



Sylvan United Church
2025 Annual Report

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Agenda

Call to order by Chair

Motion to Approve Chair

Motion to Approve Recording Secretary

Opening Prayer and In Memoriam

Orders of the Day

- Voting
- Adjournment

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes of the last Annual Congregational Meeting – March 30, 2025

Approval of Minutes of the June 29th Congregational Meeting – Call of Rev. Suzanna Bates

Committee and Team Reports 2025 – as printed

Presentation from Birdsong

Conversation on the work of God

Election of Officers/ Nominations

Looking Ahead – New Business

- Budget 2026

Adjournment

Benediction

Minutes of the 2025 Congregational Meeting

Sylvan United Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
March 30, 2025

Motion to Approve Chair

Judy Duncan motioned to approve Janet Power as Chair for the Annual Meeting
Peg Cox **MOVED** Karen Younie **SECOND**
ALL IN FAVOUR

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 11:11 a.m. by Chair Janet Power
Chair appointed secretary, Kelly Campbell
ALL VOTED IN FAVOUR

Opening Prayer - Rev. Meriel Simpson

Orders of the Day

Motion that all present have a voice and are able to vote.
George Power **MOVED** Joan Keith-Burgwin **SECOND**
ALL IN FAVOUR

Voting: Adherents are welcome to vote = Sign in Sheet

Goerge Power
Kathy Sellers
David Wentzell
Kelly Copeland
Kathleen Copeland
John Kamphof
Corrie Kamphof
Vida Glaser
Mary Palaikus
Reg Hall
Kathy Twiss
Nan Goodship
Carrie Whitney-Brown
Geoff Whitney- Brown

Betty Lord
Donna Walker
Lois Turner
Brenda Sober
Roberta Fritz
Grace Scott
Joanna Dudley
Peg Cox
Jane Shapley
Karen Younie
Joan Keith-Burgwin
Judy Duncan
Peter Elphick
Anita Elphick

Miriam Coughlin
Maria McDonnell
Cassidy Marat
Melody Marat
Dale Marat
David Morgan
Monika Morgan
Anne Marie MacLean
Naomi Barclay
Jane Kiltnei
Grant Mellemstrand
Judy van der Boom
Madi Mayfield

Time adjournment for the meeting to be set 45 minutes from the starting time of the meeting.

Kathy Sellers **MOVED**
ALL IN FAVOUR

Cassidy Marat **SECOND**

Minutes of the last Annual Congregational Meeting – April 21st, 2024

Motion to approve the 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes.

Amendments: Page 2-6 of Annual Report changes need to be made the "Call to Term". Replace "to term" with "call to term."

Jane Shapley **MOVED**
ALL IN FAVOUR

Judy van der Boom **SECOND**

Add Recognition of Exceptional Service Award to Agenda
Adopt agenda as **AMENDED**

New Business - None.

Committee and Team Reports

- Lighting in Hall to be upgraded to LED and dimmer switches installed. The Sunday school switch is harder to upgrade and will cost more money. Congregation was in favour of having a dimmer switch installed.
- Fireside room will be upgraded to LED.

Motion to receive. Judy van der Boom **MOVED** Betty Lord **SECOND**
ALL IN FAVOUR

Record the thanks to everyone who wrote or is included in the reports for all their hard work and dedication to the congregation.

George Power **MOVED** Judy Duncan **SECOND**

Election of Officers: Current Officers will stay in place.
(Thank you for your service)

Call for anyone to step out of their position. No movement.

Officers:

- Marian Davies and Judy Duncan – Co Chairs

- Karen Younie – Recording Secretary
- George Power and Anne Marie MacLean: Co Treasurers
- Brenda Sober – Chair of the Board of Trustees
- Connie Harris – Outreach
- Joan Keith-Burgwin – Pastoral Care
- Monika Morgan & John Kamphof – Ministry & Personnel
- Judy van der Boom – Chair of Hospitality
- Worship – Kathy Twiss – VACANT
- P & E – VACANT
- Children’s Worship – Robbie Fritz
- Joan Keith-Burgwin – Women Together in Fellowship

Nomination Committee:

- Peg Cox
- Jane Shapley

Call for any other nominations - Janet Power
 Second call for nominations, and - Janet Power
 Third call for nominations - Janet Power

Current Officers will continue to stand.

Finance Report

2024 Budget presented by George Power

- Receive last years financials
- Adjustment to call: Rev. Katherine’s salary
- Looking ahead
 - Borrowed from ourselves and paid back

No Questions

Move to adopt 2024 budget

George Power **MOVED** Monika Morgan **SECOND**
ALL IN FAVOUR

2025 Budget presented by George Power

Fundraising

- Overall numbers are consistent with last year
- At the end of income and expenses we are showing a surplus, this surplus is reserved for moving costs to relocate a new minister.
 - Minister salary is on a step program based on service years.

Questions:

- Bursaries, is their enough money to continue with the trades and arts bursaries?
 - Yes
- Mortgage, what is remaining on the mortgage?
 - There is approximately \$30,000 remaining on the mortgage, renegotiations with the bank will begin shortly.
 - The church anticipates paying approximately \$3,000 a year. Paying off the mortgage within the next 5 - 7 years.
- Contingency, the sanctuary and hall are coming up to 20 years old. Do we have contingency for major repairs?
 - Hall roof was recently replaced and the sanctuary looks good.

-
- Regular maintenance has been conducted
 - The church may look into the installation of a heat pump in the next couple of years. But will have to look into grants from the United Church and BC Hydro.

Motion to accept the 2025 budget

George Power **MOVED** Melody Marat **SECOND**

ALL IN FAVOUR

Congratulations to the couple that have been involved in the congregation for many years, they are active in the kitchen, planning events like the Spring Fling plant sale, and are active in Ministry & Personnel, and Property Management.

Congratulations to David and Monika Morgan!

George Power made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 am

Closing Prayer - Rev. Meriel Simpson

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes from June 29 Congregational Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES OF SYLVAN UNITED CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING June 29, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Janet Power.

PMR representative Rick Roberts was in attendance.

Mrs. Power stated the goals and objectives of the meeting, which were to review the Community of Faith profile and the Ministry Position description with the congregation.

George Power introduced Mr. Roberts and asked him to offer an opening prayer.

MOVED by Geoff Whitney-Brown, **SECONDED** by Joan Keith-Burgwin that Janet Power continue as Chair of this meeting.

CARRIED

MOVED by Geoff Whitney-Brown, **SECONDED** by Connie Harris that Kelly Campbell act as Recording Secretary.

