

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH

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Annual Report

-2021-

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda	II
Message from Rev. Kevin LittleIII
In Memoriam	IV
Minutes of Congregational Meeting	V
Appendix to the Minutes: Nominating Report 2019/2020	VIII
Executive Board	1
Ministry and Personnel	5
Board of Managers	6
Treasurer's Report	8
3 Year Comparison	Erratum Notice to be circulated
Contributions to Mission and Service Fund	10
Contribution Breakdown.....	10
In Tribute & In Memory Donations	11
Volunteers.....	11
Investments	12
Benevolent Fund.....	13
Brookfield Fund.....	14
The Janet and Earle Reid Scholarship Fund.....	15
Board of Trustees	16
Session.....	18
Worship	21
Local Outreach /Financial.....	23
Children and Family Care Ministry.....	26
Community Engagement Ministry.....	28
Ministry of Music Report	31
Memorial Music Fund.....	34
Rackham Fund & Lillian Piercey Scholarship Fund	
Audio & Vision (AV) Ministry	35
United Church Women /Financial.....	39
Flower Fund Committee Report /Financial	40
Coffee Hour Ministry.....	42
Men's Club.....	42
Muffin Club.	42

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH
2021 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
March 20, 2022 - AGENDA

1. Call to Order
 2. Motion regarding Voting Privileges
 3. Correspondence
 4. Approval of the Agenda
 5. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Meeting held March 21, 2021
 6. Business arising from these minutes
 7. Printed Reports – All reports are printed in the annual report except the Treasurer’s Report and the Auditor’s Report.

Motion to accept all the reports as printed in the Annual Report except the Treasurer’s Report and the Auditor’s Report.
 8. Financial Report
 - a) Treasurer’s Report
 - b) Auditor’s Report
 - c) Proposed Budget for 2022Motion to accept Financial Reports.
 9. Nominating Committee Report

Election to fill vacancies
 - a)
 - b)
 10. New Business
 - a) Authorizing changes at the Brunswick Street Mission of which Bethany is a supporting church
 - b) Update on the Option 1 renovation project
 - c)
 11. Adjournment and Benediction.
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MINISTER'S REPORT

Carry On Bravely

Dear Friends

As I look back over the year, 2021, I see multiple times when we as a community of faith thought we had seen the “light at the end of the tunnel”. Restrictions loosened as COVID infection numbers diminished, more in-person gatherings happened inside the church, we could sing, we could talk to one another (albeit with masks and distancing), we pray together. And then...the light ended up being a little further away than we imagined or hoped for. I have felt those ups and downs, some of you would even call me, on those hard days and visit me on those good days, just to let me know how you were doing. I appreciated the confidence you had in me, that you trusted my presence in your life, even if I really had nothing to offer but my time.



In previous Annual Reports I have highlighted two or three or four or five persons whom I felt had made extraordinary efforts to keep our community healthy, vital and connected. As I have prayed over this report there was one name I wanted to share, David Rackham. Many volunteers, staff members, have worked hard, used our spiritual imaginations, and offered deep care for one another. The names are legion. But as he comes to the end of his term of office, serving even an extra year, as Chair of the Executive Board, I want to say a few words about David. Despite poor health, despite having only moved back to Halifax with Zenora less than a decade ago after 28 years teaching in Japan, despite being told the role would be a ceremonial one, David discovered the work of being our leader to be challenging, rewarding, and even by times, “soul-uplifting”. Whenever I would ask David about his health or the challenges he carried, he would smile and say, “*We must carry on, bravely.*” And he did.

David shepherded us through our building renovation choices, he helped reestablish our connections with the UCC, he made himself available to listen to anyone on any of our governance committees, at any time. And when staff would end another year in service to the church, we would all receive a beautiful letter of thanks from David. Persons going through hard times would sit with David, usually long after coffee hour had ended in the Hall. David led by example; he was a witness to the words he spoke.

This has been a most challenging year. And I am grateful to so many of you for your active participation in this community. We were all privileged to go through it together, with the wise leadership of our friend David.

Carrying on bravely, Kevin

IN MEMORIAM

Reuben Acton

Patricia Baker

Paul Campbell

*Mary Weir
Doane*

Patricia Fiske

Celeste Flight

*Kathleen (Kay)
Fraser*

Carolyn Graham

*William (Bill)
Harris*

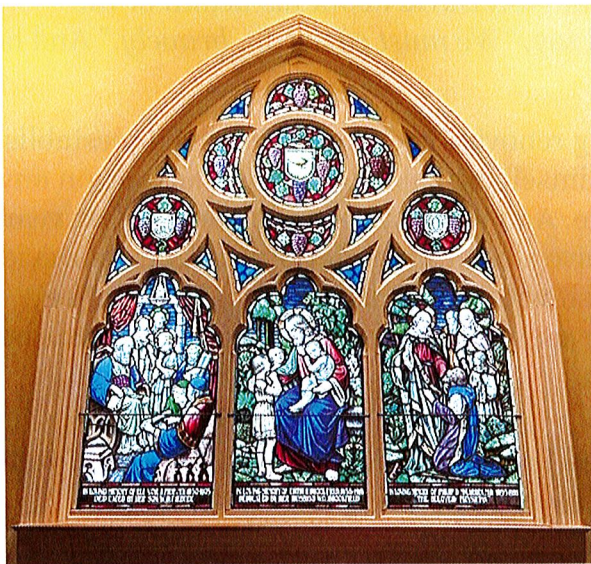
*Allan (Bud)
MacDonald*

Errol MacDonald

*Rev. Elroy
McKillop*

*Rev. Arlene
Riches*

Ada Tozer



MINUTES OF
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

2020 Annual Congregational Minutes

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) held via ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER – Chair, David Rackham at 210pm March 21, 2021

REMARKS:

Before officially opening the meeting David made comments about how well members of Bethany dealt with the covid restrictions & challenges in maintaining the functions of the church and keeping Bethany's 'family' together in the spirit and values of the church. He thanked Dana Mills, Rob Steeves for all their assistance in organizing the meeting and welcomed their support as co-chairs for the meeting. Dana then gave a few regulations as to how this meeting would proceed. There were 42 in attendance for this zoom meeting.

OPENING PRAYER:

Rev. Kevin Little gave 'thanks' to the executive, committee chairs & members and the church membership as a whole for all their support, kindness & patience in keeping the church viable during the difficult previous months. The time spent conversing, empathizing and supporting members who had family members die during this time of shutdown and that many funerals did not occur, he expressed in prayer how important it is to 'look to the light' in times of darkness.

MEMORIAL RECOGNITION:

Rev. Kevin Little, after the prayer, spoke on the passing of 25 church members, during 2019/2020 and quietly mentioned each name & then closed with a short prayer as each person remembered.

