



2015. G. FEBRUĀRA ZIŅAS AR 2014 GADA PĀRSKATIEM / WITH 2014 COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Draudzes pilnsapulce 2015. gada 1. martā plkst. 12:30
(pec rīta dievkalpojuma abās valodās plkst. 11:00)**

**Sv. Jāņa baznīcas lejas zālē / St. John's Church lower hall
200 Balmoral Avenue**

AGM- March 1 at 12:30 after worship in both languages at 11:00

DARBA KĀRTĪBA:

1. Pilnsapulces atklāšana
2. Balsu skaitītāju vēlēšanas
3. Darba kārtības pieņemšana
4. 2014. gada pilnsapulces protokola pieņemšana
5. Ziņojumi: 1) Mācītāja
2) Padomes priekšnieks
3) Kasieris
4) Komitejas
5) Revīzijas komisija
6) Ziņojumu pieņemšana
6. 2015. 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 2014 AGM Minutes
5. Reports : 1) Pastor
2) Council Chair
3) Treasurer
4) Committees
5) Supervisory Committee
6) Approval of Reports
6. 2015 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, February 23, 2014

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of the Vote Counters
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of 2013 2nd AGM minutes
5. Resolutions:
 - (i) Offer of purchase of St. Andrew's Church by Grace Toronto Congregation
 - (ii) Governing Council constituent number change (Second reading)
 - (iii) Quorum number change (Second reading)
6. Approval of 2014 Budget
7. Election of new Council and Supervisory committee
8. Reports and Questions about Reports
9. Other Business
10. Closing of the meeting

1. Opening of meeting by Council chair Voldemārs Innus at 11:55 am. 119 voting members of the congregation are registered, achieving quorum. Voldemārs Innus thanks members for attending.

2. Election of vote counters: Līga Miklašēvics, Imants Purvs and Imants Ķivlis are unanimously elected.

3. Approval of the agenda: Atis Bredovskis moves that the order of the agenda items be changed. Voldemārs Innus explains that the important agenda items need to be at the beginning (i.e. #5 Resolutions) in order that they can be dealt with effectively. Anda Liberis states that she does not accept the agenda, as it is important for members to hear about last year's work, and to have the opportunity to ask questions about the committee reports. This would help members make a decision when voting on the resolution.

Moved by Jānis Langīns, and seconded by Velta Zvīdris that the approval of the agenda be put to a vote. Velta Zvīdris states that the term "Supervisory Committee" is incorrect, and that it should be called "Auditing Committee". Mac. Ilze

Kuplens-Ewart explains that only auditors accredited by the Ontario government can be called an "Auditing Committee"). Also, according to the Eastern Synod regulations, the correct designation is "Supervisory Committee". Voldemārs Innus then reads out in full Atis Bredovskis' recommended agenda. **Members vote with a show of hands to approve the original agenda: 117 yes, 2 no. Carried**

4. Approval of 2013 2nd AGM minutes: Anda Liberis points out that the full name of each member speaking must be written in the minutes. Masculine and feminine

endings on surnames must be indicated. Voldemārs Innus invites Anda Liberis to assist in revising the names. Anda Liberis also points out that there is a lack of consistency between the Latvian and English versions, with specific reference to Resolutions 5 (i).

Moved by Voldemārs Innus that the 2013 2nd AGM minutes be approved with the above corrections. 118 yes, 1 abstention Carried.

5. Resolutions

(i) Offer of purchase of St. Andrew's Church by Grace Toronto congregation:

Voldemārs Innus addresses the two documents handed out to members upon arrival: The *Resolution*, and *Declaration of Intention*. Voldemārs Innus explains the history of events leading up to *The Declaration of Intention*. At the Town Hall of Feb. 9, 2014, Council was assigned to determine what the next steps would be, should the members vote to sell their church building. *The Declaration of Intention* is an official joint document written by the Council chairs of St. Andrew's and St. John's Ev. Lutheran Latvian congregations. On Thurs. Feb. 20, 2014, Voldemārs Innus received confirmation from Valda Kaļiņš of St. John's Church that this document has been approved by St. John's Church Council. This document has been approved by Councils of both churches and their pastors, Revs. Ilze Kuplens-Ewart and F.T. Kristbergs.

Voldemārs Innus reviews the events that led to the *Resolution*. On Feb. 5, 2014, Council voted unanimously to accept the offer presented by Grace Toronto Church.

As the Congregation needs to vote on this, Voldemārs Innus sent out a draft version of the *Resolution* in the newsletter (Draudzes Ziņas). The draft was then revised by lawyers Mills and Mills. If the *Resolution* is accepted by the Congregation, it will have legal status. The buyer needs to know that this is a legal document. Voldemārs Innus states that, since an important decision is being made, the meeting will follow *Bourinot's Rules of Order*. Since Voldemārs Innus has already made his views known in the crafting of the *Resolution*, he must hand over the chair to another member. Voldemārs Innus proposes that Arnis Budrēvics take over as chair for this part of the meeting. **Moved by Valdis Šķepasts and seconded by Ojārs Sils: Arnis Budrevics to take over as chair.** At 12:17 pm Arnis Budrēvics takes over as chair. He thanks the congregation for their trust. He advises the congregation that all questions and comments must be directed to him. He clarifies that the English version of the *Resolution* must be voted on, as it is a legal document. Each member has the opportunity to speak once. **Arnis Budrēvics proposes that one hour be allotted to the discussion of the resolution.**

Moved by Jānis Langīns and seconded by Agris Robežnieks. Motion carried unanimously. As chair of this part of the meeting, Arnis Budrēvics will not be expressing his views.

Māc. Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart suggests the singing of hymns and prayer before the vote takes place. She also requests, as a point of order, that members refrain from applauding speakers. Arnis Budrēvics reads the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Introduced by: The Council of St. Andrew's Ev. Lutheran Latvian Church in Toronto

Whereas the Grace Toronto (Presbyterian) Church submitted an offer dated February 5, 2014, hereby called the “Agreement”, to purchase the St. Andrew's Lutheran Church located at 383 Jarvis Street, in Toronto (the “Property”), for the amount of \$4,150,000 (the “Purchase Price”);

AND Whereas the St. Andrew's Ev. Lutheran Latvian Church Council at the February 5, 2014 Council meeting unanimously approved to accept the sale of the Property at the Purchase Price;

Now therefore be it resolved that:

- 1. That the entering into and the completion of the transactions contemplated by the Agreement, as may be amended, is ratified and approved by St. Andrew's Ev. Lutheran Latvian Church.**
- 2. The Chair of the St. Andrew's Ev. Lutheran Latvian Church Council is hereby authorized to do all things and to execute all documents on behalf of the St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Latvian Church in Toronto, as may be necessary in order to complete the transactions contemplated in the Agreement.**

Moved by Valda Berziņš and seconded by Ojārs Sils that the members proceed with the resolution. Motion carried.

Speakers:

Alfons Kalns states that it is important to understand the reason for this resolution. Alfons Kalns reads a statement from his daughter Dina Kalns. The statement concludes with her proposal:

“The sale of St. Andrew's church to Grace Church is based on the certain understanding that St. Andrew's church council will take immediate and concrete steps to initiate discussions (both from the practical and legal perspective) with St. John's Church council for the amalgamation/merger of our two congregations and the creation of a new Toronto Latvian Lutheran congregation.

Ārija Purvs-Roze addresses the evaluation of the church organ. Replacement cost is \$1.3M. She asks if Council has shown the written evaluation to Grace

Church. The offer by Grace Church does not show any money offered for the organ. **Ārija Purvs-Roze** proposes that Council negotiate a price for the organ with Grace Church. We still have time to negotiate, as the Estonian congregation will vote on this offer at their AGM at the end of March.

Answer by Voldemārs Innus: The offer of purchase includes everything “as is”. He explains that the evaluation was done by Alan Jackson & Co., the firm recommended to Council by **Ārija Purvs-Roze**. The evaluation came back as follows: replacement value (brand new organ) is \$1.3M. On the recommendation of the Estonian Council, the evaluation was not shown to Grace Church, as the value for the organ of \$20K - \$30K was low. Even though the organ was not specifically discussed in the negotiations with Grace Church, the offer of \$4.15M exceeds the official evaluation of the church building at \$4.1M.

Voldemārs Innus further adds that, as to what will remain in the Church still has to be worked out. Items paid for by government grants must remain, for example, the sound system. Everything that the congregation paid for will be taken with us. As discussed with Grace Church, an inventory will be taken of all items that stay, and all items that will be taken with us, such as the Steinway grand piano paid for by the Estonian and Latvian congregations.

Ārija-Purvs Roze objects to Voldemārs Innus' explanation of the organ value and states that the organ value has not been correctly interpreted and explained and asks to speak again to clarify the value. Voldemārs Innus states that for the moment we have enough information on the evaluation of the organ.

3. Atis Bredovskis states that in the *Declaration of Intention*, Council has not officially stated what is going to happen to the congregation in the future. Concrete proposals are needed. He also points out that the term “Church” in the *Resolution*, is used incorrectly, stating that the term “Congregation” should be used instead.

Answer by Voldemārs Innus: The term “Church” is used in the Deed. Legal documents must match the Deed exactly. **Māc. Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** confirms this.

Māc. Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart asks Council chair Voldemārs Innus to elaborate on what has been done to this point with regard to concrete proposals for the future of the congregation. **Voldemārs Innus** expresses his disagreement with Atis Bredovskis' comments, pointing out that clearly concrete steps have been outlined in the *Declaration of Intent*. We will be going to St. John's church if we vote to sell our church. In agreement with Atis Bredovskis, it is true we do not know where we will be in 5 years' time. Will we have merged with St. John's Church? Will we be in a different location? Of all the alternatives offered at the Town Hall, it was clear that the majority of members

wanted to go to St. John's Church. Some members want to merge right away, others do not wish this to be the end point. This is a sensitive issue. It is the Congregation that will decide the future, not Council. Council has been working intensively on this issue since last April's Town Hall meeting. At the Town Hall meeting on Feb. 9, 2014, members gave Council the mandate to approach St. John's Church Council. Arnis Budrēvics thanks Voldemārs Innus for the explanation and directs the questions back to discussion of the *Resolution*.

Guntis Ezers asks for clarification on whether this is a joint resolution of the Latvian and Estonian congregations, and what details are included in the Agreement of Purchase. Will members see the entire agreement?

Answer by Arnis Budrēvics: Members will not see the entire agreement prior to voting, as Council has been mandated to deal with all the details. **Voldemārs Innus** then gives examples of details included such as environmental study. However, the three important points of information are: the price (\$4.15M), the closing date (Apr. 5, 2014), and our last day in the building (last day of October). Council will work out the administrative details.

Uldis Zommers points out that the final *Agreement of Purchase* was promised by Mills & Mills before the AGM. Members need to see the entire agreement before we vote. There could be important details that need to be discussed. Voldemārs Innus then reads aloud the topics covered in the agreement.

Pēteris Kusmanis proposes a 10 minute break. After the break, Arnis Budrēvics continues to chair the meeting, requesting that only members who are not in Council speak to the Resolution.

Anneli Kusmanis expresses heartfelt feelings for the place of this church in her life. However, she notes that it is difficult for the younger generation to meet here. The building itself will not keep the congregation together. There have been various initiatives such as "The Gathering" and "Crossroads". The younger generation is able to keep the congregation together no matter where we are. It would be better to keep St. Andrew's congregation and not merge with St. John's church. Another venue could be found. We need to put our trust in Council. She encourages members to communicate freely with council members.

Ligita Šteinmanis asks for clarification in how many votes are required for the *Resolution* to pass. Ligita Šteinmanis also asks if it is necessary to vote twice, in 2 separate AGMs. **Arnis Budrēvics** answers: 2/3 of the 119 voting members registered.

Māc. Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart brings up a point of order: We have the right to know the quorum before we vote.

Arnis Budrēvics states that we need 100 voting members. Quorum is 75 voting members. **Voldemārs Innus** states that in the past the quorum is determined

by the number of members present at the time of voting. There must be 75 voting members for the AGM to be legal.

We do not need to vote twice on the *Resolution*, as it is not a constitutional change.

Atis Bredovskis states that there are two versions of the *Resolution* and points out the *Resolution* received today should have been received by members 10 days before the AGM. **Voldemārs Innus** explains that we are voting on the *Resolution* as it was read today.

Regarding the earlier version that was sent out, members were advised that there could be revisions in the wording by our lawyers.

Dāvids Šmits, chair of the Music Committee, speaks to the demographic changes resulting in our present situation. We need to keep in mind that we do not want to leave a burden for the next generation. There are many treasured things that we will have to leave behind, such as the stained glass windows and the organ. He is confident that the Grace Church congregation will value these things. The Music Committee is responsible for the musical instruments and technical devices including microphones (other than the sound system paid for by government grants). There are 3 pianos that will come with the congregation: the Steinway grand, the grand piano on the stage, and the upright Yamaha on the main floor and will be valuable in the future life of the congregation. He offers his assistance and advice to Council.

Aina Budrēvics comments that if our situation does not improve over the next few years, we may not have a buyer. She gives her support to the *Resolution*. The future is not in the repair of the building, but selling the building and creating something new in the future for our congregation.

Anda Liberis supports the views expressed by the younger generation. However, she feels that the order of the agenda should have been changed. If we vote to sell the church, the most difficult work is just beginning. Up until now, our congregation's identity has been associated with this church building, for example, the windows on our church logo, and this will need to change. What is needed is spiritual strength, participation, collaboration and commitment. Commitment, duty, devotedness and loyalty need to be placed above convenience. In order for our congregation to survive in this time of transition, working together is important.

All present are invited to participate in the work of the congregation.

Arnis Budrēvics announces that the one hour time limit for the discussion of the resolution is up, and that it is time to vote.

Ojārs Sils proposes that the quorum be determined prior to voting. **Imants Purvs**

reports that he has discussed this matter with the other official vote counters: 2 things must be determined: the quorum and the 2/3 necessary for the resolution to be carried. **Imants Purvs proposes** that the voting process be carried out in this way: members will cast their ballots, and the vote counters will count the ballots. If there are 75 ballots, quorum will have been achieved. Then the second step is to count all the ballots and mathematically determine if 2/3 has been achieved.

Motion carried.

Māc. Ilze Kuplens-Ewart suggests the singing of a hymn prior to voting. Dāvids Šmits leads members in the song and prayer “Nāc Jēzu Tu par palīgu” (#421).

Māc. Ilze Kuplens- Ewart leads members in prayer, asking God to accept our prayers, and by the presence of His spirit to show us what we should do, and to give us the grace and strength to fulfill it. **Arnis Budrēvics reads the Resolution** to be voted on. Members are to indicate with a checkmark either “yes” or “no” on the ballot provided. During the voting process, members sing the hymn “Dievs ir mūsu cerība” (#220).

Atis Bredovskis proposes that we continue with the next 2 resolutions while the votes are being counted, as these resolutions have nothing to do with the vote.

Moved by Guntis Bērziņš, seconded by Arnis Budrēvics. Carried.

Voldemārs Innus resumes the chair.

5 (ii) Governing Council constituent number change (Second reading)

Until such time as the Ontario Not-for Profit-Corporations Act, 2010 comes into force, the minimum number of members of the congregation council shall be twelve, with no fewer than one third of the members retiring each year. Retiring members of the congregational council may be re-elected. **Moved by Guntis Bērziņš. Seconded by Atis Bredovskis. Voting takes place by the raising of hands. Motion carried unanimously.**

5 (iii) Quorum number change (Second reading)

To reduce the quorum requirement at all general meetings from 75 to 50 congregation members in good standing at the time of the meeting. (Second reading) Until such time as the Ontario Not-for-Profit-Corporations Act, 2010 comes into force, the quorum for annual or special congregational meetings shall be fifty members in good standing.

Moved by Arnis Budrēvics. Seconded by Guntis Bērziņš. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of the 2014 Budget

Atis Bredovskis proposes that the review of the Financial Report and the Supervisory Committee Report be carried out before approval of the 2014 budget. Seconded by Alfons Kalns. Carried.

Reports and Questions about Reports (#8 on original agenda)

(i) Council chair Voldemārs Innus thanks members for coming to this meeting as well as participating in the two Town Hall meetings. This has been a very active year for Council in developing the resolution we are voting on. We listened to everyone’s questions, concerns, differences of opinion and advice. The wonderful work outlined in the various committee reports will continue in the future, and our work will be even better in the future if we accept the offer of Grace Church.

Arnis Budrēvics resumes the chair

For agenda item 5(i) Resolution.

Imants Purvs gives the results of the vote:

129 registered voting members

Quorum has been achieved.

115 votes: YES

14 votes: NO

Resolution 5 (i) is carried.

The ballots will be destroyed.

Moved by Alfons Kalns.

Seconded by Ēriks Kleperis.

Arnis Budrēvics leaves the chair.

