



# Johnston Heights Church



2025/2026  
Annual Report



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# Year at a Glance



Good Friday & Easter Services  
Family Easter Event  
Women's Bible Study  
Perspectives Course  
Youth Grad Retreat  
JHC Soccer Season Starts

APRIL



Annual General Meeting  
Mother's Day Special Service  
Ladies Bouquet Workshop  
Young Adults Beach Worship Night

MAY



Youth Summer Camp  
Fusion Summer Event

AUGUST



Beach Baptisms  
Fall Kick-off  
Ministries Launch  
Young Adults Tailgate Party

SEPTEMBER



Various Ministry Christmas Events  
Kids Advent Storytimes  
Serve Surrey Christmas Initiative  
Christmas Eve Services  
GAIN Water for Life Offering

DECEMBER



Membership Class  
Young Adults Cookie Baking Night  
Youth Lock-in

JANUARY

# 2025-2026



Young Adults Year End BBQ  
Youth Year End BBQ  
Father's Day Special Service  
Grad Sunday  
Summer Internship Begins  
Summer Pickleball Begins

JUNE



Friday Fellowship Summer Picnic  
VBS Kids Camp  
Engage Leadership Program  
Youth Outdoor Movie Night  
"Youth In The Park" Event

JULY



Youth Leaders Retreat

OCTOBER



Fall Congregational Meeting  
Parents Night Off Event  
Ladies Cookie Decorating Workshop  
Prayer Gathering

NOVEMBER



Family Ice Skating  
Fusion Lock-in  
Prayer Gathering

FEBRUARY



JHC Kids staff attend D6 Conference  
Family Lent Devotionals and Activities

MARCH



# SUNDAY SERVICES

library  
cafe  
connect  
kids  
fusion  
youth  
worship  
tech  
prayer



70

volunteers serve through the Connect ministry on Sundays

38

volunteers serve in worship and tech teams

60

children attend Sunday morning kids ministry on average

33

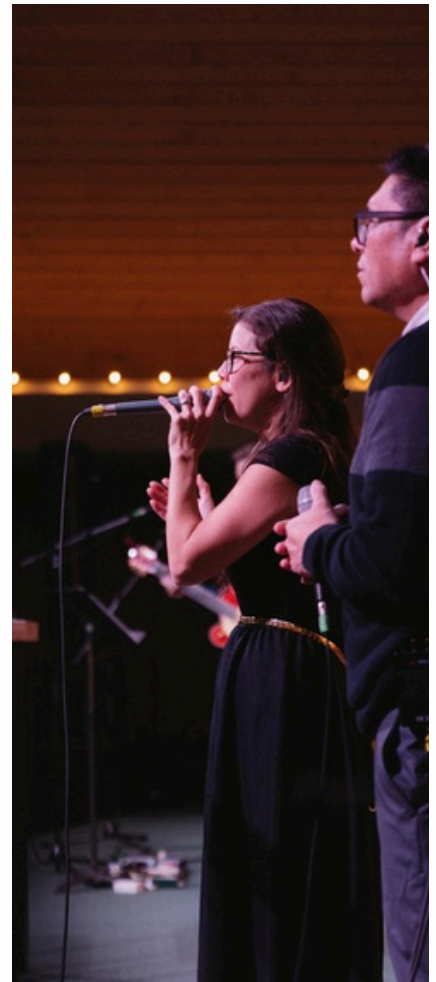
volunteers serve on the Sunday morning prayer team

# WORSHIP

This past year has been a season of both challenge and faithfulness for our worship ministry. We are deeply grateful for **Ethan Wirtz**, who served as interim Worship Leader through November 2025, and for **Laura Jeanne Wirtz**, **Dan Carnahan**, and **Joel Schroedter**, who have faithfully stepped in as volunteer leaders since then. We're also thankful for **Sharon Fong**, who has taken on a part-time role supporting the tech side of the ministry. With a team of 38 people serving across worship and tech, it's been encouraging to see so many step up and serve during this time, and we continue to trust God as we look ahead.

## God at Work in Every Season

Please continue to pray for Logan as he pursues treatment for his back, and for the worship ministry as we look ahead to the future. At the same time, we're encouraged by God's faithfulness. How He has provided leaders, sustained our teams, and continued to meet us in worship each Sunday morning. We are especially grateful for everyone who has stepped up to serve so faithfully during this season!



