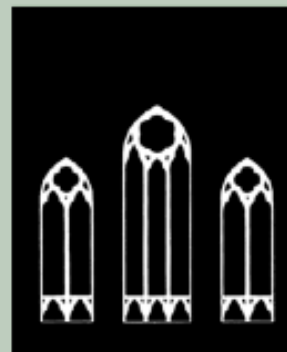


*St. Andrew's Ev. Luth. Latvian*  
*Sv. Andreja ev. lut. latviešu*

# Church *newsletter* Draudzes



*ziņas*

#181A



## **DRAUDZES PILNSAPULCE 2016. GADA 10. APRĪLĪ**

**2016 AGM APRIL 10**

### **DARBA KĀRTĪBA:**

1. Pilnsapulces atklāšana
2. Balsu skaitītāju vēlēšanas
3. Darba kārtības pieņemšana
4. 2015. gada pilnsapulces protokola pieņemšana
5. Ziņojumi: 1) Mācītāja  
2) Padomes priekšsēdis  
3) Kasieris  
4) Komitejas  
5) Revīzijas komisija  
6) Ziņojumu pieņemšana
6. 2016. gada budžets
7. Padomes un revīzijas komisijas vēlēšanas
8. Ierosinājumi turpmākai darbībai
9. Dažādi jautājumi
10. Pilnsapulces slēgšana

### **AGENDA:**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Vote Counters
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of 2015 AGM Minutes
5. Reports : 1) Pastor  
2) Council Chair  
3) Treasurer  
4) Committees  
5) Supervisory Committee  
6) Approval of Reports
6. 2016 Budget
7. Election of new Council and Supervisory Committee
8. Suggestions for future activities
9. Other business
10. Closing of the Meeting

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran**  
**Latvian Congregation**  
**Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

**AGENDA**

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  - 2) Council Chair
  - 3) Treasurer
  - 4) Committees
  - 5) Supervisory Committee
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**1. Opening of meeting** by Council chair Voldemārs Innus at 12:55 pm. 78 members of the congregation are registered, achieving quorum. Voldemārs Innus thanks members for attending and invites **Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** to open the meeting. **Pastor Ilze** leads the congregation in prayer, praying for God to lead, protect and unite us, and everyone joins in song (Tavs darbs, Kungs Jēzu).

**2. Election of Vote Counters:** Astrīda Kalniņš and Daila Dzintars are unanimously elected. **Voldemārs Innus** clarifies that as of the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the quorum number change at last year's AGM, a minimum of 50 members are required to achieve quorum. 78 registered members are present.

**3. Approval of Agenda:** Move to approve agenda by Alfons Kalns, seconded by Agris Robežnieks. Members vote with a show of hands. Carried.

**4. Approval of 2014 AGM minutes:** Move to approve minutes by Guntis Bērziņš, seconded by

Lolita Gulbis. Members vote with a show of hands. Carried.

**5. Reports:**

**1) Pastor's report:**

**Special Recognition:**

**Pastor Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** begins by thanking **all** who played a role in the past year in advancing our goal of selling our Church, as approved at last year's AGM, and transitioning to our new church home at St. John's Church. **Pastor Ilze** gives special recognition to the work done by Council chair **Voldemārs Innus**, who with his 35 years of professional experience was able to navigate the complicated situation with Grace Church and the selling of our Church. **Pastor Ilze** also acknowledges the following members: **Gundega Melli** for her work as secretary and minute-taker; **Arnis Budrēvics** (treasurer) who worked closely with Administrator **Sarma Gaide** and **Ingrīda Vairogs** to put our church finances on a good footing, and was always accessible, even when in California; **Jānis Tannis**, our "go-to" person, has been always available for the many extra jobs such as making arrangements for the internet, measuring our space, and getting the champagne for New Year's Eve; **Skaidrīte Leja** for the many labour-intensive hours spent on the *Draudzes Ziņas* newsletter and video project; and the hard-working team of **Anda Liberis**, **Ojārs Sils**, **Edīte Sils**, **Rita Āpše**, **Ingrīda Kalniņš**, who have spent countless hours on archives, inventory and other tasks, and **Inta Briedis** for her leadership.

**Worship services:** **Pastor Ilze** addresses the changes the congregation has been facing as we get used to a new church. We need to consider that if by giving the Offering before the worship service, we are losing the symbolism of our Offering. Communion is given at the first step to the altar, as there are members who have mobility issues. Another change is that the sermon is not delivered from the pulpit. **Pastor Ilze** thanks all who have shared their thoughts regarding these changes. **Inta Briedis** comments that she, as well as many others who have spoken to her, would prefer to receive communion at the altar. **Pastor Ilze** offers

to discuss this further with **Inta Briedis** after the meeting. **Balva Bredovskis** asks why services are in both Latvian and English. **Pastor Ilze** answers that the reasons for this are explained in the Pastor's Report, and that dual-language services have been requested by members of the congregation. The next worship service will be in Latvian.

**2) Council Chair Voldemārs Innus** gives an Overview of the status of the sale of our Church: Discussions have lasted over a year. Grace Church has received an offer for their property that they have accepted. The sale price will remain \$4,150,000 (as approved at the 2014 AGM) and the closing date remains as no later than October 1, 2015. There is some technical language in the offer to purchase the Grace property that the lawyers for both sides need to agree upon. The deadline for them to jointly agree to the language changes in the purchase offer is next Monday evening (March 2, 2015). The purchaser of their property will have until Wednesday (March 4) to provide their down payment. If it takes until Monday evening to agree to the changes, we will need to move our commitment date for the sale of our church to Grace Church to Friday (March 6, 2015). The non-refundable amount of \$125,000 will be deposited in our account upon commitment of sale. **Voldemārs Innus** continues his report with **Plans for the Future**: (i) The St. John and St. Andrew Congregations' Cooperation Agreement, developed together with Kārlis Jansons, has been approved by both church councils. (ii) Planning for worship services in Sidrabene: Beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be monthly worship services in Sidrabene.. These services are in addition to the worship services at St. John's Church. Members from the Sidrabene community as well as members of the congregation are welcome to participate. Services in Sidrabene would meet the spiritual needs of the many Latvians in the Golden Horseshoe area. Other Latvian congregations in the area are welcome. The Joint Council and Management Sidrabene Facility Committee (led by Silvija Shedden) is looking at what modifications are needed in order to facilitate worship services and

serve the needs of the Sidrabene and Church and communities. There will be Town Hall meetings to allow for the sharing of information. (iii) The spirit of cooperation: **Voldemārs** reflects on the cooperation and transparency that has been ongoing in working towards our goal of selling our Church. Council members have worked hard as a team to achieve the same goal. It is important to understand the process and how the work was done. There was great cooperation with the Estonian congregation and Council chair Riina Klaas, and with St. John's congregation and Council chair Kārlis Jansons. Discussions with Grace Church were based on transparency and good will. Although Grace Church had great difficulties in selling their property for an appropriate price, their goal was to buy our Church. The cooperation, transparency and goodwill have led to a good result.

**Questions and comments: Velta Zvīdris** comments that Grace Church, with the deposit of \$125,000 has time until October 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 to decide whether or not to buy our Church and that the sale is not yet certain. **Voldemārs Innus** explains that this is the same process as for selling a house: the document of sale includes two dates: the first date for the down payment, the second for the closing. The commitment date for the purchase of our Church is March 5, and the closing date is October 1, 2015. **Arnis Budrēvics** adds that deal #1 fell through with Grace Church forfeiting \$25,000. Now there is a deal #2, with \$125,000 due March 5, with the balance of \$4 M due on closing October 1. **Dr. Ināra Ezers** asks why there is so much time between the commitment and closing dates. **Voldemārs Innus** explains that Grace Church also has to sign an agreement and a closing date with their buyer for the sale of their property. Once they get the proceeds from the sale, they will give the proceeds to us. It has been a unique process based on trust between Grace Church and ourselves. The process would have been different with a commercial developer. **Velta Zvīdris** asks what role St. Andrew's would have regarding the Seton House Redevelopment Project. **Voldemārs Innus** states that he would not be

interested in this project as it is important that we pass stewardship of our Church on to another congregation, not a commercial developer. A developer would be severely limited as to what could be done with the property and most likely the offer would have been less than \$4.15M. It is more advantageous to sell to another congregation.

**Elmārs Bērziņš** inquires as to whether the closing date could be earlier. **Voldemārs Innus** answers that yes, depending on Grace Church, it could be earlier, but must be no later than October 1<sup>st</sup>. **Uldis Zommers** voices concern about the memorial plaques and whether or not they should remain in the Church. **Voldemārs Innus** explains that this issue has been discussed already, and that the plaques, a historical part of the Church, will remain. This is written in the contract. We need to trust Grace Church in this regard. **Pastor Ilze** adds that it would be impossible to resolve the situation in that Estonians as well as Latvians are commemorated on the plaques.

**Atis Bredovskis** asks about the use of our Church until October 1, 2015. **Voldemārs Innus** answers that space in the Church (not the Sanctuary) is often being rented out to film companies for \$2,000 a day, and that to date, \$10,000 has been collected. **Balva Bredovskis** asks why we had to move to St. John's when our own Church was still available? **Voldemārs Innus** answers that our goal was to sell the Church and it was time to move to our new home. **Anda Liberis** asks if we are dealing with a 3<sup>rd</sup> offer, not a 2<sup>nd</sup> offer. **Voldemārs Innus** explains, that although this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> agreement, it is slightly more complicated in that when the 1<sup>st</sup> extension expired, there was no longer a contract. In order to keep Grace Church interested in the purchase of our Church, we reinstated negotiations and extended the contract which had expired. **Balva Bredovskis** shares her feelings about leaving St. Andrew's after having worked in the church community for the last 60 years. Why are we rushing, and how much would each member have to pay to keep our church? **Voldemārs Innus** explains, that although he understands the emotions involved, we have had discussions and the congregation voted on this.

**Rita Āpše** mentions that there will be a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert to celebrate our organ on April 11<sup>th</sup>. **Valdis Šķepasts** inquires if the St. John and St. Andrew Congregations' Cooperation Agreement will be made available to members of the congregation.

**Voldemārs Innus** replies that he will discuss this with Kārlis Jansons. **Uldis Zommers** asks when the cooperation agreement comes into effect.

**Voldemārs Innus** answers, January 25, 2015, the date of our first worship service at St. John's.

**Voldemārs Innus** thanks members for their support. Members applaud the Council chair at the end of his report.

**3) Treasurer's Report: Arnis Budrēvics** begins by thanking Sarma Gaide and Ingrīda Vairogas for their hard work and support. They had been working with an outdated accounting system which has now been replaced by ACS financial system. As well, **Arnis Budrēvics** acknowledges the close cooperation of the Supervisory Committee. A special vote of thanks is offered to **Jane Budrēvics** for her support and expertise as a Chartered Accountant. **Arnis Budrēvics** reviews the year 2014 financial statements (sent to members in advance of meeting) highlighting various items in the Balance Sheet: Assets show \$775,022.25 in cash (without selling the Church); Equity \$968,454.12 less what we lost this year (\$99,959.21) which leaves \$868,494.91; money in Restricted Accounts (separate committees such as Aid to Latvia, Sidrabene, Dāmu Komiteja etc.) totals \$61,400.64 and Testament funds total \$610,997.43, which cannot be touched without the approval of Council. We have money in the bank and in reserves: we are solvent. **Arnis Budrēvics** draws attention to the Wood Gundy year end summary showing book value (\$463,416.04) and market value (\$489,958.14). This year we made 10% on our investments. This is now shown accurately on our balance sheets (as in the past only the book value was shown). However, the balance sheet is undervalued with regard to the value of the Church and Sidrabene (the numbers have been carried forward from year to year). Once the numbers are realized in a sale of the Church, they



will show as a net gain. Revenues and Expenses: at the start of 2014 Council approved a working expense budget of \$25,000 a month (\$300,000 a year). We spent slightly under this amount. Charts showing percentages are projected onto the screen to illustrate the following: Chart #1 - 2014 Summary of Revenue (87% of income of \$100,071.25 is from tax receipted gifts, 4% from non-tax receipted collections, and 8% from rental income). Chart #2 - 2014 Summary of Expenses (\$299,030.46) the majority, 46%, is spent towards worship, pastoral care, community outreach, education and faith development, evangelism and fellowship, and 17% is administrative costs. **Atis Bredovskis** asks if our congregation is liable for capital gains? **Arnis Budrēvics** answers no because it's a church. **Rita Āpše** asks for the basis for budgeting \$25,000 per month. **Arnis Budrēvics** answers that this number is in keeping with previous years.