Voldemārs Innus resumes the chair.

Congregation sings “Pie rokas ņem un vadi” (#427)

Jānis Langīns offers a vote of thanks to Council chair Voldemārs Innus and Council for the work in accomplishing this difficult task. Jānis Langīns proposes that members express their gratitude to Council chair Voldemārs Innus and Council for their hard work and wish them strength in future challenges. Members affirm their gratitude with applause. Voldemārs Innus thanks congregation members.

Meeting resumes with

Reports and Questions about Reports (#8 on original agenda)

Anda Liberis notes that there is no report from Council. The minutes from the Town Hall meeting of Feb. 9, 2014, should have been included in the reports. She is also concerned that 120 members have been considered “inactive”. What were the criteria for putting these members on the inactive list. How will we deal with this situation in the future? Her 3rd question is regarding the work of Zelta Pakava (Golden Horseshoe) committee and who is the representative from our congregation?

Answer Voldemārs Innus: He apologises for not submitting a Report from Council. The “inactive” members' list was created in order to determine an accurate number of congregational members. A small

committee of council and congregational members looked carefully at the list of members to determine who has been inactive for 3 or more years, who doesn't donate, and who does not participate in any Church activities. These criteria were not applied to members who are now in Kristus Dārzs. A carefully worded letter was sent out to the members, asking about future participation in the Church, and gave examples of how they could participate. Only one person responded. The "inactive members" are still a part of our congregation.

Anda Liberis asks if these people have been contacted, as perhaps they need help. Māc. Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart and Uldis Zommers have been reaching out to the people on this list. **Māc. Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** addresses the question regarding Zelta Pakava (Golden Horseshoe) Committee. There have been 2 meetings. Velta Zvīdris is our representative and takes the minutes at these meetings. The response to these meetings has been positive. The committee will be looking at demographics, i.e. where our members live. Work is ongoing. Our collaboration with St. John's Church is a result of the groundwork established at these meetings. Māc. Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart will report on her meeting with rev. F.T. Kristbergs regarding solutions to be developed for the merging of the two congregations. **Anda Liberis** requests that Council continue to address the needs of the "inactive members", and that there needs to be better communication, in order that we don't lose more members.

Atis Bredovskis asks treasurer Ingrīda Vairogs why the balance sheets do not balance. **Treasurer Ingrīda Vairogs** states that the report has been submitted. Every effort was made to find the difference. She will continue to sort out the issue, and as soon as it is accomplished, the Congregation will be notified. She notes that she has not had time to review the report of the Supervisory Committee, as she just received it prior to the meeting. **Atis Bredovskis** asks where the Future Funds (\$800 for each of 2012, 2013, 2014) appear in the balance sheet. **Ingrīda Vairogs** replies that these funds are future funds for LELBA, and do not appear in the balance sheets. **Atis Bredovskis** proposes that "Future Funds" should be called "Future Funds for LELBA" in order to avoid confusion.

Atis Bredovskis addresses the costs associated with (Sidrebenes Kafējnīca) Sidrabene's Cafe. It cost over \$250,000 to build, yet the earnings are only \$2,258. There are requests for money for repairs.

Valdis Kauliņš answers the question regarding the Cafe. It was not built for the purpose of generating profits, but rather to serve a social hub for the Latvian community. This summer, in conjunction with the Song Festival, Sidrabene will be hosting 300 participants from Latvia. They will be receiving their meals in the Cafe.

Anita Bredovskis asks if the monies generated from parties held in the Cafe is shown under "earnings" or "rental income". **Valdis Kauliņš** answers the money is "rental income", a percentage of which stays with Sidrabene. The Cafe needs to be staffed from Friday to Sunday. We have a contract in this regard.

Anita Bredovskis asks why are the Cafe's earnings are so low and who gets the profits? **Valdis Kauliņš** answers that the profit stays in Sidrabene.

Inta Briedis asks about the swimming pool/splash pad costs and the cost of the splash pad upgrade. **Valdis Kauliņš**: \$19,000.

Arnīs Budrēvics proposes that questions about the budget should wait until the balance sheets are balanced. In the spirit of cooperation, we should not vote on accepting the budget today and acknowledge that it as a work in progress.

Motion by Arnīs Budrēvics that the 2014 Financial Statement be received by the AGM with the understanding that Council will bring it into order within 3 months and report to the AGM. Seconded by Inta Briedis. Carried.

Anda Liberis asks for clarification of the name of the person in charge of Sidrabene's camp kitchen and Cafe: Ēriks Maldonis or Ēriks Mālderis? **Valdis Kauliņš** will check into the correct spelling.

Ladies' Committee/Dāmu komiteja report: No questions.

Sidrabene's Retreat and Recreation Centre:

No Questions

Camp Sidrabene: No Questions

Aid to Latvia/Palīdzība Latvijai: **Anete Ivsiņš** reports that all agency agreements have been completed except for the Prison, which didn't receive any money. These have not yet been seen by Velta Zvīdris of the Supervisory Committee.

Supervisory Committee Report by Velta Zvīdris:

Velta Zvīdris reads the report handed out to members at beginning of meeting, stating that an interim audit for the six months ending June 30, 2013, was not completed, since no requisite documents were submitted. **Voldemārs Innus**, as a point of order, reminds members that it was agreed that these numbers would not be taken into account until after the 3 month review period. Appreciation is expressed for the Supervisory Committee's Report. Putting the two reports together (i.e. Supervisory Committee Report and Financial Statement) will give a good result for the 3 month review. **Voldemārs Innus moves that the Supervisory Committee's Report be accepted as presented.** **Velta Zvīdris** feels it is important for the members to know that there is not a \$61,362.50 difference. **Voldemārs Innus moves that the report be accepted as presented and put together with the previous motion, that within a 3 month period this issue be resolved..Seconded by ?.** Motion carried

Music Committee Report: **Dāvids Šmits**, gives an overview of the work done by the Music Committee, highlighting musical events and special services such as “The Gathering” that were organized in collaboration with māc. Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart.

Questions regarding the organ were dealt with. The choir has performed at important celebrations, including services in Sidrabene. This year there were new choir members, some of whom were from Latvia.

As there are so few members in the choir, it was decided not to have a spring concert. Inactive members of the congregation are invited to participate in the life of the congregation. In our concerts use was made of the organ, piano and sound system. In October, Vaira Gertners was invited to assist in leading the choir. She taught the choir the Christmas program which was performed at the Christmas Eve service and at the Christmas celebration (Ziemsvētku Eglīte). Under the direction of Vaira Gertners, the choir is currently learning the Song Festival Sacred Music Concert program. Practices are from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on Wednesday evenings in the Church. The goal of the choir is to serve God with music. There can be no higher goal than to praise God. Members of the congregation are invited to join the choir.

Presentations: Voldemārs Innus

recognizes Council members who are leaving.

Voldemārs Innus thanks and presents flowers to **Valdis Kauliņš** for the many years of devotion to the Church, dedication to the Council and to Sidrabene. Members affirm their gratitude with applause. Valdis Kauliņš thanks Council for supporting Sidrabene.

Voldemārs Innus presents flowers to **Daila Dzintars**, thanking her for the important role she played in the committee that dealt with various legal issues dealing with the Church or Sidrabene. She has agreed to continue to help in these matters. Members affirm their gratitude with applause.

Motion to accept reports: Moved by Alfons Kalns.

Seconded by Imants Kivlis.

Carried unanimously.

7. Election of New Council Members

Voldemārs Innus proposes Imants Kivlis and Arnis Budrēvics. Moved by Atis Bredovskis. Seconded by Ēriks Kleperis.

Existing members of Council do not need to be re-elected, as the old statutes are still in force.

9. Other Business

Voldemārs Innus invites māc. **Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart** to report on the discussions held at the request of Council, with prāv. em. F.T. Kristbergs at St. John's Church. A draft has been created of a calendar of events that goes

up to Easter 2015 to show what our collaboration would be like. Guidelines were offered by the Councils of both churches. The two congregations would attend services, with responsibility for services alternating between the two congregations. Special Holy Days would be organized jointly, such as Christmas and Easter. Māc. Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart emphasizes the importance of using Sidrabene as a spiritual growth centre. She invites members to help. The 1st and 3rd Sundays would be the responsibility of St. John's congregation, and the 2nd and 4th Sundays would be the responsibility of St. Andrew's congregation. There is the possibility of a service in Sidrabene the 1st Sunday of the month.

Dace Strīpnieks emphasizes that this information should be kept confidential, as it is strictly in draft form. Māc. Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart confirms these comments and states that this is only stage one of the entire process.

Ingrīda Vairogs thanks the Supervisory Committee for the detailed work in trying to discover the discrepancy in the balance sheets. She states that she has established guidelines as to where the discrepancy is, and it would not affect the budget. The budget cannot be ratified today but the balance sheet will be in order soon.

Pēteris Kusmanis asks for clarification as to when the alternating services would start.

Māc. Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart answers that the last service in our church would be at the end of October. The first time our congregation met was at the end of the October (Reformation). Final arrangements have not yet been made. It's possible the service could be on a Saturday.

Maija Kuze invites members to volunteer to read the scriptures in church. Please give one week's notice either to Maija Kuze or Sarma Gaide.

Anda Liberis informs members that it is the 65th anniversary of our church, and she requests that Council take steps to organize a 65th anniversary celebration. This is especially important as it is the last year we will be in St. Andrew's church.

Atis Bredovskis asks about voting for the members of the Supervisory Committee.

Voldemārs Innus answers that the same members will continue on.

Sandra Kleperis-Thiele informs members that Camp Sidrabene will be 3 weeks long due to this summer's Song Festival. Information bulletins are available.

Voldemārs Innus thanks members for attending. He invites members to assist as we build our plans for the future.

Motion to adjourn: Guntis Bērziņš.

Seconded by Rita Robežnieks.

Meeting adjourned 2:46 pm

Recorders: Gundega Melli and Aija Mazsīlis

Mācītājas ziņojums 2015.g. Sv Andreja draudzes pilnsapulcei

Sestdien, 21. februārī aicinu Jūs uz pārrunām par jautājumu: “Kas ir draudze? Ko nozīmē – piederēt draudzē?” Īsos vārdos, draudze ir Dieva bērnu saime, Kristus mācekļi, kas ir Svētā Gara iedvesmoti kalpot debesu valstībai. Vienkāršākos vārdos – draudze sastāv no cilvēkiem, kurus Dievs mīl bez nosacījumiem. “Bet Dievs mīl katru!”, kāds gribēs iebilst. Jā, bet draudzē piederīgie saredz Jēzu to, kuŗš māca un darbojas tā kā Dievs. Tie vēlas sekot Jēzum, jo tie viņā saredz vairāk nekā to, ko sastop ikdienā. Tie nopietnībā interesējas par to, ko Jēzus dara un vēlas iepazīt viņa mācības tuvāk. Dieva un Jēzus spēku, kas aktīvi darbojas cilvēkā un no kā rodas apziņa, ka Dievs nav svešs un nepazīstams, un ka Jēzum var sekot arī šodien, sauc par Svēto Garu. Tā, Svētā Gara mudināti, ļaudis sanāk kopā un veido saimes, draudzes, sadraudzību, kur tie atrod atbalstu un spēcīgumu dzīvot savu dzīvi radikāli citādā veidā. Tas ir – pievērst uzmanību tiem, kuŗi grūtībās, ieklausīties otrā, dāvināt savu laiku tiem, kam to vajag, aizstāvēt apspiestos, dzīvot apzinīgi, lūkojot neizšķērdēt dabas resursus un cīnīties par taisnību pasaulē. Spēja to darīt ir Dieva laipnības un žēlastības dāvana.

*Vai tu ļausi man tev kalpot,
darīt tā, kā Jēzus mums?
Lūdz, lai nepietrūkst man spēka,
būt tam, kam nu kalpo tu!*

Katram pašam ir atbildība to uztvert un iedzīvināt, bet draudzes uzdevums ir censties palīdzēt draudzes locekļiem to panākt. Piederēt draudzē sekmē aktīvi darboties, tā lai īstenotu Jēzus teikto saviem sekotājiem: “*Ne jūs izraudzījāt mani, bet es jūs izraudzīju un liku, ka jūs ejat un augļus nesat un ka jūsu augļi paliek, lai visu, ko jūs vien lūgtu manā vārdā no Tēva, viņš jums dotu. Es jums to pavēlu: mīliet cits citu!*” (Jāņa ev.15:16.,17)

Dziļāks kontakts ar draudzi rodas galvenokārt īpašos gadījumos, bet procentuāli mazs skaits mūsu draudzes locekļu regulāri piedalās draudzes dzīvē. Iemeslu tam netrūkst: laika trūkums, stress, citi pienākumi, attālums. Neatliek laika svētdienas rītā nākt uz baznīcu vai trūkst pārliecinošu argumentu, lai atkal sēstos mašīnā un brauktu pilsētas centra virzienā. Tomēr, vai nav tā, ka katrs, kas apzinātos un ļautu sev piedzīvot dziļāku draudzes nozīmi un saistību, darītu savu dzīvi nozīmīgāku? Tie, kas to ir sākuši piekopt izjūt starpību. Viņi konstatē, ka, sanākot kopā meklējot

Jēzu, atklājas jauni dzīves slāņi un parādās jauns skatījums uz sevi un uz dzīvi. Vai Jums ir kādi ieteikumi, kā to panākt?

No jauna skatīties uz mūsu uzdevumu ir īpaši svarīgi tagad, kad mums visiem ir grūti šķirties no iemīļotā dievnama, kur tik daudz piedzīvots. Ar prātu var pieņemt, bet ar jūtām iet lēnāk. Tiem, kuŗiem dievnams bijis īpaši nozīmīgs, šķiršanās piedzīvojums atspoguļo klasisko sērošanas procesu: pretestību, dusmas, kaulēšanos, depresiju, un pieņemšanu (*denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance*). Skat. <http://grief.com/the-five-stages-of-grief/>).

Katrs atrodas kaut kur šajā procesā un katra ceļš pa šo jūtu diapazonu ir jārespektē. Tomēr esmu pārliecināta, ka aktīvas draudzes pieejas meklējumā un attīstībā atradīsim ceļu uz nākotni. Tā mums dos virzību un pamatojumu, kas nesīs bezgala daudz svētības, ja fokuss nebūs vairs uz mūsu jūtām, bet uz Jēzus aicinājumu.

Draudzes darbs nebūtu iespējams bez ļaudīm, kas ziedo savu brīvo laiku draudzes labā. Izsaku pateicību brīvprātīgajiem darbiniekiem: draudzes padomei ar priekšsēdi, Voldemāru Innusu; pērminderiem ar vecāko, Gunti Bērziņu; draudzes darba grupām un komitejām: 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. Pateicos arī mūsu algotajiem darbiniekiem un priecājos par koleģiālo sadarbību: draudzes administratorei, Sarmai Gaidei; mūzikas nozares vadītājam un ērģelniekam, Dāvidam Šmitam un ansambļa diriģentei, Vairai Gertneri; Sidrabenes pārvaldniekam, Andrejam Grīnbergam; dievnama apkopējai, Ritai Ziediņai. Šogad vēl jāpieskaita klāt tie, kas palīdzējuši šajā pārejas posmā: Anda Libere, Edīte Sila un Rita Āpše, galvenās draudzes archīva veidotājas un dokumentu šķirotājas, ar palīdzēm Ilgu Gulbi, Intu McCaughey, Ingrīdu Kalniņu un Vairu Gertneri, kas kārtojusi koŗa nošu krājumus. Inta Briede un Ojārs Sils palīdzēja risināt praktiskus jautājumus attiecībā uz mantām. Viņi visi ir veltījuši neatmaksājamu laiku un zināšanas.

Tālāk pārskats rakstīts pēc vadlīnijām, ko izmantoju ziņojumiem draudzes padomes sēdēm.

1. Dievkalpojumi.

Vienalga, cik rosīga ir draudze, tās darbības centrā ir dievkalpojums. Tur sanāk dažādu vecumu ļaudis ar dažādu dzīves pieredzi un tiek stiprināti ar vārdu un sakramentu, lai pasaulē izejot, tie varētu pildīt savu uzdevumu – atspoguļojot Kristus tēlu, kalpot citiem, kā viņš mums kalpojis. Dievkalpojumā godinām Dievu un tāpēc tie, kuŗiem uzticēta dievkalpojuma vadīšana, apzinoties savu lielo atbildību, pūlās, lai tas būtu tik labs, cik vien iespējams. Dievkalpojumu skaits un dievlūdžēju skaits ir atsevišķi norādīts.