# KIDS & FUSION



## Partnering with families

At Johnston Heights Church, our kids (infant through 7th grade) experience safe, age-appropriate environments where they learn about Jesus in a creative and relevant way. Beyond our Sunday morning programs and Thursday evening Fusion program, we intentionally partner with families to help disciple kids through a variety of ways: family-focused events (ice skating, Easter community party, Christmas cookies & crafts, etc.), specific discipleship initiatives (Easter Lent Packages, Advent Devotionals, back to school prayer guides, etc.), partnering with the congregation (Advent Storytimes, The Word in Action), and invitations for connection (Parent & Tot events) and commitment (child dedication).

60

kids in attendance each Sunday

60+

volunteers regularly serving

105

kids at kids camp this summer

160

people attended our family skating event

# Kids Highlights

**VBS Kids Camp** was a great success, with over 100 kids that attended: including new families, and 60 volunteers. We learned how we can Trust Jesus in our lives and see God working and moving all around us, with fun songs, bible stories, and fun activities. We saw Junior leaders growing in their faith and supporting children with special needs, we saw kids learning what it looks like to Trust Jesus with their fears and lives, and we all grew closer together – both leaders and kids – enveloping into the greater body of the church.

Our **Volunteers and Support Ministry Buddies** continue to be the lifeblood of children’s ministry, caring and supporting children, teaching biblical truths, and laying the foundations of Jesus’ love and grace in the lives of children and their families. Our support ministry continues to grow, caring for children that need extra help on a Sunday morning. We are so grateful for Candice Paradon, Vicky Jansen, and their team that help make Sunday classes a place for every child to learn and grow!

We introduced **Word in Action** this year and it has been a great success. Each month, children join the main service to teach the whole church body what they are learning that month in their classes; our key verse, big picture questions, and the bible stories we are walking through. It has been an incredible blessing to see the children experience what it looks like to have a full church body worship together and learn from each other.



## Fusion (grades 4-7) Highlights

The **Fusion Lock-in** was a huge success! We stayed overnight at the church playing games, eating good food, and having lots of fun. A particular highlight was having the grade 7s come early to have pizza and brainstorm spiritual gifts that added to the Bible lesson later that night. The kids loved the “elf spaghetti challenge” (ask Ashley if you want to know more). Let’s just say it was gross, but definitely a core memory.

It was **encouraging to see so many Grade 4’s** (the youngest of the group) attend regularly. They truly bring the energy and fun every week and are eager to learn about God. It’s encouraging to watch them (and everyone else) get better at navigating their Bibles. The Fusion kids are encouraging representations of a young and growing faith.

25

grades 4-7 students each Thursday

17

grades 4-7 students each Sunday

11

volunteers this past year





# GROUNDINGED YOUTH



## Highlights

### Creating safe spaces

Our youth program intentionally creates safe spaces (Sunday mornings at Sold Out and Wednesday evenings through our Grounded Youth program) for teenagers to connect, ask questions, have fun, and build relationships while learning about Jesus.

**Camp was a highlight this year**, with growing attendance, a smooth week, and many students taking meaningful steps deeper in their faith. One student even stepped into leadership through worship, later choosing to be baptized and continuing to serve. It's so inspiring to see God working in the lives of young people and how He is shaping their gifts and confidence. Moments like these remind us that God is moving in powerful ways in the next generation.

We did our **Engage summer leadership program** once again, it was cool to see both Fusion and Grounded students grow in their leadership skills while serving in kids ministry.

48

volunteers across all areas of ministry

68

youth at summer camp

35

meals served at our drop-in program

2

youth got baptized

# YOUNG ADULTS



## Building communities to know Jesus & serve others

We want to provide spaces for Young Adults to be in relationship with each other and with Jesus. This is done through life groups, event nights, and opportunities to serve within the church.

## Highlights

This last summer, we held a **bonfire night at Crescent Beach**. We sat around the fire and sang worship, and during this time some people around decided to join us. It was so encouraging to see how welcomed they were, and how naturally conversations and connection began to form. It turned into a really special night of community and shared worship.

One of my biggest highlights is seeing just how many **young adults are serving** within our church, from youth leading, to kids ministry, worship, to kitchen teams. Young adults are a big part of our multigenerational church.