CARRIED

MOVED by Jane Kilthei, **SECONDED** by Anne Marie MacLean that adherents be eligible to vote on all motions.

CARRIED

Melody Marat
Dale Marat
Cassidy Marat
Mary Palaikus
Joanna Dudley
Peg Cox
Peter Elphick
Anita Elphick
Kathy Twiss
Jane Shapley
Betty Lord

Lois Turner
Marian Davies
George Power
Janet Power
Roberta Fritz
Anne Marie MacLean
Connie Harris
Karen Younie
Brenda Sober
Tom Shandel
Carrie Whitney-Brown

Geoff Whitney-Brown
Bill Wallace
Francine Wallace
Jane Kilthei
Reg Hall
Donna Walker
Rick Roberts
Barb Roberts
Nancy Labenek-
Bronstein

MOVED by Connie Harris, **SECONDED** by Melody Marat that the meeting end at 11:30.

CARRIED

Review of the document ensued.

Part A and B were accepted. It was thought that some mention should be made of the fact that Sylvan is located on five acres.

Part C – Financial. George Power thanked Anne Marie Maclean and Kim Hennecker for help in compiling these documents.

Part D – Our Community. Religious communities in South Cowichan have grown to include the Coptic Church.

Ministry and Mission Profile

It was thought that the land acknowledgement and affirmation statements as written in the bulletin should appear alongside the Vision and Mission statement as outlined. It was asked if Christian Education could be expanded to include meditation. George Power noted that any increase in time requested by one area of ministry would need to result in a decrease in time to another area.

MOVED by Cassidy Marat, **SECONDED** by Joan Keith-Burgwin that the meeting be extended by another 20 minutes.

CARRIED

Ministry Position Description

The Search Committee has recommended the posting of a three-quarters position, operating three weeks a month. There would, of course, be some flexibility in scheduling; but the committee felt that nine months on, three months off schedule did not serve the church well in the past.

Mr. Roberts noted that there does not need to be a closing date when the position is posted on Church Hub. The committee will need to have time to review applications, so our initial hope of having someone in place by the beginning of September might be a little optimistic. The committee can also look at advertising in the Broadview magazine. The application needs to be approved by Pacific Mountain Region before it can be posted. George Power extended his thanks to the search team and to council for feedback and support.

MOVED by Cassidy Marat, **SECONDED** by Peg Cox that the Sylvan Pastoral Charge approve the Community of Faith profile as amended and request the approval of Pacific Mountain Region.

CARRIED

There appeared to be some issues with notification of the meeting to those few members not on e-mail. Joan Keith-Burgwin felt that the Pastoral Care Committee can help with this issue. There are issues with including the hearing-impaired members in the conversation during these kinds of meetings. It was felt that those

asking questions should have some access to a microphone so that all may hear their questions.

MOVED by Caroline Whitney-Brown, **SECONDED** by Melody Marat that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Minister's Message

In 2025, we were blessed with the leadership of Rev. Meriel Simpson, Rev. Wendy Read, and all those who stepped forward through pulpit supply to support our ministry. Their dedication, wisdom, and willingness to guide us through times of transition have been deeply appreciated.

On behalf of Sylvan United Church, we extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for the time, care, and presence you have shared within our beloved sanctuary. Your contributions have strengthened our community and enriched our spiritual life.

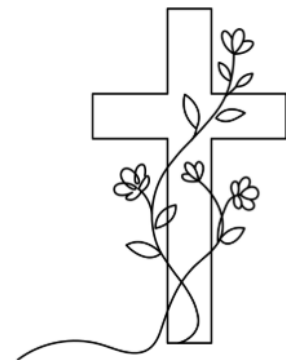
Submitted by
Kelly Campbell (Administrator)



A note from Suzanna

It has been joyful to begin a new ministry with you at Sylvan! Each time I come up the driveway and catch a glimpse of the sanctuary with the beautiful mound of purple and pink heathers at its feet, it actually takes my breath away. I say, "thank you". Thank you for this beautiful, generous space which is filled with light. Our space is important to us and this particular space tells me a lot about you – the people of Sylvan. It tells me that you are open and generous, that you are worship-centered in your faith, that you honour music and the mingling of people, that you welcome folk that might not be welcomed in other places. And when the bell rings out to announce to the neighbourhood that God's people are gathering, we are saying that we are here! The ringing draws our attention to the sacredness of our worship so that we may breathe in the closeness of the holy, come to offer our deepest prayers and then be released to embody the good news in our community.

Thank you for extending a call for me to minister here with you. I look forward to our journey together. I look forward to deepening our relationships and discover with you what our work is in this place at this new time. We ask God to steady our feet so that we may faithfully continue our work which has been built on the great heritage of our past. As spring unfolds into a new



season, bringing the bright green of new growth and the greater warmth of the sun's friendship, may we open ourselves to this new time together and be open to God's surprises along the way.

With every blessing,
Rev. Suzanna Bates March 2026

Office Administrator Report

In 2025, Sylvan United continued to navigate its ongoing transition with resilience and grace. Early in the year, we said farewell to Emily and Rosie and welcomed Kelly Campbell into the office. As Kelly approaches the completion of her first year at Sylvan, she has dedicated herself to learning what matters most to our congregation, ensuring smooth day-to-day operations, and preparing all that is needed for Sunday worship with care and attention.

Throughout the year, the office supported two interim ministers, assisting them in leading worship, adapting to new personalities and working styles, and updating the bulletin to reflect Sylvan's established format—no small task when each minister brings their own unique approach. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Sylvan congregation for the many ways you have volunteered your time and energy.

The office also took on additional responsibilities this year, including tracking the Country Grocer Fundraiser, assisting Choir Director Eve Daniell, and supporting P&E with tasks such as scheduling work, developing fire safety plans, and offering a listening ear to Birdsong whenever small issues arise.



Our website has seen meaningful updates, now highlighting services offered at Sylvan such as weddings, funerals, and rentals. We have also added pages for the Telephone of the Wind, the Labyrinth, and our affirming ministry. The Music page has been refreshed as well, with new information and current choir schedules.

Many of you may have noticed the changes to *Life & Work* this year. I have been working to keep the layout consistent from week to week, making it easier to find what you're looking for within the newsletter.

Our social media accounts continue to grow, with new views each week. To extend Sylvan's reach even further, we need your help. Interactions—likes, comments, and shares—significantly increase visibility. Sharing posts that resonate with you helps broaden our community's presence and invites others to engage with what Sylvan offers.

Finally, I have begun reviewing and reducing our paper files. According to Pacific Mountain, paper records are no longer required except for membership rolls and

registries. I am gradually digitizing Sylvan's files and ensuring they are properly backed up.