- Kopš 1970. gadu vidus, Sv. Andreja draudzē ir bijuši atsevišķi angļu valodas dievkalpojumi. Lai gan tiem bija ļoti liela pretestība, tos stingri aizstāvēja tā laika draudzes mācītāji, lai ļautu draudzes locekļiem, kas precējušies ar nelatviešiem, turpināt saistības ar draudzi. Tomēr angļu valodas dievkalpojumi palika zināmā pabērna lomā. Turpretim, pēdējos gados divvalodu dievkalpojumi Sidrabēnē ir uzrunājuši ievērojamu skaitu dievlūdzēju.
- Bija arī redzams, ka dievlūdzēju skaits pieauga Ziemsvētku vakara dievkalpojumā, kad pārgājām uz divvalodu dievkalpojumu, un ka skaits samazinājās dievkalpojumā, kas bija tikai angļu valodā. Tādēļ draudzes padome pagājušajā rudenī mani lūdza sākt regulāri veidot divvalodas dievkalpojumus, kas ļautu visiem draudzē vienlaikus piedalīties dievkalpojumā. Šāda izkārtojuma nepieciešamību arī apstiprina tādi notikumi kā bēres. Pati varu konstatēt, ka, kopš esmu Sv. Andreja draudzes mācītāja, esmu novadījusi ne vairāk kā 1% no visām bērēm tikai latviešu valodā. Lūkojam atrast dievkalpojuma izkārtojumu, kas liturģijā atstāj pamata elementus latviešu valodā, bet kur vārds tiek sludināts abās valodās, lai katrs kaut ko paņemtu sev līdz. Pateicos par jūsu novērojumiem un ieteikumiem.
- Citi īpašie dievkalpojumi: Kopā ar lietuviešu rom. katoļu bīskapa vietnieku, Msgr Edmond Putrimas, pārveidojām Aizvesto piemiņas dievkalpojuma kārtību, kas nebija mainīta kopš kādiem 1970-ajiem gadiem. Dievkalpojums notika mūsu dievnamā un, pieminot smago politisko situāciju, kas veidojās Ukrainā ar Krievijas iebrukumu, piedalījās arī ukraiņu sabiedrības pārstāvji un garīdznieks. Kopā ar Hamiltonas Kristus draudzes mācītāju, Dāvi Kaņepu, izveidojām Dziesmu svētku ekumēnisko dievkalpojumu, Hamiltonas anglikāņu baznīcā, šoreiz kopā ar katedrāles draudzi. Dievkalpojumā piedalījās LELBāL archibīskaps E.E. Rozītis, kā arī bijušais Niagāras anglikāņu diecēzes bīskaps Ralph Spence. Turpinu vadīt dievkalpojumus Kristus Dārzā.
- Ļoti priecājos par labo sadarbību ar mūsu ērgelnieku un ansambļa vadītāju, kā arī ar mūsu pērminderiem. Viņu devums nes svētību visai draudzei.

2. Mācīšana

- Šogad Klusā laika pārdomas savijām kopā ar Kanadas apgabala konferenci, kas notika Sv. Jāņa draudzes telpās. Referents bija LELBA

Rietumu apgabala prāvests, Kārlis Žols, kurš uzrunāja zīmīgus jautājumus un ieskatus par temu: "Bībeli lasot, Bībele lasa mūs."

- Iesvētes mācības turpinājās līdz vasarai. Pateicos Kalnu/Kalniņu ģimenei par viesmīlību, gādājot iesvētamiem vietu, kur rīkot savu saietu, kā arī Līgai Miklašēvicai, kuŗa atsāk mācīt jauniesācējus. 2014. gada pilnsapulces pārskatā norādīju, ka 2015. gadā nebūs iesvētību. Iesvētes mācības ir iesākuši Markus Keon, Emīls Lūsis-Zondo, kā arī Pauls un Jēkabs Šulcs, kuŗus iesvētīs Klīvlendē, kur dzīvo vairums viņu piederīgo. Iesvētības būs 2016.g.
- Sidrabenes nometnē atkal varēju vadīt Bībeles stundas bērniem, kur mans amatbrālis Dāvis Kaņeps izpalīdzēja, kad man nebija iespējams ierasties.
- Ciešanu laikā izsūtīju "Domu graudus" lietojot "Mail Chimp", lai palīdzētu draudzes locekļiem ievirzīt savas domas uz šī gada laika dziļo nozīmi.

3. Liecināšana

- 2. aprīlī novadīju pusdienas laika meditāciju St. Andrew's Presbyterian baznīcā, Simcoe St, tad 5. aprīlī svētbrīdi LNAK sesijā
- Novadīju svētbrīžus pie kritušo varoņu pieminējam Saulainē 10. maijā un 8. novembrī, Valsts svētkos Latviešu Centrā un svētbrīžus Centra pensionāriem. Piedalījos Melnās lentes dienas aktā Budapest Park (Central Eastern Europe Committee), un Daugavas vanadzū svētkos "Vasarai aizejot", Sidrabēnē.
- Svētbrīdis Jāņa Ozollapas paziņu stiprināšanai Sidrabēnē.
- Sv. Andreja dievnamā: "Bēgļu stāsti, mūsu stāsti", vakars veltīts 70 gadiem kopš latvieši devās bēgļu gaitās no Latvijas uz Vāciju un Zviedriju. Esmu pārliecināta, ka iepazīties ar notikumu dziļāko nozīmi palīdzēs mūsu sabiedrībai izprast trimdas nozīmi no cita redzes loka. No daudziem esmu dzirdējusi, ka šis ir bijis viens no nozīmīgākajiem pasākumiem, kas te rīkots pēdējos gados. Kaut gan tas nebija paredzēts kā dievkalpojums, būtībā vakars tāds izveidojās. Plašā klātesošo skaitā piedalījās ļaudis no visām paaudzēm, visām draudzēm, kā arī tādi, kas nepieder nevienā draudzē, un kori dziedāja pārstāvji no visiem Toronto korjiem. Bija ārkārtīgi liels prieks un gandarījums sadarboties ar apdāvinātiem cilvēkiem, kas saredzēja vakara jēgu.

- Tikos ar Latvijas Republikas vēstnieku, Juri Audariņu, lai pārrunātu nepieciešamību uzrunāt un uzņemt tā saucamās “otrās” latviešu imigrācijas locekļus mūsu lokā. Saredzu, ka šim ir jābūt nākotnes uzsvaram. Tas pilnībā ietilpst mūsu uzdevumā – mīlēt savu tuvāko kā sevi pašu.

4. Kalpošana

- Šeit arī ietilpst amata darbi kā kristības, iesvētības, laulības, bēres. Par tiem ir norādīts atsevišķi.
- Par pastorālo darbu un kazuālijām (augšminētajiem amata darbiem) esmu rakstījusi sīkāk 2014. gada pārskatā. Turpinu pārrunas ar pāriem pirms laulībām, kā arī ar kristāmo bērnu vecākiem. Šogad skaists jauninājums bija Alīzes Siksnas kristībās, kur vecāki iepazīstināja ar Bībeles pantu, ko viņi bija izvēlējušies savai meitiņai un tā deva aizkustinošu liecību dievlūdžiem.
- Kā agrāk, veltīju vismaz vienu dienu nedēļā apciemojumiem, vai nedēļās, kad ir bēres, gatavošanās izvadīšanai ieskaita laiku, ko pavadu ar tuviniekiem viņu mājās, ar ļoti reti izņēmumiem.
- Rudenī pirmoreiz satikās daži tie, kas apņēmušies veidot jaunu aprūpes grupu. Starplaikā ir radusies iespēja mums sadarboties ar citu draudzi (Agricola somu draudzi un eventuēli ar citām draudzēm), lai saņemtu apmācību.

5. Cits

*Tad, kad bailēs dzīve aptumst,
Kristus gaismu došu tev,
Savas rokas sniegsu pretīm,
Mieru glāstu dāvāšu.*

- Šogad pirmoreiz manā rīcībā bija “pastor’s discretionary fund”. Citās, Kanadas, draudzēs tas ir pazīstams iestādījums, kas ļauj draudzes mācītājam sniegt praktisku palīdzību tiem, kas nonākuši grūtībās. Pagājušajā gadā piešķīru naudu, vai pārtikas kartiņas divām personām.

Tas atņēma viņiem spiediena kaut vai uz īsu mirkli. Saņēmēju vārdi ir, protams, anonīmi.

- Rudenī saņēmām satricinošas ziņas par draudzes locekļa, Jāņa Ozollapas, pazušanu. Mēs viņu kristījām un ievedām draudzē 2013. gada rudenī. Jāņa dzīves biedre, Patricia Harris, ir jau rakstījusi pateikties par draudzes locekļu devīgumu un sirsnīgo atbalstu. Dāsni sniegtajā palīdzībā varēja manīt dzīvā Kristus žēlastības pieskārienu. Tas bija vienkārši brīnišķīgi.
- Pagājušajā gada LELBA Kanadas apgabala konferencē apstiprināja prāv. emer. Dāvi Kaņepu kā manu vietnieku. Šī sadarbība ir bijusi liela svētība.
- 2014. gada Eastern Synod Assembly klātesošie apstiprināja jaunu draudžu sadali ar jaunu uzdevumu. Tagad fokuss ir uz to, kā palīdzēt draudzēm un draudžu vadībai īstenot savu kalpošanu un tālāko misiju. Toronto apkārtnē tika sadalīta trijās daļās. Mūsu draudze tagad pieder pie Toronto Central Area. Bīskaps Michael Pryse ir man uzticējis tās vadīšanu uz nākamajiem trim gadiem. Starplaikā esmu izraudzījusi savu vadības komandu, kas ļoti auglīgi un enerģiski darbojas un šobrīd plāno iepazīšanās dienu aprīļa beigās. Tur draudžu vadība varēs viena ar otru iepazīties un attīstīt veidus kā sadarboties, lai paplašinātu un padziļinātu savu darbību un efektivitāti. Mūsu apgabala vadības grupa ir izmeklējusi kā viena no trim, kas saņems papildus apmācības šajā gadā. Pirmajā tikšanās reizē ar pārējiem prāvestiem, bīskaps uzsvēra, ka mums pirmajā vietā ir darbs savās draudzēs, un ka, protams, mūsu darbība apgabalā būs ierobežota.

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

Kristus mīlestībā, jūsu mācītāja

Ilze Kuplēna-Ewart

**2014. gada STATISTIKA/
2014 Congregation Statistics**

MIRUŠI / DECEASED (19)

Aleksandrs Budrēvics, Edmunds Baumanis, Nikolājs Bulmanis, Milda Cipul, Gunārs Dreimanis, Vēsma Ernstsons, Elmārs Jansons, Gvīdo Kārklīšs, Luīze Kopštāls, Ausma Korbs, Anita Korbs, Rasma Krūmiņš, Ērika Krustiņš, Eleonora Oliņš, Irma Plīsis, Irēne Punka, Ēvalds Višķers, Erna Zalamans, Rasma Zubāns

KRISTĪTI / BAPTIZED

Laila Dearing, Marisa Matīss, Markus Rose, Alīze Sikсна

IESVĒTĪTI / CONFIRMED

Vilnis Kalniņš, Kristīne Keon, Marisa Matīss, Daila Pērkons

IZSTĀJUŠIES / TRANSFERRED MEMBERSHIP

Valdis Briedis, Ieva Fraser
Uz Hamiltonu: Elizabete Ludviks, Kaspars Ludviks-Pitkin, Stella Ludviks-Pitkin

SALAUĻĀTI / MARRIED

Laila Innus + Ryan Moore
Kārlis Blūms + Silvija Resnis
Aleksandra Jankevics + Brian Foulis
Amanda Meijers + Matthew Taylor

DRAUDZES LOCEKĻI KOPUMĀ / 2014 CHANGES

4 kristīti
4 iesvētīti
4 salaulāti pāri
19 miruši
5 izstājušies
Aktīvi draudzes locekļi uz 2014. g. decembri: 655, no kuriem 585 pilntiesīgi

2014 gada DIEVKALPOJUMI/NUMBER OF SERVICES Kopā: 64

Latviski: 41 / Angliski: 6 / Abās valodās: 17
No tiem: Sidrabenē: 8 / Kopā ar Sv. Jāņa draudzi: 4 / Ar igauņu draudzi: 2
Augusta dievkalpojumi Sv. Jāņa baznīcā un Kristus Dārza dievkalpojumi nav ieskaitīti
Citi: Ecumenical Commemoration (14. jūnijs), Kapu Svētki, Valsts Svētki
Dievlūdžēji kopumā/Total number of worshippers: 3,544
Pie dievgalda/total number of communicants: 1,014
Viesmācītāji/Guest preachers: Bishop Michael Pryse, F.T. Kristbergs, Ivars Gaide, Dāvis Kaņeps, Ron Ewart, Dan Phannenhour

**2014. GADA KOMITEJAS UN DALĪBNIEKI /
2014 COMMITTEES**

Valde / Executive:

Voldemārs Innus, Indra Mertena, Arnis Budrēvics, Jānis Tannis, Kārlis Blūms, Gundega Melli, Aija Mazsīle

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 Mertena*, Kārlis Sikсна*, Agris Robežnieks, Imants Ķivlis
(* norāda kuriem termiņš padomē beidzas)

Revīzijas komisija / Supervisory Committee:

Velta Zvīdre, Valda Gustava*, Elmārs Bērziņš

Pērminderi / Elders:

Guntis Bērziņš, Irēne Bula, Ēriks Dzintars, Imants Ķivlis (Sidrabenē), Dzidra Krūmiņa, Linda Luck, Māra Zariņa

Mūzikas komiteja / Music committee: Dāvids Šmits, Vaira Gertnere

Dāmu komiteja / Ladies' Committee:

Inta Briede (Priekšniece /Chair)

Sidrabenes pārvalde / Sidrabene Property Committee:

Valdis Kauliņš, Imants Ķivlis, Rita Āpše, Vilnis Blūms, Jurate Muižniece, Valdis Korbs, Valdis Pālēns, Chris Ireland, Andris Bergvalds, Juris Eglītis (†)

Sidrabenes bērnu nometne / Camp Sidrabene:

Linda Lakata, Sandra Thiele, Lionel Zondo, Ivars Jēgeris, Pauls Zobs, Sandra Kalniņa, Devin Dzelme, Katrīna Vikše, Juris Eglītis (†), Laila Ozola- Gillespie, Anita Thomas, Kurtis Grietiņš, Vilnis Kalniņš

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

Māc. Ilze Kuplēna-Ewart, Linda Lakata, Imants Ķivlis, Kārlis Blūms, Silvija Shedden, Voldemārs Innus, Andrejs Grīnbergs, John Roce, Jurate Muižniece, Jānis Ozols, Andris Bergvalds, Ivars Jansons

Palīdzība Latvijai komiteja / Aid to Latvia committee:

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

Draudzes dzīves veicināšanas komiteja / "Stewardship committee":

(neaktīva 2014. g / inactive in 2014) Lauma Stikuta, Līga Miklašēvica, Valdis Kauliņš

Nākotnes komiteja / Future Planning Committee:

Auseklis Zaķis, Māc. Ilze Kuplēns-Ewart, Aija Mazsīle, Indra Mertena, Līga Miklašēvica, Uldis Zommers

Savstarpēja atbalsta kalpošanā komiteja / Mutual Ministry committee:

Imants Ķivlis, Lauma Stikuta, Solveiga Kārklīņa, Uldis Zommers

Out of the Cold: Imants Ķivlis, Silvija Szot.

Draudzes Ziņas: Skaidrīte Leja

PADOMES PRIEKŠNIEKA ZIŅOJUMS

Pagājušais gads ir bijis izaicinošs un reizē devis gandarījumu. Ievērojama daļa no mana, no padomes un no draudzes brīvprātīgo darbinieku laika tika veltīta jautājumiem sakarā ar mūsu baznīcas ēkas pārdošanu, mūsu paredzētajai pāriešanai uz Sv. Jāņa baznīcu un apsvērumiem, kā mēs izmantosim Sidrabeni plašākai draudzes darbībai nākotnē.

Varu sniegt jaunākās ziņas sakarā ar mūsu baznīcas ēkas pārdošanu Grace Church draudzei. 2015. gada 29. janvārī Riina Klaas, Dan McDonald un es parakstījām Grace Church iesniegto pirkšanas līgumu. Pirkšanas cena ir \$4,150,000. Grace Church ir jādod apstiprinājums 2015. gada 23. februārī, ka viņi pirks mūsu baznīcas ēku un divas dienas pēc tam jāiesniedz \$125,000 neatgūstama iemaksa. Pirkšanas/pārdošanas slēgšanas datums būs ne vēlāk par 2015. gada 1. oktobri.

Kaut gan mums ir pagājis ilgāk nekā paredzējam, lai nonāktu pie šī jaunā līguma ar Grace Church, šis process ar Grace Church ir bijis atklāts, skaidrs un nepārprotams. Mēs esam sadarbojušies ar cieņu ievērojot visu triju draudžu vajadzības. Šis jaunais pirkšanas līgums to atspoguļo.