**Atis Bredovskis** asks if the 2013 Balance Sheet was completed. **Arnis Budrēvics** answers that yes, the balance sheet was completed with a loss of \$61,000, and the spreadsheet was sent out in the *Draudzes Ziņas* newsletter. The Supervisory Committee accepted that number.

Members applaud the Treasurer at the end of his report.

#### **4) Committee Reports** (sent out in advance).

**(i) Ladies' Auxiliary:** **Inta Briedis** reports that there are only 7 members in the committee now, and appeals for help from the congregation to take responsibility for providing refreshments after worship service. A schedule is passed around and members sign up for specific dates. If necessary, **Inta Briedis** would provide a training session. Men are welcome to join the committee. **Inta Briedis** acknowledges the participation of **Imants Kivlis** and **Andris Krūmiņš**. Also, volunteers are needed to provide flowers for the altar. Members sign up on a 2<sup>nd</sup> schedule.

**(ii) Music Committee:** **Dāvids Šmits** reports on the following: (a) The anniversary concert celebrating 100 years of the St. Andrew's organ will take place on April 11<sup>th</sup>. The concert will feature Latvian and Estonian organists. (b) A

professional Estonian film company has completed a full-length documentary on the St. Andrew's church organ and will be screened at an Estonian film festival. **Dāvids Šmits** is one of the organists involved in the documentary. (c) Discussions will be held with St. John's regarding combining the rich musical talents of both congregations. (d) The St. John's organ has a different character than what we are used to. **Dāvids** explains that as he becomes familiar with the nuances of the instrument, over time, the sound will be more appealing. **Uldis Zommers** asks why there is no longer a budget for the choir. **Arnis Budrēvics** replies that the choir budget of \$3,081 has been put in the main bank account.

**(iii) Aid to Latvia:** **Anete Ivsiņa** invites members to attend the Family Day Brunch on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in May.

**(iv) Sidrabene:** **Valdis Kauliņš** reports that the Sidrabene AGM was well attended and invites members to participate in Sidrabene Council, as Sidrabene will now have a more-encompassing role. The first worship service will take place on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Sidrabene Opening will be on May 30<sup>th</sup>. This day will provide an opportunity for members of the St. Andrew's congregation to learn about Sidrabene and what it has to offer. Donations for the Sidrabene fundraiser are welcome, and **Andrejs Grīnbergs** may be contacted regarding details. **Valdis Kauliņš** encourages members to plan events in Sidrabene and appeals to members for donations to the **Juris Eglītis** memorial fund. A pavilion will be built near the old 'Kafejnīca' location. To date \$10,000 have been donated. **Astrīda Kalniņš** inquires about seasonal occupancy. **Valdis Kauliņš** explains that Sidrabene Council will be adopting a policy for seasonal use of cottages similar to the Cedar Springs policy. Members will sign-off on this contract. **Rita Āpše** reminds members to purchase seasonal parking passes at a reduced rate of \$30.

Members applaud **Valdis Kauliņš**' presentation.

**5) Supervisory Committee (members Velta Zvīdris (Chair), Elmārs Bērziņš, Valda Gustavs).** **Velta Zvīdris** reads the committee's report. The committee thanks **Arnis Budrēvics**

and Sarma Gaide. Meetings were held with Treasurer Arnis Budrēvics and Anete Ivsīņa, chair of the Aid to Latvia Committee. The report gives an overview of the following: (a) Audit of 2013 Financial Statements (b) Audit of 2014 Financial Statements (c) Agency Agreements. All fund transfers overseas are to be stopped until the necessary documentation is provided. A consultation with church lawyers is requested regarding this matter. The committee is awaiting a Donations Policy, an Investment Policy and a Mileage Policy. Members applaud **Velta Zvīdris'** report. **Questions: Pastor Ilze** asks why it is necessary to stop donations to Latvia, as it is her understanding that the Agency Agreements are in place. **Velta Zvīdris** replies that she had a meeting in December with **Anete Ivsīņš**, but the documents are still not in order. It is advised that our lawyers review the Agency Agreements and documents. **Anete Ivsīņa** states that all legal documents are signed and are in order. The purpose of the documents is to prove that all donations have been accounted for. There are detailed financial reports from all the congregations which receive funds from Aid to Latvia. **Aija Mazsīlis** asks what additional documents are required. **Velta Zvīdris** states that the financial reports are missing. The Agency Agreements are not in order. **Velta Zvīdris** advises Council to consult the CRA website as to what is required. **Voldemārs Innus** thanks **Velta Zvīdris**, stating that a lot has been accomplished in the last two years. **Voldemārs Innus** adds that Council will take the committee's suggestions into consideration and that it is of utmost importance that we are always improving and working according to Canadian law. Members applaud Velta Zvīdris and the Supervisory Committee.

**6) Approval of Reports: Moved by Alfons Kalns, seconded by Agris Robežnieks that reports be approved. Motion carried.**

**6. 2015 Budget: Treasurer Arnis Budrēvics** informs members that Council has approved a working expense budget of \$25,000 per month which equals \$300,000 for the year. The graphic

projected on the screen, Revenue vs. Expense Analysis: 2012 – 2015 shows that income is going down, but expenses remain constant. We need to address the widening gap between our revenue and our expenses. Although we are in financial good stead, our stream of revenue is declining. We are in transition until October 1<sup>st</sup> when our Church will be sold. **Questions: Anda Liberis** asks what our expenses will be with St. John's Church.

**Voldemārs Innus** replies that expenses are not yet known, but likely will not be as high. There are many expenses associated with St. Andrew's that will not apply at St. John's. **Rita Āpšē** states that it would be preferable to have a more detailed line by line budget. **Arnis Budrēvics** agrees, and explains that we are in transition from church to church, as well as in transition from one accounting system to another. Once the transition period is over and we have sold our Church, the accounting system will be line by line, section by section, aligning the budget to our Mission Statement. **Voldemārs Innus** adds that it would be difficult to get accurate numbers during this transition phase. **Velta Zvīdris** asks how we are going to cover the \$150,000 shortfall. **Arnis Budrēvics** replies that Testament funds which need to be readdressed, proceeds from the sale of the Church (divided with Estonian congregation) and investment income will give \$100,000 a year. Governance models need to be in place. Another solution for members of the congregation to consider is giving more. Also there is a need to bring a greater awareness to testament giving. We also generate revenues through activities. **Voldemārs Innus** adds that proceeds from the sale of the church will be placed in an endowment or quasi-endowment, or a partial, where money is set aside for facilities here or in Sidrabene. We are committing to a budget in the transition year the same as last year to govern our expenditure. Specifics need to be discussed in Council and the Congregation. **Guntis Ezers** : Are we sharing in any of expenses at St. John's? **Voldemārs Innus** replies that with our partnership with St. John's we share equally in the operations' costs. There is no rent and we don't pay capital costs.

**Moved by Atis Bredovskis to approve the 2015 budget; seconded by Guntis Bērziņš. Motion carried.**

Members applaud.

**Pastor Ilze** offers a vote of thanks to the team of **Voldemārs Innus and Arnis Budrēvics**.

Members applaud. **Pastor Ilze** appeals to members to continue to donate, cautioning that proceeds from the sale of the Church could make us feel too comfortable.

## **7. Election of new Council and Supervisory Committee**

**Council:** The following members of Council have completed 3 year terms: Indra Mertens, Jānis Tannis, Ingrīda Vairogs, Kārlis Sikсна, Aija Mazsīlis and Gundega Melli. The following members volunteer their candidacy for another 3 year term: **Indra Mertens, Jānis Tannis, Ingrīda Vairogs. Gundega Melli and Aija Mazsīlis offer to extend their term by 1 year. Voldemārs Innus**

opens the floor to other candidates. There are none. **Voldemārs Innus** proposes that we accept these candidates. **Moved by Guntis Bērziņš that we accept these candidates; seconded by Alfons Kalns. Members elected by acclamation.**

**Supervisory Committee: Velta Zvīdris and Valda Gustavs** have completed their terms. **Līga Miklaševics**, chair of the Nominating Committee thanks the Supervisory Committee for their work. Two new candidates are needed. **Pēteris Brīviņš** has agreed to be on the committee for 1 year.

**Pastor Ilze** suggests that Council be given authority to find another candidate. **Līga Miklaševics proposes that Council be given authority to appoint another candidate. Moved by Guntis Bērziņš; seconded by Daila Dzintars. Motion carried. Pēteris Brīviņš is elected by acclamation.**

## **8. Suggestions for future activities:**

**Guntis Ezers:** We should consider a professional auditing committee. **Pastor Ilze** suggests that we recruit a professional accountant within the congregation. **Atis Bredovskis** recommends that we amalgamate with St. John's. He also states the need for more Handicapped Parking. At the

present time there is only one spot. **Ēriks Dzintars** suggests amalgamation of the choirs. **Astrīda Kalniņš** states the need for our congregation's own bulletin board at St. John's.

## **9. Other Business**

**Ilgā Gulbis** asks for clarification about Seniors' Outreach (Kļavu lapa). **Arnis Budrēvics** explains that it is a fund (given by the City of Toronto) that we can spend on seniors who need help. **Imants Purvs** has given the go-ahead to spend the money on our Seniors' needs, such as transportation to Sidrabene and pastoral care.

## **10. Closing of Meeting**

**Moved by Guntis Bērziņš; seconded by Valdis Šķepasts.**

**Meeting adjourned: 3:00 pm**

**Recorders: Gundega Melli (English)  
Aija Mazsīlis (Latvian)**



**SV. ANDREJA EV. LUT. LATVIEŠU  
DRAUDZE /  
ST. ANDREW'S EV. LUT. LATVIAN  
CONGREGATION**  
**Dievkalpojumi un darbība notiek / Services and  
activities take place at**  
**St. John's Ev. Lut. Latvian Church**  
**200 Balmoral Ave**  
**Toronto ON M4V 1J6**  
**Tālrunis/Telephone: (416) 924-1563**

**Mācītāja / Pastor:** Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart  
**Administratore / Office manager:** Sarma Gaide  
**Ērģelnieks / Organist:** Dāvids Šmits  
**Apkopējs / Custodian:** Andris Zvirbulis  
**Sidrabenies Parvaldnieks /Property Manager:**  
Andrejs Grīnbergs

## **2015. GADA KOMITEJAS UN DARBINIEKI/ 2015 COMMITTEES**

### **Valde / Executive:**

Voldemārs Innus, Indra Mertena, Arnis Budrēvics, Agris Robežnieks, Gundega Melli,

### **Padome / Council:**

Voldemārs Innus\*, Arnis Budrēvics, Skaidrīte Leja, Ingrīda Vairoga, Jānis Tannis, Kārlis Blūms, Līga Miklašēvica\*, Aija Mazsīle\*, Auseklis Zaķis\*, Uldis Zommers\*, Gundega Melli\*, Indra Mertens, Agris Robežnieks\*, Imants Ķivlis  
(\* norāda kuŗiem termiņš padomē beidzas)

### **Revīzijas komisija / Audit Committee:**

Elmārs Bērziņš, Pēteris Brīviņš, Pēteris Vilks

### **Pērminderi / Elders:**

Guntis Bērziņš (vecākais / head elder), Irēne Bula, Ēriks Dzintars, Imants Ķivlis (Sidrabēnē), Dzidra Krūmiņa, Linda Luck, Māra Zariņa

**Mūzikas komiteja / Music committee:** Dāvids Šmits,  
Vaira Gertnere

### **Dāmu komiteja / Ladies' Committee:**

Inta Briede (Priekšniece / Chair)

### **Sv. Jāņa draudzes sadarbības komiteja / St. John's Joint-Cooperation Committee:**

Voldemārs Innus, Agris Robežnieks (no Sv. Jāņa draudzes: Kārlis Jansons, Lilīta Strīpniece)

### **Investīcijas komiteja / Investment Committee:**

Arnis Budrēvics, Ivars Grimba, Voldemārs Innus, Andris Stārasts, Auseklis Zaķis

### **Sidrabenies pārvalde / Sidrabene Property Committee:**

Valdis Kauliņš, Rita Āpše, Andris Bergvalds, Ivars Jēgeris, Imants Ķivlis, Valdis Korbs, Linda Lakata, Māra Ozola, Gail Ozoliņš, Valdis Pālēns, Andris Paukšēns, Mudīte Schuler, Mārtiņš Skuja

### **Sidrabenies bērnu nometne / Camp Sidrabene:**

Linda Lakata, Devin Dzelme, Ivars Jēgeris, Sandra Kalniņa, Sandra Thiele, Anita Thomas, Lionel Zondo, Katrīna Vikše

### **Padomes un Pārvaldes Sidrabenes Nama komiteja / Joint Sidrabene Facility Committee:**

Silvija Shedden, Linda Lakata, Imants Ķivlis, Kārlis Blūms, Voldemārs Innus, Andrejs Grīnbergs, John Roce, Jurate Muižniece, Jānis Ozols, Andris Bergvalds, Ivars Jansons

### **Sidrabenies dievkalpojumu veidošanas grupa / Sidrabene Worship Committee**

Imants Ķivlis, Mudīte Schuler, Vaira Gertnere, Dāvids Šmits, Skaidrīte Leja, Krissy Pāvelsone

### **Palīdzība Latvijai komiteja / Aid to Latvia committee:**

Anete Ivsiņa, Janīna Fogeļe, Larisa Gūtmane, Elizabete Ludvika, Aija Mazsīle, Andris Rubenis, Erika Yost, Auseklis Zaķis

### **Out of the Cold:** Imants & Maureen Ķivlis

### **Ziemsvētku rūķiņu darba grupa/ Santa's Elves:**

Daila Dzintara (vadītāja / coordinator)

### **Archīvu darba grupa / Archive committee:**

Anda Libere, Edīte Sila, Rita Āpše, (palīdzes: Ilga Gulbe, Inta McCaughey, Ingrīda Kalniņa, Līga Gaide)

**Video projekts / Video project:** Skaidrīte Leja (producente / producer) Tim Darrell (videogrāfs / videographer)

### **Tīmekļa lapas veidošanas komiteja / Web page design team:**

Jennifer Johanssen, Krista Amoliņa, Vilnis Blūms, Egīls Fogels, Uldis Amoliņš, Jānis Tannis, Emīls Matīss, Sarma Gaide, un Anda Libere.

