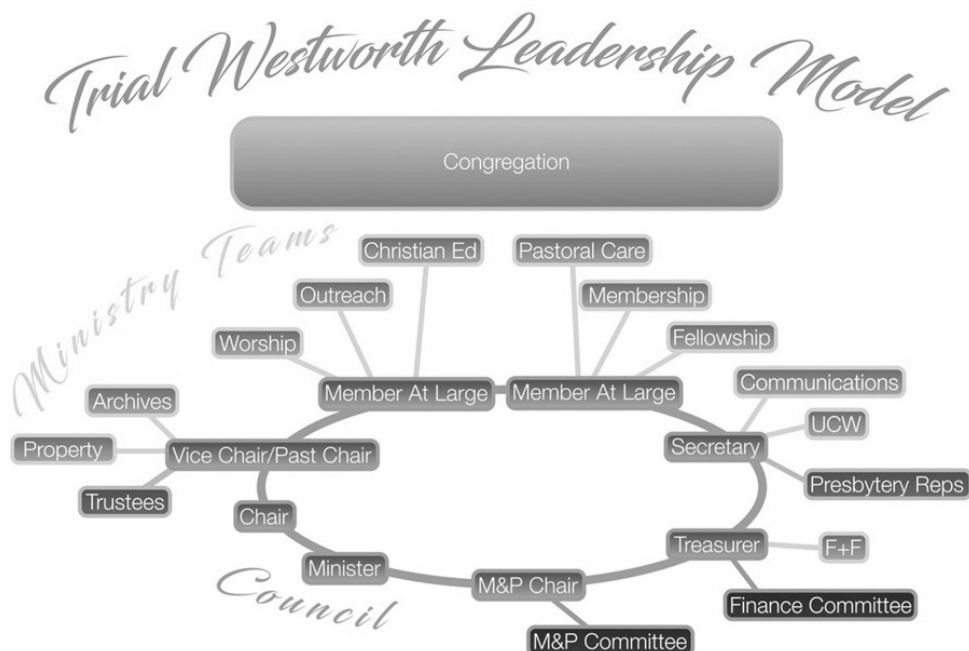
**April 16, 11:00 am**  
Easter Sunday Service

on a trial basis, before being presented to the Congregation (and then Presbytery) for approval after at least a year. What we need now is your input – get involved; try something new; volunteer for a particular project or join a team for the whole year; and please, share your views on how the new structure works or can be improved. This model is an organic structure that can evolve over time, with everyone's involvement and input.

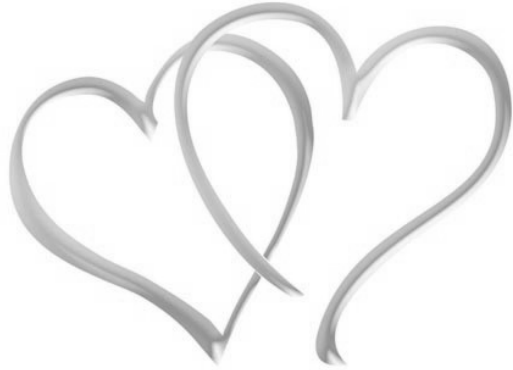
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of our Governance Committee (Gerald Davis, Dan Wiwchar, Barb Magarrell, Shirley Watts and Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd) for all the thoughtful effort and time they put in to considering various models, hearing what our Congregation said and coming up with a new model that not only addresses concerns with our existing structure but is also consistent with Westworth's vision and mission statement.

So, there you have it: a new year, with new opportunities. I wish you all the best for this coming year and look forward to continuing our spiritual journey together.

With warm regards,  
Norm Snyder



## Minister's Message



*In this season of Epiphany, we welcome the light of Christ even as we welcome the growing light of the lengthening days.*

2017 seems to be bringing with it increasing discontent in our world, and we need the reconciling peace of Christ more than ever. In this season of Epiphany, we welcome the light of Christ even as we welcome the growing light of the lengthening days. God's revelatory light shines through different religions, and we pray that the light of Christ, which we bring, may combine with the light shining through other faiths to help overcome fear and violence with love and compassion.