Visu pagājušo gadu turpinājām kārtot lietas sakarā ar mūsu draudzei un igauņu draudzei piederošo baznīcas inventāru. Kādas mantas pārvedam uz Sv. Jāņa baznīcu, kādas esam pārdevuši un daļu likvidējuši. Īpaši vēlos atkal pateikties Intai Briedei, Ojāram Silam un Sarmai Gaidei par viņu pūlēm šai sakarā. Turklāt, Anda Libere un Edīte Sila ir pavadījušas milzīgi daudz laika izskatot visus mūsu dokumentus, lai noskaidrotu, kas ir paturams un kas nav. Rezultātā mūsu draudzei būs racionāli sakārtots arhīvs.

Lai papildinātu mūsu vēsturisko dokumentāciju, Skaidrīte Leja ir vadījusi video projektu, kas ietver mūsu draudzes locekļu domas un uzskatus šajā pārejas posma laikā. Videolentā ir arī uzņemti pagājušā gada draudzes notikumi.

No šī projekta iegūsim dokumentālu videofilmu, kas būs svarīgs papildinājums mūsu arhīvam.

Mēs arī esam apsprieduši un plānojuši savas darbības pārcelšanu uz Sv. Jāņa baznīcu. Kārlis Jansons un es parakstījām sadarbības līgumu, ko izstrādājam vairāku mēnešu laikā un ko abu draudžu padomes ir apstiprinājušas. Šajā līgumā, kas atbilst abu draudžu vajadzībām, ļoti skaidri aprakstīts, kā mēs sadarbosimies Sv. Jāņa baznīcā.

Šīs apspriedes un šis process ir mūs ārkārtīgi labi nostādījis sadarbībai nākotnē.

Jānis Tannis un Sarma Gaide ir iesaistīti izkārtot mūsu biroja administratīvās darbības gludu pārcelšanos uz mums piešķirto telpu Sv. Jāņa baznīcā.

Padomes un pārvaldes Sidrabenes nama komitejai notikušas dažas sēdes Sidrabenē, lai apskatītu, kādas pārmaiņas būtu nepieciešamas, lai tur varētu notikt dievkalpojumi vienreiz mēnesī. Tika norādīts uz dažām galvenām vajadzībām - apgaismošanu, akustiku, apsildīšanu un noliktavu. Ir stingrs uzskats, ka mums jāpārbauda, kā Sidrabene var apmierināt visu savu dažādo lietotāju vajadzības pirms apsvešam izdarīt kapitālieguldījumus. Silvija Shedden ir piekritusi vadīt šo procesu. Prasīsim ieteikumus no draudzes locekļiem, no Sidrabenes vasarnīcu īpašniekiem, no mūsu vasaras nometnes un no citiem.

Šī pagājušā gada laikā ir daudz paveikts un vēl daudz vairāk darāmā stāv priekšā. Turpināsim jūs informēt kā lietas attīstīsies un prasīsim jūsu ieteikumus un padomus.

Voldemārs Innus
Padomes priekšnieks

Seko vēstule no Grace Church Toronto mācītāja Dan Macdonald, rakstīta 2015. g. 10. februārī:

Update for the St Andrews Council from the leadership of Grace Toronto:

1. We have a conditional sale of our property on Britain St, which is scheduled to be firmed up by Feb 21, 2015. We anticipate the ability to firm up our commitment to buy St Andrews on Feb 23 as scheduled in our present contract with you, as long as the sellers firm up. The good news is that these sellers have been very timely in all of their inspections, which are completed already, and they do not need financing - they are in cash. So we have good hopes for the sale of our property, which would allow us to firm up the purchase of St Andrews.

2. We continue to give thanks to God for the mutual trust that has existed between the leaders of St Andrews and the leadership of Grace Toronto. While we mourn the fact that this process has gone on for so long, we have felt at every step that St Andrews, in all of it's leadership and at all times, has shown great integrity and good faith in attempting to partner with us in this deal. We have tried to match the level of good faith, trust and integrity that has been shown by your leaders, and than you for both the example, and your patient willingness to move ahead despite some of the obstacles we have both encountered.

We feel confident that the present level of good faith, intentional desire to 'get a deal done' in an appropriate way, and flexibility on both sides as to how to proceed in the most effective manner, has and will continue to be integral to this process of completing our intended transaction. Sometimes we have to think outside the box to make things happen, and we feel that you have linked arms with us in that necessary creativity. We rejoice in that as we move forward with equal desire and flexibility.

In Christ

Dan

KASIERA ZIŅOJUMS ATRODAMS AR FINANČU PĀRSKATIEM

DĀMU KOMITEJAS PĀRSKATS

Dāmu komitejā darbojas 11 aktīvas locekles. Ar prieku mēs gaidām jaunas locekles, kas nāktu mums talkā. Atsevišķās reizēs mums nāk palīdzes, rūpējoties par kafijas galdu svētdienās un par sarīkojumiem sadraudzības veicināšanai un līdzekļu vākšanai.

Notikušas 5 sēdes un Ziemsvētku eglītes vakars decembrī. Sēdes ar dziesmām un ar lūgšanu parasti ievadījusi māc. Ilze Kuplēna-Ewart. Dāmu komiteju vada Inta Briede. Kasiere ir draudzes darbvede Sarma Gaide. Sekretāres ir Anita Bredovska un Ingrīda Vairoga. Par altāra greznošanu rūpējušās - Balva Kūla-Bredovska, Rita Ziediņa, Anda Libere un Rita Āpše. Rita Ziediņa arī rūpējusies par altāra segu uzklāšanu un altāra sakārtošanu dievkalpojumiem. Par altāra greznošanu Ziemassvētkos gādāja Elizabete Ludvika. Paldies visām dāmu komitejas locekļēm par lielo

darbu. Vēl pateicība arī Ritai Ziediņai par līdzdalību un palīdzību dāmu komitejas darbā, īpaši par telpu sakārtošanu un galdu salikšanu sarīkojumiem un svētdienu kafijām. Viņas palīdzīgā roka mums pietrūks mūsu „jaunajās mājās”.

Janvārī labi izdevās pankūku brokastis ar izvēli no sešām dažādām pankūku šķirnēm un garšīgām piedevām. Paldies visām cepējām un palīdzēm pie apkalpošanas un trauku mazgāšanas.

Februārī kopā ar padomes locekļiem klājām kafijas galdu draudzes pilnsapulcē un draudzes informācijas sapulcē.

Marta mēnesī ar Intas Briedes palīdzību nogādājām 200 eiro Ilzei Grotei uz Siguldu ārstēšanās vajadzībām.

Labi izdevās 40. Lieldienu brokastis pēc agrā dievkalpojuma, kas bija arī pēdējās mūsu dievnamā. Anita Bredovska ar palīdzēm rūpējās par cienastu pāri par 100 dalībniekiem. Mēs pašas cepām pīrākus un dzeltenmaizi, kā arī katra dāma un padomes loceklis atnesa krāsotas olas.

Pirms vasaras dāmu komiteja pasniedza \$ 5000.- čeku Sidrabenes pārvaldei, lai palīdzētu uzlabot „Sēnīti”, kur vasarā maziem bērniem plunčāties.

Šī nauda bija sakrāta no dāmu komitejas rīkotajām pusdienām Sidrabenē.

Rudenī mums stāvēja lieli darbi priekšā, lai savestu kārtībā mūsu inventāru. Protams, tas darbs nav vēl beidzies. Mūsu grāmatu galdam agrāk iepirktais reliģiska satura grāmatas nosūtījām Latvijas Universitātes teoloģijas fakultātei un uz Rīgas Lutera draudzei.

Septembrī rīkojām „Retro” pēcpusdienu, lai atcerētos kādi bija draudzes vakari draudzes sākuma gados. Godalgu par piemērotāko 50.-60. gadu apģērbu saņēma Skaidrīte Leja.

Oktobrī pēc Pļaujas svētku dievkalpojuma, draudzes pēcpusdienā mūs ieprincināja mūzikālais ansamblis „Skanda”, Jāņa Beloglāzova vadībā. Par cienastu rūpējās Erna Ķivle ar palīdzēm un bija bagātīgs rudens ražas loterijas galds Anitas Bredovskas izkārtojumā.

Novembrī notika četras piparkūku cepšanas talkas, pa dienu un arī vakarā. Labāka atsaucība bija pa dienu. Mēs izcepām 65 mārciņas mīklas un ieņēmām \$1,100. Paldies visām piparkūku cepējām un arī visiem piercējiem!!

Decembrī sagādājam svētku paciņas un apsveikuma kartītes Kristus Dārza iemītniekiem. Paldies Edītei Zariņai par sagādātām paciņām un kartītēm. Dāmu komiteja ar savām otrām pusēm un viesiem pakavējās pie svētku eglītes, baudot garšīgas vakariņas un dziedot svētku dziesmas.

Apsveicam savas draudzes locekļus 75., 80., 85. un 90. jubilejā. Pēc 90 gadiem tos apsveic katru gadu. Sirsnīgs paldies Līgai Gaidei, kuŗa veic šo skaisto apsveikšanu, uzrakstot un izsūtot kartītes.

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

Sirsnīga pateicība draudzes locekļiem par dāmu komitejas atbalstīšanu.

Inta Briede
Dāmu komitejas priekšniece

2014. gada Sidrabenes pārskats

Sidrabenes pārvaldē darbojas - Valdis Kauliņš (priekšnieks), Imants Ķivlis (vice-priekšnieks), Rita Āpše (kasiere), Jurate Muižniece, Valdis Korbs, Chris Ireland, Valdis Pālēns, Vilnis Blūms, Juris Eglītis, Andris Bergvalds. Finanču komitejā piedalās Jānis Ozols un īpašuma apsaimniekošanas komitejā Ivars Jansons.

Pagājušajā gadā notikušas 8 pārvaldes sēdes. Sidrabenē ir 53 vasarnīcu īpašnieki.

Draudzes locekļi būs iepriecināti uzzināt, ka Sidrabenes pārvalde ir sasniegusi savu mērķi, panākot to, ka jau otro gadu Sidrabene darbojas finansiāli neatkarīgi. Sidrabenes pārvalde sedz visus tekošos Sidrabenes apsaimniekošanas izdevumus, kas ieskaita Burlingtonas nodokļus, apdrošināšanas maksas, drošības sistēmas, pārvaldnieka mājas uzturēšanas izdevumus, pārvaldnieka algu, ūdens filtrēšanu, peldbaseina uzturēšanas izdevumus, kafējnīcas un sabiedrisko nometnes ēku uzturēšanas un labošanas izdevumus, elektrības un telefona rēķinus, pārvaldnieka mašīnas atļaujas un apdrošināšanas maksas, dažādu iekārtu un darba mašīnu uzturēšanu un labošanu, grāmatvedības un biroja izdevumus.

Sidrabenes finanču komiteja apstiprina, ka visi izdevumi tiešām ir nepieciešami. Neskatoties uz neparedzētiem izdevumiem (tiem, kas radās sakarā ar 2013. gada ziemas vētras postījumiem, un Bell kabeļu labošanu, kā arī ģenerātoru, zāles pļaujamās mašīnas un saldētavas iegādi) un ar mazāk nekā paredzētiem ienākumiem (piem. Vasaras Vainagu svētkos), tomēr varējām visu nokārtot ar aizņēmumu no mūsu pašu uzkrājumu konta, ko 2015. gada budžetā paredzēts atmaksāt. Pārvaldnieks Andrejs Grīnbergs saņem vairākus nocenojumus darbiem un uzrauga, lai tie tiktu izpildīti kā paredzēts pēc līguma.

Daudzus Sidrabenes projektus un labošanas darbus veic brīvprātīgie darbinieki. Sidrabeniešu līgumi

paredz, ka katras vasarnīcas īpašnieks nostrādā vienu talkas dienu un dežūrē vismaz vienu maiņu pie vārtiem, lai pārbaudītu vai automašīnām, kas iebrauc Sidrabenē ir sezonas auto lipekļi, vai jāprasa iebraukšanas maksa. Kā redzams no skaitļiem un faktiem par Sidrabeni, ienākumi no sidrabeniešu gada maksām (\$63,143) sedz nodokļu, elektrības un apdrošināšanas izdevumus un vēl atliek \$7,846 citiem izdevumiem.

Šogad financēm ir palīdzējuši dažādi ziedojumi, ieskaitot ziedojumus Gvīdo Kārklīņa, Anitas Korbas, Ausmas Korbas un Irmas Plīses piemiņai. Paldies Andai Sīpoliņai par ziedojumu jaunu matraču iegādei (izīrējamām pārnakšņošanas telpām). Īpaša pateicība pienākas DVKV (par \$5,000), Sv. Andreja draudzes dāmu komitejai (par \$5,000) un visiem atsevišķiem ziedotājiem bērnu plūncbaseina "Sēnītes" uzlabošanai, lai tā atbilstu jaunajiem valdības ūdens drošības noteikumiem un varētu turpināt iepriecināt visjaunākos Sidrabenes apmeklētājus.

Miltonas pilsētai izplešoties, ir pieaugusi apkārtējo iedzīvotāju interese izmantot Sidrabeni dažādu organizāciju vai privātu personu pasākumiem kuŗu īres maksas ir ievērojama daļa no ienākumiem. Halton skolu valde savai programmai "Bronte Creek Project" ir izmantojusi Sidrabeni jau gandrīz 20 gadu. Vairākas grupas saviem pasākumiem ir aizrunājušas nedēļas nogales jau mēnešiem uz priekšu, bet vēl atliek daudz brīvu datumu un iespējas arī draudzes locekļiem noīrēt kafejnīcu vai telpas Sidrabkalnā viesību, kāzu vai kādu sarīkojumu rīkošanai. Par telpu īrēšanu lūdzu sazinieties ar Sidrabenes pārvaldnieku Andreju Grīnbergu.

Šogad tika iegādāta un ierīkota ģenerātoru sistēma ar lielu propāngāzes tanku pie Sidrabkalna, lai nodrošinātu ēkai elektrības strāvas piegādi nepieciešamības gadījumos. 2013. gada decembrī ledus lietus vētras dēļ visā Sidrabenē 7 dienas nebija elektrības. Pēdējo divu gadu laikā 15-20 reīžu ir pārtrūkusi elektrības strāvas piegāde, vairākkārt traucējot gan vasaras bērnu nometnes

nodarbības, gan arī "Bronte Creek" skolnieku mācības, kad vismaz divreiz skolnieki tika aizsūtīti mājās elektrības strāvas trūkuma dēļ. Lai gan 2014. gada budžetā tas nebija paredzēts, Sidrabenes pārvalde, apzinoties, ka šādi elektrības trūkuma gadījumi nav pieņemami, nolēmu no sava uzkrājumu fonda līdzekļiem iegādāties ģenerātoru sistēmu, kas izmaksāja \$15,084, ieskaitot propāngāzes tanku. Tagad varam būt droši, ka vismaz visiem Sidrabkalna lietotājiem vairs nepietrūks elektrības telpu apgaismošanai vai apsildīšanai un ka ledusskapji darbosies un ūdenscaurules nepārsprāgs.

Lai gan šīnī pārskatā vairāk pievērsamies financēm, vēlamies norādīt, ka Sidrabene nav draudzei par apgrūtinājumu, kā varbūt daži vēl domā. Tomēr Sidrabenei nepieciešams draudzes locekļu atbalsts un līdzdalība nākamās sezonas paredzētajos draudzes vai Sidrabenes pārvaldes rīkotajos pasākumos.

Ceram, ka arī kādi no jums uzņemtos kaut ko sarīkot Sidrabenē, kā piemēram zolītes vai novusa spēles turnīru, grāmatu kluba sanāksmi, pārrunu grupu, mūzikālu priekšnesumu, mākslas vai fotogrāfijas izstādi, vai kādu citu nodarbību, kas jums interesētu. Varat katrā laikā atsaukties uz šo aicinājumu un Sidrabenes pārvalde palīdzēs gādāt par jūsu pasākuma labu izdošanos. Piemēram, kad Valdis Liepiņš referēja Latviešu Centrā, uzaicināju viņu Sidrabenē pastāstīt vairāk par savu pieredzi saeimā un Valdis priecīgi apsolījās to darīt kādā aprīļa vai maija nogalē. Noteikto datumu vēl sarunāsim un izzīnosim.

Sidrabenes sezonas atklāšanas sarīkojums paredzēts sestdien, 30. maijā. Aicinām visus draudzes locekļus uz "barbekjū" un sadraudzību ar sidrabeniešiem!