**Draudzes Ziņas:** Skaidrīte Leja, Anda Libere

*Draudzes mācītāja un padomes priekšsēdis ir ex-officio komiteju locekļi.*

**2015. gada SV. ANDREJA DRAUDZES  
STATISTIKA / STATISTICS**

**MIRUŠI/DECEASED (21)**

Valentīne Ābols, Ināra Androvičs, Mirdza Arviko,  
Oļegs Bērziņš, Voldemārs Bērziņš, Austra  
Butkēvics, Marta Cielava, Bronislava Grundulis,  
Erna Gūtmanis, Ausma Hoepfner, Gunārs Ilziņš,  
Ilmārs Ilziņš, Zenta Jarockis, Māra Miezītis,  
Solveiga Miezītis, Ausma Paulēns, Richards  
Pavārs, Indra Pulciņš-Eglīte, Uldis Sikсна, Einārs  
Soste, Mirdza Turķis

**KRISTĪTI/BAPTIZED**

Kade Cowman, Scarlett Schuler, Mila Sikсна

**IESVĒTĪTI/CONFIRMED**

**IESTĀJUŠĪES/NEW MEMBERS**

Guntis & Jennifer Innus  
Laila Moore (Innus)  
Andris Krūmiņš

**SALAUĻĀTI / MARRIED**

Amanda Meijers un Matthew Taylor ( 13. janvārī)  
Caitlyn Candace Bergvalds un Christopher John  
Ireland (23. maijā)  
Māris Austris Blūms un Meghan Goba (12.  
septembrī)

**DRAUDZES LOCEKĻI KOPUMĀ/ 2015  
CHANGES**

Kristīti: 3  
Salaulāti pāri: 3  
Mirusi: 21  
Iestājušie: 4  
Aktīvi draudzes locekļi uz 2015. g. decembri:  
kopumā 649: pilntiesīgi 589

**2015 g. DIEVKALPOJUMI/NUMBER OF  
SERVICES: 45**

Latviski: 16 / Abās valodās: 10  
Sidrabenē: 7 / Svētbrīži un svečīšu Sidrabenē: 3  
Kopīgi rīkoti ar Sv. Jāņa draudzi: 9  
Kristus Dārza dievkalpojumi nav ieskaitīti

Citi: Ecumenical Commemoration (14. jūnijs),  
Valsts Svētki

Dievlūdzēji kopumā/total number of worshippers:  
1,934

Pie dievgalda/total number of communicants: 644

Viesu mācītāji/Guest pastors: Bishop Michael  
Pryse, Ron Ewart, Ivars Gaide, Dāvis Kaņeps, Dr.  
F.T. Kristbergs, Arch. Lauma Zuševics



**Mācītājas ziņojums 2016. gada Sv. Andreja  
draudzes pilnsapulcei**

*“Lai cerības Dievs jūs piepilda ar prieku un mieru  
ticībā un jūs Svētā Gara spēkā kļūtu pārpilni šajā  
cerībā.”* Rom 15:13

Kopā ar jums atskatos uz sevišķi nozīmīgu  
gadu mūsu draudzes dzīvē. Esam tagad pavadījuši  
pirmo gadu savā jaunajā mājvietā, kā vairākkārt  
norādīts – kā viena no divām draudzēm zem viena  
jumta. Sākotnējās grūtības, cenšoties pierast pie tā,  
ka vairs nav kā bijis, ir lielākoties pārvarētas un  
tagad skatāmies vairāk uz to, ko varam kopīgi darīt  
nākotnē.

Tomēr, reakcijas, ko novēroju tajā janvāra  
svētdienā, kad rādījām dokumentālo filmu par  
draudzes un sabiedrības darbību Sv. Andreja  
draudzes baznīcā, liecināja, ka vēl joprojam  
atrodamies sērošanas procesā. Bet ticības liecībā,  
ka *“Redzi, es visu daru jaunū”* (Jāņa atkl. gr. 21:5)  
ir stiprinājums mums, ka arī turpmāk Dievs mūs  
vadīs un rādīs mums ceļu. Dieva Gara vadīti,



domājot un ļaujot plāniem par nākotni atraisīties, mēs neaizmirstam visus tos, kas ziedojuši sevi, savu brīvo laiku, savas pūles, un savu mīlestību veidojot draudzi. Arī mūsu pašu agrākais pienesums tiks pieminēts ar cieņu un pateicību. Tas darbs nav bijis veltīgs. Visspēcīgākā liecība pagātnes mantojuma vērtībai ir mūsu katra iesaistīšanās draudzes turpmākās dzīves veidošanā. Pāri visam, lai pateicamies par Dieva laipnību un žēlastību, kas uz mums tik bagātīgi, tik dāsni izlietas un ko turpinām piedzīvot.

Jau daudzus gadus zinājām, ka ir nepieciešamība veidot tīmekļa lapu ar informāciju par draudzi. Pagājušajā gadā, apbrīnojami ātri, pateicoties lieliskai darba grupai un iejūtīgai dizaineri, Jennifer Johanssen, varējām oktobra sākumā atvērt savas “virtuālās” mājas: [www.standrewslatvian.org](http://www.standrewslatvian.org) Mūsu administratore uztur tīmekļa lapu svaigu ar informāciju un fotogrāfijām, ko viņai nogādā. Pateicos padomei par atbalstu un līdzekļu piešķiršanu, kā arī darba grupai: Kristai Amoliņai, Vilnim Blūmam, Egīlam Fogelim, Uldim Amoliņam, Jānim Tannim, Emīlam Matīsam un Sarmai Gaidei, un Andai Liberei par viņas ieteikumiem un valodas labošanu.

Izsaku pateicību draudzes brīvprātīgajiem darbiniekiem: draudzes padomei ar priekšsēdi Voldemāru Innusu, draudzes pērminderiem ar vecāko, Gunti Bērziņu un draudzes darba grupām un komitejām - alfabētiskā kārtībā: dāmu komitejai ar priekšnieci Intu Briedi, “Palīdzība Latvijai” komitejai ar priekšsēdi Aneti Ivsiņu, Sidrabenes nometnes komitejai ar priekšsēdi Lindu Lakatu, Sidrabenes pārvaldei ar ilggadējo priekšnieku, Valdi Kauliņu, kopā ar sidrabeniešiem, kas atbalsta darbību vasaras mēnešos, kā arī Edītei Silai, Andai Liberei, un Ritai Āpšei par archīva veidošanu. Pateicos arī mūsu darbiniekiem un priecājos par koleģiālu sadarbību: draudzes administratorei, Sarmai Gaidei, mūzikas nozares vadītājam un ērģelniekam, Dāvidam Šmitam un palīdzēji Vairai Gertneri, Sidrabenes pārvaldniekam, Andrejam Grīnbergam. Viņi visi, kopā ar citiem neminētiem, ir veltījuši neatmaksājamu laiku un zināšanas.

### Dievkalpojumi.

Dievkalpojumi notiek katru svētdienu Sv. Jāņa baznīcā - mūsu atbildība ir par diviem dievkalpojumiem mēnesī. Katra mēneša pirmajā svētdienā kopš 2015. gada decembra vadu

dievkalpojumu Sidrabenē. Ar šādu izkārtojumu esmu lūkojusi dot iespēju dievlūdžējiem atrast dievkalpojuma izteiksmes veidu, kas viņus uzrunā un iesaista. Dievkalpojumu atbalsta grupa Sidrabenē (Imants un Maureen Ķivlis, Mudīte Schuler, Krissy Pāvelsone, mūsu pavāre) ir rūpējušies, lai rastu atmosfēru, kuŗā visi jūtas mīļi gaidīti. Nodarbības, ko piedāvā stundu pirms dievkalpojuma sākuma, ļauj visām paaudzēm aktīvi piedalīties un pie reizes samazina spiedienu, ko bieži izjūt, cenšoties ierasties noteiktā laikā uz dievkalpojumu. Pusdienas, ko ēdam kopā ap galdu sasēdušies, sagāda klātesošie: mūsu pavāre - galveno ēdienu, citi - kādu piedevu vai saldo ēdienu. Šis kopējais mielasts ir senās baznīcas ‘agape’ (*mīlestības mielasta*) garā, kur katrs atnes to, ko var, bet visi bauda. Tas arī veicina kopības sajūtu. Esam arī izbaudījuši “Skaņu Riteņa” līdzdalību pāris dievkalpojumos. Dievkalpojumu novietojums Sidrabenē aicina uz uzsvērtu mijiedarbību starp dievkalpojuma vadību un draudzi. Tur, tāpat kā divvalodu dievkalpojumos Sv. Jāņa baznīcā, liturģija ir latviešu valodā, bet tie, kas neprot latviski var sekot līdz no dziesmu lapiņām. Dievkalpojumi Sv. Jāņa baznīcā ir, turpretim, liturģiski tradicionāli. Viens no mūsu dievkalpojumiem mēnesī ir latviešu valodā, otrs – abās valodās.

Dievkalpojumu liturģijas tiek veidotas, lai atspoguļotu kalendāra, vai baznīcas gada laiku. Bībeles lasījumi ir vēl joprojām tie, kas paredzēti ekumēniskā trīsgadīgā ciklā, kas ir spēkā kopš 1970. gadu vidus. Tagad arī katrā dievkalpojumā par ko esmu atbildīga, dievlūdžēji var saņemt Svētā Vakarēdiena svētību. Ar to atgriežamies baznīcas senajā tradīcijā, kuŗā, esot vienoti ap altāri, saņemam dzīvo Kristu maizē un vīnā un tā tiekam stiprināti, lai viņa spēkā varam pildīt savu aicinājumu – nest Kristu pasaulē. Svētais Vakardiens ir redzama un piedzīvojama Dieva žēlastības dāvana, kas mums tiek piedāvāta, bez nosacījumiem, mūsu turpinošai stiprināšanai. Jēzus mūs vienīgi aicina sniegties pretī, lai to saņemtu un darītu viņu dzīvu mūsos.

Nozīmīgs papildinājums dievkalpojumiem Sidrabenē ir bijis podnieces Ilzes Kalniņas dāvātais kristību trauks un krūze, kas tiek novietoti pie brīvdabas baznīcas ieejas kā redzams atgādinājums, ka mēs katrs caur svēto kristību



tiekam atpestīti un ieņemti svētā sadraudzē, lai kopīgi kā draudze kļūtu par dzīvo Kristus miesu, un izietu pasaulē kā svētības nesēji.

