

2021
HOLY SPIRIT PARISH
ACCOUNTABILITY
REPORT



ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT 2021 HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

“Brothers and sisters: whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all of this is from God... So we are ambassadors for Christ...” 2 Cor 5:17 ff

Dear Parishioners,

It is with these sacred words from St. Paul to Corinthians that I introduce to you 2021 Accountability Parish Report. While we continue to live our faith during these ‘strange and challenging times’ let us be both comforted and hopeful by those beautiful words of Paul: *“in Christ... New Creation... old things passed away... behold new things have come...”* For sure, we are the People of Jesus Christ... baptized into his Life, Death and Resurrection. We share in the Lord’s mission to make known the Good News of God’s unconditional love for all humanity. This past year, and the year before has given us ample time to look at what has changed in us... what had died in us... what has become new or ‘resurrected’ in us... what has come from God to help us individually and as a community of faith.

As we continue to navigate through this pandemic time, I am still amazed at the faith, the hard work and commitment of so many people at Holy Spirit Parish. As you will see within this report, the God-given gifts and talents of so many people and groups continued to lead us under such stressful times. Your open hearts and ability to work within such limitations is another sign that we are living up to our parish name: Holy Spirit! Even as I type these opening remarks, the Women’s Group are downstairs in the Hall, meeting, planning and working together for the betterment of our parish.

With Covid 19 still in our midst, and for safety reasons, some groups that make up our parish family could not meet nor exercise their ministry. Some of us were able to meet through multimedia, using ‘Zoom’ and ‘phone conferences’ on a regular basis. This included both our Revitalization and Finance Committees.

Under the leadership of Patti Blake, Our Revitalization Committee was able to meet via zoom and still offers prayerful ideas in how to continue to build up our parish. Just to meet and to keep connected was very important and to look at ways to improve our parish and to work on future projects. We are very fortunate to have them help lead us as we move through these unsettling times. *“the old things have passed away...”* Although sure sign of proper stewardship but still unsettling was the removal of three buildings, St. Augustine’s, St. Brendan’s Mission and St. Brendan’s Hall. Monuments will be placed where these churches once stood. Corey Ryan from the Medicine Shoppe contacted me after the removal of St. Augustine’s Building. A new \$3.00 River Valley Coin has been issued with a picture of our beloved church...first time in colour... with St. Augustine’s original red roof!

Our Finance Committee continued to meet by via zoom, close monitoring of our finances is always paramount. You will see in their report ways that we managed ‘limited incoming funds’

while at the same time, taking advantage of the markets and making some long term investment of current savings.

We are grateful for the stellar leadership that our Pandemic Team was able to offer under the direction of Mark Palmer. These are the people who come to Mass early and ensure our worship spaces are both safe and welcoming. Even though we followed the strictest of guidelines that always seemed to be changing, week by week, this experience has allowed us to know each other a lot better. It is my hope that the Pandemic Team will evolve into the Ministry of Hospitality.

I have only mentioned some of the many committees none more or less important than the other. You will see, each one has submitted great reports on how God is blessing them in their particular ministry. As well, if you are interested in participating in any one of these ministries or perhaps like to start one that doesn't already exist... we welcome your suggestions. On your behalf, I want to thank each and every member of the enclosed groups who submitted reports (and those who were unable at this time). As we continue to work together, sharing in the responsibilities of our parish community and its many facets, I am grateful to our God for all of you and to witness the way that you live out your baptismal mandate ("*ambassadors for Christ*") to love God and each other. As we journey together, may we continue to be open to "*the new creation*" that we can become as a parish with great hope and joy.

God Bless You!

Fr. David

Holy Spirit Parish Statistics:

	2021	2020	2019
Number of Active Parishioners	600	800	950
Number of Baptisms	10	12	31
Number of Deaths	35	32	28
1st Communion	9	17	17
First Reconciliation	11	0	14
Confirmation	0	17	21
Marriages	0	2	9

Revitalization 2021 Accountability Report

Membership (in no particular order)

Father David Martin, Bernice Martin, Angela Butler, Mark Palmer, Susan Nichol, Stephen Parker, Barb Tracey-Laroque, Matthew Tingley, Johanne Tingley, Louise Wilson, Patti Blake

What is the purpose of a Revitalization Committee?

