

SEDGEWICK – LOUGHEED PASTORAL CHARGE
ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH, LOUGHEED
SEDGEWICK UNITED CHURCH



Our Mission

*To worship God and care for one another.
To spiritually and morally enrich the lives of the members
and families of our congregation.
To provide a means whereby we might share and grow
in our devotion to Jesus Christ through;
Prayer, Christian Education, Fellowship,
Christian witness in the home, in the workplace and community;
and through service to all people –
To the end that we might have life and have it abundantly.*

**ANNUAL REPORT
2024**

PASTORAL CHARGE STAFF

Minister	Pastor Paul Allard <i>(to May 2024)</i>
Pastoral Charge Supervisor	Reverend Deanna Cox <i>(from June 2024)</i>
Supply Minister	Reverend Steve Haughland
Treasurer	Esther Whitehead
Office Administrator	Mell Hampshire

PASTORAL CHARGE VOLUNTEERS

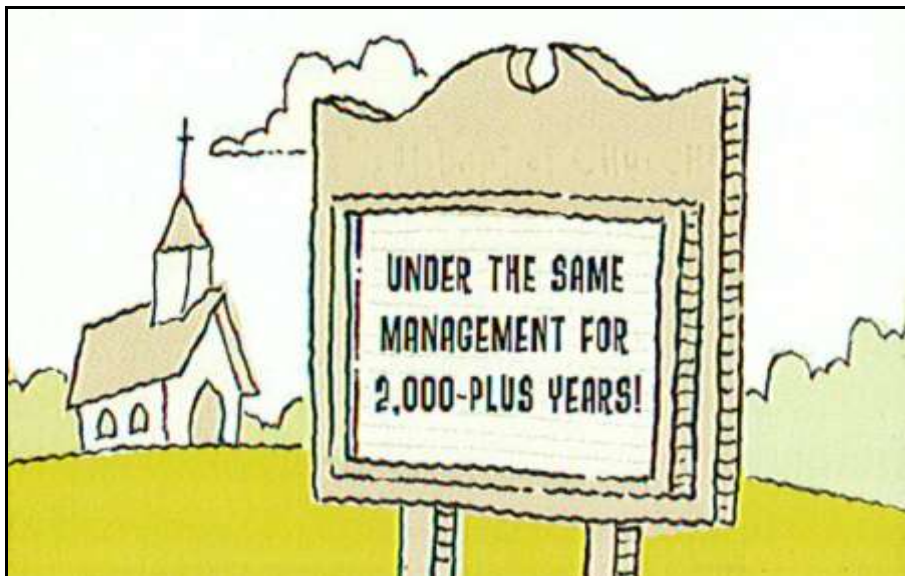
Lay Leaders	Jayne Odegard Dempsey Dale Jones Gwennie Simpson	Janice Bishop Susan MacKinnon
Liturgists	Helen Tanton Kari Sanders Gwenda Poyser	Leola Forster Sherri Leslie Pat MacKinnon
Musicians	Gail Eckstrand Jerry-Lynn Burden <i>choir director</i>	Gwenda Poyser
Maintenance & Landscaping	Janice Bishop Michael & Marilyn Patten James Hampshire Stacey Sanders	Kim Martin Megan Hampshire Connie Polege Vern Bergum
Good As New Shop	Betty Smith	

PASTORAL CHARGE STATISTICS

By the end of 2024 we have 41 confirmed memberships in St. Andrew's United, Lougheed and 95 in Sedgewick for a total of 136 confirmed members. 14 of those members have moved away and are listed as non-resident, however they still return occasionally and have not transferred to new parishes.

Besides official members we have many 'adherents' including children and youth, who regularly participate in the life of the Pastoral Charge but are not (yet!) included in our membership figures. We currently have 36 Lougheed households and 82 Sedgewick households under pastoral care for our charge.

Average attendance at in-person worship was 21, with the Easter and Christmas services being the most popular.