### Mācīšana un mācīšanās

- 6.-8. martā: Rekolekcijas “Miers ikdienas chaosā”, ko vadīju kopā ar māc. Joanne Davies, anglikāņu mācītāju un *St. John's* rehabilitācijas centra kapelāni, notika *Loretta Maryholme* pie *Simcoe* ezera ar aptuveni piecpadsmit dalībniekiem no abām draudzēm. Ir iecerēts noturēt līdzīgas rekolekcijas 2016.g. rudenī. Pateicos Dailai Dzintarai un Līgai Miklašēvicai par lielisko atbalstu ar praktiskiem jautājumiem.
- Iesvētes mācības turpinājās. Līga Miklašēvica atkal vadīja iesācēju grupu.
- Sidrabenes nometnē varēju turpināt iepazīstināt bērnus ar Bībeli. Pārrunāto Bībeles stāstu tad pārstrādāju un ar nometnes vadītāju palīdzību un atbalstu, bērni to uzveda svētdienas dievkalpojumā sev un pieaugušajiem par prieku un gandarījumu. Ilgi prātā paliks Jēkaba gaļais gājiens, saules un mēness vadībā, kopā ar kamieļiem, līdz kamēr viņš atrada savu izredzēto pie akas (jaunā kristību trauka) pie brīvdabas baznīcas ieejas!
- Austrumu sinodes noteikumos mācītājiem pieprasa pavadīt divas nedēļas sevis tālākizglītošanā, garīgai augšanai. 2015. gadā pirmo reizi piedalījies “*Festival of Homiletics*” Denverā no 11. līdz 15. maijam. To vada un rīko Lutera seminārs Mineapolē. Stiprinājums, ko varēja iegūt esot kopā ar turpat 1000 garīdzniekiem mācoties, bet galvenokārt klausoties un piedzīvojot Vārda sludināšanu izcilā veidā, bija milzīgs. Otro nedēļu pavadīju vasarā, kā parasti, 8 dienu garās klusās rekolekcijās *Maryholme* pie *Simcoe* ezera. Turpinu tikties reizi mēnesī ar savu garīgo vadītāju.

### Liecināšana

- 11. aprīlī novadīju svētbūdi LNAK sesijā
- Maijā piedalījies Kristus Dārza pilnsapulcē

- 24. oktobrī Kristus Dārza 30 gadu jubilejas vakarā apsveicu no draudzes, kā arī no LELBAs Kanadas apgabala.

### Kalpošana

- Kristību, laulību un bērņu skaits un tuvāka informācija norādīti atsevišķi. Aiz šiem skaitļiem stāv virkne jūtu – pateicība un skumjas par mirušajiem, prieks par jaunām dzīvībām, kas mums uzticētas, cerības par pāriem, kas apņēmušies nodoties viens otram mūža derībā.

### Citi pienākumi

- 18./19. martā, 18./19. jūnijā pildīju *Toronto Central Ministry Area* prāvestes pienākumus, kur mācīja, kā vadīt jaunos apgabalus.
- 16.-18. aprīlī piedalījies LELBĀL virsvaldes plenārsēdē Milvokos.
- 25. aprīlī rīkoju *Toronto Central Ministry Area* “*Visioning Day*”.
- 9.-11. jūlijā *ELCIC National Convention* (piedalījies sinodē kā ievēlēta mācītāju delegāte)
- 13. septembrī rīkoju un sprediķoju Toronto ekumeniskos Kapu svētkos. Dievkalpojums bija abās valodās, lai visiem klātesošajiem būtu iespējams gūt garīgu stiprinājumu.
- 6. novembrī rīkoju apgabala garīdznieku tikšanos Sv. Jāņa baznīcā ar māc. Dr. Sarmas Eglītes līdzdalību.
- 7. novembrī vadīju LELBAs Kanadas apgabala konferenci Hamiltonā. Referente: māc. Dr. Sarma Eglīte sniedza vērtīgu referātu par to, kā dievkalpojums atspoguļo mijiedarbību dzīvē – Dievs dara, mēs atbildam. Citējot māc. Osvaldu Gulbi: “Dievkalpojums ir draudzes sirds. Kā tā pukst, tāda ir draudze!”

Blakus draudzes pienākumiem un arī citiem baznīcas pienākumiem esmu bijusi arvien vairāk nodarbināta, rūpējoties par savu māti Anglijā. Pēdējos pāris gadus tikpat kā visas paredzētās atvaļinājuma nedēļas ir bijušas jāpavada Anglijā, aprūpējot savu māti un gādājot par viņas labklājību.

Arī citi, kuŗiem bijusi līdzīga atbildība par saviem tuviniekiem, zinās, ka šādai papildus slodzei ir savas sekas. Esot Anglijā septembrī, kad man dažu dienu laikā bija jāievieto māte aprūpes namā, jāiztukšo un jāremontē viņas māja, pati saņēmu brīdinājumu par savu veselību. Cenšos sekot savas ģimenes ārstes stingriem norādījumiem samazināt darba slodzi normālākos rāmjos, bet tas ne vienmēr izdodas. Līdz ar to biju spiesta atteikties vispār no *Toronto Central Ministry Area* prāvestes pienākumiem, un LELBA piekrita man dot sešu mēnešu atvaļinājumu no apgabala prāvestes pienākumiem līdz 2016. gada maijam. Pateicos visiem, kas mani atbalstījuši šajā laikā,

kamēr sāku lēnām mēģināt atgūt spēkus. Draudzes padome man piešķīrusi trīs mēnešu sabata atvaļinājumu 2016. gadā no 10. jūlija līdz 17. oktobrim, ko atbalstījuši arī archibīskape Lauma Zušēvica, prāvests Gunārs Lazdiņš un bīskaps Michael Pryse. Ceru, ka, ar Dieva palīgu, šis laiks ar iespēju atslēgties no draudzes darba atbildības palīdzēs man atspirgt un smelties jaunus impulsus nākamajam darba posmam. Tuvāka informācija par sabata laika plāniem tiks izziņota.

Vēlreiz pateicos jums, mīļie Sv. Andreja draudzes saimes ļaudis par atbalstu, uzticību un līdzdarbību, un mudinu jūs palīdzēt īstenot mūsu draudzes sūtību nākamajā gadā.

Kristus mīlestībā, jūsu mācītāja,

Ilze Kuplēna-Ewart

### **Padomes priekšsēža ziņojums**

Ar gandarījumu varu ziņot, ka mūsu draudze ir ļoti sekmīgi paveikusi pagājušā gada lielās pārmaiņas.

Bijām pavadījuši dažus gadus, veltot diezgan daudz laika un pūļu, pētot iespēju pārdot mums un igauņu draudzei kopā piederošo baznīcu Toronto Grace Church draudzei. Sakarā ar šādu iespēju, rūpīgi apsvērām draudzes nākotnes izvēles.

Ar draudzes līdzdalību un piekrišanu tika nolemts pārdot baznīcu 383 Jarvis ielā un pārceļt mūsu draudzes darbību uz Sv. Jāņa baznīcu 200 Balmoral avēnijā. Mūsu baznīcas pārdošana Grace Church draudzei tika oficiāli noslēgta 2015. gada 1. oktobrī. Ar Sv. Jāņa draudzi tika nolīgts, ka mēs varējām uzsākt savas draudzes darbību viņu baznīcas telpās no 2015. gada 1. janvāra.



Šo plānu izpildīšana prasīja no vairākiem padomes un draudzes locekļiem lielu darbu un pūles. Pēdējos pāris gadus Draudzes ziņās esmu informējis par šiem jautājumiem un par personām, kas veltījušas ievērojamu laiku un pūles, lai nodrošinātu mūsu nodomu sekmīgu izkārtošanu. Vēlreiz, izsaku viņiem visiem pateicību par viņu nodošanos un kalpošanu. Vēlos arī pateikties Sv. Jāņa draudzes

vadībai, kas ar mums ir sadarbojusies, lai lietderīgi dalītos ar telpām un palīdzētu atrisināt administratīvos jautājumus pārejas posma laikā. Vēl nozīmīgāk, sadarbojoties kopā, esam sākuši efektīvāk apmierināt mūsu abu draudžu vajadzības. Esmu pārliecināts, ka, mūsu sadarbībai turpinoties, radīsies vairāk iespēju kopīgām aktivitātēm.

Sidrabene turpina būt dzīva un saistoša vieta draudzes un latviskās izpausmes pasākumiem.

Šajās Draudzes ziņās atrodami apraksti par Sidrabenes sarīkojumiem un bērnu vasaras nometnes darbību. Sidrabenē turpina notikt dievkalpojumi vienreiz mēnesī un tur ir notikušas arī dažas draudzes sanāksmes.

Nākamajai draudzes padomei būs jāapsver vairāki jautājumi.

- Padome ir apstiprinājusi mācītājas Ilzes sabata atvaļinājumu. Ir jāizstrādā un jāapstiprina detaļas, kas ar to saistās.
- Sakarā ar mūsu baznīcas pārdošanu tika izveidota investīcijas komiteja, kuŗā darbojas Arnis Budrēvics, Ivars Grimba, Voldemārs Innus, Andris Stārasts un Auseklis Zaķis. Šai komitejai tika uzdots izstrādāt stratēģiju un izplānot šī kapitāla investēšanu. Līdz tam laikam, kamēr padome saņems izstrādātu stratēģijas un plāna iesniegumu, šī komiteja pārzina kapitāla nodrošinātu ieguldīšanu. Vairāk informācijas par šo jautājumu sniegs draudzes pilnsapulcē.
- Padome ir arī apņēmusies caurskatīt mūsu draudzes sniegto atbalstu ELCIC un mūsu aktīvo līdzdalību tajā.
- Sakarā ar mūsu pārcelšanos no Sv. Andreja baznīcas uz Sv. Jāņa baznīcu, pasūtījām izstrādāt video projektu. Ir jau notikusi video izrāde un šogad sekmīgais projekts vēl jānobeidz.

Pēdējos trijos gados ir bijis nepieciešams veltīt daudz laika, plānojot un izkārtējot mūsu pārcelšanos. Šis pārejas posms tagad ir lielā mērā nobeigts un mēs varētu vairāk pievērsties savām nākotnes misijai un kalpošanas iecerēm. Labprāt vēlētos ar jums pārrunāt nākotnes iespējas, ko mums piedāvā darbošanās Sv. Jāņa baznīcā un Sidrabenē. Mums arī būtu jāpārrunā un jāizvērtē iesaistīšanās svarīgajās, uz ārpusi vērstajās draudzes aktivitātēs un to tālāk attīstīšana nākotnē.

Kā vienmēr, pateicos par jūsu ieteikumiem un līdzdalību un gaidu ar jums tikties 2016. gada 10. aprīlī.

Voldemārs Innus,  
*Padomes priekšsēdis*

## **Dāmu komitejas 2015. gada darbības pārskats**

Vesels gads ir aizvadīts mūsu ‘jaunajās mājās’ Sv. Jāņa draudzes baznīcā. Domāju, ka sadarbība ar Sv. Jāņa draudzes dāmu komiteju ir bijusi ļoti laba.

Dāmu komitejā darbojas 8 aktīvas locekles. Ar prieku mēs uzņemam un gaidām jaunas locekles, kas nāktu mums talkā. Atsevišķās reizēs mums nāk palīdzes, rūpējoties par kafijas galdu svētdienās un sarīkojumiem sadraudzības veicināšanai un līdzekļu vākšanai.

Notikušas 4 sēdes un Ziemsvētku eglītes vakars decembrī, kad mēs uzaicinājām Sv. Jāņa draudzes dāmu komiteju ciemos pie mums un pavadījām jauku vakaru kopā sirsnībā un draudzībā.

Sēdes ar dziesmām un ar lūgšanu parasti ievadījusi māc. Ilze Kuplēna-Ewart. Dāmu komiteju vada Inta Briede. Kasiere ir draudzes darbvede, Sarma Gaide un sekretāre ir Anita Bredovska. Sirsnīgs paldies apkalpotājam Andrejam Zvirbulim par telpu sakārtošanu un galdu salikšanu sarīkojumiem un svētdienu kafijām!

Janvāra vidū sākām darboties Sv. Jāņa baznīcā, gādājot par altāra ziediem un par kafijas galdu Sv. Andreja draudzes vadīto dievkalpojumu svētdienās, uz maiņām daloties ar Sv. Jāņa draudzi.

Februārī labi izdevās pankūku brokastis ar izvēli no sešām dažādām pankūku šķirnēm un garšīgām piedevām. Paldies visām cepējām un palīdzēm/palīgiem pie apkalpošanas un trauku mazgāšanas! Laika apstākļi nebija labvēlīgi šajā svētdienā, bet tomēr mums ieradās daudz pankūku cienītāju.

Martā kopā ar padomes locekļiem gādājām par kafijas galdu draudzes pilnsapulcē un draudzes informācijas sapulcē. Lieldienu agrās brokastis notika kopā ar Sv. Jāņa draudzi. Abas dāmu komitejas darbojās kopā un viss ļoti labi izdevās.

Vasaras mēneši ātri aizskrēja. Augustā notika dāmu komitejas sēde Sidrabenes kafejnīcā, kur mēs spriedām par dāmu komitejas turpmāko darbību. Septembrī rīkojām draudzes pēcpusdienu – “Rudens svētki pilsētā” ar siltām pusdienām un rudens ražas loteriju Anitas Bredovskas

izkārtojumā. Priekšnesumus sagādāja “Skaņu Ritenis”, ko mēs klausījāmies ar lielu baudu. Arī Marta Kanne, kuŗai dāmu komiteja bija piešķīrusi līdzekļus ceļa izdevumiem, rādīja slīdītes un pastāstīja par savu piedalīšanos “Sveika Latvija” ceļojumā, kas viņai bija ļoti patīcis.