AGENDAS:

Mover by Linda Knechtel, and seconded, that the agendas of 2020 in retrospect and 2021 be approved.

Motion: CARRIED.

VOTING PRIVILEGES:

Rules of voting have recently been changed for Region 15, so therefore everyone has the privilege to vote on issues pertaining to the functions of Bethany United Church.

Motion made to proceed with the voting privileges, seconded, and
Motion CARRIED

AGM – 2020 – RETROSPECTIVE

a) Correspondence- None

b) AGM 2019 minutes – no minutes/ no meeting, because of covid restrictions.
Moved by Karen Finley, seconded for the above be approved

Motion CARRIED

c) Reports printed in the Annual Report 2019 , minus treasurer’s report – moved by
Bob Grant, second, that the above statement be approved

Motion CARRIED

d) Financial 2019 report: 2019 Treasurer’s report; 2019 Account’s report and the
2019 modified budget (due to impact of covid restrictions) be approved. Before the vote
Don Hatcher had a question to Linda, the treasurer, about the ‘financial assessment’
which she answered by referring to page 9 of her report. Moved by Linda Knechtel,
second, that the financial report be accepted.

Motion CARRIED

e) Nominations Committee Report: by Jim Musgrave chair and members Rhonda
and Heather. Jim read the full report and then asked the report to be ratified. Motion
made by Jim, second (Full report – appendix to these minutes)

Motion CARRIED

f) New business – none

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) MARCH 2021

a) Correspondence - none

b) Minutes of AGM 2020 – no meeting/ no minutes, because of the covid
restrictions. Moved by Murray Brown, second, that the above statement be approved.

Motion CARRIED

c) Report as printed in the AGM Report 2020 be accepted except the treasurer’s
report and the audit report. This was moved , second and

Motion CARRIED

d) Financial Report: treasurer’s report; auditor’s report 2021; Moved by Linda
Knechtel, second and

Motion CARRIED

e) Budget for 2021; moved by Linda, second, that budget be accepted.

Motion CARRIED

Linda mentioned how much she appreciated all the support & guidance that she received from the Financial Officer – in navigating two government grant applications which were granted to the total of 60,000. By paying 40,000 (no interest on this) back by 2022 the 20,000 will be forgiven.

Don MacKay extended, on behalf of the members- A ‘Thanks’ to Linda for all her work and commitment to her treasurer position at Bethany and who ‘pulled us through’ these past several difficult months. Linda’s reply: “Not just me, it’s everyone, I just report the facts”

f) Nominating Committee Report: Jim Musgrave, 2021: elections to fill vacancies 2021; permission to extend by one year to AGM 2022 of those whose board committee membership terms would normally end with AGM 2021; Jim moved, seconded, and Motion CARRIED Full report appendix to these minutes.

NEW BUSINESS - none

ADJOURNMENT: 315PM

BENEDICTION: Rev. Kevin Little

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Stephens

APPENDIX TO THE MINUTES

The Nominating Committee consists of Heather Brophy and Jim Musgrave (Chair).

This year, the congregation of Bethany United Church is being asked to first ratify the now-year-old report of the Nominating Committee (which I will refer to below as the “2020 report”), and then separately approve the Nominating Committee’s report for the upcoming 2021-22 operating year. Ratifying the first report from a year ago, and approving the second report for the year to come, will bring us fully up to date.

What follows are the nominations set out in the 2020 Report that was supposed to have been presented at last year’s annual general meeting, had that meeting not been cancelled due to public health restrictions. Accordingly, please bear in mind that what I am about to read was to have been submitted for approval at the annual general meeting in March 2020:

2020 Report of the Nominating Committee

Session

While she continued to serve Bethany as a member of Session, Carol Knapp retired as Clerk of Session in 2019 after many years of faithful leadership, and we thank her for her outstanding service as Clerk.

Ian Parker retired from Session in the summer of 2019, and we thank him for his valuable service.

Nancy Doane retired from Session in March 2020, and we thank her for her valuable service.

Bud MacDonald also retired as an Elder of Bethany United Church as of last year’s scheduled AGM, and we thank him for his contributions to Session.

The following Elders completed their five-year terms and were willing to serve further five-year terms, if elected, and we hereby nominate them, with effect as of March 2020. They are:

- Lori Cormier
- Laura King
- Rick McFarland
- Diane Plumridge-Reid

Don Grant completed a one-year term in March 2020, and was willing to serve another term of one year, if elected, and we hereby nominate Don, effective March 2020.

The following members of the Bethany family agreed to serve new five-year terms on Session, if elected, and we hereby nominate them, effective March 2020. They are:

- Marion Jay
- Judy MacLean
- Maryth Maxner
- Aundrea Mitchell

Before leaving the 2020 Report's coverage of Session, here is a housekeeping item: The 2019 Nominating Committee's report contained an error concerning the term of Gordon Lawley on Session, which we would like to correct now. Records may reflect that Gordon offered in 2019 to renew for one year, when in fact it was intended that his term would be the usual five years from March 2019 forward. My apologies to Gordon for any confusion caused.

Board of Trustees

David Cameron retired from the Board of Trustees in March 2020, and we thank him for his service.

Heather Brophy completed a three-year term on the Board of Trustees, and was willing to serve a further three-year term, if elected, and we hereby nominate her, effective March 2020.

Bill Piercey completed a three-year term and was willing to serve a further three-year term, if elected, and we hereby nominate him, effective March 2020.

Ruth Bona and Jim Musgrave agreed to serve new three-year terms on the Board of Trustees, if elected, and we hereby nominate them, effective March 2020.

Board of Managers

The following members of the Board of Managers completed their three-year terms and were willing to serve further three-year terms, if elected, and we hereby nominate them, effective March 2020. They are:

- Mary Farmer
- Doug Shields
- Rob Steeves
- Carol Simmons

Brian Jay and Jackie Clairmont Mitchell agreed to serve new three-year terms on the Board of Managers, if elected, and we hereby nominate them, effective March 2020.

Executive Board

Youth members Peyton Duggan and Charlotte Moase retired from the Executive Board as of March 2020, and we thank each of them for their service and the perspectives they brought to the Executive Board.

Abigail Cameron and Elizabeth Carter agreed to serve new three-year terms as youth members on the Executive Board, if elected, and we hereby nominate Abigail and Elizabeth, effective March 2020.

Les Russell agreed to serve a one-year term as a member-at-large on the Executive Board, if elected, and we hereby nominate Les, effective March 2020.

Charles Maxner agreed to serve a new three-year term as a member-at-large on the Executive Board, if elected, and we hereby nominate Charles, with effect as of March 2020.

Gloria Stephens was prepared to serve as Recording Secretary for another year, and we hereby nominate Gloria to this important role, effective March 2020.