THE NEW UNIFIED JOINT PASTORAL BOARD

One representative from each section unless otherwise stated

Chair and Vice-Chair (*rep from each congregation*)

Treasurer and Mission & Service Treasurer

Secretary

Minister or Charge Supervisor

Church Office Administrator

Northern Spirit Rep

Ministry & Personnel Reps (2)

Worship Committee Reps (2-3)

Trustees Reps (2)

Property & Finance—Sedgewick Rep(s) (1-2)

Property & Finance—St. Andrews Rep

Sunday School Rep

Hardisty Lake United Church Camp Rep

2024 BOARD

Meetings require one representative from each section unless otherwise stated

Chairperson	Jayne Odegard Dempsey	Property & Finance (2)	James Hampshire
Co-Chair	Kari Sanders		Jeff Eckstrand
Charge Treasurer	Esther Whitehead		Committee of the Whole
Mission & Service Treasurer	Sherry Mayne		<i>(Lougheed congregation)</i>
Unified Board Secretary	Gwenda Poyser	Trustee (1-2)	Gert Lewis
Minister	Pastor Paul Allard		Roger Ferrier
Pastoral Charge Supervisor	Reverend Deanna Cox		Jeff Eckstrand
Ministry & Personnel (2)	Leola Forster		Ron Roggensack
	Jarrett Ferrier		Michael Patten
	Lisa Burgess		Brian Rawluk
	Marilyn Patten	Northern Spirit Region	Gwenda Poyser
Worship Committee (2-3)	Deb Leslie	Sunday School	Megan Hampshire Strachan
	Susan MacKinnon	Hardisty Lake Camp	Melvin Lundy
	Gwennie Simpson		
	Janice Bishop		
	Jayne Odegard Dempsey		
	Gwenda Poyser		
	Kari Sanders		



MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

This committee currently consists of four members, two from each congregation. The M&P Committee acts under the guidelines of The Manual of the United Church of Canada which states the responsibilities to be: review of salaries and making recommendations to the Board prior to the budget process, considering continuing education and vacation plans, encouraging annual review of any ministry personnel and staff as they relate to the goals of the congregations.

The Memorandum of Understanding with the Hardisty Hughenden Pastoral Charge ended in June 2024. Since then we have been without a minister but Reverend Deanna Cox has agreed to be our Pastoral Charge Supervisor despite her already busy schedule.

The structure of the Pastoral Charge board has changed and now our committee sends two representatives to any Unified Board meetings of our Charge.

If members of our congregations have praise or concerns about staff, both ministry personnel and lay employees, please share in signed correspondence with the committee. Any issues will be considered confidentially by the M&P Committee who will work toward resolution of any concerns.

Respectfully submitted by the M & P Committee; Leola Forster, Jarrett Ferrier, Lisa Burgess and Marilyn Patten.

PASTORAL CHARGE UNIFIED JOINT BOARD REPORT

Our new Unified Board met three times in 2024; March, September and December. Pastor Paul served as our half time minister until May 2024. He continued his 'open door' program every Friday afternoon at Sedgewick United. And conducted monthly services at Daysland Providence Place and the Killam Health Care Centre where he provided pastoral care. Pastor Paul continued mentoring and supervising ministerial candidate Carson Ryner. And he was the pastoral charge supervisor role for the Salem—Vegreville Pastoral Charge. Paul was also an active member of the Highway 13 Flagstaff Ministerial Association.

