



Eglinton St. George's United Church

Extending love · Serving others · Growing in faith



2018

ANNUAL REPORT

Living out our mission in 2018

This has been a year of many blessings.

ESG now has the creative talent, resources and missional energy to extend our community presence and spiritual impact. The life of every faith community and faithful Christian depends on being a continuous “work in progress”. We will therefore work to better understand the

changing spiritual needs of our local community; to be more welcoming to a diversity of new people with different spiritual needs; and to design the right programs and services to attract people and families. It is an exciting opportunity for ESG and each of us individually to reflect, grow and thrive.

ESG is a strong community of people learning, supporting one another, joining hands and putting our faith to work.



Leadership Highlights

1. Paul brings wonderful energy, new ideas and grace to our midst, our community feels anchored in his strong and grounded leadership.
2. Sarah brings her talents and commitment to identifying how ESG will engage with others, so we build an even more vibrant, diverse and engaged faith community.
3. ESG’s talented and committed staff work faithfully (often behind the scenes) to keep us informed, safe, organized and inspired. They are “faith in action” people.
4. A cadre of committed lay volunteers significantly influence the spiritual wellness of our members and community – without their time, guidance and talent our mission would remain unfulfilled.

Mission in Action

The rest of this report highlights the many ways we positively influence the spiritual lives of people. We apply our talents and love to provide basic life resources, give comfort, soar spirits through music and worship, serve families, assuage loneliness, provide leadership opportunities to all and challenge each other to do and be better. This indeed is ESG’s soul-filling and rewarding mission.

A Firm Base

Stability is something that most of us have craved over the last number of years and through the efforts of a talented Council, Search Team, Finance Team, Property Team, Trustees, Staff and a cast of many others – it feels as though we have a firm base from which to move boldly forward.

ESG’s Work Ahead

A firm base provides us the opportunity to dream and plan and deliver some exciting change ahead – new ideas and creative approaches to worship and programming that allow us to reach new audiences and welcome new folks to ESG. Culturally, we need to remain open-minded and curious about what it means to be a mainstream church in an increasingly post-Christian society.

How we communicate and deliver our mission needs to look, sound, and feel different moving forward – that is both exciting and unnerving. I trust that we can count on you all to help us maintain the very best and most relevant of the past while we journey forward.

As we move ahead we have been blessed with a sizable grant from Presbytery to conduct research to better understand the current needs of our vastly changing Yonge-Eglinton neighbourhood. We can then build programs to enhance the spiritual well-being for people of all ages and stages – we can help build stronger families, we can serve the marginalized, we can uplift the lonely and distressed, we can enhance inter-generational understanding and we can help others enrich their lives by finding meaning and purpose. What a privilege!

It has been a pleasure to serve as Chair for the past two years. I had the privilege of working alongside a dedicated, smart, compassionate and hard-working team. My enduring thanks to so many who have made my time fruitful, meaningful and fun. As Susan Moore assumes the role of Chair, we are in a wonderful place as a faith community and Susan is the right leader alongside a talented staff and dedicated lay team, to help ESG fulfill its mission and make a difference more broadly in our community.

Janet Hardy, Chair Governing Council



Serving Others Generously

Outreach

ESG's Outreach programs can be categorized into three main areas: direct aid to vulnerable individuals, financial assistance to charitable agencies, advocacy and education regarding social justice.

Outreach at ESG is God working through people. Through education, advocacy and action, Outreach programs allow the congregation to effect change and offer direct help.

Highlights this Year:

- the Good Food Box program gave 51 boxes of food to needy individuals and families
- ESG served up 5 delicious dinners at Out of the Cold and made vulnerable people feel welcome every Thursday afternoon at the Drop In Program
- supporting Oussama Rajab's family as they welcomed their baby, Mostafa, to the world
- the Compassionate Justice Speaker Series educated us about social justice issues and had record attendance this year, with a high of 382 people attending the January event



Each year a group of volunteers write personal messages in Christmas cards to inmates at correctional institutions.