Valdis Kauliņš, Sidrabenes pārvaldes priekšsēdis

Skaitļi un fakti par Sidrabeni

- 2014 ieņemts pie vārtiem par auto lipekļiem un auto iebraukšanu - \$10,555
- 2014 atlikums no Jāņu sarīkojuma ieejas biļetēm (apm. 900) - \$8,780.58
- 2014 pārdotas Vasaras Vainagu Svētku ieejas biļetes - apm. 450
- 2014 atlikums no sezonas slēgšanas sarīkojuma - \$2,076.00
- 2014 ieņemts par sidrabeniešu zemes nomas un nodokļu maksām - \$63,143.27
- 2014 peļņa no kafejnīcas atlikuma - \$5,627.00
- 2014 ieņemts par Sidrabkalna īri Halton skolas "Bronte Creek Project" - \$47,050
- 2014 ieņemts par īrēm - kopsumma \$86,626.93
- 2014 izdots par Burlingtonas nodokļiem - \$17,376.65
- 2014 izdots par apdrošināšanu - \$12,340.08
- 2014 izdots par elektrību - \$15,581.00
- 2014 izdots par labošanas darbiem - kopsumma \$58,031.39 (iegādāta ģenerātoru sistēma, jauns jumta segums pārvaldnieka mājai, jauni logi Ķemeru ēkai, sofīti Ambulances ēkai, atjaunotas sienas un grīda dušu telpās, uzlabota brīvdabas skatuve, jauns uzraksts pie Appleby Line ceļa)
- 2014 uzlabots plūncbaseins (Sēnīte) saskaņā ar jauniem noteikumiem, izmantojot īpaši saziēdotos līdzekļus
- Sidrabenes pilnsapulce - Sidrabenes kafejnīcā sestdien, 21. februārī, plkst. 14:00**

2014. gadā Sidrabene izīrēta dažādiem pasākumiem:

Bērnu nometnes:

- ☀Sv. Andreja draudzes bērnu vasaras nometne (3 ned.)
- ☀"Youth for Christ Church" nometne (1 ned.)
- ☀"Camp Kahuna" nometne (1 ned.)
- ☀"Redeemer Bible Church" nometne "Camp Bring a Friend" (10 dienas)
- ☀"Heroes Academy Day Camp" nometne (7 ned.) pa dienu sporta laukumā pāri Brontes upītei

- "Bronte Creek Project" mācības 35 skolniekiem, visu skolas gadu no sept. līdz jūn.
- 30 dažādas skautu un gaidu grupas nedēļas nogalēs (no Burlington, Oakville, Milton, Hamilton, Georgetown)
- "28th Orchard" skautu grupa - ceturtd. vakaros
- vasaras mēnešos - vingrošana brīvā dabā - pirmd. & trešd. vakaros
- suņu apmācības kursi lielajā zālē - otrd. vakaros
- divas jūras kadetu grupas apmācību nogalēs (no Oakville)
- "Halton Youth Symphony" atpūtas nedēļas nogale
- divi jogas festivāli
- Burlingtonas "Heritage Place" pensionāru mājas iemītnieku divas ekskursijas ar vakariņām kafejnīcā
- piecas kāzu viesības (2 latviešu)
- dažādas privātās ģimeņu viesības

Jaunais Sidrabenes uzraksts

2014 .g. pirms Jāņiem tika mainīts Sidrabenes ceļa zīme pie Appleby Line ceļa no "Sidrabene - Latvian Children's Camp" uz "**Sidrabene - Latvian Recreation & Retreat Centre**", atstājot "St. Andrew's Ev.Lutheran Latvian Church" nosaukumu. Uzraksts tagad norāda, ka Sidrabeni var izmantot dažādos veidos un ka tā ir daudz vairāk nekā tikai bērnu nometne.

Kopš uzraksta maiņas ir bijusi lielāka interese par Sidrabenes īrēšanas iespējām.

SIDRABENES BĒRNU NOMETNE 2014 (13. jūl. - 3. aug.)

Nometnes gars bija labs un draudzības bija ļoti stipras šogad. Tiešām jutāmies kā viena liela ģimene. Vadītāji bija mīļi, sajūsmināti un aktīvi. Ēdiens bija garšīgs. Nodarbības bija dažādas un interesantas. Vienīgi žēl, ka nometne ilga tikai 3 nedēļas

Dziesmu svētku dēļ.

Komandante: Linda Lakata (arī administrācija)
Zēnu gala vadītāji: Vilnis Kalniņš (arī ūdenssargs, palīgkomandants), Kurtis Grietiņš, Alex Thiele, Paul Zobs

Meiteņu gala vadītājas: Anna Tauriņa, Tamāra Lūse-Zondo, Silvija Tauriņa

Cāļu kalna vadītājas: Vita Voitkāne (galvenā vadītāja, no Itālijas), Natālija Vāgnere, Amanda Leja

CIT programmas vadītājs: Devin Dzelme
Virtuves darbinieki: Ēriks Maldonis (pavārs), Ingrida Eglīte, Ārija Eliason, Andrea Thiele
Sandra Thiele (veselība, rokdarbi, saimniece)
Mācītāja Ilze Kuplēna-Ewart (kristīgā audzināšana)
CIT programmā piedalījās 4 jaunieši – Aleks Bruņiņš, Kristaps Grigioni (Itālija), Kristin Lakats, un Katrina Reid (BC).

Sakarā ar Hamiltonas Dziesmu svētkiem nometne ilga 3 nedēļas un bērnu kopskaits ir mazāks. Salīdzinot skaitļus ar iepriekšējiem gadiem, esam vienmērīgā līmenī. Kopā piedalījās 34 bērni: – pirmajā nedēļā 33, otrajā 19 un trešajā 21. Starp tiem pārstāvētas 5 jaunas ģimenes ar 8 bērniem, kas šogad nometnē pirmoreiz.

Kristīgo audzināšanu pārzināja mācītāja Ilze, vadot nodarbības pirmajās divās nedēļās. Mācītājs Dāvis Kaņeps tās vadīja trešajā nedēļā. Dievkalpojumi notika svētdienās un sveču svētbrīži trešdienas vakaros baznīcā. Bērni gatavoja materiālus un aktīvi piedalījās nometnes dievkalpojumos. Nometnotāji arī piedalījās svētbrīdī Saulainē ar dziesmu un lasījumu. Katru ceturtdienu bērni, sadalīti vecuma grupās, piedalījās mācītāju vadītajās nodarbībās, kur pārrunāja Bībeles stāstu un gatavoja nedēļas stāsta temai atbilstošus rokdarbus. Nedēļas tema arī tika ieviesta citās nodarbībās un rokdarbu posmos, un bērnu gatavotie

rokdarbi tika izstādīti. Kā ierasts, ik rītu nometnē ievada dienu ar rīta lūgšanu un pirms un pēc maltītēm vienmēr ir kopīgas galda lūgšanas.

Latviešu valodu lieto kā galveno visās nodarbībās. Latviskums tiek ievīts vispārējā gaisotnē tiešā vai netiešā veidā. Dejojam tautas dejas, dziedam tautas dziesmas un Latvijas himnu, mācāmies par tradīcijām, svinot svētkus, cepjam pīrāgus. Valodas spējas tiek paplašinātas arī rakstiskā veidā – rokdarbos izkārti plakāti ar latviešu rakstu nosaukumiem un nozīmēm, ēdamzālē un citur pa visu nometni izliktas zīmes ar latviešu nosaukumiem nometnes priekšmetiem. Nespējam atstāstīt visu to, ko darām nometnē, bet sniedzam īsu pārskatu par nodarbībām: Pirmajā nedēļā apstaigājām Sidrabeni, spēlējām stafetes, "Britu bulsunī", tautas bumbu, voleju, basketu un futeni, sarīkojām Olimpiādi, gājām ūdens gājienā. Bija arī puīšu/meiteņu vakars, kino vakars, šķēršļu gājiens, ugunskurs, balle. Piekdienas vakarā pārnakšņojām pie upes, sestdienas rītā makšķerējām ar Ivaru Jēgeri. Sestdienas pēcpusdienā devāmies uz Saulaini uz kopīgiem Bērnu svētkiem, kur ciemojāmies, noskatījāmies lugu, pārnakšņojām, piedalījāmies svētbrīdī un kopīgās nodarbībās.

Otrajā nedēļā turpinājām aktīvi izpriecāties – notika dzīvnieku spēle (survival), kazino vakars, ugunskuri, Sidrabumba, "Quidditch", karogspēle, "Ecoville", naktsrotaļas, kino vakars, balle, šķēršļu gājiens. Otrdien pie mums atbrauca "Halton Region Conservation Authority" pārstāvji, ar kuŗu palīdzību iestādījām pāri par 40 mazu kociņu nometnes kalnā (pie zēnu nometnes un Cāļu kalna), lai tie augtu lieli un nākotnē palīdzētu pasargāt nometni no lieliem vejiem, kas plēš teltis. Pavadijām gaišu dienu pie Ontario ezera, kur ietek Bronte upe. Tur turpinājām stiprināt savas kanu un kajaka laivas vadīšanas spējas ar profesionālu apmācību. Svinējām Ziemassvētkus vasaras vidū un baudījām pašceptos pīrāgus, kā arī pašu gatavoto slepeno dāvanu izmaiņu. Noslēdzām nedēļu ar Sporta svētkiem sestdien. Paldies sporta apvienībai (LSAK) par ilggadējo un svarīgo atbalstu!

Trešā nedēļa bija tikpat jautra kā pirmās divas – cēlām torņus un pilis (cietokšņus), spēlējām

"Iranascam", "inflāciju", lielu un mazu grupu spēles, notika ūdenskaujas, balle, āmurspēle, ugunskurs, nakstsrotaļa, pētniecības gājiens un pat nakts šķēršļu gājiens. Pat noturējām paši savu "Town Hall" sanāksmi. Bija meža diena un pludmales prieki, kā arī pārgājiens uz klintīm. CIT kursantiem bija izbraukums uz Toronto Mednieku un Makšķernieku kluba īpašumu – paldies viņiem par šaušanas apmācībām! Nometņotājiem arī bija iespēja vadīt nometnes dzīvi pašvaldības dienā.

Nometnei gatavojoties, ik gadu notiek divas talkas. Pirmā notiek sadarbībā ar Sidrabenes pārvaldi pirms Jāņiem, otra notiek dienu pirms nometne sākas. Notiek nometnes apkārtnes apkopšana, koku zāģēšana, zāles pļaušana, ēku un virtuves tīrīšana, kā arī visādi remonta darbi (dēļu grīdu labošana, trepju pārlikšana un iztaisnošana, u.c.). Paldies visiem palīgiem!

Lielie darbi: Šogad nometnei būs jāatjauno karoga masts - vecais sapuva un rudenī nolūza. Arī ceram turpināt izmainīt vecās sarūsējušās gultas pret jaunām. Ziedojumi vienmēr noder!

Šī vasara tika jauki pavadīta bez jebkādām lielām problēmām vai negadījumiem. Visi ļoti labi satika un sadarbojās. Žēl, ka nometne ilga tikai 3 nedēļas. Nometņotāji paši rakstīja vēstules, lūdzot, lai nometni nesaīsinātu. Pedējās nedēļās arī pietrūka mazo, jo Cāļu kalna bērni gandrīz visi bija sadomājuši ierasties kopā uz pirmo nedēļu.

Nometnes komitejā darbojas brīvprātīgi dalībnieki, kuņi strādā nometnes labā, tiekoties reiz mēnesī pa ziemu, bet biežāk, kad nometnes laiks tuvojas. Piedalās: Devin Dzelme, Ivars Jēgers, Sandra Kalniņa, Linda Lakatā, Lionel Lūsis-Zondo, Laila Ozolā, Sandra Thiele, Anita Thomas, Katrina Vikse un Astrīda Kalniņa kā padomdevēja.

Imants Ķivlis ir mūsu draudzes padomes pārstāvis, kā arī padomdevējs Sidrabenes pārvaldes lietām. Mēs priecātos pieņemt jaunus ieinteresētus locekļus! Jautājumi? Lūdzu sazinieties ar Lindu Lakatu (lakats@interlog.com).

Jauniešu forums: Vilnis Kalniņš, Kurtis Grietiņš, Paul Zobs.

Vairāki cilvēki vienmēr ir strādājuši nometnei līdz, izpalīdzot, kur vajadzīgs. Vēlamies pateikties Andrejam Grīnbergam, Vilim Kleperim, Jurim

Eglītim (†), Vijai Skombai (nometnes arhīvārei). Sīrsnīgs paldies par lielo darbu nometnes labā!

Kā draudze var palīdzēt? Kādas ir mūsu domas/ieceres nākotnei?

Sūtiet savus bērnus un mazbērnus uz nometni!

Atbalstiet nometnes notikumus!

Piedalieties vasarā dievkalpojumos ar mums!

Nometne darbojas bez peļņas, bet jau vairākus gadus sedz visus savus izdevumus (ieskaitot maksājumus Sidrabenes pārvaldei) tikai no ienākumiem un sabiedrības ziedojumiem. Cenšamies vienmēr atrast jaunas līdzekļu vākšanas iespējas, lai atbalstītu nometnes nodarbības un piegādātu nometnes darbībai vajadzīgās lietas. Mūsu mērķis ir gādāt, lai, gan tagad, gan nākotnē, ģimenēm būtu pieejama droša vieta, kur sūtīt savus bērnus pa vasaru, kur ir latviska, kristīga audzināšana draugu vidē. Labprāt pieņemam un esam pateicīgi par visāda veida palīdzību.

Redzam arī latviešu skolās, skautos/gaidās un deju grupās, ka nometnes vecuma bērnu un jauniešu skaits ir samazinājies. Vecāku brīvprātīgā palīdzība un vispārejais darbaspēks arī ir samazinājies. Bet, skatoties uz bērnu dārziem un kristību skaitu, redzam jau nākamo paaudzi, kas drīz vien būs gatava Sidrabenes nometnei. Aicinām ģimenes ar maziem bērniem jau tagad sākt sadarboties ar nometni, lai kopā varam veidot nometnes nākotni.

Meklējam nometnes darbiniekus. Īpaši vajadzīga palīdzība virtuvē un Cāļu kalnā. Arī vecāki ir aicināti pieteikties izpalīdzēt nometnē un/vai dalīties ar saviem talantiem. Esam atsaucīgi visādām sadarbšanās iespējām! Sanāksim kopā, lai nometne turpinātu kalpot draudzei. Bērni ir mūsu nakotne!

Ja interesē nometnes jaunumi, ieskatieties Facebook grupā "SID_Nometne".

Kuŗš šogad būs nometnes komandants?

Kuŗus mīļos bijušos vadītājus gaidām atpakaļ?

Visi zinām, ka ir jāstrādā Sidrabenes labā.

Ar sadraudzību un sadarbību varam daudz panākt. Sadarbosimies un atbalstīsim viens otru, jo galu galā mēs visi esam Sidrabenieši, nometņotāji, draudzes locekļi un latvieši. Nometne aicina jūs

visus ciemos pa nometnes laiku, kā arī aicina apmeklēt mūsu skaisto īpašumu -Sidrabeni - visu cauru gadu.

Prieks paziņot, ka Sidrabenes bērnu nometne 2015. gadā būs četru nedēļu garumā (no 5. jūlija līdz 2. augustam). Nometnes pieteikšanās lapas atrodas nometnes tīmekļa lapā: <http://www.standrewslatvian.org/sidrabene/camp/> Mīļi aicinām visus piedalīties nometnes "Ģimenes dienā" (Family Fun Fest) svētdien, 26. jūlijā! Uz redzēšanos Sidrabenē!

ĒRĢEĻNIEKA ZIŅOJUMS

2014. gads ir bijis zīmīgs Sv. Andreja draudzei, apzinoties, ka tas būs pēdējais šajā baznīcā. Daudzas draudzes svinības un īpašie notikumi bija aizkustinoši, vedinot mūs pārdomāt savu ticību un tās nozīmi gadu gaitā. Mums aizejot no šīs ēkas, tā mums paliek kā svēta vieta, atgādinājums par mūsu derību ar Dievu un kā viņš par mums ir gādājis visus šos gadus.

Šajos apstākļos piedzīvojām arī lielāku līdzdalību mūzikālos pasākumos. Vairāki jauni dziedātāji iesaistījās draudzes korī, uzticamās un rūpīgās koŗa vadītājas, Vairas Gertneres, vadībā. Koris piedalījās dievkalpojumos vairāk nekā pēdējos gados un arī dziedāja garīgā koncerta "Slavēsim to Kungu" kopkorī XIV Latviešu dziesmu svētkos Kanadā jūlijā, Hamiltonā. Sākās arī sadarbība ar mūsu nākotnes koŗa biedriem Sv. Jāņa draudzes vokālajā ansamblī, kas līcis apzināties, kādu bagātību iegūsim, apvienojot talantus. Sākam arī izjust kā mūsu kalpošana mūzikā mainīsies, radot jaunas iespējas, atspoguļojot jaunās telpas raksturīgo akustiku un iekārtojumu.