What I just read for us was the 2020 Report that was supposed to have been read into the record at last year's annual general meeting.

I want to advise the congregation that Andy Williams thought he was going to retire from the Board of Trustees at last year's AGM. Andy was a superb Chair and graciously accepted a request by the Board of Trustees in March 2020 to carry on in that role for an extra year. He now retires as both a member of the Board of Trustees, and as Chair, effective today, and I want to thank him for his service to Bethany in both capacities over two terms.

Robert Legg and Joel Powell were also to have retired from the Board of Managers in March 2020, but agreed to serve another year, until March 2021.

These term extensions referred to above have the understanding of Regional Council 15, subject to approval by the congregation today. Accordingly, all of these term extensions, and all nominations to the Board of Managers, the Board of Trustees, the Executive

Board, and Session, contained in the 2020 Report I just read, are respectfully submitted to you, and I move that the congregation now ratify both the extensions and the appointments retroactively, all effective as of March 2020.

Jim Musgrave,

Chair

[The report for 2021-22 starts on the next page]

What follows is the report of the Nominating Committee for the upcoming year, 2021-22:

Report of the Nominating Committee

Session

Dana Mills retired from Session in September 2020, and we thank her for her service.

Charles Baxter, Bob Cummings, Pat Farmer, Carol Knapp, and Don MacKay retire from Session today, and we thank each of them for their valuable service.

Don Grant is willing to serve another one-year term on Session, if elected, and we hereby happily nominate Don.

The following members of the Bethany church family have agreed to serve new five-year terms on Session, if elected, and we hereby nominate them now. They are:

- Karen Harrigan
- Yvonne Macor

Please note that each of Marion Jay, Judith MacLean, Maryth Maxner and Aundrea Mitchell agreed last year to serve the five-year Elder terms, but they did not end up being called on for Session meetings in 2020. Accordingly, we request that their 5-year terms be treated as starting in 2021, rather than 2020, unless any of them directs otherwise by contacting me or the Clerk of Session.

Board of Trustees

As previously highlighted, Andy Williams retires from the Board of Trustees today.

Laura King retires from the Board of Trustees today, having completed a three-year term, and we thank her for her service.

Lynne Legg has completed a three-year term and is willing to serve a further three-year term, if elected, and we hereby nominate her.

Don MacKay has also completed a three-year term on the Board of Trustees and is willing to serve a further three-year term, if elected, and we hereby nominate him.

Ruth Bona declined her nomination to the Board of Trustees in 2020, and we thank her for considering the opportunity.

Brenda Duplisea, Brian Jay and Alfred Woodworth have agreed to serve a new three-year term each on the Board of Trustees, if elected, and we hereby nominate them.

Board of Managers

Robert Legg and Joel Powell retired from the Board of Managers today, after many years of faithful stewardship of our premises, and we thank each of them for their service.

The following members of the Board of Managers have completed their first three-year terms and are willing to serve another three-year term each, if elected, and we hereby nominate them. They are:

- Bob Carter
- Linda Knechtel
- Mary MacKay
- Jason Merry

The following members of the Board of Managers have completed their second (and otherwise last) three-year terms and are willing to serve further one-year terms, if elected, and we hereby nominate them to ensure continuity through the last of our Option 1 capital improvements. They are:

- Penny Allen
- Glendon Knapp
- Phil Reardon

David Briers and Susan Zurawski have each agreed to serve a new three-year term on the Board of Managers, if elected, and we hereby nominate them.

Executive Board

John Lorimer resigned from the Executive Board in 2020, and we thank him for his service to Bethany.

Julie Johnson completed her three years on the Executive Board, and we thank her for her service as well.

The following members-at-large of the Executive Board have completed their first three-year terms and are willing to serve another three-year term each, if elected, and we hereby nominate them. They are:

- Karen Hatcher
- Herb Steeves
- Brian Wentzell

The following members-at-large of the Executive Board have completed their second three-year terms and are willing to serve another one-year term each, if elected, and we hereby nominate them. They are:

- Heather Brophy
- David Rackham

Julie Johnson has completed her first three-year term as a member-at-large and is willing to serve another one-year term, if elected, and we hereby nominate her.

The following members-at-large of the Executive Board have completed one-year terms and are willing to serve another one-year term each, if elected, and we hereby nominate them. They are:

- Les Russell
- Jerry Slaunwhite
- Gloria Stephens
- Cheri Wilson

Andy Williams has agreed to let his name stand for election as a member-at-large on the Executive Board for the usual three-year term, if elected, and we hereby nominate him.

Gloria Stephens is prepared to serve as Recording Secretary for another year, and we hereby nominate Gloria to this important role.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I now invite the Chairs or Secretaries of each of these Boards and Committees – Session, the Board of Managers, the Board of Trustees, and the Executive Board – to reach out to the new members of your

committees to provide them with minutes from your last meeting and to provide your new members with notice of the next meeting and any helpful orientation.

As Andy Williams retires as Chair of the Board of Trustees today, I will call a meeting of the Board at the earliest opportunity to select a new Chair.

The Nominating Committee would like to thank all those volunteers who complete their service on these Boards and Committees, all those who have agreed to renew their mandates, and all those who have agreed to serve under new mandates on behalf of our congregation. Their efforts help lead us as Bethany builds the New Jerusalem. We are blessed by their countless hours of dedicated service to the life and mission of Bethany in the world.

I would like to thank Heather Brophy for her support on the Nominating Committee this year, and acknowledge fellow member Amy Sue Bowers, who retired from the Nominating Committee in 2020.

Special thanks to Rev. Kevin Little for his invaluable assistance, as always.

Special thanks as well to the Chairs, Janet Sponagle Hopper (Clerk of Session), David Rackham (Chair of the Executive Board), Andy Williams (retiring Chair of the Board of Trustees), and Glendon Knapp (Chair of the Board of Managers) and to Mary MacKay, for their incredible support of our work.

Thanks as well to Dana Mills, who is always professional and helpful.

But most of all, thank you to all the volunteers who said, “Yes”, to service!

You will note that there have been some extensions requested this year at the Board of Managers and Executive Board beyond the usual term limits. These extensions are requested to allow for continuity of leadership at the Board of Management as it carries out the last of the capital improvements the congregation approved, and to allow for an orderly transition of senior leadership at the Executive Board level over the coming year. A year dominated by COVID-19 and challenging public health directives delayed succession planning for Chair David Rackham, who graciously stayed on the job for all of us to help steer the congregation through its most challenging year in living memory. Thank you, David.

These term extensions referred to above have the understanding of Regional Council 15, subject to approval by the congregation today. Therefore, all of the extensions noted in this year’s report, and all of the nominations to the Board of Managers, the Board of Trustees, the Executive Board and Session for 2020-21 are respectfully submitted, and I move approval of the extensions and appointments for the year ahead.