Our committee meets monthly to discuss ideas, actions and initiatives in order to breathe new life into our Parish. It is not a Parish council as the intent is to be dynamic and inclusive. As such, we have an average 2-3 year tenure for each member and are looking to broaden the committee in 2022 to create representation from other active committees and ministries. We are looking for people who are not afraid to challenge the status quo, who have fresh ideas and have a passion for revitalizing our community.

All that we do is guided by our carefully thought out 5-part Vision.

- 1) Be an evangelizing community that gives Jesus Christ to the world.
- 2) Be a community of growing disciples who share their faith, support one another, and lead others to Jesus Christ.
- 3) Be the center of community serving those on the margin and in most need.
- 4) Be an intergenerational community of children, teens, young adults, middle age and seniors.
- 5) Have full churches for Sunday Mass.

What was accomplished in 2021?

As with other groups, our actions were hampered by the pandemic. Despite the ever-changing protocol, we continued to meet on a regular basis via Zoom. This allowed us to stay united and gave us time for reflection and prayer.

We would like to thank Mark Palmer and his extensive pandemic team for coming together to ensure that those who were comfortable attending Mass, could do so. Being able to pray as a community had both spiritual and mental health benefits. Thank-you one and all, for providing a safe and welcoming environment.

Some team members participated in the Alpha Series to learn more about it and to prepare for our first hosted session in Jan. 2022.

Through a government grant, we hired David Johnson as our summer student. His primary duty was to work on the St Augustine cemetery, but he also performed several administrative duties.

The Finance committee approved five \$500.00 bursaries for High School students from Holy Spirit who were commencing post-secondary education in the fall. Successful candidates were chosen based on an essay.

The committee approved for the Building and Maintenance Committee, the sale of St Brendan's and the removal of St Augustine's.

What are the plans for 2022?

January saw the launch of an Alpha series co-hosted with St Croix Parish. Alpha is a global 11-12 week series consisting of engaging videos and small group discussions. The audience may be Christians, non-practicing or disengaged Christians, Non-Christians or even atheists. It is meant to uncover the basics of faith in an updated and engaging manner. It allows people to explore some of the tougher questions such as “Why did Jesus die?” and “Is there more to life than this?” The participants were so pleased with the series that they did not want it to end! The result is that often, people tend to get the urge to move further on their personal faith journey.

There is an April workshop planned where the Revitalization Committee will invite 1-3 members of each ministry and committee to participate in a 2-part workshop. The idea is to brainstorm key actions we can take to revitalize us to a welcoming and inclusive faith community. After 2 years, there was a consensus at the March meeting that everyone is energized and ready to get to work on our vision.

There is a move to create a Technology sub-committee to include our youth and to improve our efficiency.

The communication sub-committee requires a re-launch.

A decision will be made on the timing and format of a fall Alpha series.

Proposals are being reviewed for the design and creation of a memorial garden and park at the former St Augustine’s site.

Mark Palmer has stepped away from the committee and we would like to thank him for all his hard work and input since our formation. Mark has always been insightful and pragmatic and we will miss his candid and practical feedback.

Tom Paisley is the first new member of 2022, representing the St Matthews site Knights of Columbus. We welcome Tom and are actively seeking additional participation from people who have new ideas with a zest to revitalize our faith community.

Report prepared by Patti Blake: Committee Chair

Finance Committee Accountability Report – 2021

Dear Parishioners,

We are pleased to present to you our 2021 Financial Report for Holy Spirit Parish. This committee meets every other month via phone to monitor cash flow and expenses. Once again monies from our school rental, IPLF (Inter Parish Loan Fund) and the SEI Investment Portifolia have allowed us to show a net surplus for this year. Even though our offertory collection was reduced by 10% due to Covid 19 restrictions we were still blessed to have a positive cash flow. Our mandate, in cooperation with our pastor, Rev. David Martin, is to be stewards of our churches financial assets and expenses.

JK Whittaker continues to monitor and review our financial statements. In 2020 our committee allocated \$600,000.00 from our IPLF St. Rose Building Fund into a balanced portfolio (60% fixed income, 40% equity). This investment proved to be successful on our part therefore, it was recommended that we invest more in 2021. We added an additional \$500,000.00 from our IPLF St. Rose Building Fund

Under government grants and rebates for 2021 we received \$13,462.55 from the CEWS (Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy). As well we were able to hire 1 summer student to help with the care and maintenance of St. Augustine's Cemetery and other small parish maintenance projects.