To this end, we will be hosting our 3rd Interfaith Lenten Study. This year we invite our Jewish brothers and sisters to share with us their faith, as they dialogue with Christian speakers. We hope to learn more about Judaism, as well as Christianity, as we learn how to walk together in solidarity against all forms of hate and oppression.

We have a couple of social events in February (Spirit Lifter Luncheon Feb. 5 and Samedi Gras Swing Night Feb. 25), which we hope all of you will consider attending. These will give us a chance to have fun and get to know each other little better. As we build community, we will be better able to support one another.

Within our Westworth community, we are also working on a revision of our governance model so as to improve our communication, make volunteer opportunities more attractive and to reduce meetings as well as other demands on volunteers. We hope this will allow you to choose volunteer opportunities that reflect your interests and passions without being encumbered by multiple meetings. Please let us know what might best work for you during this trial year of our new governance model. In this newsletter you will see a diagram of the new model. We hope that you will be able to attend one of the information sessions to find out more about it. Both the illustration and the report of explanation is available on our website. There are also hard copies available on the coffee ledge in the narthex.

2017 will bring both challenges and possibilities. May we draw upon the epiphanal light of Christ to help sustain and guide us in this new year.

Blessings,  
Loraine

## Upcoming Events



### **Lenten Study 2017: Judaism and Christianity**

**Westworth United Church**  
1750 Grosvenor Avenue, Winnipeg  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.



**Purpose:**

To help participants better understand the practices and beliefs of Judaism in dialogue with Christianity.

Each session will be presented by leaders in the  
Winnipeg Christian and Jewish communities.

### **Schedule**

**March 6: Phil Spevack**

*Christianity's Jewish Roots with music and humour*

**March 13: Ruth Livingston**

*Scribing and Interpreting Scripture*

Respondent: Rev. Dr. Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd

**March 20: Dr. Stefan Carter**

*Holocaust/Shoah Survivor: A Personal Story*

**Belle Jarniewski**

*Why Remember the Shoah?*

Respondent: Rev. Earl Gould

**March 27 Dr. Ruth Ashrafi**

*Women's Impact upon Jewish Observance & Study*

Respondent: Rev. Dr. Jane Barter

**April 3 Rabbi Alan Green**

*Jewish Mysticism on One Foot: The Little that Contains a Lot*

Respondent: Sister Sandra Stewart, RNDM

To assist in planning, please advise if you will be attending by  
emailing [office@westworth.ca](mailto:office@westworth.ca) or  
calling 204-489-6974 ext. 20

by February 17th, if possible (later deciders – come anyway!)

Supported by a grant awarded by the Living Spirit Fund of the  
United Church of Canada Foundation

## Upcoming Events

Those of you who braved the weather, & were able to attend the Lessons & Carols event know that the congregation kept up the tradition of warm hospitality to all. A big thank you to those who contributed dainties, &/or volunteered their time to serve that evening, & to Sandra Shaw who coordinated the event.

The Fellowship Committee is hosting the "Spirit Lifter Luncheon" on **Feb. 5th** in the gym following the service. There will be guest jazz musicians, who you may have heard at Inferno's on Academy, as well as home grown talent. All are welcome to come, relax & visit while you enjoy good food & good music.

**Samedi Gras**  
*Great Music*  
*Dancing*  
*Tasty Desserts*  
**Swing NIGHT**  
**2017**

**Sat.**  
**Feb. 25**  
**7:00 pm**

**Westworth United Church**  
1750 Grosvenor Ave.

**Featuring:**  
**WESTWORTH WINDS**  
**BIG BAND**  
Conducted by Ray McClelland  
**NORTHERN PRAIRIE JAZZ**  
**COLLECTIVE**  
Led by Steve Kirby on upright bass

**Tickets:**  
\$15.00 (single)  
\$8.00 (Children 12 & under)  
\$40.00 (family)

Available through the church office  
Tel: 204-489-6974  
or at the door.