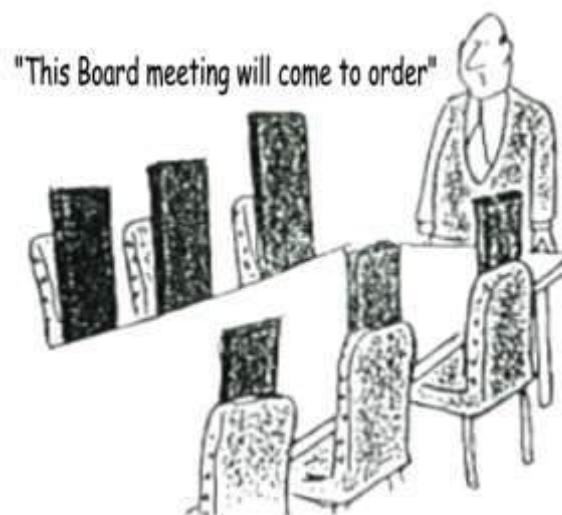
Pastor Paul was offered a half-time position with Sedgewick-Lougheed Pastoral Charge was offered a full-time position in Terrace, British Columbia. We wish him and Karen all the best in their new home.

A motion to send a letter to the Region requesting advice on exploring ministry options was passed.

Reverend Deanna Cox was appointed by the Northern Spirit Region as our Pastoral Charge Supervisor and we are delighted to welcome her and look forward to working with her.

The Board nominated Jayne Odegard Dempsey to be licensed as a Sacramental Elder. We extend a huge thank you to Jayne for engaging in this training.

There was discussion on the future of ministry for the Sedgewick Lougheed Charge. What kind of ministry would we like to see in our communities of faith? Are we willing to collaborate with other churches? We thank all our lay-leaders and visiting clergy for providing weekly services. We thank all who are working to keep the church active and vibrant and we pray for God's guidance as we move forwards into the new year.



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGION

“The Northern Spirit Regional Council is a collection of Communities of Faith serving in northeastern British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, and northern Alberta, united in bringing God's hope, peace, joy and love to our part of God's creation.”

The first part of the 2024 annual general meeting was held in May, an online evening of information sharing and conversations together. Part two was held in October, another online meeting.

Two proposals were sent to Northern Spirit – introducing topics for conversation and discernment, one of which requested that some thought be given to *“explore effective ways of enabling the training of lay leaders within the regions boundaries, thereby strengthening its collective ministry”*. This proposal was referred to the executive council for discussion.

The following is an excerpt from a report from Reverend Helen Reed, Executive Chair, Northern Spirit Region: *“My guiding scripture for us in this last year has been Hebrews 10: 24-25a Let us always think how we can stimulate each other to love and good works. Don't stay away from the meetings of the community, as some do, but encourage one another.*

“Your Executive meet regularly to hear about how our Region is doing. We are gratified to hear of the opportunities that are being lived in Ecumenical and Collaborative conversations. It is good to hear of churches that are finding new ways to be church in their community but also of churches who know their story is gently coming to an end – their harvest is gathered and they are celebrating all that they have given in the name of God. Our Region is finding its footing. We are beginning to grow but we need to continue to do this together. We need to join in, to share what we can, to encourage each other, to speak and learn from each other.”

Several from our congregations attended a meeting in November 2024 with Rev. Adam Hall, Pastoral Relations Minister for Northern Spirit, joining members from the Daysland, Killam & Rosalind congregations. The intent of the meeting was to “discuss ways we might collaborate and work together to ensure a sustainable future”. There was much discussion, some hard discussion, and concluded with Rev. Hall hoping that “each governing body would speak honestly and openly about the future and not leave anything off the table”. If we wish support from the Region, we were encouraged to ask. At a subsequent Unified Board meeting for our charge, in December 2024, the decision was made to continue on with our current format for Sunday services and lay leaders for at least another year, and re-evaluate our successes/failures in a years time.

Respectfully submitted Gwenda Poyser, Northern Spirit Regional Representative

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The new worship committee came about when our pastoral charge governance model changed... we are now a Unified Board. This change occurred as an attempt to streamline meetings and more closely reflect our active, participating members. Five to six people (representing both congregations) work in co-operation with the Office Administrator and the Minister and/or Lay Leaders. They are responsible for the following:

- scheduling of Sunday services including pulpit supply, lay leaders and liturgists (readers).
- arranging for servers and elements for communion services.
- asking volunteers to open/close church for services, find greeters and someone to provide coffee and lunch for our fellowship time.
- arranging for tech persons to set up and record services and post them on our YouTube channel and put links on our website.