Jim Musgrave, Chair

Executive Board Report

Each governance board and committee of Bethany United Church has its specific mandate and area of jurisdiction, and the Executive Board (EB) is no exception in this regard. Generally speaking, the EB is responsible for exercising “overall” leadership in the care and oversight of the spiritual life, activities and the work of the congregation, the care and maintenance of church property and facilities, and acts as a liaison between our local Community of Faith and Regional Council 15 of the United Church of Canada. Various specific boards and committees such as the Board of Managers, the Board of Trustees, the Session, and the Outreach Committee, among many others, take care of the day-by-day management and governance of the activities of Bethany United Church. Their reports may be found elsewhere in this Annual Report 2021, but all have representation on the EB.

In receiving and disseminating reports from the various boards and committees that comprise the governance framework (polity) of Bethany United Church, the EB, as the most widely representative body of the congregation, also serves the important function of keeping people informed of the ongoing activities, opportunities and challenges faced by the Bethany community as it seeks to be an instrument of God's kingdom here on Earth.

The COVID-19 pandemic began around March-April 2020 and continues to this day with the Omicron variant of the SARS CoV-2 virus in full ascendancy. The first full year of the pandemic was 2021 and it was a year of alternating hopes raised and hopes dashed as the pandemic at times seemed to offer a gateway to some semblance of normalcy only to withdraw that offer as new variants emerged that required the provincial health authority to alternately strengthen virus mitigating protocols and then relax them as the epidemiology warranted. As the Christmas season approached, there was hope that we could offer some degree of Bethany's traditional Christmas events, but then came the highly transmissible Omicron variant that forced us to take a step backward into the virtual realm with You-Tube streaming of these important annual celebrations. As 2021 came to an end, we were facing an uncertain future but still with hope that 2022 would prove to be a more normal year at Bethany in due course.

During 2021 the Executive Board met on an “as needed” basis and all meetings were held via the ZOOM platform. With the establishment of a Working Group to establish protocols for a return to in-person services, routines were established and implemented allowing a partial return to in-person services supplemented by live streaming of such services and the availability of such services to congregants on demand at their convenience via Bethany's You-Tube channel. Later in the year as government mandates were adjusted, a sub-committee of that working group was established to determine how Bethany would deal with a potential “proof of vaccination” policy for those wishing to attend in-person Sunday services and other activities held at Bethany.

As it turned out, faith services were classified by the government as “essential” services and therefore exempt from the “proof of vaccination” requirement. However, the result of a survey conducted by the sub-committee determined that a very high percentage of respondents wanted Bethany to implement a “proof of vaccination” protocol so the decision to comply with that request was taken. Toward the latter part of 2021, attendance at in-person services under the “proof of vaccination” protocol was continuing to increase until Omicron struck in December 2021 bringing Bethany back to the virtual world of live streaming with no congregants in attendance other than via the virtual medium.

In short, the Executive Board was largely in a holding pattern throughout 2021, making sure that Bethany staff and congregants and others making use of the facilities were operating in an environment as safe as humanly possible in respect to transmission of the virus. Apart from COVID-related protocols, other business of the Executive Board included approval of a one-year trial of a Managed Portfolio as proposed by the Board of Trustees. Oversight of the Option 1 renovation project continued, the EB having delegated to the Board of Managers the actual implementation of the project. The EB also approved renovations to the kitchen and certain funds to partially cover the cost of this project. The EB also approved the appointment of a new treasurer, Rob Steeves, who generously agreed to accept that role upon the retirement of Linda Knechtel who served Bethany so ably as treasurer and in many other capacities over recent years.

As chair of the EB, I prepared several letters for the congregation during the course of the year explaining what steps we were taking to deal with the COVID pandemic and why these steps were necessary. I am most grateful that members of the Bethany family have been willing to comply with these disruptive, albeit necessary, changes to our procedures in order to sustain the Bethany community as best we could. That Bethany was not only able to survive but also prosper to a degree throughout 2021 even in the face of great uncertainty is a testament to how important our community is in the lives of so many of its members. The due diligence of so many people, staff members and volunteers and parishioners at large have made this possible and the EB is deeply grateful for the support received throughout the year.

As this is my final annual report to the congregation in the role as EB chair, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge a number of people who played particularly important roles in sustaining Bethany throughout 2021. First and foremost is our minister, Rev. Kevin C. Little, whose tireless efforts in so many domains have been essential to sustaining the viability of our congregation. His dedication to duty well beyond any formal call of duty is truly legendary. As chair of the EB, I have been blessed to work with Kevin over the years. He was always available if I felt the need of advice as impending decisions had to be taken. Many of you have been recipients of his kindness and support in difficult times. If you knock or call, you can have every expectation that

the door will be opened almost at any time of the day or night. How fortunate we are to have Kevin shepherding us through the vicissitudes of these perilous pandemic times.

In addition to Kevin, our staff members (Shawn Whynot, Ann Bradley, Dana Mills, Louisa Duck, Jimmy Sweet and Tina Gascon) have offered yeoman service to Bethany throughout 2021. Each of them played an essential role in sustaining our community and we are deeply grateful to each of them as they continue to go well beyond any formal call of duty in support of Bethany. I wrote to each of them at Christmas time expressing on your behalf our deep gratitude for their presence and service among us. How could we have managed without them?

Where would we be without the Bethany Audio-Visual Ministry team consisting of Barry Paton, Glen Knapp, Rob Steeves, Penny Allen, and other volunteers who have filled in as time and circumstances required. Through the efforts of this team, live streaming has become a regular part of the media by which Bethany communicates with its parishioners and the world beyond. Their diligence in perfecting this medium has allowed us to maintain a sense of community and continuity which, otherwise, might have been significantly compromised under the pandemic onslaught we have been enduring as individuals and as a community.

I would be deeply remiss if I failed to acknowledge the enormous contribution Linda Knechtel has made to Bethany throughout 2021, not only in the strategic role of treasurer, but in many other capacities as well including serving as a member and chair of the Working Group mentioned above and the sub-committee of that group and the implementation of our in-person Sunday services when we were able to hold them. Along with Pam Carter and others, they made it possible to hold meaningful in-person services even under the constraints of COVID-19 protocols.

To all those volunteers who, by virtue of their commitment to the cause, transform the Christian ideals of Bethany into reality, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude. Bethany simply couldn't function without you. Each of you is a special blessing to our community. Working together as you do, bringing your gifts of talent and time to bear on the task of building the Kingdom of God on Earth in the here and now, the whole becomes much bigger than the sum of its individual parts, and great things become possible.