# ADULTS & SENIORS



## To know and be known

We believe discipleship happens best in community. In 2025/2026, some of our adult options were: Life Groups (meeting mainly in homes, bringing people together to grow in community), Discipleship Foundations (a course focused on the Great Commission movement of building, mobilizing and winning, with people meeting weekly to study God's word, spend time in His presence and be equipped to follow Him), Women's Bible Study and other Women's events, specific language based groups (Spanish, Mandarin, Korean and Tagalog), and Friday Fellowship for those 55+.

20

Life Groups

50+

people each week at Friday Fellowship

56

Ladies signed up for our Bible Study

5

languages spoken



# Highlights

**Friday Fellowship** continues to be a meaningful space of connection and care, running from September through June with special gatherings throughout the year. From themed dinners supporting Far East Broadcasting to our Christmas banquet, Friendship Dinner, and summer picnic, these moments create a strong sense of community and joy.



**Parent's Night Off Event** had almost 40 adults and almost 40 kids. They had a fun night out – trivia and charcuterie for the parents, amazing child workers played, ate and laughed with the kids!

**Life Groups** have continued to be a place of meaningful support and growth, especially in seasons of loss and illness, where members have come alongside one another through prayer and tangible care. At the same time, we've seen encouraging spiritual growth as individuals and groups deepen their relationship with God, strengthen community, and continue living out their faith together.



**Women's Ministry** has been a vibrant place of connection and growth, with strong participation in our annual Bible study and meaningful gatherings throughout the year. From creative events to weekly activities like Weights, Walks and the Word, women are building community, deepening their faith, and encouraging one another in their walk with Christ.



# OUTREACH

## Sharing the good news of Jesus

As followers of Jesus, we have been called to show and share the message of God's love to those in our community.

Over this past year, outreach opportunities have involved Billy Graham Online Outreach, Surrey witnessing teams, and short-term missions in the Philippines and Central America.



Romans 10:15 – “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News!”

## Highlights

Not everyone we share with accepts the Lord, **but seeds are sown and cultivated for a future harvest.** This year, we met a man who had been searching for truth across many churches, and after hearing the Good News, he opened his heart to receive Christ. On another visit, a young woman with a church background chose to fully surrender her life to Jesus and is now being disciplined. The harvest is plentiful.

**Several people from JHC serve in an online gospel chat ministry** by Billy Graham, connecting with people around the world. In one conversation, a woman reached out in the midst of deep anxiety, and after hearing about the peace found in Jesus, she surrendered her life to Him. Her anxiety turned to joy.

Each year, teams from JHC **travel to the Philippines** to share the gospel and equip others in discipleship, seeing hundreds come to Christ and new groups formed. In one case, a man was healed of his sciatica, which led to several people in his community coming to faith and a new discipleship group that continues to meet today.

### Surrey Witness Teams

# 15

people going out to pray for the community and share the gospel each week

### Philippines Trip

# 25

new discipleship groups started

# 100+

people responded to the Gospel

# MISSIONS

## Making disciples of *all* nations

Our goal is to bring Missions awareness to JHC, highlighting the importance and current need for missionary efforts. We aim to inspire through biblical, practical, and cross-cultural perspectives, while supporting many missionaries around the globe.

This year, we were encouraged by visits from missionaries like Heather Rix, who shared about her ministry in August, and we had the opportunity to honour Wilma Holmes for her 20 years of faithful service with Youth Unlimited in September.

**The Missions Committee members include:** Dawn Samson (Chair), Marilyn Reichert, Anthony Pereira-Costa, Audrey Green, Brandon Green, Jane Raven, Nate Sedlack, Vickie Kirk.