Lai pēdējo reizi izmantotu dievnamu, 2014. gadā tika rīkoti vairāki īpaši koncerti, ieskaitot neaizmirstamu vakaru ar Artūru Ozoliņu pie klavierēm. Jāpiemin, ka 2015. gadā ērģeles sasniedz savu simtgadi! Plānojam rīkot īpašu koncertu, lai to atzīmētu. Tuvāka informācija par šo ērģeļu koncertu sekos. Vairāki citi koncerti arī tiek plānoti pirms baznīcu nodosim jaunajiem īpašniekiem.

Lūgšim, lai Dievs turpina mūs iedvesmot un dod mums spēju saredzēt un īstenot veidus, kā mūzika var spēlēt lomu, lai bagātinātu mūs un mūsu ticību.

Dāvids Šmits, draudzes ērģeļnieks

Angļu valodas dievkalpojumi

Šoruden padome nolēma atvietot atsevišķus angļu valodas dievkalpojumus ar dievkalpojumiem abās valodās, vairāku iemeslu dēļ: angļu valodas dievkalpojumos nav pieaudzis dievlūdžēju skaits, bet pat samazinājies pēdējos gados. Otrkārt, dievkalpojumi abās valodās veicina ģimeņu piedalīšanos, atbalstot ģimenes saites, pulcējot visas paaudzes kopīgā dievkalpojumā un saliedējot draudzi. Uzsvars uz vienu vai otru valodu mainītos atkarībā no dievlūdžēju sastāva. Dziesmu lapiņa abās valodās ļautu visiem sekot līdz dievkalpojuma norisei.

Dievkalpojumi Sidrabenē

Bija cerēts, ka dievkalpojumi Sidrabenē notiktu ik mēnesi visu cauru gadu un varētu sākties jau ar 2015. gada janvāri. Tie varēs sākties tikai 3. maijā, jo telpas nebija pieejamas. Toties, 4. janvārī notika ģimenes pēcpusdiena Sidrabenē, kuŗā piedalījās apmēram 20 dalībnieku, pavadot laiku lūgšanās, dziesmās, bērniem piemērotās nodarbībās, baudot maltīti un sirsnīgu sadraudzību.

Lai šie dievkalpojumi varētu turpināties un attīstīties, būs nepieciešams dalībniekiem uzņemties atbildību un palīdzēt ar telpas iekārtošanu un dienas norisi. Visi draudzes locekļi ir laipni aicināti izmantot izdevību baudīt dievkalpojumus Sidrabenē, Dieva svētītā dabā.

Trūcīgo atbalsta akcija (Out of the Cold)

Šogad, sakarā ar baznīcas pārdošanas jautājumu, šī akcija netika rīkota. Rudenī bija neskaidrs, vai draudze vairs būs Sv. Andreja baznīcā tajā laikā, kad šo pasākumu parasti rīkoja (janvāra beigās). Karlton ielas apkaimē bija daudz vietējo trūkcūcietēju, un ar 'Out of the Cold' akciju draudzei bija iespēja viņiem sniegt palīdzību un atbalstu.

Nākotnē būs jāpārdomā, kādā veidā šo palīdzības akciju varētu turpināt no draudzes jaunā novietojuma. Varbūt, ka ir iespējas sadarboties ar citām vietējām draudzēm, vai citām grupām, kas jau sniedz līdzīga veida palīdzību.

Savstarpēja atbalsta kalpošanā komiteja

Šī komiteja turpina darboties kā līdzeklis zināmām pārrunām ar mācītāju. Tās loma ir daļēji uz klausīt mācītāju un dot padomu no draudzes viedokļa. Toties otrs šīs grupas nolūks, kas nav vēl izveidojies, ir darboties kā starpniekiem, kam draudzes locekļi varētu konfidenciali izteikt savas rūpes, vai atrisināt domstarpības. Grupā darbojas draudzes locekļi ar plašu pieredzi padomdevēju, cilvēku resursu, administratīvo darījumu un draudzes dzīves jomās. Pagājušajā gadā grupa bija iesaistīta dažos jautājumos sakarā ar baznīcas pārdošanu. Grupa lēnām attīstās un cer turpināt veidot un uzlabot savu kalpošanu gan draudzei, gan atsevišķiem draudzes locekļiem un mācītājam.

PALĪDZĪBA LATVIJAI

Mūsu komitejā pagājušajā gadā darbojās Larisa Gūtmane, Janīna Fogle, Anete Ivsiņa, Elizabete Ludvika, Aija Mazsīle, Andris Rubenis, Erika Yost, Auseklis Zaķis, un talkā nāca daudzi darbarūki.

Nevar noliegt, 2014. gadā bija skumji atvadīties no mūsu draudzes dievnama 383 Jarvis ielā – ne tikai daudzu ģimeņu vēsture (kristības, iesvētības, kāzas, bēres, UN neskaitāmi nozīmīgi dievkalpojumi pa vidu), visu Toronto latviešu trimdinieku vēsture aizsākās tur - ar dievkalpojumiem, ģimnāziju, skautu un gaidu nodarbībām. . . Tomēr - tas neko nemaina mūsu darbībā. Mūsu komitejas darbā pat vēl mazāk, jo vienmēr esam lūkojuši uzrunāt un iesaistīt visus, neatkarīgi no draudzes piederības.

Esam gandarīti, ka gada beigās noslēdzām sadarbības līgumu ar Rīgas Evaņģēlisko draudzi – tas ļaus mums atsākt palīdzību Ilģuciema Sieviešu cietuma bērniem un dos arī jaunas palīdzības darba iespējas.

Ģimenes dienas brokastis jau atkal bija burvīgas – par ko īpaša pateicība Stārstu ģimenei – ceram tās turpināt kopā ar Sv. Jāņa draudzi.

Lusts/Letts, leģendārā Toronto latviešu rokgrupa, sarīkoja beidzamo latviešu ballīti Sv. Andreja baznīcā, un visus ienākumus ziedoja palīdzībai Latvijā – LIELS paldies!

Liels paldies arī Kristus Dārzam, un īpaši Laumai Stikutai, par palīdzību ar speciālu gultu un matraču sagādāšanu Latvijas pansionātiem.

Bet vislielākais paldies jums, Sv. Andreja draudze - jūsu dāsnie ziedojumi atbalstīja gan mūsu māsu draudžu vajadzības Durbē, Daudzevā un Zemītē, gan trūkumcietējus Rīgā un bāreņus Zvanniekos. Turpināsim!

Anete Ivsiņa

VIDEO PROJEKTS

Kā izziņots 2014. gada septembrā draudzes ziņās, Skaidrītes Lejas ierosināto piemiņas video projektu draudzes 65 gadu jubilejas zīmē, padome apstiprināja un tam piešķīra \$20,000 budžetu. Videogrāfs Tim Darrell sāka filmēt pavasarī ar Lieldienu dievkalpojumu un turpināja ierakstīt dievkalpojumus līdz jūnija beigām. Filmēšana atsākās rudenī un turpinājās līdz pat Ziemsvētkiem. Tai pašā laikā tika ierakstītas arī intervijas ar atsevišķiem draudzes locekļiem, ieskaitot dažus no draudzes dibinātājiem, bijušajiem draudzes priekšniekiem, kā arī 2014. gada iesvētītajiem jauniešiem un citiem, par īpašiem dievnama dārgumiem, piemēram par vitrāžām, altāri un ērģelēm. Materiālus no kā varēs smelties veidojot video papildinās fotogrāfijas no draudzes archīva.

Liels rediģēšanas darbs ir jau iesācies. Īss izvilkums, no Ziemsvētku dievkalpojuma, ir apskatīts pirmajiem komentāriem un vadlīnijas darba pabeigšanai ir nospraustas. Padomei būs iespēja noskatīties pirmo metu martā un cerams, ka nobeigtais 20 minūšu garais video būs gatavs aprīļa sākumā, kad izsludinās iespēju visai draudzei to noskatīties. Draudzes locekļi varēs sev iegādāties šos kompaktdiska ierakstus (DVD), kā arī atbalstīt šo vērtīgo projektu ar īpašu ziedojumu.

Skaidrīte Leja

Video projekta vadītāja



Altāris pēdējos Pļaujas svētkos



Pļaujas svētku mielasts. No kreisās: Maureen un Imants Ķivļi, Velta Zvīdre, Inta Grāvlēja un Inta Briede



Koris dzied baznīcā 'Retro' pēcpusdienā



Pankūku cepēji: Anita Bredovskis, Zinta Amoliņa, Maureen Ķivlis; Andrejs Krūmiņš un Imants Ķivlis



Pankūku brokastis 2015. g. 8. februārī, Sv. Jāņa baznīcā



2014. G. SIDRABENĒ



Jaunā Sidrabenes zīme



Ticības mācība ar Māc. Ilzi



Ūdens gājiens



Pīrāgu cepšana nometnes Ziemsvētkiem



CIT ekskursija uz Mednieku un Makšķernieku klubu



Dievkalpojums

Pastor's report 2015. Annual General Meeting

On Saturday, February 21, we will be marking the beginning of Lent by focussing on the questions: "what is a congregation? What does it mean to belong to a congregation?" Although the discussions will be in Latvian, I would be very happy to facilitate a conversation in English on the topic. A short, yet incomplete answer might be: a congregation is the people of God, Jesus' disciples, inspired by the Holy Spirit to serve for the kingdom of heaven. Simply put, a congregation consists of people whom God loves unconditionally. You may wonder at this: surely God loves everyone? Indeed, but members of a Christian community see in Jesus the one who embodies God. They want to follow Jesus because they see more meaning in him than they can find without him. They want to find out more about him and feel a sense of commitment to his teachings. Knowing that God is not distant and unknowable and that it is possible even today to follow Jesus are all gifts of the Spirit – the visible energy of God and Jesus. Moved by the Holy Spirit, people come together in community where they are strengthened and encouraged to lead their lives in a radically different way from the average. That is, to place their focus outwards: to those in need, to be present to others, to give their time to those who need another person, to support those suffering injustice, to take care of the earth's precious resources, and to engage in the struggle for justice in the world. The ability to do this is a gift of God's grace.

*Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too*

Individual's responses are their own responsibility, but it is the congregation's role to help people fulfill this calling, that is, to belong to a congregation is to engage actively so fulfilling Jesus' direction: "*You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.*" (John 15:16,17).

Perhaps there is an invitation to begin to see a connection to the congregation in this direction. A more intense relationship to the congregation can come mainly at specific times, but the fact that only a small proportion of our members take a regular, active role in congregational life suggests we may have something we need to work on. There are countless reasons: no time, stress, other responsibilities, distance. Time is precious and there isn't enough of it to come to church on a Sunday morning, and there don't seem to be any compelling reasons to climb into the car and drive downtown on a Sunday morning as well. I may be

wrong, but might it not be that becoming more attuned to a deeper understanding of what belonging to a Christian community and its impact on your life is, could make it more relevant? Those who have begun to move into this experience a shift: they see that gathering to seek Jesus opens new layers and a new perspective on themselves and life in general. I would welcome your input!

It is particularly important to take a fresh look at our calling at this time. It has been challenging for all of us to leave our dearly loved church building that carries so many memories. We may be able to understand the reasons, but inevitably feelings lag behind. Those who found the church particularly significant are experiencing grief in all its stages: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Everyone is at some place in this process and our walk through this must be respected. However, I am sure that we will find a direction for the future in precisely this kind of seeking for a new and deeper understanding of ourselves as an active congregation. In that we will find a direction and a foundation that will bear much fruit: the focus will no longer be on ourselves and our feelings, but on what Jesus is calling us to be.

A congregation's work would be impossible without helping hands: those ready to volunteer their time and gifts. My thanks go out to the significant number of volunteers who make things happen: the congregational council and its chair, Voldemars Innus, our committees and work groups, in alphabetical order: "Aid to Latvia", churchwardens, ladies auxiliary, Sidrabene camp, Sidrabene management committee together with the community at Sidrabene who do so much during the summer months. I also thank our staff for their professional approach: our administrator, Sarma Gaide, our director of music and organist, Davids Smits, the ensemble leader, Vaira Gertners, Sidrabene property manager, Andrejs Grinbergs, and our custodian, Rita Ziedina. This year we need to add those who have helped during this transition: Anda Liberis, Edite Sils and Rita Āpše (congregation archive) with their helpers Ilga Gulbis, Inta McCaughey, Ingrīda Kalniņš, Inta Briedis and Ojars Sils (property), Vaira Gertners (choir music). They have all been so generous in their sharing of their time on our behalf.

This year I have again divided my report according to the template I use for my reports to council

1. Worship

No matter how lively a congregation's activities, the main focus is worship. Here people of all ages and life experience gather and are strengthened for ministry in the world by Word and sacrament. Our worship is how we praise God and with this deep

responsibility in mind, those entrusted with leading worship strive to do so to the best of their abilities. Statistics are noted separately.

- Since the mid 1970s English language worship has been held at St. Andrew's with varying frequency. The opposition to this was considerable, but clergy supported the move wholeheartedly. The hope was to those marrying outside the Latvian community to feel they could still belong. Notwithstanding these hopes, English language worship always remained on the side. Conversely, bilingual worship in Sidrabene during the summer months has attracted a significant number as did the Christmas Eve service when the switch was made to bilingual worship not many years ago, with a drop-off in those attending the English service. Consequently, last autumn I was asked by the council to begin to introduce regular bilingual worship to help integrate everyone. Another marker of the need for this is funerals. I have concluded that, since I came to St. Andrew's as pastor, no more than 1% of all funerals have been solely in Latvian. In these bilingual services we are working to find a balance between the languages leaving the foundational liturgy in Latvian, but sharing the Word in both. I have very much appreciated your feedback and input.
- Additional services: together with the Lithuanian bishop's adjunct, Msgr Edmond Putrimas, we re-worked the Deportation Remembrance Day service that was basically unchanged since the 1970s. Last year's service was at St. Andrew's and included representatives of the Ukrainian community: a gesture of solidarity given the current situation there with the annexation of parts of Ukraine by Russian forces. Together with Rev Dāvis Kaņeps (Hamilton) we created the ecumenical service for the Latvian Song and Dance Festival. The service was held at Christ Church Cathedral, Hamilton, with Archbishop E. E. Rozītis and bishop Ralph Spence (Diocese of Niagara) participating. I continue to lead worship at Kristus Darzs.
- I very much appreciate the collaboration with our musicians and churchwardens. We are much blessed by their contributions.

2. Learning

*We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.*

- In 2014, Lenten talks were combined with the meeting of the Canadian section of the Latvian Lutheran Church Abroad. The speaker was Rev Kārlis Žols (Dean, Pacific area, LELBA) who challenged us with his input on reading the Bible.
- Confirmation class continued until the summer. Many thanks to the Kalns/Kalnins family for hosting our retreat, and to Līga Miklašēvics, who has been teaching our new group. As I indicated in my 2014 report, a demographic dip means we have no confirmations in 2015. Emīls Lūsis-Zondo, Markus Keon, and Jēkabs and Pauls Šulcs have begun this year. The latter two will be confirmed in Cleveland OH.
- I again led Bible study at the camp, Rev D. Kaņeps assisting during my absence.
- During Lent I mailed a weekly reflection to our members via Mail Chimp to help with experiencing this season.

3. Witness

- Led a mid-day meditation at St Andrew's Presbyterian on April 2nd. Led devotions at the Latvian National Council meeting, April 5
- Devotions led at the War Memorial (Saulaine) May 10 and November 8, took part in the Black Ribbon Day event at Budapest Park, devotions for Independence Day, and for the Centre Senior's group. Attended the Daugavas vanadzies summer picnic in Sidrabene.
- Led devotions and reflection to support those affected by the disappearance of Jānis Ozollapa.
- "Refugee story, untold story." This event marked the 70th anniversary of the refugee exodus from Latvia to Germany and Sweden. Not only did this event need to be marked, but I remain convinced that being given the opportunity to hear experiences of this time from those participating will help subsequent generations find a deeper meaning for the exile experience. Many commented that this was one of the most meaningful events held in Toronto in the last years. It had not been designed as worship, but it was worship. Those presenting were from all generations, all congregations, including those who belong to none, and members of all Toronto Latvian choirs. It was a joy and privilege to be able to work with so many gifted people who share a common vision.
- Met with Juris Audarinš, ambassador to Canada, Republic of Latvia to talk over the

need to integrate those of the second immigration who have made a new home in the GTA. This is part of our mandate to “love one another”.

4. Service

- This included pastoral events such as baptisms, confirmation, marriages, and funerals.
- I provided a detailed report on how I deal with these pastoral events in my 2014 report. I continue to meet with couples for pre-marriage counselling, and with parents of those being baptised. This year a new introduction came when Alīze Siksna was baptized and her parents spoke about the Bible verse they had picked for her. It was a moving testimony.
- As before, I spend at least one day a week on pastoral visits, either personally, or by phone, except in weeks when there is a funeral. The latter visits happen, with very few exceptions, at people's homes.
- In the autumn the newly constituted parish visitors' group met for the first time. In the interim the possibility has arisen for training with other Lutheran congregations (Agricola Finnish).