Five (5) bursaries of \$500.00 each were offered, however, only 2 bursaries were applied for and issued to Holy Spirit Parish high school graduates to help further their secondary education.

In 2021 someone approached us wanting to buy St. Brendan's Hall property in Dipper Harbour. A deal was negotiated that the hall and its property would be sold with the conditions that St. Brendan's church would be removed at the same time (St. Brendan's Mission church property was not sold). This will allow for the expansion of the existing cemetery. \$8,500.00 was cleared and put into an IPLF fund at the Diocese. A monument will be placed for the recognition and faith of that particular community.

There are 2 growing expenses that we will need to address before next winter. The cost of heating and snow removal. A special appeal was made to the parishioners for funds to cover these costs. As always, our generous parishioners were very helpful.

In closing we want to show our gratitude to the people of Holy Spirit Parish especially during these difficult times, for all your financial contributions made to our parish. It is a testament to the strong faith and love that we have for Holy Spirit Parish.

Accomplishments in 2021:

- Hired one summer student to help care for St. Augustine's Cemetery
- Removal of St. Augustine's building.
- Removal of St. Brendan's Mission Church
- Removal of St. Brenan's Mission Church hall.

Goals for 2022:

- Investigating heat pumps for both worship sites*.
- Paint exterior of rectory (Grand Bay-Westfield)*.
- Paint exterior of St. Rose Worship site*.
- Paint interior of St. Matthews Worship site*.
- Install monument for St. Brendan's Mission Church site.
- Install monument for St. Augustine's Church site.
- Future plans for St. Rose Place*.
- Create budget expense guidelines for various committees.

*** As recommended by Building & Maintenance Committee**

Yours in faith,

Bob Gaudet

Finance Committee Chair – Holy Spirit Parish

Finance Committee Members:

Bob Gaudet – Finance Committee Chair

Anita Leblanc – Finance Committee Secretary

Bernice Martin – Parish Secretary

Chris Thompson

Roxanne Fairweather

Phil Butler

Rev. David Martin - Pastor

Holy Spirit Parish
Profit and Loss
Year Ending December 31, 2021

Income	2021	2020
Offertory Collection	220,634	243,100
School Rent	128,820	127,737
Bequests and donations	9,001	11,379
Special collections	3,679	3,176
Building fund	20,846	23,800
Other	31,628	3,914
Total Income	414,608	413,106
Expenses		
Church	111,824	153,004
Salaries and benefits	130,945	140,545
Rectory	19,615	39,079
Diocesan assessment	33,860	38,328
Office	17,389	9,234
Hall	559	2,553
Special collections remitted	3,176	-
Other	43,728	28,001
Total Expenses	361,095	410,743
Net surplus before other items	53,513	2,363
Other Income		
IPLF interest	30,225	29,682
SEI Investments	59,518	28,863
Bank Interest	-	127
Government Grants & Rebates	14,423	38,535
Total Other Income	104,166	97,207
Net surplus (loss) for the year	157,679	99,569

Holy Spirit Parish
Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2021

Cash and Cash Equivalent	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Bank of Montreal	18,840	28,731
Holy Spirit Building Fund	9,270	18,624
St Augustine Cemetery Account	16,380	10,458
Total Cash and Cash Equivalent	44,490	57,813
 Taxes Recoverable	 2,197	 7,139
 IPLF - Deposits		
St. Rose School Rent Fund	636,852	1,018,032
St. Rose Building Fund	283,101	277,500
St. Brennen Cemetery	13,836	-
St. Rose Community Housing	28,141	27,586
St. Augustine Cemetery	74,385	97,647
In Trust - Riley Manor	44,246	43,371
SEI Investments	1,188,381	628,863
Total IPLF - Deposits	2,268,941	2,092,998
 Land & Building	 89,779	 89,779
 Total Assets	 2,405,408	 2,247,729
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 Total Liabilities		
 Equity		
IPLF - (Loan)/Deposit Activity	71,000	71,000
Opening Bal Equity	2,176,729	2,077,160
Retained Earnings	-	-
Profit for the year	157,679	99,569
Total Equity	2,405,408	2,247,729
 Total Liabilities and Equity	 2,405,408	 2,247,729
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Holy Spirit Women's Society Annual Report 2021

The mission of the Holy Spirit Women's Society is to undertake projects that support our parish, its outreach, and enrich our community, while developing fellowship and friendship.