Finally, I want to thank all members of the Executive Board past and present for their support over the past 5+ years. Without that support, nothing would have been possible. As we read in the Book of Ecclesiastes, “To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven....” My season on the Executive Board will come to an end within a few short months. Upon returning from 28 years in Japan, I neither planned nor expected to serve in any governance capacity at Bethany, being a “Come from Away” so to speak, although my formative years many decades ago were spent at Bethany. Unbeknownst to me, others had different plans and so, in the course of time, I came to serve on the Session followed by the EB and then to serve as chair of the EB. Not always an easy job, I am nevertheless deeply grateful for the opportunity to have been able to serve in this capacity. My leadership style was honed, in part, by my personality and by 28 years living and working in the Orient. As such, I may have seemed to some to be culturally askew from time to time and thus may not always have been able to serve Bethany in the best possible way as I have always wanted to do. Despite this, for some mysterious reason you somehow tolerated me despite my imperfections. The Lord does indeed work in mysterious ways.

New leadership will be coming to the EB in the spring as it should in the natural course of events. My prayer is that you will extend to that new leadership the kind of support I have been privileged to receive over the past 5+ years. May God bless each and every one of you and may Bethany continue to be a beacon of light and hope in a world desperately in need of light and hope in the months and years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Rackham (Chair)



Ministry and Personnel Report

The Ministry and Personnel Committee, better known as the M&P Committee consists of Church members and adherents that have chosen to support staff ministry.



2021 was a building year for M&P. I am pleased to advise that we added four people to our committee.

They are: Julie Johnson
Lynn Steeves
Dan Jackson
Herb Steeves

They along with Ian Parker will support our staff in 2022. I would like to thank our new members for volunteering to serve with a special thanks to Ian Parker for his outstanding contribution during this past year.

I would like to thank the members who have retired for their support of our staff.

They are Gloria Hardy

Sherry Lynn Richardson

Bonnie Boyd Reid

Respectfully submitted

Bob Grant, Chair

Board of Managers Report

2021 was an anticlimax compared to 2020; the year that accomplished more than expected.

Three Options 1 projects were completed in 2021:

1. The new oil tank has been installed and came in under budget.
2. The steeple was removed with the exception of the original plinth.
3. The Sanctuary ramp was replaced. A grant from the province of Nova Scotia provided financial support in the amount of \$5500.

Fourteen projects remain. These include windows, exterior doors, siding, Sanctuary stained-glass repair, flooring, exterior brick repair and the drainage system on the flat roof over the boardroom/nursery/ladies parlour. The “big” Options 1 item will become a reality in three to four years – the Sanctuary roof.

Maintenance - Along with the usual parade of service providers, a large interior maintenance project concluded in 2021. The floor in the chair storage room off the Fellowship Hall. Starting in late 2020 the “chair room” proved to be another soft wall. The kitchen wall adjacent to the dish washer was removed (entire length and four feet high), the support wall below the dishwasher wall sill was removed and reconstruction began from the basement up. Once the basement supporting wall was completed, the kitchen wall was re constructed. Next the concrete floor in the closet was removed. The rotten joists were replaced, and the floor reconstructed in wood and finished in concrete. We were fortunate in that only one in floor heating pipe was damaged. With three trades involved the small chair room consumed a lot of time and money.

Parking Lot - It was the Board’s intention to visit the condition of Bethany’s parking lots. A plan was launched to repair, patch and line the two lots and develop a signage strategy. Estimates were sought but owing to financial concerns the projects were deferred to 2022. Coupled with parking lot maintenance, the signage plan would identify Bethany parking spaces

across from the back entrance in the large (rear) parking lot. These (three) would be free standing. Other post type signs would be located at the Clinton Street entrance and the walking path entrance near Lepperts brook.

Bethany's Kitchen - The Bethany Kitchen moved forward in stages. From kitchen planning in March to liquidation of specific kitchen furnishings, a motion to support canvassing the congregation for funds was passed (coupled with the Board of Trustees support). Renovation commenced shortly thereafter. Images were sent in the December's Community Spirit.

Gym Floor - The gym floor, not unlike the Kitchen, grew from congregant interest to a project in itself. The floor, as with many Bethany projects, offered more challenges than expected. The finished product is amazing complementing the volunteer painting, the gym never looked so good. Funding for this project came from two congregants' contributions. A grant from the City of Halifax is being sought to cover the balance.

Communication Strategy Options 1 - Betty Tozer was asked to provide a communication strategy offering an overview of Options 1. This large task is to produce a document(s) for Board of Managers review, presentation to the Executive Board and finally to the congregation. Since Options 1 is in its final stages; prioritizing remaining projects, accountability, and an historical record are all pertinent to one of Bethany's largest endeavors.

Last but not least are the volunteers who installed, repaired and painted through 2021. These tireless souls fixed and brightened a tired complex. By the way they cut grass too!

Presented to the members and adherents of Bethany United Church

Respectively,

Glen Knapp, Chair

Treasurer's Report

(Part 1)

This report will be in two parts: the first one from myself, as treasurer until the end of October 2021 and the second one from Rob Steeves who assumed the role of treasurer on the 1st of November.

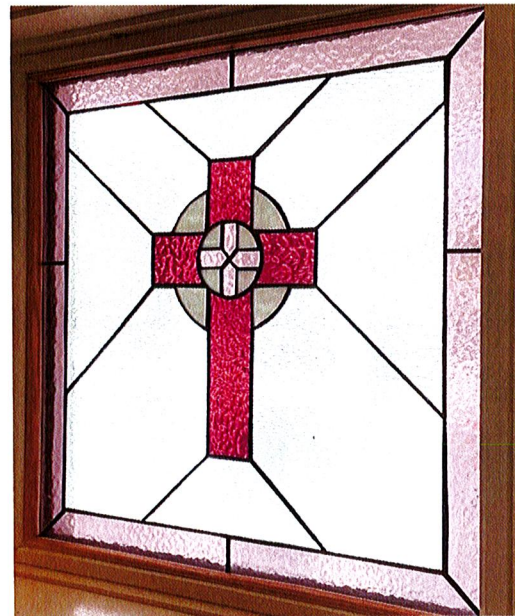
Our hope of having life “back to normal” by the end of 2021 was dashed by the arrival of the Omicron variant of Covid. Just when our congregation was beginning to return to more normal conditions in the sanctuary and our thoughts were turning to social gatherings, fund raising events etc. we were put back in lockdown mode once more.

Unfortunately, this has meant that our finances have not bounced back as much as we had hoped this year. We did receive a wage subsidy grant from the government to help defray costs in that area. We were also able to access the loans that were made available from the federal government in the amount of \$60,000. Only \$40,000 of this needs to be repaid, if it is done by the end of 2022, meaning that the other \$20,000 becomes a grant. This has been very helpful in keeping us going in 2021.