Submitted by,
Kelly Campbell

We Remember



Blair Howard 1943 - 2025

With Sadness we announced the passing of Blair Howard; Blair and Melissa lived in Arbutus Ridge. They were very active in our Sylvan Community, energetically taking part in all aspects of our life and work. Then in 2021 they moved to Ottawa to be closer to their two daughters, son-in-law and grandchildren.

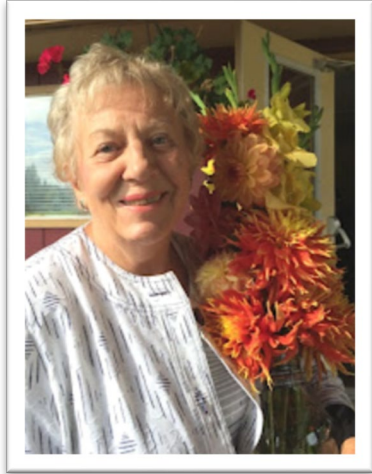
- Celebrating-A-Round: Volume 22, Issue 3: Page 4

Tracey Barry 1921 - 2025

Tracey began attendance at the Mill Bay United Church, where she taught Sunday School, sang in the choir and presided over the United Church Women. After the joining of the Mill Bay and Shawnigan Churches to form Sylvan United Church, she continued there as long as she could drive her big car, and she was noted to always wear gloves and a stylish hat!

- Celebrating-A-Round: Volume 22, Issue 4: Page4





Ollie Hodges 1934 - 2025

Ollie was a long-time member of our faith community. Although she moved to Delta to be closer to her daughter, she maintained her interest in life at Sylvan and visited whenever an opportunity arose. She was delighted to contribute her memories to "The history of Sylvan United Church".

- Celebrating-A-Round: Volume 22, Issue 4: Page 2

Co-Chairs of Council

2025 was another busy year for Sylvan's Council and the co-chairs. Ten meetings were held between January and December; no meetings were held in June and July. The majority of the meetings were held in the Fireside room of the Church Hall, with out-of-town members attending by Zoom. One meeting was entirely on Zoom. The mixed format had a few glitches, but they have sorted themselves out. Purchasing a Zoom membership allowed for an uninterrupted meeting which was part of the initial problem.

The majority of our work, other than participating in the meetings, was:

- Overseeing the end of Rev. Katherine Brittain's six and half year tenure
- Populating the Search team
- Liaising with Rev. Maggie Enright of the Pacific Mountain Region for guidance and to ensure proper protocols were followed
- Met with, and welcomed Rev. Meriel Simpson and Rev. Wendy Read as they filled the positions of temporary ministers over the year
- Organized a congregational meeting to learn of, and approve, the results of the Search team
- Provided listening ears and advice as necessary
- Met with, and welcomed Rev. Suzanna Bates

Marian and I have been co-chairs of Sylvan's Council for almost three years. We highly recommend the co-chair model. It allows one person to be available in case of illness or holiday, it provides the sharing of concerns, helps with problem solving, and we can each draw on the other one's experiences.

Marian and I have guided Sylvan through some interesting and difficult challenges, and we have learned a lot. However, we both feel that it is time for others to step into these roles. It is with a mixture of both sadness and gratitude that we have notified Council that we will both be stepping down as of the Annual General Meeting. We express our thanks to all the members of Council for their dedication to the work and life of Sylvan, as well as to the Congregation for their support and faith in us as co-chairs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Duncan and Marian Davies

Finance

Last year's budget anticipated a healthy surplus. We needed a buffer to support moving expenses for a new minister. Fortunately, Rev. Suzanna was living in the area. That allowed us to finish 2025 with a surplus of just over \$13,000. This was after we finished repaying ourselves the last \$5,000 of the \$10,000, we borrowed from designated funds to support operations in previous years. For the first time in years that has meant that we are not currently using our line of credit

Budget 2026

As we look towards 2026 we need to address some challenges in our income.

- PAR (Pre-Authorized debit) is currently much lower than past years due to people leaving PAR
- The Birdsong revenue is projected to be lower than last year and 2024. They only have 16 children in preschool, not 20, due to staffing. Our rates are based on their attendance
- Hand-in-hand is lower because the January income has been allocated to support the driveway and electrical work

Between these and now having a permanent part-time minister we are anticipating a significant deficit next year. At the March council meeting it was decided that we would undertake the following:

1. In addition to our regular fundraisers again including Skills and Service auction, Spring Plant sale, Raspberry Tea, Christmas Tea and music programs we will be looking to do other fundraising, like our always fun Skills and Service auction
2. Have a stewardship campaign in the May-June timeframe

Anne-Marie and George are immensely grateful for the work of our bookkeeper Kim Hennecker to carefully manage our cash flow.

Respectfully submitted, George Power and Anne-Marie MacLean co-treasurers

2026 Budget

Income	2024 actual	2025 actual	2026 budget
Regular giving			
Canada Helps	2,393.85	1,150.00	1,300.00
Pringle	7,326.59		
PAR	52,210.00	49,035.61	43,850.00
Envelopes	51,794.36	45,270.00	46,393.00
Loose	1,946.25	2,598.36	2,172.00
Investment Income	179.52	82.66	96.00
Birthdays	1,333.00	1,293.00	1,000.00
Contingency		-5000.00	
Regular giving total	115,850.57	93,136.63	94,811.00
Rental			
Birdsong	31,340.00	29,065.00	25,968.00
Other rentals	8,161.35	7,355.00	7,800.00
Rental total	39,501.35	36,420.00	33,768.00
Fundraising			
Hand in hand	8,836.27	7,785.53	6,000.00
Christmas Tea	2,058.65	2,321.72	2,500.00
Shrove Tuesday		170.85	235.00
Purdy's Chocolate		608.34	600.00
Spring/Plant sale			
Skills & Service	2,865.00		4,000.00
Raspberry Tea	1,648.86	1,966.75	2,000.00
Spring Fling	3,780.90	3,429.85	4,000.00
History of Sylvan	-64.31		
Anniversary Lunch	-321.42		
Total Fundraising	20,136.95	17,576.04	19,335.00
Music programs			3,500.00
Recitals	2,065.25		
Choir registrations			
Pastoral Programs	3,669.02		
Messiah	4,484.00		
Vocal Collective		702.00	
Artistry and Outreach		545.00	
Mozart		212.14	
Carols by Candlelight		2,306.41	
Total music programs	10,218.27	3,765.55	3,500.00
Other			3,987.00
Mortgage Principle Funds	1,200.00	600.00	
GST	7.83	107.63	
Other income	2,065.15	2,486.49	
CofTin, Nwltr, EnvSup	541.30	489.90	
Outreach support	327.00		
Professional Services	870.00	447.53	
Total Other	5,011.28	4,131.55	3,897.00
Total Income	190,718.42	157,514.77	155,401.00