The Women's Society is based in Grand Bay-Westfield, but all the women of Holy Spirit Parish from both worship sites are welcome. We generally meet monthly, September to November and again January to May, the last Tuesday of the month, in the Holy Spirit Rectory Hall. The meeting time was recently changed from 630pm to 130pm to encourage more women to attend.

Monthly meetings were able to resume in September 2021.

- **Avenue B Soup Ministry:** Due to government Covid restrictions early in the year, we were only able to make soup or chili 6 times in 2021. 283 individual 3-cup containers of soup/chili and 679 biscuits were prepared and donated to Avenue B. To minimize risk of Covid infections among the Women's Society, the number of people in the Rectory Hall's kitchen was kept at only 2, rather than a pre-covid group of 5-7 women.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry:**
This ministry meets in the Rectory Hall every Wednesday, 10am to 1230pm, with everyone welcome, regardless of skill level. Prayer shawls, mittens, hats, and scarves are hand knit or crocheted. Each item is made with love and prayers.
On the first Sunday after Easter, 54 prayer shawls were blessed at St. Matthew's worship site. A quilt rack has been permanently set up in the main lobby of St. Matthew's, making the shawls available for anyone in need of spiritual comfort. Many blessed prayer shawls have been distributed. As well, hands and fingers were busy knitting and crocheting 181 pairs of mittens, 98 hats, 23 scarves, 11 headbands, 4 pairs of socks, and 3 pairs of slippers. Generous bags of these hand crafted items were donated to our local schools (Grand Bay Primary, Harbour View High School, Inglewood Elementary, River Valley Middle School, Westfield Elementary), as well as Coverdale Centre for Women, Avenue B, and Horizon Recovery Centre.
- **Harbour View High School:** Early 2021 saw the Women's Society hold a food donation drive for the Sunshine Café at Harbour View High School. The Sunshine Café helps to teach students some basic cooking skills as well as feed students in need that would otherwise go hungry. In September, donations of school supplies were collected for the Sunshine Room at HVHS, to help provide items for students in need. As always, the parishioners of Holy Spirit parish were very generous; the staff and volunteers at HVHS were extremely grateful.
- **Horizon Recovery Centre** (formerly known as Lonewater Farm): In December, the Women's Society organized a donation drive to provide support to the men at Horizon Recovery Centre, a long-term residential program (up to 3 months) for men who have an addiction to alcohol, drugs, and/or gambling. The donations received were extremely

generous, helping to make Christmas less lonely for the clients as well as provide items that are used throughout the year.

- **Joshua Group:** A monetary donation was made at Christmastime by the Women's Society to the Joshua Group, a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization serving at risk children in the Greater Saint John area.

The Women's Society relies on the kindness and generosity of our parishioners to support our outreach activities through donations of required items or financial assistance, as well as help and support behind the scenes. What we do could not be done without the support we receive from both worship sites. It is all greatly appreciated. Thank you. If you are interested in being part of our fellowship, please reach out to the parish office for contact information, or find us on Facebook: Holy Spirit Women's Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Robillard

Chair, Holy Spirit Women's Society

Holy Spirit Parish Religious Education 2021

Religious Education classes continue online and via email, with biweekly lessons for two groups, grades 1-5 and grades 6-8, alternating with review and follow-up questions based on the lessons, which are following the 'Be My Disciples' texts for age appropriate classes. Weekly "preschool" lessons are also provided online or via email, with a Bible story or reflection on the day's liturgy or current subjects of interest, and an activity. These lessons are proving of interest to more than the preschool groups and as a result will be renamed "family activity lessons" for the next school year.

All of these lessons are prepared in such a way as to be easily presented in an in person setting when numbers of volunteers and possible attendance makes that realistic.