Sākām jau oktobrī cept piparkūkas un to turpinājām novembrī un decembrī. Par pārdotajām piparkūkām ieņēmām \$1,200! Paldies visām cepējām un arī pircējiem!

Pēdējā decembra svētdienā pēc dievkalpojuma pasniedzām siltas pusdienas svētku noskaņā, lai visiem sagādātu iespēju izbaudīt siltu un mīļu svētku sajūtu. Atsaucība bija ļoti laba. Decembrī mēs arī sagādājām svētku paciņas un apsveikuma kartītes Kristus Dārza iemītniekiem. Paldies Edītei Zariņai par sagādātām paciņām un Anitai Bredovskai par kartītēm!

Mūsu draudzes locekļi tiek apsveikti dzimšanas dienās, sākot ar 75, 80, 85 un 90 gadiem. Pēc 90 gadiem tie tiek apsveikti katru gadu. Šo darbu veic Līga Gaide, kuŗai sirsnīgs paldies par šo skaisto apsveikšanu!

Dāmu komiteja ar ziedojumiem ir atbalstījusi: Toronto latviešu skolu bibliotēku (\$200), *Daily Bread Food Bank* (\$250), *Scott Mission* (\$250), *Star Santa Claus Fund* (\$250).

Sirsnīga pateicība draudzes locekļiem par dāmu komitejas atbalstīšanu!

Inta Briede, *Dāmu komitejas priekšniece*



Anete Ivsiņa  
*Palīdzība Latvijai komitejas priekšniece*

Pateicībā par ziedoto  
ratiņkrēsli / A grateful recipient  
of a donated wheelchair

## Palīdzība Latvijai 2015. g. pārskats

Mūsu komitejā darbojās Janīna Fogeļe, Larisa Gūtmane, Anete Ivsiņa (vadītāja), Elizabete Ludvika, Aija Mazsīle, Andris Rubenis, Ērika Yost, Auseklis Zaķis. Pagājušajā gadā mums pievienojās Indra Liepiņa, Alise Rozinska un Carlo De Masi. Pateicoties viņu fantastiskajai enerģijai, janvārī sarīkojām “*Ručs un Norie*” filmas izrādi Alliance Francaise telpās, savienojot to ar Zīles Liepiņas foto izstādi “*Neviens neko nesaka, visi visu atceras*”. Pasākums bija plaši apmeklēts, un mēs bijām patiesi gandarīti, ka varējām popularizēt Latvijas kultūru, izveidot interesantu vakaru Toronto latviešu sabiedrībai, un iegūt līdzekļus, lai atbalstītu tos, kam Latvijā klājas grūti.

Tradicionālās Ģimenes dienas Burvīgās Brokastis, kā vienmēr, bija ļoti jaukas. Aicinām jūs apmeklēt tās arī šogad!

Pateicamies Kristus Dārzam par ziedotajiem ratiņkrēsliem un citām palīgierīcēm, ko varējām nogādāt uz Latviju. Liela pateicība visiem mūsu atbalstītājiem, vai “plašākajai komitejai,” kas, pēc vajadzības, cep un vāra, dzied un dejo, slauka grīdas, mazgā traukus, gatavo plakātus, reklamē un pārliecina – jūs padariet palīdzību iespējamu!

Vislielākais paldies mūsu ziedotājiem – sevišķi Monai un Ērikam Kleperiem par ikgadējo dāsno ziedojumu Zupas virtuvei, un Solveigas Miežītes ģimenei par pastāvīgo un nozīmīgo atbalstu Zvanniekiem. Visi jūsu ziedojumi - gan Ziemassvētkos, gan komitejas rīkotajos pasākumos - kā vienmēr, atbalstīja mūsu māsu draudžu vajadzības Daudzevā, Durbē un Zemītē, kā arī Zvanniekus un Zupas virtuvi Rīgā.

Anete Ivsiņa  
*Palīdzība Latvijai komitejas priekšniece*

Pateicībā par ziedoto  
ratiņkrēsli / A grateful recipient  
of a donated wheelchair



## ‘Ziemassvētku rūķīši’

Dailas un Andreja Dzintara vadībā, Andra Dzintara, Mudīte Schuler un viņas mazbērni, Rita Āpše, Anda Libere, Guntis Bērziņš, Kārlis Bērziņš ar savu dēlu, Ayden, un Elmārs Bērziņš, katrs apņēmās piezvanīt kādiem četriem vecākās paaudzes draudzes locekļiem pirms Ziemassvētkiem un sarunāt laiku īsam apciemojumam ar mazu dāvanīņu.

Prieks bija tiem, kuŗus mēs apciemojām, un prieks bija arī rūķīšiem brīvprātīgos darbiņus izpildīt! Visu vārdā, izsakām cerību akciju turpināt, ne tikai pirms svētkiem, bet arī visu cauru gadu.

Ar Dieva palīgu,

Elmārs Bērziņš

## Video projekts

2014. g. iesāktais Sv. Andreja draudzes piemiņas dokumentālais video, kas gatavots kā draudzes 65 gadu projekts, tika veiksmīgi nobeigts. Pirmizrāde notika 2016. g. 24. janvārī, un video ir tagad pieejams draudzes tīmekļu lapā [www.standrewslatvian.org](http://www.standrewslatvian.org). Video var arī iegādāties kā DVD ierakstu no draudzes darbvedes Sarmas Gaides.

Skaidrīte Leja  
Video producente



## Sidrabenies pārvaldes 2015. g. darbība

Domājot par 2015. g. vasaru, vispirms nāk prātā, ka Sidrabēnē vairākas dienas lija "kā pa Jāņiem" un šoreiz sagādāja visslapjākos Jāņus Sidrabēnies vēsturē. Neskatoties uz nelabvēlīgajiem laika apstākļiem, Jāņu sarīkojums notika Sidrabkalnā zālē, kur līgošana un programma “Skaņu Riteņa” un “Dižā Danča” vadībā izdevās labi.

Sidrabenies pārvalde kopā ar sidrabēniešiem un nometnes ļaudīm piestrādāja, lai īsajā vasaras sezonā izplānotu dažādas aktivitātes un sarīkojumus, kas interesētu draudzes locekļiem, kā arī plašākai latviešu sabiedrībai. Notika gadskārtējās pavasaŗa un rudens talkas, kopīgā Jāņu un nometnes talka, gadskārtējais “*bocce*” bumbas turnīrs, lietoto grāmatu tirgus, Valŗa Liepiņa referāts, īru vakars, “*Buffalo wings*” vakars, “*Kabobs & Klingēris*” vakars, franŗu kafejnīcas vakars, sezonas atklāšanas sarīkojums, kopīgi rīkotie “Sid Svētki/Sid Fest” jūlijā un slēgšanas sarīkojums ar vācu mūzikiem no Kiŗeneras. Sarīkojumi bija labi apmeklēti.

Mācītāŗas Ilzes vadītie vasaras dievkalpojumi sākās jūnijā mēnesī un turpinājās pa nometnes laiku. Dievkalpojumi notiek visu gadu katra mēneŗa pirmajā svētdienā.

2015.g. Sidrabēnies pārvaldē darbojās Rita Āpše, Andris Bergvalds, Ivars Jēģeris, Imants Ŷivlis, Valdis Korbs, Linda Lakata, Gail Ozoliņŗ, Māŗa Ozola, Mudīte Schuler, Valdis Pālēns, Andris Pauķšēns un Māŗtiņŗ Skuja. Īpaŗa pateicība pienākas Sidrabēnies kafejnīcas vadītāŗam Ērikam Maldonim un palīdŗei Māŗītei Tētiņai. Un kas var aizmirst Sidrabēnies pārvaldnieku Andreju Grīnbergu, kuŗŗ ir iesaistīts ar visu, kas notiek Sidrabēnē. Viņa sajūsma un nenogurstošāŗ darba spējas ir svarīģas, lai mūsu īpaŗums būtu sekmīgi apsaimniekots. Liels paldies!

ŗogad bija vairāki īpaŗi projekti, kam līdzekļus sagādāja devīgi ziedotāŗi caur Sv. Andreja ev. lut. latvieŗu draudzi. Sidrabēne ir ļoti pateicīga par Ŷo atbalstu.

Saprotams, nevienu no projektiem nebūtu iespējams pabeigt bez brīvprātīgo palīgu darba un laika, tāpēc sirsniņš paldies pienākas Vilim Kleperim, Mārtiņam un Rasmai Skujām, Ivaram un Dzintrai Jansoniem, Innus dzimtai un daudziem citiem, ieskaitot talciniekiem trijās talkās.

Lielākais projekts ir paviljona būve Juŗa Eglīša piemiņai. No 109 ziedojumiem, apmēram 12 ir no ASV, seši no dažādu pilsētu DV nodaļām, pa vienam no Latviešu sporta apvienības un Sidrabenes nometnes, un apm. 89 no atsevišķām personām no Kanadas. Līdz šim saņēmti vairāk nekā \$13,500 ziedojumos. Mēs esam pateicīgi, ka DV Kanadā paredz ziedot līdz \$10,000, lai varam pabeigt uzbūvēt šo paviljonu 2016. gadā.

Vēl divus projektus varējām pabeigt ārpus paredzētā budžeta, pateicoties ziedotājiem. Jauno vārtu būdiņas izmaksu sedza anonīms ziedotājs, un ar Anda Sīpoliņas devīgumu bija iespējams atjaunot kāpnes uz Atpūtas namu. Pārvaldes kasē arī ienākuši līdzekļi no Innus dzimtas rīkotā *"Wingfest"* vakara. Tie nozīmēti, lai izveidotu paplašinātu nojumi pie kafējnīcas. Šim projektam vēl vajadzīgi papildus līdzekļi pirms to var uzsākt.

Pārvalde paredz sadarboties arī ar citiem interesentiem, plānotojot uzlabojumus Sidrabēnē. Pēdējā pārvaldes sēdē Silvija Shedden, kuŗa draudzes padomes uzdevumā vada Sidrabenes nākotnes plānošanas komiteju, iepazīstināja ar pirmo uzmetumu aptaujai, ko lietotu, lai uzzinātu un labāk izprastu pašreizējās un nākotnes vajadzības, kā tās saredz galvenie Sidrabenes izmantotāji. Sēdes dalībnieki izteica arī savus ierosinājumus.

Sidrabenes pārvaldnieks, Andrejs Grīnbergs, ziņo, ka no 2015. gada dažādiem īrniekiem ienākumi kopsummā bija \$98,600:

- Lielākie ienākumi (\$45,500) bija no *"Halton District School Board"*, kas lieto Sidrabeni darbdiēnās 10 mēnešus gadā (no septembrā līdz jūnijam) divām programmām: 10. klases *"Trailhead"* un 12. klases *"Bronte Creek Project"*.
- Daudzas gaidu un skautu grupas no visas Ontario provinces rīkojušas nedēļas nogaļu nometnes un *"27th Burlington Orchard Scouts"* grupa ik nedēļu satikusies Sidrabēnē.

- *"Burlington Body Boot Camp"* siltajos mēnešos satikās Sidrabēnē divas reizes nedēļā.
- Vairākas baznīcu, ģimeņu un pat viena advokātu grupa rīkojušas savus *"picnic"* izbraukumus.
- Dažādas baznīcu un jauniešu organizācijas rīkojušas vasaras nometnes.
- Sidrabēnē rīkotas 6 kāzas (4 latviešu, 2 nelatviešu). No tām 3 lietoja Sidrabkalna zāli, bet 3 svinības notika ārā brīvā dabā.
- Mūsu draudzes bērnu nometne ilga četras nedēļas.
- Vairākas citas latviešu organizācijas, ieskaitot Daugavas Vanagus, izmantoja Sidrabeni savām sapulcēm.

Sidrabenes pārvalde izsaka pateicību visiem, kas piedalījušies sarīkojumos un atbalstījuši Sidrabeni pagājušajā gadā!