## Upcoming Events

### The Great Westworth Rummage Sale Saturday - April 29, 2017 9am - noon

**REMEMBER**, there will only be one sale this year, so we have to make it a gigantic success. Lots of volunteers will be needed:

Thurs. April 27, 7pm - 9pm set-up  
(some strength required)

Fri. April 28, 9am - 7pm  
unpacking, setting out goods

Sat. April 29, 8:30am - 2pm sale  
(pricing, bagging), clean-up

If you have never done this before, don't fret, we will train, while you enjoy fellowship, and have the satisfaction of helping the church. Men are welcome. Please volunteer whatever time you can afford.

There is no sale without rummage. We hope to make this sale the biggest and best sale ever, so start preparing your "unwanted-unneeded" treasures. Please note that we are not accepting text books, encyclopedias, business books, out-of-date travel books, and magazines (put in your recycling). Also, we are not accepting computer components, vcrs, tapes, and cassettes. These items don't sell, and only end up being carried upstairs again. Due to government rules, we cannot accept baby cribs, high chairs, car seats, and strollers. Toys are very welcome. Please mark electrical appliances if they work. Drop off items in the lower unlocked storage room at the far end of the gym under the stairs, clearly marked rummage".

Things for the Bazaar's Treasure Table (including jewellery), China Cabinet, and General Store, should also be marked clearly.

There will be a "**Suggestion Box**", in the Narthex to receive constructive ideas - look for the round hat box.

**Please** consider some time for this event - many hands make light work, and the funds are much needed.

Thanking you in advance for your co-operation.

Your Rummage Sale Committee:

Andrea Firth - 204-489-2284  
Dorothy Reid - 204-489-6655  
Lee-Ann Blase



# Church News

## *Ministry and Personnel Committee*

The Ministry and Personnel Committee has been working throughout the fall to implement the recommendations of the Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC) and to provide ongoing support and direction to the staff at Westworth.

There was significant turnover on the committee this year with three of the four committee members being new to the work of the committee. While the learning curve has been steep for the new members of the committee, the work has also been rewarding.

The committee is in the process of reviewing job descriptions for all staff based on the recommendations of the JNAC and in consultation with staff and the committees that support them. Each job description will be also be updated to reflect the mission and values of the church. Work is also underway on ensuring appropriate health and safety policies are in place for staff, in particular development of a policy to assist staff who are asked to work alone.

In December, the committee hosted a staff appreciation lunch on a Wednesday. In addition to lunch, gifts of live music, shortbread and a memento that reflected Westworth's mission were provided.

In March, the committee will begin the process of completing performance reviews for all staff. While comments are welcomed at any time of year, the committee would especially appreciate any compliments or concerns about staff at this time. Please feel free to contact any member of the committee with comments, or if you have questions about the work of the committee.



*Fancy M&P Christmas luncheon setting for staff, complete with Laura Rousseau playing Christmas carols on her celtic harp.*

Members and contact information for the committee are as follows:

Member	email	Phone
Paul Chard	<a href="mailto:pchard@mymts.net">pchard@mymts.net</a>	204.896.6926
Jennifer Snyder	<a href="mailto:thesnyders@shaw.ca">thesnyders@shaw.ca</a>	204.489.3365
Laura Rousseau	<a href="mailto:laurarousseau33@gmail.com">laurarousseau33@gmail.com</a>	204.451.0634
Arlene Hints	<a href="mailto:hints3@mymts.net">hints3@mymts.net</a>	204.487.0017

# Church News

## Finance Update

The year-end for 2016 resulted in an accumulated surplus of \$18,933.00 in the operating budget. Finance transferred \$25,00.00 to the Building Reserve Fund as of late December to help with the costs of the current roof replacement work. The resulting surplus provides a cushion for the 2017 budget.

We would like to thank everyone for their support of Westworth United Church in 2016. All of our contributions, whether they are financial, time, talent, or wisdom, contribute to the health, growth, and work of Westworth United Church.