The Rajab family and Imam Badat were special guests at our Interfaith Peace Service. Members of the Outreach Committee have formed a special supportive relationship with our sponsored families who continue to settle in Canada.



Significant interest is generated in the wider community by ESG's Compassionate Justice Outreach events. More than 382 people gathered in January for a panel discussion of 3 political party's platforms on social justice concerns.

Find Caring Community

Pastoral Care

Our energetic Pastoral Care team continued to provide thoughtful, compassionate support to fellow members and adherents in need, reaching out to them in person, by phone or by way of cards and letters. Our two Seniors Luncheons and Residence Tours were well attended and much valued as opportunities for fellowship and information. And, through ESG Cares, we continued to offer a dedicated, confidential communication channel to connect those in need with help. Our dedicated Funeral Coordinator supported 10 families through their services last year and our “Christmas in a Minor Key” service offered a wonderful place for those who had undergone loss to experience Christmas in a quieter way.

Pastoral care at ESG is the care of individual members of our church family. We are proud of and grateful for an amazing team of individuals who worked closely with our ministers, staff, congregation and community to make a difference in meaningful ways.



Beyond our care for seniors and those with health issues, we extended our reach to post-secondary students throughout the year with cards of encouragement and Tim Horton’s gift cards as well as personalized letters. We heard back from many of them - the gestures much appreciated.

Seniors’ Luncheon guests welcome our caring touches at these twice yearly events—rides to church, flowers on the tables, wonderful food, servers with smiles and greeters with hugs.



Our team spent considerable time over the course of the year, strategizing and planning for our “Extravagant Welcome Back” effort to contact past members and adherents who were no longer active. We were also busy developing plans to create a new photo directory that will be very beneficial to our two new ministers.

Discover Spirituality Together

Christian Development

Christian Development at ESG is a ministry that nurtures faith development through creative and educational programs for all ages - from children through teens to adults.

Church School

The year started off with the church school starting up in their new, bright and welcoming space in the lower level, integrated with the Children's Library. We welcomed our new Children's Ministry Administrator, Kate Littler, in December who has put much creative effort into the programming, around the standard curriculum! The pickup pageant was full of kids and the church school raised \$1055 for their outreach charity, House of Lazarus, through the Cookies-in-a-Jar and Rummage Bake sales. The Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo evening offered additional fun family/community time, along with the annual Picnic Sunday in June.



The Children's Ministry Hub in the lower level is a brightly redecorated space with rooms for babies and toddlers and the Church School program on Sundays.

Church School children enjoyed activities with Kate like this baking project in support of our ESG Family Spaghetti & Bingo Night.



Youth Group

Last fall we welcomed our new Youth Leader, Morgan Bell, who created a rich program around God, creation, scriptures, discipleship and living out one's faith. The youth delivered some of this in a successful service on Mother's Day. They also participated in local outreach through the annual "Trick or Eat" neighbourhood food collection event and Camp Scugog clean-up day. For fun there were Friday social evenings of movies, "manhunt", bowling and Christmas tree decorating.



Morgan is an inspiring communicator and is able to share his energy and conviction with ESG youth on Sundays, at social group events and each week through emails.

Adult Education

Several creative and varied programs were run during the year by this group including a very popular 2 night session on "Living with Hope", a new discussion series on "Observing the Observer" and a Lenten series - "Mindful Lent" - kicked off by our new minister, Paul Hutchison. This series also included a Mindfulness Intro evening with John Callaghan, Taize event with Don Parsons, yoga & music chants evening, a Loving Kindness Meditation and labyrinth walking. The mindfulness theme was woven into Sunday worship and music throughout Lent. The regular book club, ESG Reads, continued with a year of diverse books and lots of discussion.



During Lent we focused on a theme of mindfulness, with our first activity being mindfulness scrabble.

Discover Spirituality Together

Worship

Worship is often our first opportunity to connect with people as they experience one of ESG's key priorities: Extravagant Welcome. When did you last connect with someone new at ESG? When did you last bring a guest to worship?