### Long Term Missionaries Supported by JHC:

El Candelero Kids, **Bolivia**

Larry & Diane Willims, **Thailand**

Dale and Ann Little, **Japan**

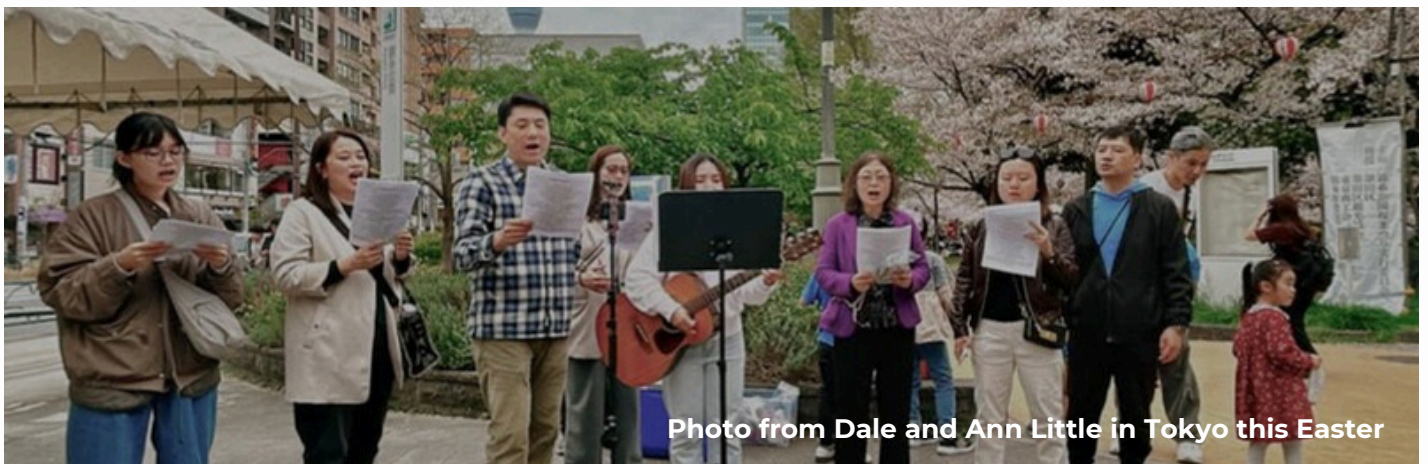
Steve and Myra Neufeld, **Cuba, Mexico and Spain**

Heather Rix, **Mexico**

Larry and Diane Willems, **Thailand**

Petros and Arlene Yergatian, **Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda**

Joy Youssef, **Creative Access Country**



But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest.