I urge you to keep Bethany in your thoughts when planning your donations for the coming year.

It has been my privilege to serve as your treasurer for the past 3 1/2 years.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Knechtel



(Part 2)

I took over as treasurer November 1 and, after two weeks, briefly wondered what I had gotten myself into. We had just cautiously begun to reopen to in-person services in the fall when Omicron became part of daily conversation. By Christmas Eve, Bethany would be back to virtual services only. When I came on board, Linda had expressed her concerns to me that financially we could have trouble “balancing the books”, in spite of the wage subsidy and another grant from the United Church that we received for work done to the premises in 2020.

I poured over the books.....started looking at trends...using spreadsheets to do projections...(I love spreadsheets!)....and said lots of prayers. The people of Bethany came through as you always do!! I’m happy to report we will close the books on 2021 with a modest surplus. However, that surplus does come with an asterisk beside it, as, if it hadn’t been for the wage subsidy and the grant from 2020 arriving in 2021, I would be reporting a deficit.

That said, a lot was still accomplished in 2021. Option 1 work continued, our newly renovated kitchen is almost ready to be unveiled, and the floor in the gym has never looked better, all thanks to the generosity of dedicated Bethany congregants.

As I look forward to 2022 and beyond, I sense challenging financial times. There is still Option 1 work left to be done. We will soon be reporting to you on where we stand with that important project. There are other infrastructure and maintenance items not included in Option 1 that need to be considered and prioritized. Costs of everyday items are on the rise, most notably fuel oil and electricity.

I’m not one to make predictions barely three months on the job, but I am confident that Bethany folk will rise to whatever challenge we face. I want to close by thanking Linda for her tireless work during her tenure as treasurer. I also want to thank Tina Gascon for her ongoing efforts to keep all financial records up to date, our bills paid, and keeping me up to date on the various reporting requirements we must fulfill. It is because of their hard work that we are in as good shape financially as we are.

Lastly, I want to thank each of you for your continued support of our community of faith!

Respectfully submitted

Robert Steeves

2021 CONTRIBUTIONS TO MISSION AND SERVICE FUND

The total amounts of contributions made to the Mission and Service (M & S) Fund are:

M & S Contributions/Envelopes:	\$ 19,806.92
M & S UCW	\$ 0.00
M & S World Development	\$ 364.00
	<hr/>
Total:	\$20,170.92

2021 CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN

Total envelopes issued for 2021: 304 (this includes 99 families on PAR)

Total numbers with Zero balance: 26

Contributions between:

\$1.00 - \$100:	59
\$101 - \$500:	53
\$501 - \$1000:	46
\$1001 - \$2500:	58
\$2501 - \$5000:	34
Over \$5000:	28

2021 MEMORIAL DONATIONS RECEIVED

\$5,693.00

Bethany United Church expresses thanks to all members and adherents who contributed to the memorial bulletin donations for 2021 “in memory” and all charitable donations made to honor loved ones and friends.

VOLUNTEERS

Bethany is blessed with a dedicated community of volunteers. Our sincerest gratitude is extended to all for the gifts you share.



BETHANY UNITED CHURCH INVESTMENTS

The church's **unrestricted** financial account holdings (by investment type) as of December 31, 2021 are:

Securities

<u>Common Shares</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Bank of Montreal	50	\$ 6,809.50
Bank of Nova Scotia	2,048	\$ 183,398.40
Royal Bank of Canada	952	\$ 127,806.00
Toronto Dominion Bank	97	\$ 9,407.06
Canadian Imperial Bank Of Commerce	17	\$ 2,506.65
BCE Inc	101	\$ 6,646.81
Great West Life	176	\$ 6,680.96
Fortis Inc	234	\$ 14,281.02
Total Value of Shares		\$ 357,536.40
Accumulated Dividends		\$ 12,940.33

Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs)

<u>GIC Type</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>
Annual Compound	\$ 64,441.62	2.770%	May 22, 2024

The church's **restricted** financial investment is:

RBC Dominion Securities N.Geizer	\$10,225.00	Cash Awaiting reinvestment
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Total Value of Fixed Income **\$64,441.62**

Uninvested cash \$221,537.18

BETHANY BENEVOLENT FUND

The Bethany Benevolent Fund is a Session Fund for goodwill purposes that is used to help people in difficult circumstances. Our sincere thanks to the congregation of Bethany for their many generous donations throughout the year.

This Fund is administered at the discretion of our Minister, Kevin Little.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	Debit	Credit
Opening balance as of January 1, 2021		\$1216.57
Revenue:		
Individual donations		\$4702.00
Expenses:		
Amount disbursed	\$4040.41	
Other expenses	\$ 0.00	
Closing balance as of December 31, 2021		\$ 1878.16

Brookfield Fund Report

Once again, we are thankful to those who supported the Brookfield Fund in 2021. The auxiliary fund began over ninety-seven years ago. From time to time, it provides for incidentals for those who give leadership in the congregation and need a little financial assistance to meet unanticipated expenses for which no budgetary provision has been made.

We encourage any newcomers who would like to be included to our list of contributors. Usual donations are modest but very welcome gifts. Annual contributions to the fund are included in the year -end statement you receive for income tax purposes for your regular envelope receipt.

If you think that you would be able to contribute to the Brookfield Fund, we will welcome hearing from you (telephone 902-455-0521, 225) to make arrangements to receive that donation.



Balance January 1, 2021	\$1,358.98
New funds in 2021	\$ 0.00
Expenditures in 2021	\$ 0.00
Balance December 31, 2021	\$1 358.98

Respectfully submitted,

George Russell, Treasurer

The Janet & Earl Reid Scholarship Fund (the Fund)

THE EARLE AND JANET REID SCHOLARSHIP FUND (“the Fund”)

Under the provisions of his Last Will and Testament, Dr. Earle Reid generously donated to Bethany United Church the sum of \$100,000.00 to fund the Earle and Janet Reid Scholarship Fund (“the Fund”). Under the provisions of his Will, Dr. Reid provided that the net annual income of the Fund be distributed annually by Bethany by awarding two annual scholarships to recipients attending a secondary or post-secondary educational institution who are active participants in church activities.

The funds were transferred to the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia to invest on Bethany’s behalf. CFNS is a public charitable foundation established by Nova Scotians for Nova Scotians which works with private donors to build the financial and social capital of our community by establishing permanent endowment funds and providing the expertise to maximize the benefit to each of these funds. Since all the funds of the CFNS are pooled and invested together, the CFNS is able to keep investment costs low in order to maximize the benefit of each endowment fund. The monies in the Fund are invested in a balanced fund comprised of 60% equities and 40% fixed income. The CFNS charges an annual management fee of 1.77% for each fund and provides annual and quarterly reports.