### **Gaidīsim jūs Sidrabēnē 2016. gadā!**

Valdis Kauliņš, priekšnieks  
un Sidrabenes pārvalde

### **Atskatoties uz SIDRABENES bērnu nometnes 2015.g. vasaru (5.jūl.– 2.aug.)**

Pirmo reizi pēdējos gados, marta mēnesi iesākot, viss jau bijakārtībā: nometnes darbinieki sarunāti, brošūras izdrukātas un izdalītas, arī programma pa lielākai daļai izplānota! Burvīga vadītāju komanda sarunāta: Dainis Kalniņš (komandants), zēnu galā - Kurtis Grietiņš, Rihards Zakulis (LV) un Vilnis Kalniņš, meiteņu gala: Nora Zīlāne (LV), Marika Gulēna-Taube un Kristin Lakata, un Cāļu kalnā: Maija Zaķe (LV), Dina Huska un Natālija Vāģnera. Laigan virtuves saimniece mūs atstāja otrajā nedēļā, mūs izglāba profesionālā šefpavāre, Krissy Pāvelsone. Viņas uzraudzībā virtuves strādnieki Tamāra Lūse-Zondo, Silvija Tauriņa un Alex Thiele ar sajūsmu un apzinīgi strādāja, lai sagādātu nometņotājiem veselīgas, interesantas un garšīgas maltītes.

Par kristīgo audzināšanu rūpējās Prāv. Ilze Kuplēna-Ewart. Māc. Ron Ewart un Māc. Dāvis Kaņeps izpalīdzēja pēc vajadzības. Dievkalpojumi



notika svētdienās un sveciņu svētbrīži trešdienas vakaros brīvdabas baznīcā. Bērni gatavoja materiālus un aktīvi piedalījās nometnes dievkalpojumos. Katru ceturtdienu bērni - sadalīti pa vecuma grupām - piedalījās mācītājas vadītajās kristīgās nodarbībās, kur pārrunāja Bībeles stāstus un gatavoja nedēļas stāsta tēmai atbilstošus rokdarbus. Kā ierasts, ik rītu nometnē ievadām dienu ar rīta lūgšanu un pirms un pēc maltītēm vienmēr visi sakām galda lūgšanu.

Kā parasti, Linda Lakata (administratore, CIT vadītāja) un Sandra Thiele (veselība, rokdarbu apmācība, virtuves saimnieces atvietotāja) abas uzņemas vairākus amatus nometnes laikā. Nometnes komitejas locekļi visi ir brīvprātīgi darbinieki (Devin Dzelme, Ivars Jēgeris, Sandra Kalniņa, Linda Lakata, Sandra Thiele, Anita Thomas, Katrina Vikse, Lionel Zondo), kas sanāca kopā 9 reizes pa skolas gadu un pavadīja ziemas mēnešus, veicot visādus priekšdarbus un organizējot nometni. Imants Ķivlis ir mūsu draudzes padomes pārstāvis, kā arī padomdevējs Sidrabenes pārvaldes lietās. Mēs ar prieku pieņemam jaunus komitejas locekļus!

Nometne ilga 4 nedēļas. Vispārējā latviešu sabiedrībā redzam, ka patreiz nometnes vecuma bērnu skaits samazinās. Tāpat arī Sidrabenes nometnes bērnu skaits mazliet samazinājās šogad, bet, laimīgā kārtā, pēdējos pāris gadus nometnes dalībnieku nākamajā paaudzē redzams dzimstības pieaugums. Nometnē piedalījās 36 bērni – pirmajā nedēļā 16, otrajā nedēļā 29, trešajā nedēļā 25 un ceturtajā nedēļā 28 (kopā 98 ‘bērnu nedēļas’). Mūsu ‘nometnes ģimenei’ pievienojās 7 jaunas ģimenes ar 11 bērniem, kas visi piedalījās Sidrabenes nometnē pirmo reizi. Ar sajūsmu gaidīsim viņus atpakaļ 2016. gadā! Mūsu vadītāju apmācību kursus piedalījās 6 jaunieši (CITi - ‘Counselors in Training’), no kuriem 3 sekmīgi nobeidza kursus 2015. gadā. Jaunieši baudīja izbraukumu uz Bērzaini, pavadot dienu šausanas apmācībās, pateicoties Toronto mednieku un makšķernieku klubam.

Latviešu valodu nometnē lietojam kā galveno visās nodarbībās. Latviskums tiek ievīts vispārējā gaisotnē, gan tiešā, gan netiešā veidā. Dejojam tautas dejas, dziedam tautas dziesmas un Latvijas himnu, mācāmies par tradīcijām, svinam svētkus, cepam pīrāgus. Valodas spējas tiek paplašinātas arī rakstot un lasot – rokdarbos izkārti plakāti ar latviešu rakstu nosaukumiem un nozīmēm, ēdamzālē un citur pa visu nometni izliktas zīmītes ar latviešu nosaukumiem nometnes priekšmetiem; arī šķēršļu gājienos tiek mudināti rakstīt un lasīt latviski.

‘Halton Region Conservation Authority’ pārstāvji atgriezās vēlriev pie mums, piegādājot mazus kociņus un pļavu puķes, ko iestādījām nometnes kalnā.

Balles, sirojumi, šķēršļu gājieni, peldēšana, kino vakari, spēles un draudzīgas sacīkstes piepilda nometnes dienas. Nometnei īpaši vajadzīgs un nozīmīgs ir Sidrabenes peldbaseins, kur pulcējamies sadraudzībā, lai atvēsinātos karstās dienās. Esam ļoti pateicīgi visiem mūsu sabiedrībā, kas saprot peldbaseina svarīgo lomu un aizstāv nometnes bērnu peldbaseina lietošanu.

Lai palīdzētu sagatavot nometni parasti notiek divas talkas, kur piedalās vecāki un citi nometnes atbalstītāji – pirmā ir sadarbībā ar Sidrabenes pārvaldi pirms Jāņiem, bet otrā dienu pirms nometnes sākuma. Tā kā pēdējos divus gadus talciniekiem nav bijis izdevīgi palīdzēt nometnes atklāšanas nogalē, šogad būs tikai viena talka – kopīgi ar Sidrabenes talku pirms Jāņiem, 2016. g. 18. jūnijā.

Nometnes uzstādīšana bija jāpaveic ātri, sākot tūlīt pēc dubļainajiem, slapjajiem Jāņiem. Daudz bija ko tīrīt un iekārtot, bet visi darbi tika laikā paveikti. Nometnes atklāšanā iesvētījām jauno karoga mastu Juŗa Eglīša piemiņai. Pateicamies draudzes padomei par izdevumu segšanu šī svarīgā simbola atjaunošanai.

Iesākām jaunu tradīciju ‘SID SVĒTKI/SID FEST’, sakombinējot bērnu svētkus un sporta svētkus kopā ar Sidrabeniešu saimes vadītām nodarbībām un izpriecām. Pateicamies LSAK par gadskārtējo nometnes atbalstu un it īpaši sīs svētku

dienas LSAK biedru brīvprātīgajiem palīgiem, kā arī mūsu Sidrabenes darba rūķīšiem: Dzintrai Eglītei, Dzintrai Jansonei, Rasmai Skujai, un Gail Ozoliņai. Daudz iemācījāmies par kopējā pasākuma koordinēšanu, ko izmantosim, lai uzlabotu svētkus nākotnē. Atsaucība no visām pusēm bija ļoti pozitīva un tāpēc rīkosim otros gadskārtējos 'SID SVĒTKUS/SID FEST' šī gada 16./17. jūlija nedēļas nogalē. Visi mīļi aicināti!

Vairāki cilvēki ir darbojušies nometnei līdz, izpalīdzot, kur vajag. Vēlamies pateikties Sidrabenes pārvaldniekam Andrejam Grīnbergam, Vilim Kleperim, Vilnim Blūmam, Vijai Skombai (nometnes arhīvārei), Mac. Inesei Upmanei-MacDonald, Mudītei Schuler un Krissy Pāvelsonei. Sirsnīgs paldies par lielo darbu nometnes labā!

Kā draudze var palīdzēt? Sūtiet savus bērnus un mazbērnus uz nometni! Lūdzu atbalstiet nometnes notikumus! Piedalieties vasaras dievkalpojumos ar mums! Arī vecāki ir aicināti pieteikties izpalīdzēt nometnē un/vai dalīties ar saviem talantiem. Esam atsaucīgi pret visādām sadarbšanās iespējām. Sadarbosimies kopā, lai kalpotu draudzei un uzturētu nometnes garu. Bērni ir mūsu nakotne!

Nometne darbojas bez peļņas. Jau vismaz desmit gadu nometne sedz visus savus izdevumus no nometnes kases (ieskaitot maksājumus Sidrabenes pārvaldei), kas sastāv no nometnes maksām un sabiedrības ziedojumiem. Bet ar laiku viss kļūst dārgāks. Cenšamies vienmēr atrast jaunas līdzekļu vākšanas iespējas, lai atbalstītu nometnes nodarbības un piegādātu visu nepieciešamo nometnes darbībai.

Galvenie atjaunošanas projekti, kas patreiz jāveic : jāturpina izmainīt vecās sarūsējušās gultas pret jaunām un jāatjauno telšu grīdas. Pateicamies par visāda veida palīdzību. Ziedojumi vienmēr noder! Sūtot ziedojumu Sv.Andreja draudzes administrātorai Sarmai Gaidei, atzīmējiet 'Sidrabenes nometnei' un par \$20.-, vai vairāk, saņemsiet nodokļu atlaides kvīti.

Sidrabenes bērnu nometnes mērķis ir gādāt, lai tagad, kā arī nākotnē, ģimenēm būtu pieejama droša vieta, kur vecāki var sūtīt savus bērnus vasarā

un kur notiek latviska, kristīga audzināšana draugu vidē.

Nometne 2016. gadā atkal ilgs 4 nedēļas – no 3. jūlija līdz 31. jūlijam. Piesakieties jau tagad! Var pieteikties uz vienu nedēļu, vai arī (vēl labāk!) uz visām četrām. Vēl ir arī dažas vietas brīvas nometnes darbiniekiem – varat droši izteikt interesi, izpildot darba pieteikšanās lapu. Uz redzēšanos Sidrabenē!



## PASTOR'S 2015 REPORT

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”* Romans 15:13

We have now completed the first year in our congregation's new home, one of two congregations under the same roof. Early teething troubles encountered as we accustomed ourselves to things no longer being the way they once were have largely been resolved and we are now beginning to look forward at what we might consider doing together.

The responses I noted on that Sunday afternoon in January when we saw the “rough cut” of the documentary on our congregation's, and indeed the Latvian community's, activities in our former home at St. Andrew's indicated that we are still at some point on the grieving process. Bearing that in mind, Christ's affirmation: “*See, I am making all things new.*” (Revelation 21:5) reminds us unequivocally that God will continue to lead and guide our path. Led by the Holy Spirit, as we reflect and allow plans for the future to unfold we do not forget those who gave freely of themselves, who shared their time, their energy and their love to help shape our congregation. We acknowledge our own contributions and recognize that none of this has been in vain. Yet the strongest affirmation of how much we value what has been handed down to us is shown in our involvement in the continued development of our congregation and its mission. Above all, we recall and give thanks for God's lovingkindness and grace poured out on us so generously and which we continue to experience in many surprising ways.

For many years we have been painfully aware of our need for a usable web-site. Last year, over a few summer weeks, and thanks to a highly-focused working group, together with a gifted designer, Jennifer Johansen, we were able to create a new web-site and make it “live” at the beginning of October [www.standrewslatvian.org](http://www.standrewslatvian.org). Our administrator keeps the web-site updated with information and photographs that you send her. I would like to express my thanks to the council for their support and financial aid, and to the members of the group: Krista Amoliņš, Vilnis Blūms, Egīls Fogelis, Uldis Amoliņš, Jānis Tannis, Emīls Matīss and Sarma Gaide, and, of course, to Anda Liberis

who was a redoubtable help in making sure the Latvian version was clear.

I would like to thank our volunteers for their contribution to the life of our congregation: the council and its chair, Voldemārs Innus, our churchwardens (Guntis Bērziņš, senior), our committees and working groups: the ladies' auxiliary (Inta Briedis, chair), the “Aid to Latvia” group (Anete Ivsiņš, chair), the Sidrabene camp committee (Linda Lakats, chair), the Sidrabene Management Committee (Valdis Kauliņš, chair) together with our leaseholders in Sidrabene who help out in countless ways over the course of the year, and to the small team who created our congregation's archive: Rita Āpše, Anda Liberis and Edīte Sils. I also extend thanks to our staff for the excellent working relationship we share: our administrator, Sarma Gaide, director of music and organist, Dāvids Šmits, and his assistant, Vaira Gertners, and Andrejs Grīnbergs, Sidrabene property manager. All of you have given of yourselves in an exemplary fashion.