Easter Sunday was a joyous celebration! Thank you to our team of communion servers and lay readers assisting Paul and Don in the service, and to the flower committee for their creative display in our church.

Worship at ESG is a shared experience with shared ministerial leadership and members of the congregation actively participating. It is about being together, leading, sharing and worshipping God.

With the arrival of Sarah Chapman, Next Generation & Growth Minister, we have established four dinner church opportunities this year, our first foray into a new worshipping experience. We are excited about the upcoming year and look forward to seeing old friends and welcoming new friends. Thank you for your continued support and feedback.

Christine Lawson, Chair



In April we celebrated the Baptism of three children alongside their families. Everyone was able to enjoy the beautiful photos of each family on the Sanctuary screen during the service.

Music

2017-18 was a very successful and rewarding musical year for ESG. The choir sponsored a concert series that included concerts by the Amadeus Choir of Greater Toronto and the Elmer Iseler Singers, as well as two concerts featuring the ESG choir with orchestral accompaniment. Our spring concert included a joint performance with The Cellar Singers, a fine amateur ensemble from Orillia. The ESG choir returned the favour by performing in Orillia as part of their series. All concerts were enthusiastically supported and enjoyed. Our own ESG concerts drew audiences of about 350 both winter and spring. We were also thrilled to have partnered with the Amadeus Choir in a Choral Conducting Symposium weekend where we sang with the Amadeus Choir, worked with conductors as part of a master class, and sang a solo set at the final concert.

The ESG Choir, Trillium Brass, and our VOX Community Choir delighted the audience at our Christmas concert, All Bells in Paradise.



Worship services included jazz with Brian Barlow and friends, preludes by Rowan Sawarna-Small and Adriel Sloss, and also featured VOX, our community youth choir. Additional instrumentalists added to Remembrance, Christmas, and Easter services.



The choir works hard to prepare for weekly services as well as concerts. They also have a spirit of comraderie and truly support one another.

Governing Responsibly

Ministry & Personnel Report

We look forward to an exciting time at ESG with new energy and commitment to our vision and mission. We are so looking forward to our beginnings with our new Ministerial team, Paul Hutchison and Sarah Chapman. We thank our current staff team, and past staff members, for the commitment and dedication that they bring to the life and work of the church.

Staff Team as of September 2018:

Rev. Dr. Paul Hutchison, Lead Minister
Rev. Sarah Chapman, Next Generation & Growth Minister
Rev. Don Parsons, Pastoral Care Minister
Shawn Grenke, Music Director
Jennifer Torrens, Church Administrator
Jacqueline Harvie, Accountant
Lenore Aguanno, Lay Ministry Coordinator
Kate Littler, Children's Ministry Administrator
Morgan Bell, Youth Leader
Donna Lang, Outreach Coordinator
Edgar Fulay, Custodian
Alvaro Perez, Custodian

Trustees Report

The ESG board of Trustees holds all of the property of the ESG congregation for the congregation. This includes the church's real estate and other property, including the church's investment funds. At ESG, our Trustees meet 3-4 times a year to receive reports on and discuss property issues, to review all investment funds and to monitor the performance by our asset manager. The meetings are lively and we discuss a variety of ideas and viewpoints.

Fund reports are included in yearly ESG financial reports and are part of yearly audits. No new business arose in the past year that requires congregational input.