The committee thanks Office Administrator Mell, who does most of these tasks most of the time! In 2024 the committee's role was to step in and see that church life proceeded every Sunday when Mell was away. Additionally, the committee finds ways to 'share the load' so that one person is not carrying it all!

Pastor Paul Allard's last service with us was on May 12th and the committee organized a small farewell gift and acknowledgement for his service to our church and community.

Worship Services continue every Sunday apart from the summer break in August and every two months the service is held at St. Andrew's United, Lougheed. We are so grateful to all the many voices who have led us in worship; Pastor Paul, Reverend Steve Haughland, Jayne Odegard Dempsey, Dale Jones and many other lay leaders have provided inspiring messages. We also thank our musicians and choir who have greatly enhanced our worship times.

The committee thanks all who support the church and its family through these 'ministries'.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Coordinator, Megan Hampshire, says that despite offering classes and personally phoning families to invite them, there was little interest in attending. She maintains a facebook site; "**Sedgewick United Church Sunday School**" with information on special events which do seem to garner some interest; egg painting at Easter, bird box making on Father's Day and joining the choir for the Christmas and Easter services.

However, children are always welcome to attend Sunday services and play at the back of the sanctuary or downstairs. There is usually a "Story for Children of All Ages" in the service and given sufficient notice, a craft can be available for the kids.

HARDISTY LAKE UNITED CHURCH CAMP

The 2024 camp season was short but successful. We hosted 24 Scampers and 41 Campers for one and a half weeks of camp. The staff were a phenomenal team and provided an excellent program and care to the campers. There were two camp dogs in 2024 and when a camper is struggling with homesickness we noticed that they spent time sitting with the dogs and petting them. A win-win situation!

The volunteers all did a great job. The Christian Education was led by several different people.

The excellent infrastructure of the camp provided archery, canoeing, 9-square, gaga ball, zip line and the Joy Hall with many fun games. The campers had a blast and were tired and happy at the end of camp.

The weather was HOT! However we can handle heat as we have the lake and have figured out how to keep the kids safe by wearing hats, drinking gallons of water and seeking out shady corners!

Respectfully submitted by Caroline Boddy, Camp Director



MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION AND TENEBRAE SERVICE

Through the sacrament of communion, candlelight and readings we remember the night when Jesus shared that last supper with his disciples, was betrayed and arrested. This solemn and poignant service brings into focus the profound sacrifice that Jesus accepted. Jayne Odegard Dempsey and Evan Wallace presented this quiet evening service.



COMMUNITY CHOIR

The choir performed some delightful musical numbers for Easter, Advent and Christmas, including Christmas Eve. Some of our young people helped by playing the chimes and bells. Thank you to Jerry-Lynn and Gwenda for organizing this wonderful ministry.



FAREWELL TO PASTOR PAUL

Pastor Paul's last service was May 12, 2024 when he and his family left for a new call in Terrace, BC to the United Church there who could offer him a full time position. The Worship Committee organized a small farewell gift and acknowledgement for his service to our church and community. We will miss him and Karen (& Teddy!) and wish them all the best with their new adventure.



ANNUAL MERNA SERVICE

On June 23rd the congregations of Sedgewick, Lougheed as well as the Stenson musical group attended our annual service and potluck picnic. We were treated to a wonderful service by Dale Jones who also provided us with a short history of the old country church.



CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

Both churches and the staff at the Vision Credit Union in Sedgewick collected a total of eighteen (18) boxes and delivered them to the Camrose collection centre to send to needy children overseas.



SPARKLE IN THE PARK

Sedgewick and Lougheed churches once again rented a site for the annual "Sparkle in the Park" and set up our vintage nativity.

This event raises cash donations and many items of food for the Flagstaff Food Bank.