5. Other

*I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear*

- This year I was given a sum to use for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, common practice in other, Canadian, congregations. This enabled me to be able to provide financial assistance to two of our members who had found themselves in challenging circumstances. They very much appreciated this help. They remain anonymous.
- In the autumn we had the terrible news of the disappearance of Jānis Ozollapa, baptized into our congregation a year earlier. His partner, Patricia Harris, has written to express her appreciation at the support she received. The generous help was such a clear indication of Christ's spirit at work in our midst. It was wonderful.
- At the meeting of the LELBA Canada section, Rev Dāvis Kaņeps was confirmed as my deputy. This working relationship has been a great blessing.

- The 2014 Eastern Synod affirmed a new structure for areas with the focus shifting to how best to help congregations and congregational leadership exercise their mission and ministry. The Toronto area was split into three groups: we belong to the Toronto Central Area. Bishop Michael Pryse has entrusted the leadership of this area to me for three years. Since then, I have set up a leadership team and am delighted at the energy and enthusiasm they all bring. We are planning a visioning day at the end of April for area congregational leaders to provide an opportunity to meet one another and begin to network and so enhance our work. Our area leadership team has been selected as one of three to have additional training this year. At our first deans' meeting, bishop Pryse stressed that our primary responsibility continues to be to our congregations; we are to do what we are able beyond that as deans.

I thank you once more, God's people of St Andrew's for your support, your trust and your work as we continue to fulfill our sacred calling, and I encourage you to help bring our mission and ministry to even great heights in the coming year.

In Christ, your pastor,

Ilze Kuplens-Ewart

Report of the Council Chair to the 2015 Annual General Meeting

This past year has been both rewarding and challenging. A significant amount of my time, the Council's time, and that of congregation volunteers, has been spent on issues surrounding the sale of our church building, our planned transition to St. John's Church, and considerations of how we will use Sidrabene for increased congregational activity in the future.

In terms of the sale of our church building to Grace Church, here are the latest developments. On January 29, 2015 Riina Klaas, Dan McDonald, and I signed a Purchase Agreement submitted by Grace Church. The sale price is \$4,150,000. The commitment date for Grace Church to purchase our church building is February 23, 2015. Two days after committing to the purchase, Grace Church will provide a \$125,000 irrevocable deposit. The closing date will be no later than October 1, 2015.

While it has taken us longer than we anticipated to reach this new agreement with Grace Church, the process with Grace Church has been open and transparent. We have worked cooperatively respecting the needs of all three congregations. This new purchase agreement reflects that.

Throughout this past year, we have continued to address the inventory in our church that is owned by our congregation and the Estonian congregation. There are things that we are moving to the St. John's church, things that we have sold, and things that have been disposed of. In particular, I want to thank, again, Inta Briedis, Ojārs Sils, and Sarma Gaide for their efforts in this regard. In addition, Anda Liberis and Edite Sils have spent an enormous amount of time going through all of our records to determine what needs to be kept and what needs to be discarded. The outcome will be a rational compiled archive for our congregation.

In order to add to our historical record, Skaidriņe Leja has provided leadership to the video project that is capturing the thoughts and views of our congregation members as we move through this transition period. We are also video recording congregational events during this past year. This project will provide a video documentation that will be an important addition to our archival compendium.

We have also been in discussions and planning for the transition of our activities to St. John's church. Kārlis Jansons and I signed a cooperation agreement that was developed over a number of months and was approved by both congregation councils. This agreement, which meets the needs of both congregations, outlines very well how we will work together in St. John's church. Those discussions and that process has positioned us extraordinarily well for our future collaboration.

Janis Tannis and Sarma Gaide are involved in dealing with the smooth transition of our administrative operations to the space that has been allocated to us in St. John's Church.

In Sidrabene, the Joint Council and Management Sidrabene Facility Committee has held several meetings to review what modifications would be necessary for us to hold services there once a month. Some immediate things that have been identified are lighting, acoustics, heating, and storage. There is a strong feeling that we need to examine how Sidrabene can meet the needs of all of its various constituents before major investments are considered. Silvija Shedden has agreed to facilitate that process. We will seek input from congregation members, Sidrabene cottagers, our summer camp, and others.

A lot has been accomplished over this past year and much more still needs to be done. We will continue to provide you with information as things evolve and seek your input and advice.

Voldemars Innus
Council chair

Sidrabene's report 2014

In 2014 the following were elected to Sidrabenes Manangement Committee (MC): Valdis Kauliņš (chair), Imants Ķivlis (vice-chair), Rita Āpše (treasurer), Jurate Muižnieks, Valdis Korbs, Chris Ireland, Valdis Pālēns, Vilnis Blūms, Juris Eglītis, Andris Bergvalds. In addition, Jānis Ozols served on the finance committee and Ivars Jansons on the Physical Plant committee.

During 2014 Sidrabenes MC held 8 meetings. Sidrabene has 53 cottage owners.

The goal of Sidrabene's pārvalde to have Sidrabene become financially independent has been realized. Congregation members will be pleased to learn that this is the second consecutive year that Sidrabene has covered all of its operating costs. All expenses incurred in managing the property including Burlington taxes for the land, buildings and cottages, expenses related to the property manager's house, the salary and benefits of the property manager, security systems, insurance, water treatment, swimming pool maintenance, kafe expenses, repairs and general maintenance to buildings, electricity, phones, truck insurance and license fees, large and small equipment maintenance and repairs, bookkeeping and office expenses has been paid by Sidrabenes MC.

The Sidrabene's budget committee has been diligently ensuring that all spending is absolutely necessary and in spite of unexpected expenses (2013 winter storm damage, Bell cable repair, emergency generator, riding mower, freezer) and a shortfall in some income (e.g. "Vasaras Vainagu Svētki"), we were able to deal with these by temporarily borrowing from our own Contingency account - full repayment is budgeted

in 2015. Andrejs Grinbergs, our property manager, gets numerous quotes for any projects and supervises that all work is completed as to the contract.

Many of Sidrabene's projects and repairs are done by volunteers. In the agreement with cottagers, each owner is required to volunteer a day's labour ("talka" day) as well as to take at least one shift of gate duty to ensure that cars entering have a season parking sticker and if not, that they pay the daily entrance fee. As you see in the "Sidrabene facts and figures", cottagers payments (\$63,143) fully cover taxes, electricity and property insurance with \$7,846 left over towards other expenses.

This year many donations have helped, including memorial donations honouring Gvīdo Kārklīņš, Anita Korbs, Ausma Korbs, and Irma Plīsis. In addition, thank-you to Anda Sīpoliņš for covering the cost of new mattresses. Special thanks also to DVKV and St. Andrew's ladies committee, who last year each donated \$5000 - these as well as many individual donors permitted us to make the children's splashpad ("Sēnīte") compliant to the new regulations. This generosity ensures that the youngest children can finally enjoy the renewed splash pad on their visits to Sidrabene.

As the town of Milton grows, the facilities available at Sidrabene are more in demand by many local groups. The rental income generated by these groups is a large part of the budget. The Bronte Creek Project, which is run by the Halton school board has been operating for almost 20 years in Sidrabene. Although many weekends at Sidrabene are booked well ahead by various groups, there are still available dates for church members to book either the kafe or "Sidrabkalns" or other areas for parties, weddings or other social functions. Please contact Andrejs Grinbergs for further information.

This year by Sidrabkalns, visitors will notice that a large propane tank has been installed as part of the emergency generator system that we purchased to ensure that the building will be able to get electricity in case of power outages. In 2013 there were 7 days during the ice storm in December

that there was no electrical power in Sidrabene. In the last 2 years, the power has been out 15-20 times which has affected both school and our own summer camps. There have been at least 2 occasions when the Bronte Creek students were sent home because there was no hydro. As responsible landlords, MC realized that this is unacceptable. Since we had saved up enough funds in our Contingency account, pārvalde decided not to delay installing the emergency generator (total cost \$15,084 including propane tank) despite not having it in our 2014 budget. With the generator ensuring that hydro will be available at all times, we and rental groups will be able to use Sidrabkalns knowing that all necessary lights, heated baseboards and refrigerators will be working. No more burst water pipes!

Although this report focuses on finances, we also wish to emphasize that Sidrabene is not a burden to the congregation as perhaps some people still think. However, Sidrabene needs the congregation's support and attendance at the social functions that are planned for the coming season. Many of the activities will be initiated by the church but others by MC. Hopefully some of you will decide to organize something at Sidrabene - perhaps "zolīte" or "novus" tournament, a book club meeting, a discussion group, a musical rendition, an art show, a photography exhibition or whatever interests you and your friends. The invitation remains open and Sidrabenes MC will work with you to ensure that your event is a success. For example, when Valdis Liepiņš was at the "Centrs" in January speaking about his tenure in "Saeima" (Latvia's parliament), I asked if he would like to come to Sidrabene to talk about his time serving as an elected official in Latvija. Valdis happily agreed. We have a tentative date in April/May when Valdis will talk about his experiences.

Finally, Sidrabene's opening social will be on Sat. May 30. Congregation members are invited to a barbeque in order to share a time of friendship and camaraderie with Sidrabenes community.

Valdis Kauliņš,
Sidrabenes Management Committee Chair

Sidrabene -- facts and figures

- 2014 parking and season pass ticket revenue \$10,555.00
- 2014 paid admissions to Sidrabenes Jāņi 900 (app) - net profit \$8,780.58
- 2014 paid admissions to Sidrabenes "Vasaras vainagu svētki" 450 (approx)
- 2014 season closing social \$2,076.60 profit
- 2014 total of cottager's fees & taxes \$63,143.27
- 2014 kafe earnings based on profit percentage \$5,627.00
- 2015 Halton School Board rental of "Sidrabkalns" for Bronte Creek Project -\$47,050.00
- 2014 total rental income \$86,626.93
- 2014 Burlington tax \$17,376.65
- 2014 insurance \$12,340.08
- 2014 total electricity expenses \$15,581
- 2014 major repairs \$58,031.39 - including new Sidrabenes entrance sign, stage repairs, new roof for property manager's house, emergency generator, new windows for "Ķēmeri", soffits on "Ambulance", renew walls & flooring in showers
- New "Senīte"/Splashpad cost was fully covered by recent year donations

•Sidrabenes AGM Sat. Feb. 21, 2:00 pm - Sid kafe

Groups that have rented Sidrabene during the 2014 season:

- 5 weddings (2 Latvian)
- 30 different boy and girl scout groups on weekend overnights from Burlington, Oakville, Milton, Georgetown, Hamilton
- Halton Youth Symphony for a weekend retreat
- 28th Orchard Scout Group meets regularly on Thurs. nights
- 2 yoga festivals
- during the warmer months - outdoor fitness boot camp Mon. and Wed. nights
- Heritage Place seniors home in Burlington had 2 excursions to kafe for dinner
- Heroes Academy Day Camp - for 7 weeks rented field across Bronte Creek
- a dog training class uses the hall on Tues. nights
- 2 Navy Cadet groups from Oakville on training weekends

- Latvian children's camp for 3 weeks
- 1 week Youth for Christ Church camp/1 week Camp Kahuna
- 10 day camp "Camp Bring a Friend" run by Redeemer Bible Church
- Bronte Creek Project rents for the school year- 35 students - September- June
- various groups renting for family celebrations

Sidrabene's new sign

Sidrabene's new sign at Appleby Line was put up in June 2014 just in time for "Jāņi".

The new sign "Sidrabene- Latvian recreation & retreat centre" - was changed from "Sidrabene Latvian Childrens' Camp" - but St. Andrew's Ev. Lutheran Latvian Church's name is still prominent. The change was made to reflect that the property is more than just a camp and that we can accomodate a variety of activities. Since the new sign has been put up, there has been even more interest in renting the property.

Valdis Kauliņš, Sidrabenes "pārvalde"

Camp Sidrabene (July 13 – August 3, 2014)

Camp spirit and friendships were very strong this summer. We truly felt like one large family. The counselors were caring, inspired and active. The food was delicious. Activities were varied and interesting. It was a shame that camp could only run 3 weeks because of the Hamilton Song Festival.

Camp Director: Linda Lakats (administration,
Boys' end counselors: Vilnis Kalnins (lifeguard, assist.commandant), Kurtis Grietins, Alex Thiele,
Paul Zobs Girls' end counselors: Anna Taurins, Tamara Lusiš-Zondo, Silvija Taurins
Children's Lodge counselors: Vita Voitkans (from Italy -head counselor), Natalija Vagners, Amanda Leja
CIT (Counselor in Training) program: Devin Dzelme
Kitchen staff: Eriks Maldonis (chef), Ingrida Eglite, Arija Eliason, Andrea Thiele

Sandra Thiele (health, crafts, kitchen)
Rev. Ilze Kuplens-Ewart (spiritual leader)

Due to the song festival, camp could only operate for 3 weeks resulting in lower overall attendance numbers. In comparison to previous years, weekly attendance levels remain well within the normal range. A total of 34 children participated – 33 in the first week, 19 in the second week and 21 in the third. This year we welcomed 5 new families with 8 first-time campers. We had 4 participants in the CIT program – Aleks Brunins, Kristaps Grigioni (Italy), Kristin Lakats and Katrina Reid (BC).

Rev. Ilze as our Christian spiritual leader enlightened and educated our youth during Sunday church services, Wednesday evening candle light services and during Bible study Thursday mornings.

Each week Rev. Ilze involved the campers (organized by age groups) in active discussions about Bible stories as well as in theme-related activities and crafts. Rev. Davis Kaneps lead these activities during the third week. The weekly Christian theme was integrated into other camp activities and crafts, which were displayed in the main building. Campers also prepared materials and actively participated in church services on Sundays and Wednesday evenings. When visiting camp Saulaine, our campers participated in a joint church service, contributing both a reading from the Bible and a song.

As in the past, camp recites the Lord's Prayer each morning during the flag raising ceremony, as well as giving thanks before and after each meal.

Latvian language is the primary language used for all communication. Latvian language, culture and traditions are interwoven throughout the week—both directly and indirectly: traditional dancing, singing of the Latvian anthem and songs, celebrating holidays, baking 'piragi' (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).

So much happened at camp we can't fit everything into this newsletter but here is a sample of the activities:

In the first week, we walked the complete property of Sidrabene, ran relays, obstacle courses, scavenger hunt, played 'British Bulldog', dodge ball, volley ball, basketball, and soccer, held Olympic Games, hiked in Bronte Creek. We had separate boys' /girls' night, movie night, campfire and a dance. Friday night we slept outdoors by the river and went fishing with Ivars Jegeris. Yes, campers actually caught (and released) some fish! Saturday afternoon we boarded a bus to Saulaine to celebrate 'children's day' together. During our visit we watched a play, slept over, participated in their church service and played friendly games together. During the second week, high energy activities continued: survival games, Casino night, 'Sidrabumba', Quidditch, capture the flag, Ecoville, night games, movie night + more games. Members from Halton Region Conservation Authority brought saplings and taught our youth how to properly plant and care for approximately 40 new trees. These were planted behind the boy's camp to provide a future windbreak. We had a beach day at Bronte Park on Lake Ontario, where we honed our canoe + kayak skills with a professional coach. We celebrated Christmas in July with stuffed turkey, 'piragi' and exchanged home-made gifts during 'secret Santa'. We closed the week with 'Sports + Fun Day' on Saturday. We would like to thank LSAK (Latvian Sports Assoc.) for their long-term and valuable support! The third week was just as lively as the first two weeks. We built forts – both indoors and out, played 'Iranascam', 'Inflacija', wide games, quiet games, water fights, field hockey, man hunt, night games, had a 'forest' day with cooking our own lunch over a campfire, a beach day, a backwards day and a hike along the escarpment. We even held a 'Town Hall' meeting. Campers also experienced what it was like to be a counselor and to lead activities for a day when roles were reversed. The CITs had a day trip to the Latvian Hunters + Anglers Club property north of Toronto. We sincerely thank them for their hospitality and the lessons on the shooting range!

Every year we have 2 work-bee days. The first is held jointly with SID Cottagers Association in mid June, the second is held the day before camp opening. Tasks include general cleanup of the camp building and grounds, tree-pruning, window

washing and a complete kitchen scrubbing, as well as replacing tent floorboards and rotted stair retainers. Thank you to all those who helped! For summer 2015 we need to replace our beloved flagpole – the old one had dry rot and snapped off in September. We also hope to replace more of the old rusted cast iron beds with new steel -framed beds. Donations are always welcome!

Summer 2014 was thoroughly enjoyable and without any major issues or accidents. Everyone got along and worked together very well, although our allotted time was shortened. Campers did write to ask that camp not be shortened. We had fewer of the youngest campers during the last week, as most of the ‘Children’s Lodge’ campers coincidentally attended during the first week.