	2024 actual	2025 actual	2026 budget
Expenses			
Sunday School			
Benevolence			
Adult Education			
Outreach	154.00	100.00	150.00
Hospitality	488.89	470.21	708.00
Pastoral Care		19.10	
Property			
Materials and supplies	1,914.32	1,178.05	
Maintenance/improvements	4,499.83	9,467.35	7,821.00
Total Property	6,414.15	10,645.40	7,821.00
Worship			
Pulpit supply	7,410.00	2,540.00	4,959.00
Worship expenses	32.84	154.19	481.00
Choir Expenses	110.38	33.77	
Total Worship	7,553.22	2,727.96	5,440.00
Ministry and personnel			
Custodial Services	8,250.00	9,150.00	8,375.00
Financial records	3,000.00	3,150.00	3,000.00
Pianist	5,000.00	5,600.00	5,700.00
Choir Director	720.00	760.00	1,200.00
Misc.	3,718.66	3,111.35	3,123.00
Cell phone - minister	720.00	560.00	
Continuing Ed - minister	1,366.72	806.30	1,664.00
Travel Allowance – Minister	81.94	3,500.00	
Payroll	110,044.37	57,629.84	90,776.00
Total ministry and personnel	132,901.69	84,267.49	103,938.00
Mortgage			
Mortgage interest	1,308.87	1,284.24	1,277.00
Mortgage Principle	2,576.12	3,061.04	2,607.00
Total Mortgage	3,884.99	4,345.28	3,884.00
United Church Allocations	7,269.00	8,712.00	9,903.00
Miscellaneous	2,375.91	757.35	2,186.00
Insurance	8,956.63	10,389.00	10,422.00
Utilities	8,245.04	8,755.99	8,624.00
Par/bank fees	1,443.17	1,744.98	1,397.00
Copier	3,419.09	2,833.11	2,921.00
Office supplies	1,147.03	449.15	1,177.00
Communications	3,199.63	2,871.57	3,029.00
Security	928.45	1,572.72	630.00
Telephone	865.92	914.11	866.00
Total Expenses	189,246.81	144,060.42	172,996.00
Net (Income – expenses)	1,471.61	13,454.35	(17,595.00)

Balance sheet – Dec 31, 2025

Assets

Current Assets

Term Deposits - Restricted

Term Dep #1 – Bequest FLJ Beal 10,000.00

Term Dep #61 1,500.00

Total Term Deposits 11,500.00

Designated - Restricted

Savings 1 - Designated 11,163.44

Total Designated 11,163.44

Chequing Account

Community Outreach account 0.91

Operations Account 8,090.83

Mortgage Fund Account 319.96

Total Chequing 8,411.70

FWCU Membership shares 6.56

Total Current Assets 31,081.70

Fixed assets

Lands, Building, Equip & Furn 58,477.14

Total Assets 89,558.84

Liabilities & Equity

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

Restricted

Restricted designated

Jazz Vespers 37.47

Children's choir

Christmas Choir '25 440.00

Christmas Choir '24 598.22

Children's Choir Other 500.00

Total Children's choir 1,538.22

Capital

Bequest - FLJ Beal 10,000.00

Smile Card 0.00

Capital -Other 1,045.10

Memorial Funds 3,282.67

Musical Outreach - Youth 862.59

Observer | Broadview 0.00

Sylvan Bursary 1,365.67

Women Together 179.67

First Third of Life 4,069.42

Total restricted designated 22,371.81

Restricted flow thru

Mortgage Fund 319.96

Community Outreach Recycling 0.91

Total restricted flow thru 320.87

Total Restricted 22,692.68

GST/HST payable (431.67)

Total Current Liabilities 22,261.01

Long-term Liabilities

Mortgage 27,058.04

Total Liabilities 49,319.05

Equity

ISCU share dividends 1.32

Retained earnings 23,723.08

Net Income 16,515.39

Total Equity 40,239.79

Total liabilities and Equity 89,558.84



Board of Trustees

One of the responsibilities of a Board of Trustees in the United Church of Canada is the management of the church’s mortgage. In the spring of 2025, the Sylvan mortgage came up for renewal, and in collaboration with our Co-Treasurer (Anne Marie MacLean), the mortgage was successfully renewed for a three-year term. At the time of renewal (April 2025), the remaining principal was just over \$29,000.

Another responsibility of Trustees is to ensure that the church has adequate and appropriate insurance coverage. Premiums for 2025 increased by 5% and remain a significant but essential expenditure in our annual budget. A significant upgrade of Sylvan’s fire safety equipment and signage was completed in 2025 in keeping with insurance requirements. Trustees were consulted during this process and appreciated the leadership of the Property and Environment Team to arrange for the necessary equipment, purchases, and installation.

A bequest received in 2024 was reinvested in 2025. At the direction of Sylvan Council those funds can be used to assist in financing any future capital projects once the investment term ends, or it can be reinvested for another period. The prudent management of bequests is another responsibility of Trustees. This is perhaps an appropriate time to remind congregants that all bequests to Sylvan are gratefully received and will help to ensure that our church is supported well into the future.

As Chair of the Sylvan Board of Trustees, I am also a director of the Shawnigan Cemetery. I attended the Annual Meeting of the Cemetery Society in January 2025. I appreciate the ongoing work of the Cemetery Society and the Malahat Lions in managing and maintaining the Cemetery and in developing long-term plans to ensure it will meet the future needs of the community.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Sober
Chair



Shawnigan Cemetery

The Shawnigan Cemetery is located at 1825 Munsie Road in Shawnigan Lake and is a community cemetery run by a society with an elected Board. Due to the historical connection with the former Shawnigan Lake United Church, Sylvan's Trustees still participate in the stewardship of the Shawnigan Cemetery.

Roy Davies is the Cemetery Administrator, and Kim Hennecker is the Treasurer, both of whom have provided their services since 2010. Jason Whitehead is the contractor who manages the sites, designs the layout of the property and plans for its future

use. He has done this work for 20 years. The Malahat Lions Club, under the leadership of Tom Worth faithfully cares for the Cemetery as part of their community volunteerism and are diligent in maintaining the property and keeping it beautiful.

In 2025, there were 5 interments and 12 plot sales at the Cemetery.

At the beginning of 2025, Rev. Dr. Murray Groom assumed the position of President of the Cemetery Board, and Lisa Davies accepted the position of Secretary. Thanks to both Murray and Lisa for agreeing to take on these roles.