Under the terms of Bethany’s agreement with the CFNS, an Adjudication Committee consisting of three members of the congregation and a representative of the CFNS has been established to review all applications for the two annual scholarships and to recommend the two annual recipients of the scholarships as set out in Dr. Reid’s Will and then to forward their recommendations to the CFNS’s Board of Directors for final approval. In 2020, the two members from Bethany who sat on the Adjudication Committee were Nancy Dearn and Greg McConnell. The CFNS is responsible for promoting the Fund.

This past year (2021), the two annual scholarship awards were granted in the amount of \$2000 each to Kyla Mills and Thomas Duck, both of Bethany United Church.

Board of Trustees Report

The role of the Board of Trustees is to hold all real property occupied by the Congregation of Bethany United Church in trust for the United Church of Canada and to ensure that all the congregational property is used for a purpose not contrary to the provision of the Trusts of Model Deed.

In the midst of the pandemic, in 2021 the Board met on April 22 and June 8 to discuss a number of matters requiring the Board's attention.

In our April 22, 2021, meeting, the Board discussed the following matters:

1. A proposal by a representative of RBC Wealth management to convert Bethany's investment portfolio (ranging between \$400,000 and \$600,000) to a managed account for a 1.4 % annual management fee;
2. To consider a request from the Board of managers to access funds from Bethany's investment portfolio to fund the proposed kitchen renovations.;
3. To proceed with an inventory and appraisal of Bethany's personal property for insurance and replacement value purposes;
4. To review a previous decision to produce a draft "handbook" setting out the different responsibilities between the Board of managers and the Board of Trustees.

In our June 8, 2021 meeting, the Board discussed the following matters:

1. Authorizing the Chair to contact HRM to discuss the proposed changes to the land use bylaws that might impact Bethany United Church;
2. After hearing a presentation from Kim Reardon, a member of Bethany, and representative of CIBC Wood Gundy, the Board decided to convert Bethany's investment portfolio to a managed account for a period of one year for an annual management fee of 0.5% on equities; 0.25% on fixed income; no fees on cash;
3. Authorizing the sum of \$100,000 to remain in cash in Bethany's portfolio for use by the Board of managers to pay for the cost of renovating the church kitchen;
4. Approval of the renewal of the Toshiba photocopier for the church office;

5. Confirmation that all contracts involving Bethany United Church need to be approved and signed by the Board of Trustees.

The members of the Board of Trustees for 2021 consisted of:

Bill Piercey, Chair

Jim Musgrave, Secretary

Heather Brophy

Brenda Duplisea

Brian Jay

Laura King (resigned)

Gordon Lawley (resigned)

Lynn Legge

Don MacKay

Brian Wentzell

Andy Williams (resigned)

Alfred Woodward



I wish to thank the present and retiring members of the Board of Trustees for their time and dedication in carrying out the duties and responsibility of the Board for the benefit and welfare of the congregation of Bethany United Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Piercey, Chair

Session Report

Rev. Kevin Little – (2015 -)

Lisa Harrison - Clerk of Session - (2021 -)

Louisa Duck - Children and Family Care Ministry – (2010 -)

Ann Bradley – Community Engagement Facilitator – (2016 -)

EMERITUS MEMBERS OF SESSION

Rev. Vincent Ihasz (2015)

LIFE MEMBERS OF SESSION

Charles McCurdy (1966) D

(2022)

Nancy Ardene (R)
Mabel Davis
Ruth DeVenne
Bonnie Boyd-Read
Randy Tyler

(2023)

Pam Carter
Bill Piercey
Louisa Duck
Scott Grant
Glenn Tozer
David Rackham
Zenora Rackham
Bob Cummings
Lisa Harrison
Crystal Wentzell
Sharon Wentzell

(2024)

Carolyn Kunz
Kathy Brown
Joan MacVicar
Janet Sponagle Hopper
Gordon Lawley
Elizabeth Carter

(2025)

Lori Cormier
Laura King
Rick McFarland
Diane Plumridge-Reid

(2026)

Karen Harrigan
Yvonne Macor
Andrea Michell
Marion Jay
Judy MacLean
Maryth Maxner

MINISTRIES OF SESSION - 2021

Local Outreach

Ann Bradley, Chair

Sharon Wentzell

Gary Gallant*, Treasurer

Margie Guy *

Ann Pugh*

Glen Knapp*

Carol Knapp R*

Tim Cormier*

Cathy MacDonald*

Zenora Rackham

George Russell*

Steve Morley*

Don Grant R*

Worship Ministry

Elizabeth Carter, Chair

Kathy Brown

Bev. Grant*

Carolyn Kunz

Rev. Kevin Little

Shawn Whynot*

Louisa Duck

Communion

Don Grant R*

Head Usher

Pam Carter

Transportation

Heather Gillis*

Harriet King*

* Member at Large

R Retired

D Deceased

2021 BAPTISMS

William Robert Tremaine (missed from 2020)
 Cayden Rex Connors
 Caroline Grace Tremaine Lebens
 Louie Robert McKelvie Edmonds



2021 MARRIAGES

Benjamin Anthony Organ & Shelby Simone Gowan
 Geoff Clare Crowe & Candice Rachel Piercey

BETHANY SESSION REPORT

	2019	2020	2021
Number of Elders on December 31 (Including Emeritus members)	40	33	32
Total number of families under Pastoral Charge	379	337	319
Total number of persons under Pastoral Charge	1099	977	861
Number Baptized	2	1	3
Number of Marriages	2	0	0
Number of Funerals	13	3	3
Received by Profession of Faith	7	0	6
Received by Certificate of Transfer	16	0	19

Worship Committee

I took over from Bill Piercey as Chair in September 2021. I have been a member of Bethany United Church my whole life and am a Sunday School Teacher, as well as a member on Session, Executive Board, and Worship Committee. I am very excited for the opportunity to serve as chair of Worship Committee and wish to thank those who have helped to support me in this role. I also want to thank Bill for his service and help with the transition.

The purpose of the Worship Committee is as follows:

“To oversee the worship services at Bethany United Church, endeavoring to plan and provide “an awesome and transforming” worship experience for all”

We typically meet just before Session at 6:30 pm. As with the current Covid-19 Pandemic, all of our meetings have been through the Zoom platform.

At our meeting on September 27th, 2021, we discussed the following:

- I. Anniversary Sunday on October 24th, 2021. In lieu of a official Anniversary Sunday Speaker, Louisa and Ann chose to use the service to welcome those who have been confirmed or transferred.
- II. Discussion of Potential Anniversary Speaker for October of 2022

Our second meeting of the year took place on the 29th of November of 2021:

- I. Suggestion Box discussed to be moved to a virtual format
- II. The plan for the Christmas Eve Services. Both were changed as a result of the updated Covid-19 regulations.
- III. Recommendation for the AV committee to be made into a ministry. This was brought forward to Session. This allows for more flexibility with the funds for the AV committee.