**John 4:35**

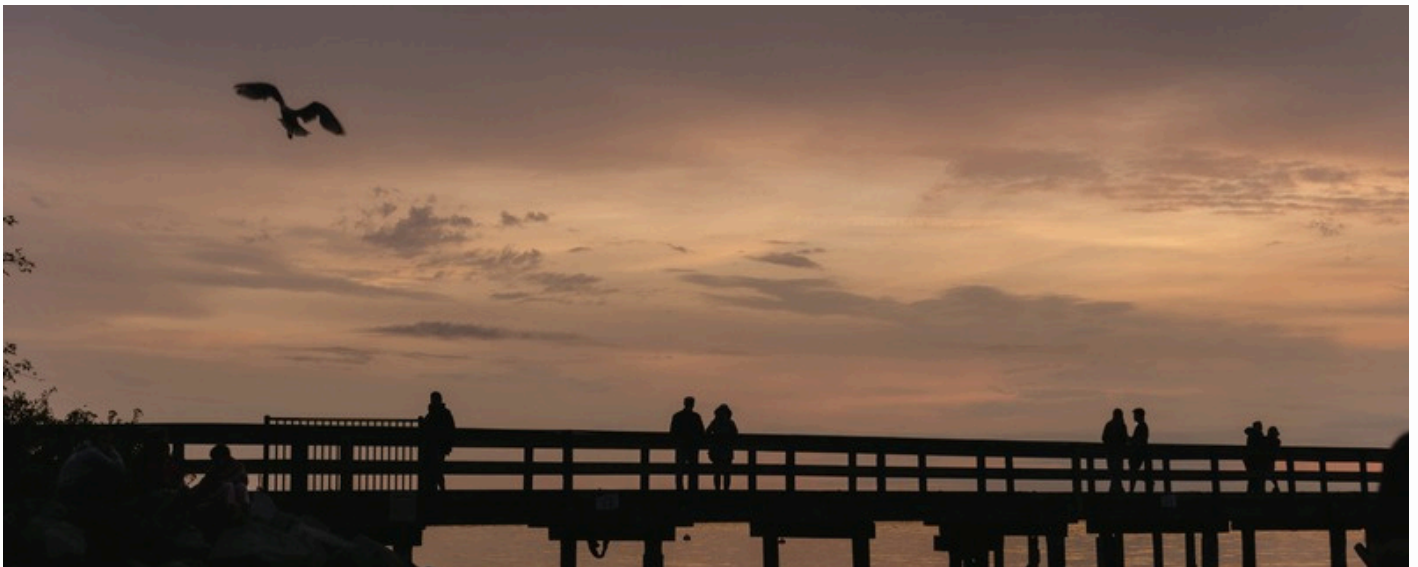


# REFUGEE SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Last Fall, we became aware of a family residing in a Bangladeshi refugee camp – a pastor (Peter Saiful), his wife (Umme) and his son (Stephen), who are part of an exiled ethnic community, the Rohingya, who were forced out from Myanmar due to genocidal crimes against humanity perpetrated against them. To add to this already-precarious situation, Peter now lives in a place where Christianity is still not tolerated. Due to threats against his life and his connection to some new congregants at JHC, who came to Canada from the very same refugee camp, we have put together a committee to look into the possibility of arranging for Peter, Umme, and Stephen’s safe passage out of Bangladesh.

We have been working with City of Refuge, an organization that facilitates the resettlement of persecuted Christ-followers, to help arrange for this family’s immigration.

**The Refugee Support Committee consists of:** Clarence Chou (chair), Petros Yergatian, Laura Jeanne Wirtz, Anthony Pereira-Costa, Hanna Atoui, Nahi Atoui, Audrey Green, Brandon Green, and Oscar Banziger.



## God’s Provision

When we first began talking with City of Refuge about what would be necessary to get this process started, they told us to provide proof of finances. The timeline (end of 2025) was fast approaching and we suddenly had the intimidating objective of putting together thousands of dollars within just a few weeks, or else the sponsorship would not be able to take place. It seemed impossible. Yet, God put His encouragement upon not just one but multiple sources to donate – without us even putting out a plea to raise funds – and as quickly as our fears arose, they were quelled. The meeting of these financial requirements in such a short time span has been powerful assurance that a good work is happening here.



I have repeatedly said that the learning curve in this whole process has been a steep one. Each day comes with new learning, which then comes accompanied with even more questions. As we wait for the Canadian government to process paperwork and confirm whether or not Peter's household may be granted an escape from the tensions of Cox's Bazar, we have had to admit to our plentiful gaps in knowledge and reckon with timing that is uncontrollable by our limited selves. Thank goodness for a God that reveals His might and influence precisely at the right moments!

We are likely going to be in a waiting pattern for at least a year (perhaps more). Church, we ask that you pray for our preparations as a committee; we are continuing to equip ourselves with information on settlement services and requirements. We have seen miraculous providence occur; we pray that we would be unperturbed by the unknown and that we would trust in the Spirit's movements, as He has already been active.

Lastly, JHC, **we invite you to pray** for a cessation of hostilities in our world, from the wars & discrimination that Peter, Umme, Stephen, and more have had to survive, to the animosities towards migrants that pervade our neighbourhoods. Would we be known for our love and would we be ready and willing to give to the foreigner and the oppressed with the heart of our Saviour.

- Clarence Chou

# SERVING THE COMMUNITY



# Giving Hope, Addressing Needs

By addressing tangible needs, we have the opportunity to serve people in our schools and neighbourhoods, to partner with organizations that are serving vulnerable people, and to build bridges with those who wouldn't otherwise have connections with the church. Our seasonal initiatives (supporting local families at Ellendale Elementary at Christmas), weekly youth free supper program, and bi-weekly Community Meal seek to meet the physical and ultimately the spiritual needs of people within our local community.

We're especially thankful for the opportunities for prayer at Community Meal, where each guest is offered encouragement and care, along with the chance to hear the good news of Jesus. Through this ministry, new believers are consistently being added to the church. Praise the Lord!

# 12

local families supported as part of our Surrey Surrey Christmas initiative

# 20

volunteers involved in Community Meal

# 120

meals served on a bi-weekly basis at Community Meal

## The Future of Community Meal

This year has brought a significant transition for Community Meal. Barb and Harv Friesen have faithfully led this ministry since the fall of 2003 (with a brief break), and have now stepped back. **We are deeply grateful** for this wonderful couple who have poured their lives and hearts into not only leading but loving those in our community who are in need.

Looking ahead, Tebah Church (the church who rents our building), has taken on leadership of Community Meal as of **January 2026** and is excited to join in collaboration with JHC to continue this ministry. The meal is now offered once a month on Saturdays instead of twice a month on Sundays, with JHC continuing to support the ministry so our community can be blessed in this practical way.