Our deep appreciation is also extended to Roy, Kim, Jason, Tom, and the Malahat Lions team.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Sober
Director

Ministry and Personnel

Our M&P committee now consists of John Kamphof, Monika Morgan & David Wentzell. We are grateful for David's assistance and input since recently joining our committee.

Another eventful year administrative wise, but now things should be settling into a more predictable routine. Our new minister Suzanna Bates started February 1st on a part time basis (3 Sundays /month.) Some flexibility will be noted at times. Her partner Peggy Twyman is also getting involved in life at Sylvan. We are most grateful & welcome them both to work alongside us at Sylvan.

Our office admin person Kelly Campbell has now been with us for a full year and we are so grateful for the knowledge and expertise that she displays regularly. She is usually well ahead of our requests and needs. She continues to work 12 hours\week coordinating with the minister. Those hours seem to work well into our schedule and with her family life.

Terry Valley continues as our meticulous reliable custodian. He normally works most Fridays.

Our musical leaders continue to be Eve, Catharina, and Rykie. We are so blessed with the talent and enthusiasm that they bring to our worship services and community concerts.

Kim Hennecker continues to keep our books in great shape. He has been with us at Sylvan for many years. We hope he can stick around a little longer.

This fall we hired on a very casual basis Steve Wolanski to assist us with occasional handy man projects. As we don't have a Property & Environment team, he has assisted us on a couple of projects that we needed more expertise. Steve also works part time at Camp Pringle.

Respectfully submitted
Monika Morgan
M&P committee

Outreach

Feb. 22nd - Coldest Night of the year – “CNOY” - with pic of Sylvan walking team lead by Teri Young, we had a good strong team of walkers from Sylvan this year. The goal is to support a building for homeless youth in Duncan and provide services for them. This is a fundraiser organized by Canadian Mental Health Assoc, Cowichan Valley Branch. Our walkers in 2025 included: Teri Young, David Wentzell, Kathy Sellers, Kathy Twiss, Peter Spohn, Madi Mayfield, Jane Kilthei, Cory Kamphof, and Evid Hazelbower. Funds raised: 2025 - \$4,765; 2024 - \$2,350



April 24th – Film evening - “Together For the Love of Creation” – with a special message from the Moderator of the United Church and showing of the film “The Hottest Year in Human History”. This was an event to celebrate “Earth Week” sponsored by the United Church. They sent us two T-shirts with the logo. We made a large poster of climate change ideas which was displayed in the coffee room for a few months.

May 26th – Film and Potluck - visit of the “Pope Kyrillos 6th Coptic Orthodox Church”, our new neighbours in Mill Bay. They are part of the diaspora of persecuted Christians leaving Egypt. We had the delightful experience of hosting about 30 members of the Coptic (Egyptian) Church. These are families who have left Egypt in the hopes of finding a safer home in Canada. They have endured more than a decade of terrible abuse, fires in their churches, physical abuse and death. This group came to Vancouver Island seeking to find a spiritual home in safety and were hoping to have their property on Cameron-Taggart Rd rezoned to be able to build a sanctuary. We invited the group for a potluck dinner with members of Sylvan church. After the dinner one of their young men gave a slide talk presentation explaining certain aspects of their history and beliefs followed by questions. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, with their Father Moussa Ghaly in attendance. Because the land issue was a

contentious one locally, we didn't advertise this meeting to the greater community, it was just for Sylvan and the Coptic church members.

June 19th. Film and potluck dinner - showing of "The Cowichan Sweater – Our Knitted Legacy", a 2023 CBC film. This is a film made locally and highlights the work of the (mainly) women of the First Nations in this area to make beautiful hand-made, natural wool, heavy sweaters. We invited knitters from Victoria, Malahat and Duncan areas, and had about 10 of the local knitters as our guests, plus Carrie McClay from the Victoria Native Friendship Centre where she is a social worker and helps the knitters to organize. From our local community many interested people attended, including some of those having had a close connection with Cowichan knitters for many years like Judy Hill and Leola Witt. We all learned a lot and really appreciated the work of these First Nations women, hopefully building bridges between our communities. *June is National Indigenous History month in Canada.*

Aug 22 and 23 – Cobble Hill Fair – Sylvan had a lively presence once again at the



Fair. We were on "Church Row" next to our Anglican neighbours and had a craft table where passing children could make windmill flowers from paper plates. Many members of Sylvan helped with the set-up, manning the booth, and take-down, thanks to all.

For this summer coming up, the Anglican members suggested that we rent a spot between the two church tents and display "Hand in Hand" clothing for sale.

Nov 14 – COP vigil for the environment.

Jane Kilthei gave us a primer on latest developments on the COP climate conference in Brazil this year. A small group of us gathered in the Fireside room with candles, as we prayed for the future of our earth.

Nov. 23rd- Film afternoon – "Irena's Vow"- this was an intense true story made recently regarding the life of Irena Gut, a young Catholic nurse in occupied Poland who was able to hide a dozen Jewish people in the basement of the home of a Nazi officer that she worked for as a housekeeper during the Second World War. Irena saved their lives for about two years until they were able to escape to freedom. We chose this film as the threat of imprisonment is growing in countries becoming fascist now, and November is a good month to remember war and the sacrifice of those who defended freedom for us. Not surprisingly we had a lively discussion afterwards.

December –Angel Gifts – Our congregation provided gifts to four families in need, about 20 gifts altogether, ranging from gift cards to toys and clothes. Kathy Twiss helped to coordinate this project with Duncan United.

Salvation Army Kettle Campaign – coordinated by Kathy Sellers, Sylvan was once again out in front of various large stores in Mill Bay, Duncan and Chemainus, ringing the bells and even singing carols. Together we put in 46 hours, just short of the 50-hr. goal. In this area \$145,000 were raised for food hampers and other programs to support people in need in the Cowichan Valley, with \$12,800 from Mill Bay Thrifty’s alone!



Community support Gifts – the funds for these donations came entirely from the “Pop Bottle Fund”, kindly administered by Dr. Bill & Robbie Fritz and family. This year’s donations:

- El Hogar- \$300 in November, \$100 in August
- Nourish Cowichan- \$100 in August, \$200 in November
- Cowichan Women against Violence (CWAV) - \$100 in August, \$100 in November
- CMS Food bank (over our regular donation of \$100 a month) - \$200 in August, \$100 in November
- (Joan Keith-Burgwin’s Smitten Tree project also donates toques, socks, mittens, scarves to the CMS food bank – thanks to all who contributed knitted items)
- Victoria Native Friendship Centre – for Knitters Group - \$100
- CMHA Cowichan Valley branch- for Youth Centre - \$100 in August, \$200 in November
- Coldest Night of the Year – (also for CMHA)- \$200 in February

Thanks to all who attended and supported various Outreach events, we appreciate you.