Sidrabene Camp committee members are volunteers who work for the betterment of our beloved camp. We would gladly welcome any interested new members. Questions? Please contact Linda (lakats@interlog.com). Meetings are usually held once a month during the winter, but more frequently once the camp start date approaches. Current members are: Devin Dzelme, Ivars Jegeris, Sandra Kalnins, Linda Lakats, Lionel Zondo, Laila Ozols, Sandra Thiele, Anita Thomas and Katrina Vikse (with Astrida Kalnins as advisor). Imants Kivlis is our church executive liaison, as well as our advisor for Sidrabene Cottagers Association issues.

Youth form members are Vilnis Kalnins, Kurtis Grietins and Paul Zobs.

There are people who have always and relentlessly worked with camp. We would like to thank Andy Grinbergs, Vilis Kleperis, Juris Eglitis (†) who we will sorely miss, Vija Skomba (camp archivist). Our sincere thanks for your dedication to Camp Sidrabene.

How can the congregation help? What are our thoughts and hopes for the future?

Please send your children and grandchildren to camp! Support camp events + initiatives! Come to church with us!

As a not-for profit camp, we have been financially responsible covering 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 are grateful and appreciative of any help offered.

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 Latvian society, be it in schools, scouts/guides or dance groups, we see diminishing numbers of children of camp age participating. Parent volunteers and volunteers in general have also declined in numbers. Looking ahead at the number of baptisms and little ones in kindergarten, we see the next generation of SID kids that will soon be ready for camp. We invite families with young children to begin working with camp already this season to enable us to shape our beloved camp’s future together.

We are looking for camp staff. Help is especially needed in the kitchen and in the Children’s Lodge. Parents and adults are invited to share their special gift or talent – offers of service are welcome. We are open to any cooperative suggestion. Let us work together so that camp Sidrabene continues to serve the congregation. Children are our future!

Camp registration forms and information is available on the church’s website: <http://www.standrewslatvian.org/sidrabene/camp>

If you want updates or news about camp, take a look at our Facebook group “SID_Nometne”. Who will be commandant this summer? Which favourite counselors are returning?

We are all aware that we need to work together for SIDRABENE. With caring and cooperation we can achieve much. Let us support one another in this effort, as in the end we are all ‘Sidrabenesi’, campers, church members and Latvians.

We invite you to please come visit us during camp and experience the beauty that is SIDRABENE – year round.

It is a pleasure to announce that Camp Sidrabene 2015 will run for 4 weeks (July 5th – August 2nd). We extend a warm invitation to all to come join us on July 26th for our ‘Family Fun Fest’. See you in SID!

MUSICAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The year 2014 at St Andrew’s was most memorable given our knowledge that it is our last in the church building. Many of our festivals and significant events were emotionally moving for us and helped us ponder the life of faith and its meaning over the years. The building remains as we move on and remains for us as a Bethel – a reminder of our covenant and what God has done for us over the years.

In light of the above, we also experienced a higher level of involvement in our musical endeavors. Several new people joined the choir under our dedicated choirmaster, Vaira Gertners. Under Vaira’s leadership, the choir saw a higher level of activity and interest, and sang at many more events, also joining the combined choirs of the Concert of Sacred Music at the XIV Latvian Song Festival in Canada in Hamilton in July. We also began to network with our “future” church partner choir, St John’s, and realized that combining our talents brings music to a higher level of enjoyment. The transition to the St John’s church building is already shaping a vision of new possibilities for our music ministry, reflecting its’ distinctive acoustics and different layout.

We had several concerts in 2014 to utilize the space, including an unforgettable evening with Arthur Ozolins at the piano. Of note is that in 2015, the organ at St. Andrews reaches its 100 year anniversary! We are planning a concert to commemorate this and more information will be forthcoming. Several other concerts will also be planned before the St Andrews building is officially handed over.

We will ask God to continue to inspire us, to give us vision and help us realize the forms in which music can play a role in forming us and our faith.

Davids Šmits,
Musical director and organist

English Worship Services

This fall it was decided by the Church council to replace the separate English worship services with services in both languages. Several things prompted this decision: the attendance of English services has not grown and in fact has eroded over the past several years. Secondly, dual language services accommodate family attendance, allowing members of all generations to attend church together as a family. This builds unity within the family unit, integrates younger generations, and creates the spirit of togetherness within the congregation. The degree of one language or other will be dictated by ongoing attendance and the demographics of that attendance. A bilingual bulletin would assure that everyone can follow the service.

Church services in Sidrabene

The announced Sidrabene monthly Church services scheduled to start in January and run monthly through the spring, fall and winter have been delayed to May 3, 2015. Scheduling issues prevented the meetings from taking place until then. However on Jan 4, 2015 a family afternoon was held at Sidrabene and was attended by about 20 people. The spirit of the afternoon was filled with prayer, songs, crafts, food and of course great fellowship.

As these services unveil we will need support from people with logistics of making the services happen. We the attendees will need to take ownership of the worship services and will need to have help with setting up chairs etc., along with things like the sound system, brewing coffee and whatever else is deemed necessary. Everyone is welcome to attend these services and partake. These services will allow our property to be used for worship and fellowship in the wondrous nature’s beauty created by our Lord.

Out of the Cold

This year, due to the activity surrounding the sale of the church, this annual initiative did not take place. In the fall it was unknown whether we would still be at St. Andrews when the feeding of the homeless (typically mid to late January) would

take place . St. Andrews was located in an area that was surrounded by homeless people and those with other problems. Thus it was a clear response to a local need.

Moving forward we will have to evaluate if this program can be continued in the manner as we know it or if it has to be modified. There may be options to partner with a group, a shelter, or some other Church that is involved in this outreach program.

Mutual Ministry committee

The mutual ministry committee continues to function and is a vehicle for certain discussions to take place with the pastor. The one area that we have not made much traction in is being the vehicle for concerned parisheners to voice their concerns or issues that they may want to raise in confidence. Currently the group is a sounding board for the pastor and will give its opinions to the pastor. The group is well represented with human resources, administrative, business, and church life experience. During the past year the group was involved in certain questions that arose with the sale of the church. The group has slowly been evolving and hopes to continue to develop and improve in the way it serves the congregation, the pastor and the congregation members.

AID TO LATVIA COMMITTEE

Committee members in the past year included: Larisa Gūtmane, Janīna Fogle, Anete Ivsiņa, Elizabete Ludvika, Aija Mazsīle, Andris Rubenis, Erika Yost, Auseklis Zaķis, but many others helped.

2014 ended on a sad note, with the departure of the congregation from our long-time home at 383 Jarvis St., the building so deeply associated with the historical events in the lives of many families and the Toronto Latvian community for the past 60 years.

More positively, we are pleased that the year end saw the signing of an agency agreement with Rīgas Evangelical Church, which will enable us to resume aid to the Ilguciems Women's Prison,

as well as opening up other opportunities to assist other groups.

The Mother's Day breakfast was once again a wonderful success. Many thanks are due to the Starasts family. We hope to continue them jointly with the St. John's congregation.

Our last fundraiser at St. Andrew's was a concert by the Latvian rock group Lūsts/Letts, who donated the evening's proceeds to Aid to Latvija. Our heartfelt thanks to them!

We are grateful also to Kristus Dārzs Home for the Aged, and especially Lauma Stikuts, for supplying hospital beds and mattresses for Latvian seniors' residences.

But our deepest thanks goes out to you, the members of St. Andrew's congregation. Your generous donations assisted our sister congregations in Durbe, Daudzeve, Zemīte as well as supporting a soup kitchen in Rīga and orphans at Zvanniēki.

Onwards!

Anete Ivsiņa

VIDEO PROJECT

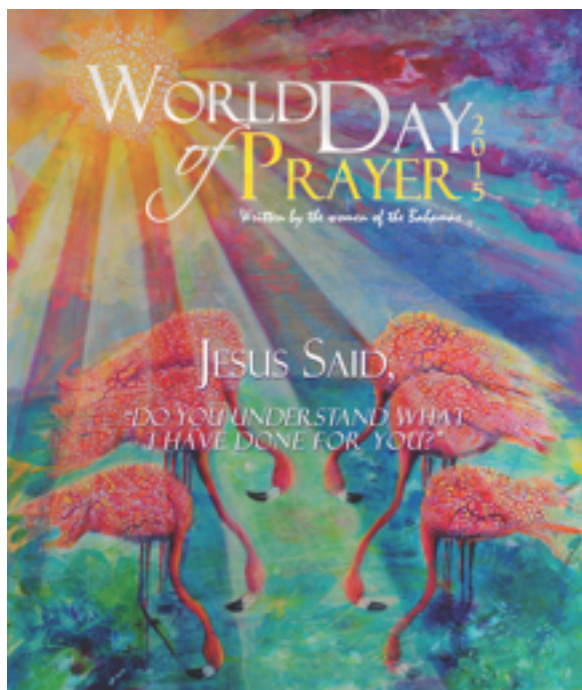
As reported in our September 2014 newsletter, the memorial video proposed by Skaidrite Leja as our 65th anniversary project was accepted by the Council and granted a \$20,000 budget.

Videographer Tim Darrell began filming congregation services and events with the Easter service and continued through the spring until the end of June. Filming resumed in the fall until Christmas. At the same time, interviews were filmed with individual congregation members, including some of the congregation's founding members and past chairpersons, the most recent confirmands and others knowledgeable about special features, such as the stained glass windows, the altar and the organ. Archival photographs were also added to the material that Tim will be able to draw on in compiling the final video.

Editing of the vast stockpile of material has begun. A preliminary clip of one segment, the Christmas service, was viewed for comment and a time line to completion was established. A draft version will be screened for the council in mid March and it is hoped that the final 20 minute

version will be complete by early April, when a congregation screening will be announced. DVDs of the video will also be available for purchase and home viewing by congregation members, at which time it will also be possible to make a special donation in support of this worthy project.

Skaidrīte Leja
Video project co-ordinator



Sv Jāņa baznīcā sestdien, 7. Martā plkst 10os
St John's on Saturday, March 7 at 1pm

World Day of Prayer 2015

Women, men and children in more than 170 countries and regions will celebrate World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 6, 2015. The women of the WDP Committee of The Bahamas call us to consider Jesus' words to the disciples after washing their feet: "Do you understand what I have done for you?" The women of The Bahamas describe what Jesus does when he washes the disciples' feet as "radical love." Radical love comes from humility, compassion and commitment. God's radical love is not static or self-centered; it reaches out and draws others in.

Although we perhaps first associate this country of islands with the pleasures of vacation and images of

tropical paradise, there is much more to learn. As we listen to our Bahamian sisters throughout the worship service, we see the transformation that occurs when a teen mother finds support to continue her education and raise her child, when a breast cancer survivor and people living with HIV/AIDS find strength to live out their journeys, and when the chains of oppression are broken. Through this service, the women of WDP Bahamas give us an invitation to beauty and love in the name of the transformative and radical love that Jesus brings to us all.

We invite you to join the women of The Bahamas in prayer and song to support ecumenical efforts toward welcoming the stranger. The annual offering supports the work of World Day of Prayer USA and helps meet the needs of families in The Bahamas and around the world who are victims of many forms of poverty, violence, discrimination and other injustice.

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March. World Day of Prayer was founded on the idea that prayer and action are inseparable. Services begin at sunrise in the Pacific and follow the sun across the globe on the day of celebration. Each year a different country's World Day of Prayer committee serves as the writers of the worship service.

Celebrate/Venez célébrer

World Day of Prayer

2015 Journée

mondiale de la Prière

Visi mīļi lūgti piedalīties
à la célébration

Pasaules Lūgšanas Dienas dievkalpojuma

Sv. Jāņa dievnamā

š.g.sestdien 7. martā pulkstens 1:00 pp

Pēc dievkalpojuma kafijas galds baznīcas zālē.


All are invited to the **World Day of Prayer Service**
at St. John's Lutheran Church - March 7 at 1:00.

Fellowship following the service in the church hall.

Service written by the women of The Bahamas • Texte composé par les femmes des Bahamas

Prepared for use in Canada by the Women's Inter-Church of Canada
Préparé pour le Canada par le Conseil œcuménique des chrétiennes du Canada

WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH OF CANADA / LE CONSEIL ŒCUMÉNIQUE DES CHRÉTIENNES DU CANADA
TORONTO, ONTARIO M5S 2C5 TEL: (416) 929-1194 FAX: (416) 929-8084
WICC@WICC.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WICC/CANADA



Miers ikdienas chaosā

Calm in the midst of chaos

Retreat Maryholme, Roches

Point, ON March 6-8 martā, 2015.

Aicinām pavadīt nogali atpūtā miesai, prātam un garam. Te varēs atstāt darba vai citus pienākumus pie malas, lai atvērtu sevi Dieva mīlestībā uz tevi un pasauli. Lausimies būt pārsteigtiem no veidiem kā Dievs dara sevi zināmu mums un pasaulei! Viens no tiem būs kopībā, kurā dalīsimies šajā nogalē: vispār esot kopā; daloties smieķos vai bēdās, daloties savos piedzīvojumos, gatavojot maltītes un lūdzot Dievu.

Te nebūs prātošanas vai debates, nemēģināsim citus pārliecināt par savu viedokļu pareizību, vai par saviem ticības ieskatiem, bet vienkārši baudīsim iespēju 'būt', un būt kopā.

Neturēsimies nelokami pie laika sadales, tomēr struktūra būs.

Maryholme ir brīnumaini skaista vieta. Mūsu rīcībā būs lielā māja un blakus esošā vasarnīca. Kopā ir piecas telpas, kur varam sanākt un, līdz ar to, netrūks iespēju kopīgi parunāties, vai pavadīt laiku klusībā. Uzturēšanās lielā mājā ir atsevišķās istabās, bet vasarnīcā divi pa istabu.

Nogale tiks vadīta angļu valodā.

We hope to have this be a kind weekend away for you. You will be able to focus, not on work or everyday demands, but on fostering a spirit of contentment by gently opening your mind, body, and soul to God's love of you and the world. We will seek to find rest and restoration in the surprising ways God will make God known to you. One of these will be in the sense of community we will create with others on the retreat: as we spend time quietly in each other's presence, laugh together, share our experiences, prepare meals together, and as we worship.

This weekend isn't about debate, or persuading others of the rightness of our opinions, or of imposing a belief system: it is simply about 'being' and delighting in being together.

There will be no rigid timings, but there will be structure.

Maryholme is in a beautiful setting. We will have sole use of the main house which is where we will eat, and the cottage alongside. There are five spaces for gathering so plenty of opportunity to come together in conversation or to spend time in silence. Accommodation will be in both houses with single occupancy in Edgar House and double rooms in the cottage.

The retreat will be led in English.

Nogali vada. Retreat leaders:

Rev Joanne Davies, chaplain, St John's Rehab, Toronto, ecumenical chaplain Mt Sinai Hospital Toronto

Rev Ilze Kuplens-Ewart

Indra Mertens, yoga instructor specializing in yoga as therapy.

Hosts. Nama mātes: Daila Dzintars, Līga Miklašēvica

Pieteikšanās līdz 1. martam. Cut-off date for applications: March 1

Cena \$200 ieskaitot pārnakšņošanu un visas maltītes

\$200 includes accommodation and all meals

Pieteikšanās. Please register at admin@standrewslatvian.org

Māc Ilze priecāsies atbildēt jautājumiem. Ilze would be happy to answer any questions you might have about the retreat.

Text/ca; 416 994 2136 or wrtie: pastor-ilze@standrewslatvian.org

2015 Lay Spiritual Retreat

'The Spiritual Director in Each of Us: Living With the Mystery'

April 10th – April 12th, 2015

**Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre
7021 Stanley Avenue
Niagara Falls, Ontario L2G 7B7**

Cost: \$215.00 per person

HOST: Bishop Michael Pryse

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR: Rev. Bob Shantz, Honorary Assistant at St. John's West Toronto Anglican Church

CHAPLAIN: Vicar Hilla Lahtinen Smith & Rev. Riitta Hepomaki

RETREAT DIRECTOR: Dorothy Frook
Telephone: 519-881-2798
Email: dbfrook@wightman.ca

REGISTRAR: Prijna Gingrich
Telephone: 519-208-5652
Email: anp.gingrich@rogers.com



Rev. Bob Shantz is the Honorary Assistant at St. John's West Toronto Anglican Church. Bob was born into a Mennonite family in Kitchener, ON. When he was a teenager he and his family joined St. Paul Lutheran Church, Heidelberg, ON. He graduated from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary in 1975 and was ordained in 1981. He has served as a parish pastor in Ontario and British Columbia and as a campus chaplain in Long Beach, California and Toronto.

Please join us for community, conversation, contemplation, worship and renewal.

**Please note this is a fragrance free event!*

Information and registration forms also available on the Eastern Synod website at:

www.easternsynod.org