### Worship

We worship weekly at St John's, where we are responsible for two services a month. Additionally, since December 2015 I have led worship in Sidrabene on the first Sunday of the month. In this way I have tried to create a means of providing worship that addresses the diverse needs of our members. The worship team at Sidrabene: Imants and Maureen Ķivlis, Mudīte Schuler, and Krissy Pāvelsons (our chef) have worked hard to help create an atmosphere where all can feel welcome. The hour of activities, led by Mudīte Schuler and Skaidrīte Leja, before worship starts provides a visible welcome for families as well as reduces the stress that often accompanies having to arrive at a given time. Family-style lunch afterwards, with the main dish provided by Krissy Pāvelsons, and those present bringing additional sides or a dessert, enhance the sense of community we are trying to create. It is very much in the tradition of the “*agape*” (*love feast*) practiced in the early Church where following worship all shared a joint meal at one table irrespective of wealth, age, or status. Musical contributions by “Skaņu Ritenis” have been valued. Sidrabene lends itself to having worship that is more interactive, but as in bilingual worship at St. John's, the liturgy is

in Latvian. Bulletins are provided with the relevant parts in English. Our worship in St. John's is liturgically more traditional, one service monthly being in Latvian, the other in both languages.

The liturgy for worship is shaped to reflect the season, be it the calendar year or the church year. Scripture readings are still from the three-year Ecumenical Revised Common Lectionary, in use since the 1970s. Everyone now has the opportunity to receive Holy Communion at each service. This marks a return to the ancient practice of the church: united around the altar, we receive the living Christ in bread and wine and through it are strengthened to fulfill our calling - to bring Christ to the world. Communion is a visible sign of God's grace offered to us unconditionally to strengthen us. Jesus simply invites us to reach out and receive this gift so that he can live in us.

A valuable addition to our worship in Sidrabene has been potter Ilze Kalniņa's wonderful baptismal bowl and ewer, set in a high table, which we position at the entrance to the outdoor church. Its presence is a reminder that we enter into a new relationship with God through the waters of baptism. Through baptism we are redeemed to become members of the communion of saints in order to be Christ, alive in the world through us who are called to share his blessing.

#### Teaching and learning

- March 6-8 Retreat "Peace in the chaos of everyday life". This was co-led by me with Rev. Joanne Davies, an Anglican priest who is chaplain at St. John's Rehabilitation Centre. Around fifteen participants from both congregations were made welcome at Loretto Maryholme on the southern side of Lake Simcoe. Another retreat is in the process of being planned for Fall 2016. Many thanks to Daila Dzintars and Līga Miklašēvics for their exemplary organizational gifts.
- Confirmation class continues. Līga Miklašēvics led the first year group once again.
- I continued to lead Bible Study at our summer camp. The Bible passage we spent time with then made an appearance as a skit performed with great gusto by the campers

at the service on the following Sunday to the delight of worshippers. Isaac's long journey to find a bride, led by the sun and moon, and an entire camel train will remain in our memory for a long time.

- Eastern Synod guidelines state that clergy should spend two weeks annually on further education or spiritual growth. In May 2015 I was able to attend the "Festival of Homiletics" in Denver, CO. This festival of preaching the Word is organized by Luther Seminary in Minneapolis and is attended by around 1,000 clergy. It was a wonderful experience from which I gained much. My second week was spent, as usual, on an 8-Day silent retreat at Maryholme. I continue to meet monthly with my spiritual director. Witnessing
- April 11 led devotions at the annual meeting of the Canadian Latvian Association
- Attended the Kristus Dārzs AGM
- Gave greetings to Kristus Dārzs at their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations on October 24<sup>th</sup>

#### Service

- Details of baptisms, weddings, and funerals are given separately. With these go a complex array of emotions: sorrow, yet also thanksgiving over the lives of those who have died, joy at new lives entrusted to us by God, the hope that comes when a couple makes their solemn promise to enter into a life-long covenant with one another.

#### Other

- March 18,19, and June 18,19 participated in training retreats as Dean, Toronto Central Ministry Area
- April 16-18 attended the LELBAL (Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad) plenary meeting, concluding with the consecration of the new archbishop of the Latvian Ev. Lutheran Church abroad, Lauma Zušēvica.
- April 25 arranged and facilitated the Toronto Central Ministry Area Visioning Day.

- July 9-11 attended the ELCIC National Convention as an elected clergy delegate for the area
- September 13 led, and preached at the annual ecumenical Memorial service (Kapu svētki). The service was in both languages so that all those present might be able to receive comfort and hope.
- November 6<sup>th</sup> arranged and facilitated Latvian clergy meeting with Rev. Dr Sarma Eglīte (representative for liturgy and music)
- Chaired the November 7<sup>th</sup> LELBA Canada section meeting. Rev. Dr. Sarma Eglīte gave an excellent presentation on worship and Lutheran identity.

Some of you may be aware that in addition to my parish responsibilities, and other, wider church responsibilities, my spare capacity has been increasingly occupied in caring for my elderly mother who resides in England. Over the past years virtually all my annual vacation entitlement has been devoted to her care. As those of you know who are caregivers for dependent relatives, this comes at a cost. During my last visit to England in September when, within a few days I had to move my mother from her home to residential care, and clear and renovate her home, it became clear that this had had a serious impact on my health. With the blessing of our council and church leaders, I am now focusing on trying to follow my physician's strict instructions to reduce my workload to a more normal level. To help achieve this, I resigned from my responsibilities as Toronto Central Ministry Area dean, and have also been given a six-month leave from my responsibilities as Dean of the Canada section of the Latvian Lutheran Church abroad. I would like to thank all those who have offered their support as I work towards being well again. The three months long sabbatical I have been given by the church council, and which has been endorsed and supported enthusiastically by Archbishop Lauma Zušēvica, by president of the Latvian Lutheran church in America, Dean Gunārs Lazdiņš, and by Bishop Michael Pryse, will, with God's help give a concentrated time of restoration and rejuvenation and direction for the next phase of my ministry with you.

Once again, I extend my thanks to you all, brothers and sisters, the beloved of Christ in St. Andrew's for your support, trust and engagement as we fulfill our divine mandate. May you, too, join with us as we continue to work in the coming year as Christ has called us.

In Christ's peace,

Rev. Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart

### **Council Chair Report 2015**

I am very pleased to report that our congregation has very successfully accomplished a major transition over the past year.

For several years we had spent considerable time and effort exploring the possibility of selling the church, that we jointly owned with the Estonian congregation, to the Grace congregation of Toronto. As part of that consideration, we also carefully explored options for our congregation's future.

With significant input, and approval, by the congregation it was concluded that we should sell the church located at 383 Jarvis Street and move our congregational activities to St. John's church located at 200 Balmoral Ave. Our church was formally sold to the Grace congregation on October 1, 2015, and we concluded an agreement with St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Latvian Church to have access to their facility as of January 1, 2015.

The implementation of these plans required enormous effort on the part of a number of congregation and council members. In newsletters over the last several years I have outlined the issues, and the individuals who have given a very significant amount of their time and effort to ensure that our plans would be successfully implemented. I thank them all, again, for their service and their dedication. I also want to thank the leadership of the St. John's congregation. They have worked with us to effectively share space and to help solve administrative issues during the transition. More importantly, we have begun to more effectively provide service to both our congregations through



collaboration efforts and action. I am convinced that more opportunities for joint activities will emerge as we continue to work together.

Sidrabene continues to be a vibrant and exciting place for both congregational and ethnically based activities. There are reports in this newsletter that outline Sidrabene sponsored activities as well as the work of our summer camp. We continue to offer church services, once a month, in Sidrabene and we have been holding some of our congregation meetings there as well.

There are several things that the next Council will be considering.

- The Council has approved a Sabbatical for Pastor Ilze. The details for that Sabbatical need to be considered and approved.
- With the sale of our church, an investment committee was formed. The members are: Arnis Budrēvics, Ivars Grimba, Voldemārs Innus, Andris Stārasts, and Auseklis Zaķis. This committee has been charged with developing a proposal for a strategy and plan for the investment of these funds. Until such time as a proposed strategy and plan is presented to the full council, this committee is managing the funds in secure instruments. More information will be provided on this topic at AGM.
- The Council has also committed to review the ongoing support by our congregation for the ELCIC as well as our active participation with it.
- As part of our transition from St. Andrew's church to St. John's church we commissioned the development of a video project. There has been a viewing of this very successful project and we need to complete the project during this coming year.

Appropriately, much of our time over the past three years has been spent on the planning and implementation of our transition. With much of that transition now complete, we should be able to put more focus on our future mission and our service plans. I look forward to discussing with you the future opportunities that are provided by our presence in St. John's church and in Sidrabene. We should also discuss and consider the other important outreach activities that we are engaged in and how we should think about them in the future.

As always, I thank you for your suggestions and concerns and I look forward to meeting with you on April 10, 2016.

Voldemars Innus,  
Council Chair

## **WOMEN'S COMMITTEE 2015 REPORT**

The St. Andrew's Women's Committee consists of 8 regular members, with numerous others joining the core group for individual events. We would be happy to welcome more younger participants! Our 2015 Chair was Inta Briedis, Secretary was Anita Bredovskis and the Treasurer was the congregation administrator Sarma Gaide. In the year since moving into our new home at St. John's, the Women's Committees of both congregations have worked together harmoniously.

Activities have included four planning meetings and a Christmas celebration jointly with the St. John's Women's Committee, providing refreshments during the fellowship time following services twice a month, providing altar flowers, as well as special fundraising events. Those included our annual pancake breakfast in February; the traditional Easter morning breakfast, this year organized jointly with the St. John's congregation; our September luncheon, "Fall in the City", which included a fall produce lottery organized by Anita Bredovskis, with entertainment by Skaņu Ritenis; gingerbread cookie sales and a festive dinner on the last Sunday in December.

The baking of gingerbread cookies began in October, continuing into November and early December. Cookie sales raised almost \$1200 in 2015. Thanks to those who participate in the baking, also to those who purchase cookies!

In December we also organize holiday gift bags and greeting cards for the residents of Kristus Dārzs Home for the Aged. Thanks to Edīte Zariņa for the gift bags and Anita Bredovskis for the greeting cards.



Birthday greetings are sent to older congregation members, at age 75, 80, 85 and 90, and every year after that. Thanks to Līga Gaide for undertaking this service.

In 2015 the Women's Committee has supported with donations: Toronto Latvian School library (\$200), *Daily Bread Food Bank* (\$250), *Scott Mission* (\$250), *Star Santa Claus Fund* (\$250).

Inta Briede  
Women's Committee Chair

### **Aid to Latvia Committee 2015**

Committee members include: Janīna Fogle, Larisa Gūtmane, Anete Ivsiņa (Chair), Elizabete Ludvika, Aija Mazsīle, Andris Rubenis, Ērika Yost, Auseklis Zaķis, joined in 2015 by Indra Liepiņa, Alise Rozinska and Carlo De Masi. The enthusiasm and enterprise of these new members resulted in the successful screening of the Latvian documentary film *'Ručs un Norie'* in January, together with Zīle Liepiņš' exhibit of photographs *'Nobody Says Anything, Everybody Remembers Everything'*. The event was well attended, and we were gratified to be able to popularize current Latvian culture as well as raise funds to help those in need in Latvia.

Our traditional special Mother's Day breakfast was once again very successful. We invite you to attend once again this year!

Special thanks is due to Kristus Darzs Home for the Aged for their donation of wheelchairs and other mobility devices, which we were able to ship to Latvia.

Thanks also is due to the many hands that expanded our group to cook and clean, sing and dance, create flyers, publicize and provide moral support- you make our aid efforts possible!

Last but not least, thanks to our donors, especially Mona and Ēriks Kleperis for their long-standing generous donation to the Rīga Soup Kitchen project, and Solveiga Miežītis' family for their faithful and substantial support of the Zvannieku Home. Your contributions, both to the

annual Christmas Eve appeal and at our special events throughout the year make possible our support of our sister congregations in Daudzeva, Durbe, Zemīte as well as the previously mentioned Zvannieku Home and the Rīga Soup Kitchen.

Aneta Ivsiņa  
Aid to Latvia Committee Chair

A grateful recipient of a donated cane



### **'Christmas Elves'**

Under the leadership of Daila and Andrejs Dzintars, group members, who included Andra Dzintars, Mudīte Schuler and her grandchildren, Rita Āpše, Anda Libere, Guntis Bērziņš, Kārlis Bērziņš and his son Ayden, and Elmārs Bērziņš, each undertook to contact four older congregation members to arrange for a visit in the Christmas period to deliver a personal holiday greeting and a special seasonal gift.

This initiative gave joy to both those who received visits and those who visited our senior

congregation members and the group supports continuing this tradition, not just at Christmas but year long.

Elmārs Bērziņš

### **Video project**

The commemorative documentary video, undertaken in 2014 as the congregation's 65th anniversary special project, has been successfully completed. The premiere viewing took place January 24, 2016, and the video is now accessible through the congregation's web page [www.standrewslatvian.org](http://www.standrewslatvian.org). DVD copies are also available for purchase from the church office.