Submitted by,
Connie Harris, outgoing team leader for Outreach. January, 2026.

Birdsong

Birdsong Nature Schools year began in a winter wonderland, where we spent our days bundled up and playing in the snow, building forts and sharing laughs in the crisp air. As the frost thawed, we transitioned into a busy spring focused on growth; we spent hours planting and harvesting our garden, marveling at how small seeds could turn into such wonderful treasures.



This season of renewal was also enriched by our time with Moe the Mouse through our partnership with the Clements Centre, which helped our little learners find their voices and develop essential literacy skills through song and story.

When the summer heat arrived, the playground transformed into a water park as we stayed cool running through sprinklers and enjoying the sunshine. As we transitioned into the fall, we spent time welcoming new friends and diving into our "All About Me" unit to celebrate our growing community. We explored the crunchy world of apples and embarked on several field trips that sparked our curiosity about the world around us.

It has been a year defined by deep friendship and discovery, and while we are sad to see them go, we are incredibly proud to celebrate our 12 children graduating as they headed off to their next big adventure.

Submitted by,
Heidi Murray

Hospitality

The year 2025 saw many changes in our church as we said our "Thank you" and "Goodbye" to Katherine, who accepted a calling at Nanaimo United Church and to Meriel, who finished her time with us as our temporary minister while we were waiting for the proper procedures to take place. We welcomed Wendy to guide us through the last stages of acquiring a new minister and getting ready for him/her. In January of 2026 we said, "Thank you" and "Goodbye" to Wendy.

For most of us, last year was a very difficult time of not knowing if and when we will be able to find and meet our new minister, while the search team worked its way through the many issues it faced.

We assisted with hosting some concerts and choir performances led by Eve and provided Emily with refreshments for the Parents and Tots music groups. This year we did not have a summer camp to take care of, but instead we provided refreshments for Tracy Barry's Celebration of Life service. Our volunteers stepped forward to take care of coffee time after the services, to arrange flowers for the sanctuary, and to greet the people coming to worship with us.

The volunteers also helped with fundraising events, and I am very grateful for their willingness to help.



Respectfully submitted,
Judy van der Boom.

Hand in Hand Thrift Shop



February 2025, Valentine's Day to be exact, our little shop celebrated ten years in operation! A decade of support for both Sylvan United Church and St. John's Anglican Parish! A successful partnership was conceived after members of both communities came together at a fundraiser and realized there was an opportunity to open a Thrift Shop where we share the work and the profits.

The shop is located on the parking lot of St. John's in Cobble Hill and is considered a hidden gem by the local community! Once shoppers arrive and see the amazing treasures we offer and that we only offer goods that are 'ready to use or wear' they want to return often! Thank you to Michael, who stages our displays and seeks out the best collectables that folks love and ponder on where it fits in their homes. We carry vintage, funky, classic, fun and vogue clothing for men and women in all seasons...often never been worn!

We are grateful beyond words for our donors who drop off items both at the shop and in the narthex at Sylvan. We are appreciative of all our shoppers, our volunteers who work every Friday from 10am to 2pm, our opening hours, and our sorters who work to see the racks and shelves are ready for Fridays. The initiative would never be possible without a commitment from both churches! Many hands are truly working Hand-in-Hand!

Respectfully Submitted,
Marian Davies

Women Together in Fellowship

Women Together continues to enjoy well-attended and engaging monthly gatherings in the church sanctuary, where members share coffee, tea, fellowship, and thoughtful discussion. One featured meeting Women Together had a lively conversation about C.S. Lewis—his journey from atheism to Christianity, his theological writings, and his beloved Chronicles of Narnia. Another gathering invited

members to share favorite Christmas traditions, creating a warm and festive atmosphere. The group met before the summer break at the home of Grace Scott, regular meetings resumed in the fall.

Property and Environment

The care and maintenance of the 3 buildings at Sylvan continues with several big projects completed in 2025 and for several more the work has been carried over into 2026 as weather and costs affect the timeline of completion.

Frequent motion detector alarms in the sanctuary were happening, TELUS checked the system and had to replace old sensors. The number of alarms during the night decreased significantly.

The fluorescent lights were replaced with LED fixtures in the daycare area with a dimmer switch added so lighting levels can be adjusted to suit the needs of the daycare and our congregation. The fluorescent lights in the sanctuary were replaced with LED bulbs using the original fixtures. The advantage of LED lighting includes lower costs to operate and softer yet brighter lighting. The Consort Choir volunteered to cost-share the sanctuary lights and this was greatly appreciated.

The septic tank was cleaned in March; the septic field lines were cleared at a later date. It was discovered the pump in the tank had failed and was replaced. The one remaining task is to dig out around the green lids and replace missing screws, presently concrete blocks cover the lids to keep them secure.

Other electrical work is ongoing including fixing some small code violations, replacing old motion detection lights and adding new ones outside the hall and the sanctuary. The pot lights outside the sanctuary all had new LED bulbs installed.

Gutter cleaning and moss removal is an annual maintenance task which is done by a local company.

The lawn tractor required servicing, and this was done by a local business. A new battery was provided by Lois and Bill Turner.

The shed was cleaned out to allow safe and easy access to what is stored and used by us. Wood was sold in our spring sale; other items were recycled or disposed of as garbage. Some things still need to be removed, and we have not found anyone interested in taking them.



An outdoor Fire Smart review was done; recommendations made and have been enacted. Trees beside the sanctuary were removed, replaced with smaller bushes. Trees over the shed roof were trimmed by members and helpful friends.

A fire safety inspection process was done by a private company in the hall and sanctuary. As a result of this, a second fire safety review was done by Mill Bay Fire Department at P&E's request. Two new fire extinguishers were installed in the sanctuary, a new one and a still good one were hung in the kitchen and basement of the hall. A plate cover was added to a junction box in the electrical room. A fire safety plan and evacuation chart was developed by our office administrator and posted in both buildings. Monthly checks are required of extinguishers, exit signs and overall safety issues, these need to be documented as done. A fire drill needs to be done annually; this is the final task required for full inspection approval and will be done later in the spring. The Mill Bay Fire Department offered to do a Fire Smart review outdoors in the spring of 2026 and this will be arranged; trustees were pleased to learn this may have a positive impact on our insurance rate.