Thank you to those who supported this fantastic fundraiser.



2024 SEDGEWICK-LOUGHEED PASTORAL CHARGE FINANCIALS

January 1 to December 31, 2024

REVENUE	2024 Actual	2025 Proposed
Lougheed Share	\$7,388.26	\$5,302.00
Sedgewick Share	\$29,553.04	\$21,208.00
Interest	\$385.84	\$400.00
Common Share	<u>\$96.47</u>	<u>\$103.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	37,423.61	\$27,013.00
EXPENSES		
Minister	\$14,540.76	
Mileage	\$2,229.80	\$1,000.00
Advertising	\$449.00	\$500.00
Postage		\$100.00
Office Supplies	\$188.73	\$200.00
Regional Assessment	\$4,004.00	\$3,760.00
Treasurer Honorarium	\$900.00	\$900.00
Church Supplies	\$27.98	\$200.00
Internet	\$1,327.40	\$1,400.00
Office Telephone	\$1,100.75	\$1,200.00
Pulpit Supply	\$4,855.00	\$8,000.00
Meeting expenses	\$58.86	\$300.00
Office Administrator	\$6,875.00	\$6,875.00
Benefits	\$218.13	\$225.00
Confirmation Class		\$150.00
Compassionate Care		\$500.00
Equipment Purchases		\$1,000.00
Youth Group		
Sunday School		
Misc. (s/c, GST)	<u>\$165.89</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	36,941.30	\$26,510.00
ACCOUNT BALANCES		
Chequing	63,002.87	
Term Deposits	15,936.31	
Common Share	<u>\$1,030.56</u>	
TOTAL	\$79,969.74	

Submitted by Budget Committee.

MISSION AND SERVICE FUND

	2023	2024
Congregational Giving	973.95	736.75
World Development & Relief Fund	650.99	1160.00
Total	1,624.89	1896.75

Respectfully submitted by Sherry Mayne, M&S Fund Treasurer

LOUGHEED UNITED CHURCH



Lougheed church for the first Sunday of Advent. A musical service which filled the church with people and music!

PROPERTY & FINANCE

St. Andrew's United Church in Lougheed had few issues needing repair this year. There was the usual maintenance; cutting grass, shovelling snow and checking the water so it doesn't freeze.

Services were held at Lougheed every second month; January, March, May, July, September and November. The Christmas Eve candle lighting service was held, as usual, in the Lougheed Community Hall, hosted by St. Andrew's and Sedgewick United churches.

In March a successful stew supper and online auction was held. Thank you to all the contributors and bidders for the auction. The supper was well attended with much visiting by all.

The PAR program is a good option to donate to the church and provides a steady income year round. Due to the postal strike we did not mail out an appeal letter, but some were distributed in other ways. We are very thankful for all donations that the church receives.

Thank you to all the faithful volunteers who take care of the church all year.



LOUGHEED UNITED CHURCH FINANCIALS

January 1 to December 31, 2024

INCOME	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
PAR Account	\$3,720.00	\$3,720.00
Appeal Letter previous year	\$600.00	\$400.00
Appeal Letter	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
General Donations	\$4,200.00	\$3,500.00
Memorial Donations		
Fund Raisers	\$5,955.00	\$3,000.00
Funeral Lunches	\$2,575.00	\$1,000.00
Spring Supper	\$3,085.00	\$1,500.00
Pastoral Refund	\$388.69	
Interest	\$8.47	\$8.00
GST	\$99.08	\$90.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$22,631.24	\$15,218.00
EXPENSES		
Pastoral Charge Share	\$7,464.65	\$5,300.00
Insurance	\$1,861.00	\$1,900.00
Utilities - Epcor	\$1,234.18	\$1,300.00
Utilities - Direct Energy	\$2,150.31	\$2,300.00
Maintenance & Repairs	\$105.00	\$250.00
Direct Energy Overpayment	\$262.01	
Fundraiser Expenses	\$988.57	\$1,000.00
Postage & Office Supplies	\$92.00	\$50.00
Charitable Donations	\$500.00	\$500.00
M&S Donations		
GST Expense	\$181.62	\$200.00
Par Charges	\$30.00	\$30.00
Honorarium	\$100.00	
Transfer To GIC	\$5,000.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$19,969.34	\$12,830.00
Net Income/Expense	\$2,661.90	\$2,388.00
ACCOUNT BALANCES		
Chequing Account	\$25,585.71	
GIC	\$21,311.73	
Total	\$46,897.44	