Thank you to all our volunteers over the past year, and to Tebah Church for stepping in to carry this ministry forward!







# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

"Four of our children's ministry leaders attended the **D6 Conference in Seattle**, where they participated in a wide range of workshops and seminars focused on discipling the next generation. It was an encouraging and equipping time, providing fresh vision and practical tools that will continue to strengthen and shape our children's ministry moving forward."  
- Emily Carnahan

"This year we were able to **send off Ashley Green**, for the last 4-5 years she had been attending Columbia Bible College as well as growing in her leadership in our kids/Fusion ministry. She was the recipient of the previous memorial scholarship fund set up to see youth and young adults enter into ministry. And to see her come full circle and enter into kids and youth ministry is incredibly encouraging and we send her off knowing that God is going to do great thing in and through her. We have also seen 2 other young adults complete discipleship Bible college programs and 2 young adults are currently pursuing vocational ministry training through Columbia Bible College." - Levi Fraser







# Leadership Feature:

# ESTHER WIRTZ



## **What first made you want to start serving at church?**

*Seeing my brothers initially become involved at church inspired me to join worship, but it was Emily Carnahan who convinced me to join the children's ministry! She gave me an opportunity and I took it, not realizing all the great things that would eventually become of it.*

## **How did being a summer intern shape your faith or perspective?**

*Being a summer intern was technically my first job, so my perspective was changed especially because of all the "firsts" that I got to experience throughout the summer. Some of those things include running VBS, using new computer programs, and working in a team for a longer period of time. My faith was definitely strengthened as well by being surrounded by Godly, good people for such a time!*

## **How has serving in worship helped impact your relationship with God?**

*Worship was one of the first big steps that I ever took in my faith. I was in grade 10 when I first led worship at school, and this eventually led me to leading worship in church at JHC. Serving on this musical team has helped me to hone in my skills for a purpose that is pleasing to the Lord. My relationship with God is constantly impacted through serving in worship because of how deep and relatable the lyrics we sing are and the fact that worship is done in community with hundreds of other believers.*

## **Can you share a moment where you saw God working through your serving?**

*One moment that has actually happened multiple times is in the Sunday School kids class. There is a time where we sing worship songs with the kids and, because of my passion for worship and music, I strive to make our worship time a safe place for the kids to worship freely. When I see them leaning into their worship through dancing and singing is when I see God working through my serving while also working in my heart!*

## **Why do you think it's important for students to get involved and serve in the church?**

*Getting involved and serving in church is life changing! It brings so much perspective and compassion for the work that goes on behind the scenes, and when you put in all that work to make services and events run smoothly, it is so rewarding. God has shown me many things while serving at JHC, and I know He will continue to show me tons more. I recommend that everyone, especially students get involved to see what God can do through you and for you!*



# COMMITTEES & PROJECTS

**Finance Committee** - Dennis Fierbach, Steve Parker and Wes Schroeder (Chair)

It is anticipated that for the 2025-26 financial period, JHC will meet the net profit (loss) budgeted projection. Though the revenue was below the budget projection, there were expenses that were lower than projected in a number of categories. The combination of lower expenses has offset the reduced revenue. Thank you to the congregation for your continued financial support for God's ministry at JHC.

The Finance Committee is looking for a couple more members. Come and serve with us.

**Human Resources Committee** - Gord Kirk, Wes Schroeder, Cindy Orivolo (Chair), and Zac Wong (Board Representative)

The Human Resources Committee is responsible for recommending pay scales and salaries, sick leave, vacation time, staff insurance, and—where applicable—RRSP/pension contributions, care expenses, and fringe benefits for all staff. We also make recommendations for additional staffing needs. We ensure that JHC is compliant with all Federal and Provincial laws.

The HR Committee is looking for a couple more members. Come and serve with us.

**Properties Committee** - Linda Wilmschurst, Bruce Flegg, Dave Wilson and Joel Johnson (Chair). The properties committee exists to assist in decisions regarding building maintenance and repair, as well as upgrade recommendations. As the building continues to age it is requiring more and more upkeep.

**Refugee Support Committee** - Clarence Chou (Chair), Petros Yergatian, Laura Jeanne Wirtz, Anthony Pereira-Costa, Hanna Atoui, Nahi Atoui, Audrey Green, Brandon Green, and Oscar Banziger.