Please contact the Finance and Stewardship Committee at any time if you have questions or need further information on our financial situation. Continue to check the financial section of the bulletin board for information updates.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cheryl McNabb Davis  
Chair – Westworth Finance Committee

## Stewardship

Thanks to all who pledged financial support for 2017 in the annual Stewardship campaign this past fall. Our overall pledged total is up from approximately \$267,000 to \$276,000. However the number of individual pledges is down from 205 to 187. There are approximately 260 active names on the roster. A Stewardship Report will be presented at the Annual Meeting as part of the Finance Committee report.

Please look elsewhere in this newsletter for information on volunteer opportunities coming up.

Ron Bailey  
204-955-7191 | [ron@rbailey.ca](mailto:ron@rbailey.ca)



### Annual Meeting will be Mar. 19.

Deadline for reports is Feb. 19. Please consider sending your report in now while 2016 is fresh in your memory.

# Church News

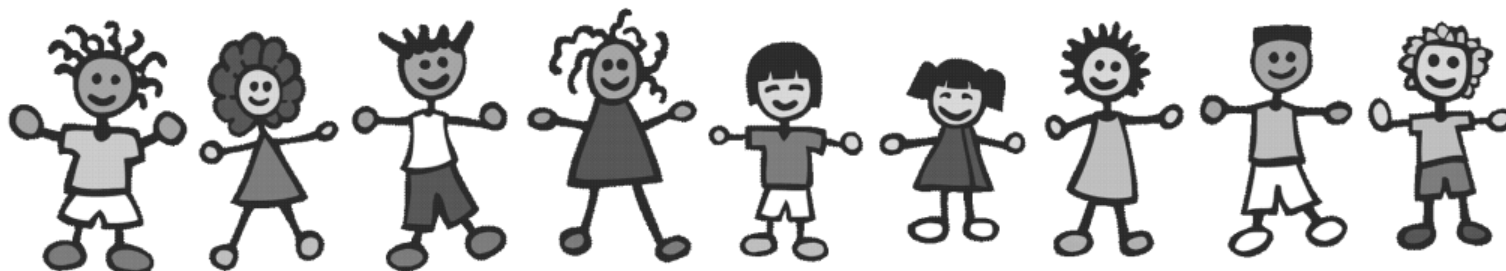
## *Christian Education Committee*

Our Worthy Kids made the Christmas Story come alive during the action packed Christmas Eve 4:30 service. Your CE committee and staff thank parents who arranged for their children to be at extra rehearsals, and the adults who supported our young actors, particularly for arranging for the baby Jesus to be included!

Mark your calendars, set your watches, tell Siri to set a reminder! We've arranged for Westworth's teenagers to volunteer at Bell Tower Community Café, on January 13th! What's Bell Tower? To quote their website, "The Bell Tower is more than a food bank; we are a community café experience, with live music, nutritious food and great coffee and tea. Sharing in a meal is essential to the community in that it brings together a diverse community around a common need. We all get hungry." What will Westworth's youth be doing? For the most part, we will be on the main level, building food hampers for those in the community who need them. This is our opportunity to both see what happens

to the food that is donated to Winnipeg Harvest, and to meet the people who require that food. David Puranen has spent time volunteering with Bell Tower in the past and says that the experience is both a fun and eye opening experience. Any youth attending can expect to go home tired, sweaty and happy. We're hoping to do this once a month, so if you'd like your teenager involved, let David know. Parents and younger siblings are free to hang out upstairs and enjoy the food and live music.

Sunday morning Worthy Kids and Wednesday Evening Worthy Youth Bible Study continue to engage Westworth's young people. Children of all ages are welcome to join us at 11:00 every Sunday for Worthy Kids, and young people are welcome to meet with the Bible Study Group from 6-7 PM every Wednesday, followed by about an hour of video games in David's office.



# Church News

## Membership

The Membership Committee wishes everyone a very HAPPY NEW YEAR and prays for Happiness , Good Health, and Good Happenings in 2017! In spite of the extreme cold, it is wonderful to see so many in church every Sunday morning in this new year! What a perfect blend of "old comers" and "new comers"!!