Confirmation classes continue, using the Decision Point video series, for 13 registered students with average attendance of 8, and home review available for the occasional absentee. Four of the candidates have completed the required ALPHA YOUTH program, and it will be presented again starting in September 2022, to allow as many of the students as possible to complete the program in time for Confirmation on December 8, per the bishop's office. The cycle will continue with ALPHA in the Fall and Decision Point in the Spring, involving incoming grade 8 students and returning grade 9 students, to cover the 18-24 month requirement of our new program.

First Communion classes have started with home study, and will continue with the completion of the home study, and combined with in person sessions, in an effort to have as many of the 9 registered students prepared for the Celebration on May 1. First Reconciliation saw only one fully prepared student, all others only missing in person review to assess awareness and preparedness, and a brief rehearsal, although 4 sessions were made available, with only the one family attending. As a result, Reconciliation has been deferred until next year.

A generous donation from the Woman's Society made possible some small gifts for the First Communicants last year, and for expenses incurred so far this year for the same, and for some clerical expenses for printing and mailing lesson material that wasn't able to be delivered online.

Angela MacDonald continues to ably assist with the First Communion and Reconciliation preparation classes, and Mary Alice Glasgow is my invaluable aid in all things Confirmation.

Linda Spinney
Religious Education
Holy Spirit Parish

Holy Spirit Liturgical Committee 2021

The Liturgical Committee helps bring the liturgies alive and to enrich our spiritual journey. With the pandemic still prevalent, and for the safety of our parishioners, this warranted simplified and shorter liturgies. On Palm Sunday we had a limited supply of palms for distribution but we were able to supply each household with one palm. We were faced with not knowing if our churches would be closed down again for Easter as the numbers of infected were climbing.

Once again in compliance with COVID restrictions our Christmas liturgies were less attended but no less prayerful. We were unable to offer 8 Masses because Fr. Tom Fowler (retired) was home in New York visiting family. With the reduced number of masses, and strict protocols in place limited the number of people able to attend. Even though with no singing or children's pageant we were able to celebrate Christmas Mass in a dignified and reverend way.

In compliance of COVID restrictions, the Triduum was simplified. Washing of the feet eliminated and the cross was venerated from our seats. For Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday our churches were beautifully decorated so that at least our eyes and heart could appreciate the "alleluia" on Easter day. Parishioners were offered small bottles of holy water to take home. This gift has become another 'new tradition' for Holy Spirit Parish parishioners.

Our future goals include:

1. To increase our efforts to bring new and creative ideas to our liturgies.
2. Recruit more Eucharist Ministers – this would be a good fit for young people, but we are not limiting recruits to the young. We will supply the training.
3. Recruit more Readers – we have a small number of men reading at mass but are looking for more, so men, please seriously think about joining. Of course, we aren't forgetting women; although we have women reading, we could always use more.
4. To reinstate Evening Prayer at different times during the liturgical year.
5. Retreats – hoping to bring a retreat to our parishioners in the near future.
6. Reinstate the November special Mass, "Remembering our Dead".
7. Recruit additional people to sing in our choirs, also those who play musical instruments are always welcome.

Our committee members consist of the following:

Fr. David Martin	Helen LeBlanc	Amanda Muise	Mary Rose Daigle
Maureen Hughes	Sue Ogden	Anita LeBlanc	Teresa Mittelholtz
Cathy Thornton	Charlene Parker	Stephen Parker	

Blessings,
Anita Le Blanc

Holy Spirit Ministry Report Avenue B out Reach 2020-2021 Saint Rose Worship Site

The Covid restrictions of the past two years have really restricted how we carry out our ministry to the clients at Avenue B. We have return to cooking in the parish house but with limit of two people at a time for the present. Weekly we call the center and ask if they are in need of soup. On average we are supplying 50 cups of soup on a bi-weekly basis. We are buying supplies as the need presents itself hence, relying on the monetary donations made to the parish.

We welcome leftover meat and vegetables from your turkey, chicken and ham dinners. There is freezer storage in the parish house. The best action is to call 333-9509 and pick-up or drop can be arranged.

We have partnered with Hillcrest United Church in delivering bread to Avenue B. The church has also supplied us with boxes of chick peas, kidney beans and lentils for our soups and we have shared these products with Harbour View lunch program.