P&E members identified the need for the leadership and guidance of a knowledgeable person. Discussion ensued and a suggestion came from board co chair Marion Davies that Camp Pringle has a maintenance person that we could ask for assistance. This has led to our arranging a working relationship with Steve Walanski to help us in our maintenance needs, and a payment schedule was agreed upon. Steve immediately identified solutions including potential contractors for several problem areas with electrical issues and parking lot/driveway potholes. This contract will function on an as needed basis. The waterline in the pump house has been an issue with freezing in winter, Steve solved this by reinstalling the waterline heat tape so hopefully there will be no more breakages and flooding.

The parking lot and driveway have never ending potholes appearing despite the hard efforts of members to add rock and gravel. Steve arranged NTL to give quotes on gravel resurfacing and the parking lot was done. The driveway will be done once the weather allows it to be graded and new gravel added. Please note a successful Capitol Fund drive supported the parking lot/ driveway repair and the outdoor electrical upgrades.

In November the furnace filter was replaced by David Morgan.

There are many small tasks that get done in keeping the buildings in good working order and our members are hard workers that give their time, talent and money to achieve this. It is impossible to identify all of this, and P&E wants to thank everyone for all they contribute. Finally plans for 2026 will complete some of the work begun in 2025.

Footnote: A furnace cleaning was done in February 2026, and we were told one furnace was running hard. A quote for replacing the 2 furnaces was done. After many discussions a second opinion was arranged with the assistance of our electrician and essentially this is not deemed as an immediate replacement needed. Council has been informed that we will not move forward replacing the furnaces at this time. There are various factors that decide what heat system is used and it is not as simple as one might expect.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Marie Mac Lean

Gardeners Report

“The Gardeners” is a companion group to Property and Environment. This year, there have been five stalwart gardeners: Monika and David Morgan, Anne MacLean, Karen Younie, and Robbie Fritz. Given the 4 ½ acre footprint of Sylvan’s grounds, maintenance is a challenge for this small group. We are very grateful for advice and assistance from Nick Jenkins, a friend of the Morgans.

We have some big challenges. One is mowing and trimming our extensive meadow, which poses a fire hazard during the dry months. We are grateful to Dale & Melody Marat and Nancy Labenek & Ron Bronstein for stepping up to mow and tackle the meadow with weed-whackers and whipper-snipers.

The labyrinth is a second challenge. It was built by church and community volunteers in the summer of 2008, almost twenty years ago. It is a prime feature in our Memorial Garden and a wonderful destination for anyone seeking a place for quiet contemplation. Of course, it requires considerable maintenance, without which it would be reclaimed by the robust nature of our West Coast Rainforest. We gardeners have tried ridding the weeds by hand weeding, spraying them with vinegar and scorching them with a Tiger Torch. In fall, we decided to try something new. David and Monika Morgan have spread tarps over especially weedy sections of the labyrinth in the hope that depriving them of light and cooking them with heat from the sun shining on their surface will vanquish the weeds.



A third is selectively watering during the dry months. As the drying trend will likely increase due to Climate Change, the Gardeners are cognizant of the need to plant hardy, drought-resistant plants. In response to a fire safety assessment of our property, David and Monika

removed trees and cut back shrubbery which were in close proximity to the church.

The Gardeners once again enjoyed organizing and manning the plant sale for Spring Fling.

We thank the Master Gardeners of the Mill Bay Garden Club who have faithfully provided expertise and advice on the day.

An extensive clean-up of the inside of the garden shed and its periphery was instigated by Anne Marie. A number of items found new homes, being displayed at Spring Fling. This is an on-going project.

Not actually a gardening project, but some church windowsills and frames were painted.

We extend a hearty welcome to anyone who enjoys nature and camaraderie to join our team. No experience is necessary.

Respectfully submitted by Robbie Fritz

Music at Sylvan

Choir: Sylvan Choir resumed, reviving a previously shared anthem for Easter, and two other pieces were prepared for the spring. Summer was a holiday from the choir. In the autumn, the choir prepared a piece for Thanksgiving and had a selection of Christmas anthems for Advent. There was some uncertainty about the timing of choir rehearsals and when performing anthems would occur. Eve asked Catharina and Rykie to take on more choir rehearsals so that choir members could have dependable intervals between rehearsals. Eve organized the choir repertoire in batches so that people could have more time to prepare. The process is now more resilient to choir member absences. All songs were chosen for the coming year and rehearsal dates were published on the website. Sylvan went through a series of personnel changes and with Eve adapting to parenting, it was a time of much flexibility and adjustment.

A number of local music teachers rent the sanctuary for recitals and performances; they are:

Catharina de Beer, Eve Daniell, Trisha Daniell, Iris Cooke Chislett, Elyssa Lefurgey-Smith, Kathy Lassche, Ciara Beaudin. The Cowichan Consort rents our space bi-weekly for their practices.

Music At Sylvan's Facebook page continued as collaboration between Eve, Emily Harris and Kelly as they stewarded the Sylvan online content. This site highlights performances and musical events at Sylvan, advertising them to the larger community.

Artistry & Outreach held Concert Rehearsals on two Sundays at Sylvan in the spring, with a performance (by donation) on May 10th. This programme was on hiatus for the autumn. Members from the group prepared a contribution for Carols by Candlelight. Eve and Rykie Avenant thank Sylvan for the ongoing support of the project.

VBYO Mozart Concert held May 24th

Rachel, Zachary, Ashley, Kyron, Ciara, Eve, Rykie and Elyssa were the main performers. Emily Harris and students from Frances Kelsey supervised crafts. Judy van der Boom organized food for the participants, Marian Davies organized volunteers to aid with the concert.

Cowichan Vocal Collective Concerts were held June 8th and December 6th. Monika Morgan oversaw the volunteers and hosted. CVC donates a third of the door to Sylvan. This is a very good return for the amount of effort asked of us. The more we can advertise and invite people to this, the better.

An 8 week Summer Tot Class was held Tuesday mornings, July 8th to August 26th. Emily and Eve coordinated this program, Judy VB served refreshments. It was a joyful time of musical engagement.

Children's Choir: Nov 2 - Dec 7 (12.30-1 [K to G3], 1-1.45 [G4 to8]) Eve was the accompanist and Emily conducted. Kate and Lucy assisted. The Concert was held December 7th ; the concert was not advertised, just open to families and Sylvan people. It was the same format as usual of performances, stories, and sing along.