Current Chair: Hugh DesBrisay

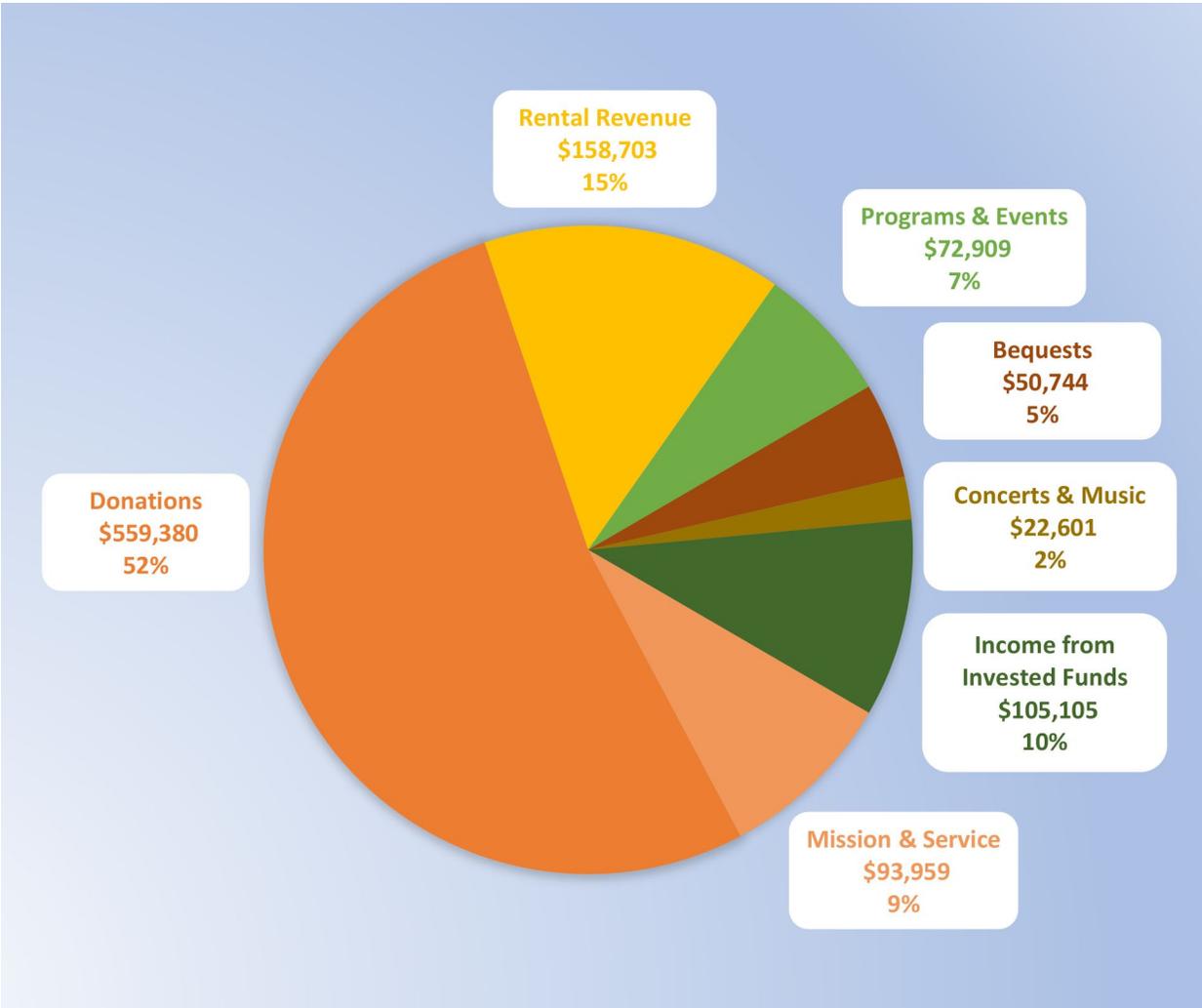
Financial Report

Overall, the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 was a good one financially. Here is a high level recap: (Please refer to the Audited Financial statements for details.)

- Our donations decreased by \$30,017 (5 %) from the previous year.
- Our rental revenues increased by \$22,000 or 16%.
- Our operating expenses were below budget by 0.5%.
- We received \$50,744 in undesiganted bequests.
- Our Operating Fund increased by \$111,307 (7.4%) due to generous bequests and investment returns.

This pie chart provides the breakdown of our revenue sources for the fiscal year:

SOURCES OF REVENUE



Extravagant Welcome
Leadership
Growth



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