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Patten, Treasurer, St. Andrew's United, Lougheed





SEDGEWICK UNITED CHURCH

PROPERTY & FINANCE

After the damaging hailstorm in July, 2023 the siding and windows on the west end of the church needed replacement. After trying to find a match for the old 1950 siding, it was found that, for about the same price, we could replace ALL the siding and the eavestrough on the west side using the insurance payout. That job was completed in Spring of 2024.

During the summer the water well in the basement required some maintenance to keep it going. If the well fails we may have to hook up to the town water supply.

Due to the long postal strike before Christmas the appeal letter was late being sent out.

We are therefore very grateful to all the donations received and particularly to those who participate in the PAR program which gives the church a regular income year round.

Thank you to all the faithful volunteers who take care of the church and keep it looking good.

THE GOOD AS NEW SHOP

The thrift store once again donated an astounding \$6,000.00 to each local church.

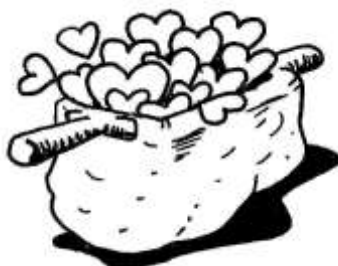
Due to generous donations of gently used clothing and goods, many needy families in the area can purchase items at bargain prices.

In addition, the store helps us to re-use, recycle and keep items out of the landfill.

We are so fortunate to have many willing workers, however, we are always happy to take on more volunteers, if you can spare an hour or two please drop in at the store. We do sorting every Monday and Thursday morning.

We are open Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 1 - 4 pm.

~ Betty Smith



SEDGEWICK UNITED CHURCH FINANCIALS

January 1 to December 31, 2024

INCOME	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Collection Envelopes	\$13,723.95	\$15,000.00
PAR	\$16,359.96	\$17,000.00
Cash Collections	\$682.50	\$300.00
General Donations	\$18,783.86	\$10,000.00
Memorial Donations	\$485.65	
Good as New Shop Donation	\$7,000.00	
Miscellaneous		
Profit Share	\$1,086.17	\$300.00
Fundraising Revenue		\$4,000.00
Interest Revenue	\$4,583.68	\$1,500.00
TOTAL INCOME	62,705.77\$	\$48,100.00
EXPENSES		
Custodian	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Donations	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Insurance	\$5,323.00	\$5,880.00
Pastoral Charge Share	\$29,553.04	\$21,208.00
Maintenance & Repairs	\$18,209.97	\$5,000.00
Church Supplies	\$265.06	\$200.00
Utilities - Epcor	\$2,723.08	\$3,100.00
Utilities - Town of Sedgewick	\$3,471.59	\$3,700.00
Postage		\$150.00
Advertising		
Confirmation Class		
GST Expense	567.13	\$300.00
Fundraiser Expense		\$2,000.00
Miscellaneous, SC, Interest	90.00	\$150.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	63,102.87	\$44,588.00
Net Profit/Deficit	\$-397.10	\$3,512.00
ACCOUNT BALANCES		
Chequing Account	\$27,989.38	
Memorial Fund	\$49,873.70	
GIC	\$100,909.90	
Term Deposit	\$93,800.84	
Common Shares	\$3,401.10	
GST Receivable	\$567.15	
	\$276,542.07	

Respectfully submitted by Esther Whitehead, Sedgewick United Treasurer