A very warm and exciting WELCOME to all who are new at Westworth. There will be a "Newcomers' Breakfast" in the spring to officially say "Hello" and afford an opportunity to get to know you better, and you can get to know us better, over a feast and a cup of coffee! Invitations and details will be given when plans are finalized.

Nothing warms your heart and spirits more than a smile, a handshake, and a hearty "Good Morning". This is what is extended by our greeters/welcomers at the front door on Sunday mornings. Please consider volunteering for a chance to make Westworth a welcoming, inviting and friendly church. The sign up list is in the narthex. Greeters work in pairs and any combination can create the duo. No experience is needed!! It's a small timeframe and fun "job".

Have you remembered to wear your name tag on Sunday? It is so nice to be called by name, and to be recognized by name. I am personally a horror at remembering names, so appreciate "seeing" your name. Your tag need not necessarily be the Westworth name tag. It could be from your bowling league, your bridge club, or a plain tag. However, if you wish to order a Westworth name tag, speak with Dorothy Reid (dreid1@mymts.net or 204-489-6655 or try to catch her before/after service) or call Heather in the office for details.

Cheers to all for bright months ahead at Westworth.

Dorothy Reid

### Westworth Newsletter

Thank you to all who contributed articles for this newsletters. If you have suggestions or comments, or want to consider including something in upcoming newsletters, please contact me.

Ingrid Peters Derry  
[petersderry@shaw.ca](mailto:petersderry@shaw.ca)



# Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers make our congregation the place we want it to be and it will be even better if you can offer your time and gifts to the life of our congregation. Here are a few opportunities that may call your name!

## **SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017 - "50's Nostalgia and Dance"**

Please help make this a fun event. All ages are welcome!

If you are able to assist with:

ROOM SET-UP on Friday, May 5;

FOOD PREPARATION AND SERVING on Saturday, May 6, or

CLEAN UP following the fun

Please contact Shirley Watts (489-7695 or [shirleywatts@mts.net](mailto:shirleywatts@mts.net)) if you can help.

## **SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS/WELCOMERS**

Two friendly faces are required each Sunday morning to be at the front door to **meet and greet the congregation** as they arrive. The time frame is short: arrive at approximately 10:25 a.m. and welcome until the service is about to begin. It involves a warm "Good Morning" and a handshake. If you recognize folks as "new" or "unfamiliar", you can ask if they would like to sign the guest book at the front door. (If you are not comfortable with this, it is not a requirement!) This is a wonderful opportunity to make Westworth a welcoming, friendly church and, if you are newer to the congregation, it is a chance to say "Hello" and meet more congregants. Couples, families, friends and singles are all welcome to offer to help. A sign-up sheet to select a week is pinned on the bulletin board by the front doors. If you have not welcomed before and would like more information or have other questions please speak to Dorothy Reid at 204-489-6655 or [dreid1@mymts.net](mailto:dreid1@mymts.net).

## **SCRIPTURE READERS**

### **USHERS**

Ushering is a way to get to know more of the folk in the congregation, to contribute to the service and to volunteer on your own schedule. We try to have two ushers for each service, as well as two additional people to help with the offering. New volunteers are sent (via email or paper, if desired) detailed information about what needs to be done and are welcome to ask for clarification. In addition, they can choose to work with an experienced volunteer. Ushers are asked to be ready to start 15 - 20 minutes before the service, and are welcome to have their younger children as helpers. Youth who will be staying in the sanctuary for the service are invited to either volunteer independently, or to assist an adult usher. For further information, or **to be included on the usher email list**, please contact Andrea Firth at [afirth485@gmail.com](mailto:afirth485@gmail.com) or 204-489-2284

## **SMALL GROUP LEADERS**

Do you have a particular interest that relates to faith, the church, art, health, or other topics that may be shared by others in the congregation? Perhaps you would be interested in developing and/or leading a small group. It may be a study group or an action group. Think about it! If you would like to explore the opportunities, please contact Rev. Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd, [westworthminister@gmail.com](mailto:westworthminister@gmail.com).