Skaidrīte Leja  
Video producer

## **Sidrabene's "Pārvalde" 2015**

When looking back to Sidrabene's summer 2015, what first comes to mind is the rain that lasted for days and made "Jāņi" celebrations the wettest in memory. Regardless of the wet weather, the "Jāņi" program provided by our local musical/vocal group "Skaņu Ritenis" was held indoors and was a huge success.

The summer season is short and Sidrabene's "pārvalde", cottagers and camp community worked hard to plan a variety of activities and social events that would appeal to our congregation and members of the wider Latvian community. The well attended activities and socials included the annual spring, joint "Jāņi/Nometne" and fall "talkas" (work bees), the annual bocce tournament, the used book sale, the interesting lecture by Valdis Liepiņš, Irish night, Buffalo wing night, "Kabobs & Kliņģeris" night, the jointly run Camp & Sidrabene "Sid Svētki/Sid Fest" in July, a French Café evening, the opening social and the closing social that featured a German band from Kitchener.

The summer church services led by māc. Ilze Kuplens-Ewart began in June and continued throughout the summer into the fall. Church services are now held on the first Sunday of every month all year.

"Pārvalde's" members who worked hard to plan and organize the events were Rita Āpše, Andris Bergvalds, Ivars Jēgeris, Imants Ķivlis, Valdis Korbs, Linda Lakats, Gail Ozoliņš, Māra Ozols, Mudīte Schuler, Valdis Pālēns, Andris Paukšēns and Mārtiņš Skuja. Special thanks to Ēriks Maldonis who managed the cafe and to Mārīte Tētiņš who helped out. And who can forget Sidrabene's "pārvaldnieks" Andrejs Grīnbergs who is involved in everything that happens in Sidrabene? His enthusiasm and tireless work ethic are essential for the smooth running and success of our property. Many thanks.

Of special note this year are several projects for which we received generous donations made through St. Andrew's Ev. Luth. Latvian Church. Sidrabene is very grateful for all of these. None of these projects could have been completed without the volunteers' work and time - so special thanks to: Vilis Kleperis, Marty & Raz Skuja, Ivars & Dzintra Jansons, the Innus clan and many others, including those at the 3 "talkas".

The largest continuing project is building the pavilion in memory of Juris Eglītis. Of the 109 donations, around twelve were from U.S., six were from DV branches in several Canadian cities, one was from the Latvian Sports Association, one from Sidrabene Camp and around 89 from individuals from Canada – with over \$13,500 donated to date. We are grateful that the DV Kanada branch is planning to donate up to \$10,000 to permit this project to be completed in 2016.

Two more special projects (outside our budget) were completed because of donations: the building of a new gate house was covered by an anonymous donor, and the replacement of steps leading up to "Atpūtas nams" was possible thanks to Anda Sīpoliņš' generosity. We also have already received some funds towards building a permanent awning for the cafe - this was from the profits of

"Wingfest" organized by the Innus family. This project will require more funds to complete.

"Sidrabene's pārvalde" is looking forward to cooperating with all of Sidrabene's stakeholders to plan future improvements to Sidrabene's facilities. At our last meeting Silvija Shedden, who has been chairing the Sidrabene planning committee on behalf of the church council, shared initial updates on this planning process, including the first draft of a questionnaire to find out and better understand the current and future needs of Sidrabene's key users. Meeting members were able to offer their suggestions.

Sidrabene's property manager, Andrejs Grīnbergs, summarized 2015 rentals which brought in a total of \$98,600:

- The largest sum (\$45,500) came from the "Halton District School Board" that uses our facilities for 10 months (Sept-June) for two programs - grade 10 "Trailhead" and grade 12 "Bronte Creek Project".
- There were many girl-guide and scout groups from all over Ontario holding week-end camps. The "27th Burlington Orchard Scouts" met each week at Sidrabene.
- "Burlington Body Boot Camp" came twice a week during warm months.
- Several churches, families and a lawyer group used the property for picnics.
- Different churches and youth organizations ran summer camps.
- There were 6 weddings (4 Latvian, 2 non-Latvian). Of these 3 used "Sidrabkalns" hall but 3 had outdoor celebrations.
- Our own congregation's Sidrabene children's camp ran for 4 weeks.
- Several other Latvian organizations, including the "DV Latvian Relief Society" used Sidrabene for their meetings.

Sidrabene's "pārvalde" would like to thank all those who helped support and attended the various events last year.

See you in Sidrabene during 2016.

Valdis Kauliņš, Chair  
& Sidrabene Management Committee

## **Camp SIDRABENE summer 2015 (July 5 – August 2)**

For the first time in many years, camp staff positions were filled, brochures were printed and distributed and the majority of the camp program was planned out – and March had just begun! An amazing leadership team was in place: Dainis Kalniņš, (program director); boys' end counsellors Kurtis Grietiņš, Rihards Zakulis (LV), Vilnis Kalniņš; girls' end counsellors Nora Zilāns (LV), Marika Gulēns-Taube, Kristin Lakats; childrens's lodge counsellors Maija Zaķis (LV), Dina Huska and Natālija Vāgners. Our head cook was unable to continue past the second week and we were saved by professional chef Krissy Pāvelsons. Under her humourous tutelage the kitchen staff Tamāra Lūsis-Zondo, Silvija Tauriņš and Alex Thiele were re-inspired and worked hard to provide nutritious, interesting and tasty meals.

Spiritual Christian education was organized and lead by Rev. Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart with Rev. Ron Ewart and Rev. Dāvis Kaņeps assisting as needed. During camp there were Sunday church services and Wednesday evening candle light services. The youth prepared appropriate materials and actively participated during services. Each Thursday Rev. Ilze involved the campers who were divided into age groups, in active discussions about Bible stories as well as in theme-related activities and crafts. As always, camp recites the Lord's Prayer each morning during the flag raising ceremony, as well as giving thanks before and after each meal.

Many different hats were worn by Linda Lakats (administrator, CIT program co-ordinator) and Sandra Thiele (health, crafts, head cook replacement). Sidrabene Camp committee members are all volunteers (Devin Dzelme, Ivars Jēgeris, Sandra Kalniņš, Linda Lakats, Sandra Thiele, Anita Thomas, Katrina Vikse, Lionel Zondo). They met on 9 occasions during the school year and worked throughout the winter

season on pre-planning and other initiatives for the betterment of our beloved camp. Imants Ķivlis is our church executive liaison, as well as our advisor for Sidrabene Cottagers' Association issues. We gladly welcome any interested new members.

Camp ran for 4 weeks with an additional week for staff only prior to camp start to facilitate camp set-up. In comparison to previous years, overall attendance levels dropped very slightly, consistent with the age demographics in the local Latvian community as a whole. A total of 36 children participated – 16 in the first week, 29 in the second week, 25 in the third week and 28 in the fourth week (a total of 98 “kid-weeks”). This year we welcomed 7 new families with 11 first-time campers. We had 6 participants in the CIT program of which 3 graduated. The CITs had the opportunity to visit ‘Bērzaine’, the Toronto Hunters + Anglers Club property.

Latvian language is the primary language used for all communication. Latvian language, culture and traditions are interwoven throughout the week directly and indirectly: traditional dancing, singing of the Latvian anthem and songs, celebrating holidays, baking ‘pīrāgi’ (bacon buns). Written language skills are visually reinforced with the use of items and Latvian labels throughout the camp both indoors and outdoors (posters: crafts with Latvian symbolism, dining hall service items). Once again, staff from the Halton Region Conservation Authority brought saplings and taught our youth how to properly plant and care for saplings and trees. In addition, wildflower plugs were planted on the children’s lodge embankment.

Dances, excursions, hikes, swimming, movie nights, games and friendly competition are mainstays of daily camp life. A vital and cherished resource that is central to daily camp life is the pool. We are grateful to those in the community who understand and defend the pool’s importance to camp and our children.

In preparation for camp in 2015 (as has been the case in recent years) camp has held two work bee dates - the first held jointly with Sidrabene’s cottagers prior to ‘Jāņi’, and the second on the day before camp opening. Participation in the second work bee has been negligible in the past 2 years. As a result, there will only be one camp work bee day this year: Saturday June 18, 2016.

This past summer, we had to quickly set up camp immediately after the rainiest and muddiest ‘Jāņi’ in years. There was a lot to be cleaned and done, but all was accomplished in time for the start of camp. At the camp opening ceremonies, the new flagpole was dedicated in memory of Juris Eglītis. We are thankful to the church council for the gift of this important symbol of camp Sidrabene.

We attempted a new event this year – ‘SID SVĒTKI/SID FEST’. This community event combined elements of our children’s day and sport’s day integrated with planned events by the SID cottagers. We would like to thank LSAK (Latvian Sports Assoc.) for their long-term and amazing support as well as our dedicated volunteer team of Dzintra Eglītis, Dzintra Jansons, Rasma Skuja and Gail Ozoliņš as well as all the cottagers and LSAK members who provided a helping hand on the day of the event. We have learned much from this experience and will use this to improve future endeavours. Overall comments were positive and encouraging. The second annual ‘SID SVĒTKI/SID FEST’ will be held this summer on the weekend of July 16 + 17, 2016. Everyone is welcome!

There are people who have always and selflessly worked with camp. We would like to thank Sid property manager Andy Grīnbergs, Vilis Kleperis, Vilnis Blūms, Vija Skomba (camp archivist), Rev. Inese Upmane-MacDonald, Mudīte Schuler and Krissy Pāvelsons. We truly appreciate your dedication to Camp Sidrabene! Thank you!

How can the congregation help? By sending your children and grandchildren to camp! Please support camp events and initiatives! Come



to church with us! Parents and adults are invited to help at camp and/or share their special gift or talent – offers of service are welcome. We are open to any cooperative suggestion. Let us work together to serve the congregation so that camp Sidrabene continues to thrive. Children are our future!

As a not-for profit camp, we have been financially responsible, but everything is becoming more expensive. Over the last 10 years we have covered our expenses, including payments to SID Cottager’s Association, through a combination of camper fees and donations by individuals and Latvian organizations. We have consistently endeavoured to find new ways to fundraise to support camp activities and purchase necessary items for the children. We hope to replace more of the old rusted cast iron beds with new steel -framed beds and the tent floorboards need refurbishing. We are grateful and appreciative of any help offered. Donations are always welcome! As an added incentive, if monetary donations (\$20 or more) earmarked ‘Camp Sidrabene’ are sent to St.Andrew’s church administrator Sarma Gaide, then a donation receipt for tax purposes will be issued.

Now and in the future, our goal is to ensure that families have access to a safe haven where parents can send their children during the summer to enjoy camp in a Latvian Christian environment and be amongst friends. In 2016 camp will again run for 4 weeks: July 3 – July 31. Register now! Come join us for a week or better still, for all 4! We still have openings for some staff positions – new applicants are encouraged. See you in Sidrabene!



## OUT OF THE COLD 2016

On February 20, 2016 we ministered to the less fortunate members of the community. Since we needed a location that was closer to the downtown core where a large portion of our homeless and less fortunate dwell, we partnered with First Lutheran Church on Bond St. It was a déjà-vu moment as that was the first location where the St. Andrew's planted its first seeds in establishing a Latvian congregation in Toronto. They were welcoming and open to us. It is hoped that we can partner with this congregation in this initiative in the future, not only in the *Out of the Cold* project, but also in other endeavours.

The 18 of us, including confirmands, parents, volunteers and Pastor Ilze, spent a wonderful morning. A member of First Lutheran Church joined us for the preparation work - it was nice to chat with fellow Lutherans. It became apparent that they experience many of the same challenges that we do, and some interest was expressed in helping with this project in the future.

The decision this year was to focus on the hygienic items versus food in the distributed packages. We were, however, also able to provide bananas, thanks to a donation from Chiavitti Bananas, Clementine oranges and some sweets. We served about 150 people as an outcome of our *Out of the Cold* initiative this year.

In the debriefing after our work was done, there was strong enthusiasm to continue the project by regrouping and forming a committee of volunteers to continue with this ministry. There was strong support to become involved from many of the younger participants. That in of itself is a statement of what is important to them. We are all blessed to have what we have, and should never take it for granted, as most of us are only a pay cheque or two away from being in the same situation as those that we served. It is truly an honour to spend some time with those who participated and gave up their valuable time to do unto others. Prior to setting out, Pastor Ilze said in her reading from the Beatitudes that every one we gave something to, every one that received some food, every one that we spent a few moments talking to, we were also giving to Jesus.

Thank-you for your past support and hopefully ongoing support in the future!

Imants Kivlis

<p><b>DRAUDZES ZIŅU redaktore / Newsletter editor:</b> Skaidrīte Leja</p> <p><b>Redaktores palīdzē / Copy Editor:</b> Anda Libere</p>
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