## Projects

The **men's washroom** in the Education Wing developed serious leaks early last year, and since a major renovation was needed, the opportunity was taken in June 2025 to upgrade the space. The entire bathroom was gutted, and new fixtures, plumbing, and flooring have made it quite a "showpiece" for our older building!

With **plans in the works** to do other renos/upgrades on the building, the first step was to have Asbestos and Architectural assessments carried out. This was completed last summer, and drawings are in the works for a multistage renovation which will include suggestions from the board and staff.





# more HIGHLIGHTS



## Library

During the calendar year 2025, 884 items were borrowed, representing about 17 items per week. As of year-end December 2025, we had 6,001 items in our catalog. During 2025, we added 76 new titles to the library.

## Sunday Morning Cafe

The Café ministry continues to be a warm and welcoming place where regulars and newcomers alike can meet and connect over coffee and delicious, fresh-baked treats! This time of fellowship really encourages deeper relationships, and gives a comfortable space for new ones to blossom!









# Prayer Chain

Our prayer chain continues to be a strong and active part of our church, with 94 people faithfully praying over needs throughout the week and 33 serving on our Sunday morning prayer team. Over the past year, more than 120 prayer requests have been shared and lifted up, reflecting a deeply engaged community committed to bringing every need before the Lord.



# Walks, Weights, The Word

Walks, Weights and the Word ladies group meets regularly on Thursdays to walk, connect, and spend time in the Word.



# Life Groups

“Like the Israelites did when crossing over the Jordan (Joshua 4:19-24) in setting up a stone memorial or when Luke wrote his letter (Luke 1:1-4), we need to remember what God has done in our groups and what He has done in individual lives. For this, each group was given a journal to record over the next several months prayer requests, answers to prayer, key moments in the group when they sensed and witnessed God at work. This will be reviewed when the Leaders meet in June-July 2026.”

- Charles Labun



Currently we have **17 Life Groups running**, with about 180 individuals in attendance. Life Groups are meeting in various neighbourhoods, Guildford, Fraser Heights, Fleetwood, Cloverdale, online and Langley.

Almost **100 kids** and their families attended our Community Easter Event. The event was free for everyone and had an Easter Egg hunt, bouncy castles, crafts and more.

**150+ people** attended our free family skating event for a fun morning of skating, cookies, coffee, and fellowship.

Approx **60 ladies** devoted their Spring for our Ladies Bible Study with 2 times in the AM and PM.







# TEAM

## PASTORAL TEAM



**JON THIESSEN**  
LEAD



**EMILY CARNAHAN**  
KIDS & FAMILY



**LEVI FRASER**  
YOUTH & YOUNG  
ADULTS



**PHIL HARRIS**  
COMMUNITY LIFE &  
OUTREACH

# STAFF



**ASHLEY GREEN**  
FUSION (GRADES  
4-7)



**BRUCE FLEGG**  
MAINTENANCE



**CANDICE PARADON**  
CHILDREN'S  
SUPPORT



**DAN NICHOLSON**  
PASTORAL CARE



**KIM CHAPUT**  
CUSTODIAN



**LINDA  
WILMSHURST**  
OFFICE



**VICKY JANZEN**  
CHILDREN'S  
ADMIN



**TRUDY HANDY**  
BOOKKEEPING



**MICHELLE  
CHARTRAND-CUYUN**  
INTERIM  
COMMUNICATIONS



**SHARON FONG**  
INTERIM  
TECH

# BOARD OF ELDERS



**FRANK MARASA**



**ZAC WONG**



**JON THIESSEN**



**KEVIN GREEN**



**DENNIS FIERBACH**



**JON PEDERSEN**



**BRANDON  
MORALES**

# MINISTRY & COMMITTEE LEADERS



**CINDY ORIVOLO**  
HR



**BARB & HARV  
FRIESEN**  
COMMUNITY MEAL



**GIL GOUDSWARD**  
FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP



**CHARLES LABUN**  
LIFE GROUPS



**WES SCHROEDER**  
FINANCE



**ED KNORR**  
LIBRARY & POLICY



**GAIL & JON  
PEDERSEN**  
CONNECT



**JOEL JOHNSON**  
PROPERTIES



**DAWN SAMSON**  
MISSIONS



**LINDA WILMSHURST**  
CAFÉ



**MEGAN THIESSEN**  
PRAYER CHAIN



**CLARENCE CHOU**  
REFUGEE SUPPORT