Carols by Candlelight – December 14th, two performances held at 4:00 and 7:00

This was a 60-70 min event held in the Sanctuary, which was bathed in candlelight, using all the Messiah candles (and more) to create an ethereal atmosphere. It was a special night of listening to, and singing, traditional favourites, both secular and religious. There were paid soloists, A&O singers and musical support from the Sylvan Choir for the sing-along sections. All ages were welcome. This was the fundraising centrepiece of the music season. Unfortunately, Eve came down with a serious case of laryngitis and was unable to sing; Brenda Sober and others stepped in. In my opinion, it was a magical evening of music and a lovely way to celebrate Advent and Christmas.

Compiled by Judy Duncan, using notes from Eve Daniell's reports

Pastoral Care

Sylvan United Church continues to offer caring and compassionate support to our congregation through phone calls, home visits, card deliveries, and the steady sharing of news within our church community. Our Pastoral Care team ensures that cards of encouragement, sympathy, and congratulations are sent whenever they are needed.

This year, we were delighted to celebrate the arrival of a new baby, and we also offered our love and condolences to families who experienced loss or transition. The team remains dedicated to reaching out to those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or simply in need of a friendly voice and a listening ear. In addition to caring for our members, we have been actively seeking people from the wider community, inviting them to visit Sylvan United Church and discover the warmth and fellowship that makes our congregation special.

Worship

Sylvan United Church has been blessed with many wonderful thought provoking ministers this year who have led us in Worship. I think that we each have been moved or enlightened by the variety of ways to celebrate Worship.

In mid-January 2025 our Minister Rev. Katherine Brittain left to answer a full-time call at Brechin United Church in Nanaimo. We had pulpit supply for 2 weeks calling on Carrie and Geoff Whitney Brown and Rev. Al Tysick.

Rev. Meriel Simpson became our temporary part-time minister from early February until the end of August. Rev. Simpson led us through Lent and then Easter. On Palm Sunday we processed into the sanctuary waving cedar boughs; we held a Maunday Thursday luncheon, a somber Good Friday service and Easter Sunday was celebrated with a decorated Easter cross. In early summer Rev. Simpson helped organize a Welsh music event that was enjoyed by all. On August 3 Rev. John Barry Forsyth led us in Worship.

At summer's end Rev. Simpson answered a call to her hometown of Nanaimo and sadly left us August 31, 2025, to be the minister at St. Andrews United Church

For 3 weeks In September, we enjoyed Worship services with Rev. Wilda Cottam with Rev. Suzanna Bates leading us on the 4th Sunday of September.

In October Rev. A. Wendy Read then became our temporary part time minister and led us in Worship October- mid January with Rev. Al Tysick and Dr. Rev. Murray Groom filling in Nov. 23 and Dec. 7 respectively.

An All-Music service was held on December 28th, facilitated by Cassidy Marat and Joan Keith-Burgwin.

Communion: Communion is held every month and is typically the first Sunday of the month, although this schedule is flexible. Thank you to Joan Keith Burgwin for providing the elements and to Joan and Grace Scott who oversee things to ensure this Holy sacrament proceeds smoothly. If any congregants would like to be Communion servers, please let me know.

Pulpit supply: Sylvan is blessed to have a variety of Ministers and lay people who hold a special place in their hearts for Sylvan and have led us in worship when our minister is unavailable. We are grateful to the following leaders: Rev. Wilda Cottam, Rev. John Barry Forsyth; Rev. Al Tysick; Dr. Rev. Murray Groom, Geoff and Carrie Whitney Brown; and our own Rev. Suzanna Bates who provided pulpit supply in September and began her permanent part time call with us Feb 1, 2026

Art: We enjoyed the artwork of Cowichan Valley artist Catherine Fraser and our own Peter Spohn and Nan Goodship. We anticipate displaying visual arts by a local photographer this spring.

We also anticipate putting up a green swag in late May to celebrate Ordinary Time. This swag will be in place until the first Sunday of Advent.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Twiss on behalf of Worship



Summary of Events at Sylvan in 2025

- Said goodbye to Rev. Katherine Brittain
- Welcomed Rev. Meriel Simpson
- Said goodbye to our temporary administrators Emily and Rosie
- Welcomed Kelly Campbell into the office as a permanent office administrator
- 12 registered members of Sylvan United Church participated in the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser
- Hand-in-Hand thrift store celebrated its 10th anniversary!
- Congrats to David and Monika Morgan who were awarded the Exceptional Service Award at the Annual Congregational meeting March 30th
- Sylvan Hosted a very successful Spring Fling in May taking in about \$3000
- We said goodbye to Rev. Simpson
- Celebrated the life of Blair Howard
- Celebrated Mary's 90th Birthday
- Thank you to everyone who help maintain our grounds over the warm spring/summer months
- Sylvan presented two bursaries:
 - Sylvan United Church Music and Arts Bursary - \$500
 - Sylvan United Church Vocational Award - \$500
- Celebrated the United Church's 100th Birthday with a Hymn Sing lead by Rev. Meriel Simpson.
- Grace Scott Hosted an elegant luncheon for Women Together for the conclusion of their spring meetings
- Successful Raspberry Tea that was well attended
- Sylvan Hosted Family Music
- Sylvan at the Cobble Hill Fair
- Celebrated the life of Ollie Hodges and Evelyn Barry
- Welcomed Rev. Wendy Read
- By Congregational Meeting, we called our new Revered Suzanna Bates, who will start in the new year.
- Candlelight Vigil for COP
- Salvation Army Kettle Sitting Campaign
- Support to Nourish Cowichan
- Smitten Tree
- All our Food for Thought evenings throughout the year.
- Christmas Tea
- Children's Choir
- Carols by Candlelight

Sylvan Council and Team Members

Chair — Vacant

Recording Secretary — Karen Younie

Outreach: Kathleen Sellers

Education: Robbie Fritz, Connie Harris

Corrie Kamphof, Laura Fritz & George Power

Pastoral Care — Joan Keith-Burgwin

Hospitality — Judy van der Boom

Property and Environment — Vacant

Treasurer: George Power, Anne Marie MacLean

Worship: Kathy Twiss

Board of Trustees Chair — Brenda Sober

Stewardship — All of Council

Board of Trustees

Rev. Suzanna Bates

Brenda Sober

Judy Baxter

Ministry and Personnel

Monika Morgan

John Kamphof

David Wentzell

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The congregation of Sylvan United Church acknowledges with respect our location on traditional lands of the Hul'qumi'num People, recognizing especially the Malahat (Malexel) and Cowichan First Nations.

AFFIRMATION

We are an Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada and embrace people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. When we say everyone, we mean everyone.

MISSION

We are a welcoming community called to embrace diversity, partner with our neighbours, serve those in need, celebrate together, and to create a just and sustainable world.

VISION

Moved by the Spirit, we gather in love, and we work together for a better world.