Father Martin has supplied us with a letter asking for donations. Our request for donations is just getting off the ground. So far we have approached Esso on Main Street and Subway on the Golden Mile for donations of serving dishes. If you know of a company who might like to make a donation of food stuff or a gift card you can get a copy of the letter from Bernice.

The staff often comments how grateful their clients are for the food we bring. You can see this sometime as well when the food is delivered giving us an opportunity to speak with the clients, shake their hand and wish a good day.

Many hands have contributed to this ministry. Local business donated cups for our soup. Grocery stores have donated food. Parishioners have donated food and money towards this project. This truly is a community effort of loving service.

How can parishioners become involved in this ministry? Keep doing what you have been doing as mentioned above. If you are interested in preparing soup in your own home, we can provide the containers and storage in the freezer at the parish house. The staff at Avenue B has identified a need for something sweet to pass out with the soup. Cookies are great. If you are interested call me for details.

Potential for growth: the needs of the clients of Avenue B are many, particularly for men's and women's personal care items. We could do a drive similar to the one we do for Lone Waters if that is the desire of the parish. Also keep the staff and clients at Avenue in your prayers.

Respectfully Submitted
Helen LeBlanc

Holy Spirit Parish Catholic Women's League (CWL) - 2021

As we undertake a 3rd year of covid19 we are having trouble with our monthly meetings. For fear of being sick no one wants to meet in any area.

For the year 2021 all we were able to accomplish is:

- Assisting with providing support for our needy and our seniors.
- Collecting our members' dues

With no monthly meetings our resources are limited and are depleting with no way to add to the coffer.

We are available to assist in any way we are asked to help our parish grow.

This report is being presented for the Saint Rose of Lima Parish CWL, President

Presented by the outgoing secretary

Cecile Deschamps

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Responsible Ministry 2021

This committee has not been active in 2021. With activities returning to a more normal level, I will be resuming work to ensure that Holy Spirit Parish is compliant with the Responsible Ministry protocol.

Many thanks,

Moira Wilson

Knights of Columbus Council 9176

Fellow Parishioners,

As you know, 2021 was not a good year for having any activities. We didn't have any meetings from January until September 2021.

Our crib nights were cancelled but are planning to resume on April 20, 2022 at 1:30pm new time.

Chase the ace was on hold and we are planning to have one last draw to finish this jackpot of \$2,483.00.

For those who are not familiar with our organization, the Knights are a group of catholic men 18 years and older who are committed to making their community a better place, while supporting their church and priest. This is a great opportunity for camaraderie with the men of the parish.

We are always looking for new members as our membership is aging and slowly declining.

If you would like to get involved you can contact any member of contact Keith Dorion – Grand Knight at keithdoiron2@gmail.com

We would like to thank the parishioners for their previous support.

Knights of Columbus – Council 9176
Keith Doiron – Grand Knight

Pandemic Team Accountability Report 2021

As the need for meeting Pandemic mandates appears to be coming to a welcome end, it is time to reflect on the exceptional contribution that our Pandemic Team members have made for our community at Holy Spirit Parish. What a wonderful service has been provided. The members of the Pandemic Team have guided us through many changes in regulation, often with little notice, while providing a safe and welcoming environment.

The only message is one of thanks for their assistance and consideration of others. Appreciation for their sacrifice and commitment is well deserved, as each of them took on additional risk to assist the Parish to get through this very difficult and dangerous journey and return to unrestricted church attendance. These are the individuals who comprised our Pandemic Team efforts.

St. Matthews Worship Site

Greg & Lynda Gilbert
Amanda Muise
Rose Theriault
Pat Quinn
Iris Thompson
Bernice Martin
Cathy Thornton
Paul Cormier
Teresa Mittelholtz
Francine Doiron
Anne Marie Sewell
Jill Robillard
Doug & Linda Hubbard

St. Rose Worship Site

Barb & Terry Levenshulme
Tim & Dale Wilkes
Terry & Janice Dickson
Marijke Blok
Kevin Reid
Helen LeBlanc
Wayne Connell
Anne Fletcher
Faye Lambert
Dave Chase
Mary Ann Patterson
Marilyn Upton
Moira Wilson
George & Roseann Melanson
Ken Gogan

Respectfully submitted,

Co-ordinator Mark Palmer