The Worship Committees wishes to extend our sincere thanks to all those who helped with the services in 2021. Multiple times throughout the year, our services had to be adapted to an various formats as a result of changing Covid-19 regulations (ie. Live Streams, Pre-recorded, In-person). Each time that this change had to occur, it was done efficiently and flawlessly. We wish to thank our AV group, who worked tirelessly to make our services accessible to all, as well as all those who worked behind the scenes to help organize the services. Being able to maintain these services, throughout the ever-changing circumstances, has helped to provide a sense of community and support for our congregation, and we express our deepest gratitude.

In a normal year, the Worship Committee would monitor our Suggestion Box, which would typically be kept in the Narthex and allows for members of the congregation to help us improve our Worship services. As of now, we are unable to meet in person, so our Suggestion Box has fallen into disuse. We encourage participants to let either myself, Kevin, or Dana know of any ways to improve our online services and help make them accessible for all. Even if we are unable to act on every suggestion, we appreciate them.

Members of the Worship Committee for 2021 were as follows:

Non-Staff

Elizabeth Carter, Chair

Kathy Brown

Bev. Grant

Carolyn Kunz

Staff

Rev. Kevin Little

Shawn Whynot

Louisa Duck

Respectively submitted,

Elizabeth Carter, Chair



LOCAL OUTREACH MINISTRY

Jesus said, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. (Matthew 25:35-36)

Local Outreach is a ministry of session and is directly supported by the congregation through designated contributions in the weekly offering envelopes. On behalf of Bethany Church, this money is used to serve persons in need of food and clothing items in the Metro area. A list of community agencies supported during the past year may be found in the Committee's financial report.



This past year proved to be challenging for so many people, especially those in need of food and shelter. The volunteers at St. Andrew's Sunday Suppers continue to go above and beyond, making certain every person who arrives for a hot meal on Sunday receives one. With the continued support of local churches and organizations the supper team also provides personal hygiene items, warm winter clothing, tents, and snack foods. Bethany has continued to be very generous with their support to this growing need. We provided casseroles in January and November as well as sandwiches a few times throughout the year. We are no longer able to offer our usual meal of ham and scalloped

potatoes as the meals continue to be take-out only. During the pandemic, numbers attending the suppers continue to increase, many Sundays they have served more than 300 guests. Many thanks to Bethany for also providing fresh fruit donations for the suppers.

Since the pandemic began we have not been able to serve breakfast at the Brunswick Street Mission in the wee hours of the morning, as we had done two or three times a year in the past. The Mission continues to serve breakfast and provide other outreach services with a select team of volunteers and staff. We would like to thank all those Bethany folk who supported the Mission's Annual Fundraiser Breakfast in October, whether you attended in person or virtually, your support is greatly appreciated.

During the late fall, the Committee sponsored a number of projects to support programs during the Christmas season. Through our clothing box, the Brunswick Street Mission, Phoenix Programs for Youth, Fairview Family Resource Centre and other agencies, received many articles of warm clothing. Special thanks to those of you who take the time to knit warm hats, mittens, and scarves, your time and care is greatly appreciated. Many of you generously donated non-perishable food items and funds to the Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank to provide meals and Christmas dinners. We also continue to collect feminine hygiene products as well. More than 100 gifts were donated to the Angel Tree and were forwarded to the Salvation Army for distribution. Each year the Bethany Youth Group hosts An Old-Fashioned Christmas in support of Phoenix Youth. The support for this outreach initiative has been incredible during these past two years and the folks at Phoenix are truly grateful. Many Christmas stockings have been filled thanks to your support!

The committee wishes to thank the congregation for their warm and generous support, both financially and in other ways over the past year. I would like to thank the committee members for their dedication and efforts in the work that they do to serve others in our community. Thanks also to Dana Mills and Tina Gascon for their administrative assistance and support and as well to Louisa Duck, the Bethany Sunday School, and the Bethany Youth Group for their continued support of Bethany's Local Outreach projects. It is greatly appreciated and a wonderful way to involve the youth of our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Bradley, Chair

Local Outreach 2021 Financial Report

Revenue

Balance forwarded from 2021	189.73
Envelope contributions designated Local Outreach	18256.89
Interest	0.00
Total	18446.62

Disbursements and Expenses

Adsum House	1150.00
Brunswick Street Mission	2195.00
Bryony House	1150.00
Camp Kidston	500.00
Club Inclusion	250.00
Fairview United Family Resource Centre	1400.00
Halifax West Food Bank	3670.00
Hope Cottage	900.00
Laing House	900.00
Metro Turning Point	900.00
Phoenix	1550.00
St. Andrews Suppers	1450.00
Office Gift Cards	510.00
Bank Charges	17.60
Cheque order	72.80
Postage	22.00

Total revenue **18446.62**

Funds disperse **16636.78**

Balance **1809.84**

Bank Statement **2060.02**

**Cheque # 860 for 250.00 not cashed till Jan/25/2022*

Respectively submitted,

Gary Gallant, Treasurer

Children and Family Care Ministries

It continues to be my great privilege to serve the congregation as the coordinator of our Children and Family Care Ministries. 2021 gave us an opportunity to continue exploring new ways to offer programming, and we moved Sunday School to the Zoom platform in February. We met virtually on Sunday mornings and continued our faith journey together until the end of May. We continued to send out lesson and activity packages to all our families so that they could continue to participate on their own, if they preferred. Owing to continued Covid restrictions, our JAM program and Vacation Bible School were suspended for the year.

Our summer was busy! I was happy to have the opportunity to preside over the four Sunday services in July. I appreciate all the help and support offered by my colleagues, and the great encouragement I received from the congregation. Thank you.

The rest of the summer was spent, with the help of Elizabeth Carter, reorganizing and revamping the Sunday School space and program to make it Covid-safe so that we could come back in person with the children as soon as government restrictions allowed. With the support of the congregation, we purchased a folding room divider that allows us to turn the gym into two classroom spaces that can hold two socially distanced classrooms of twelve students each. We were thrilled to try out our new Sunday School space in late September, when we welcomed our children back in-person. The children were registered each week by their adults and entered through the ramp door on the Joseph Howe Drive side of the church, separate from the congregation, and came directly to the gym. This was the safest course at the time since the children were not yet able to be vaccinated. We had a small but steady number that attended regularly until Christmas, when we had to return to online Sunday School because of rising numbers. We are set to return to in-person as soon as it is safe to do so.

We had five candidates for confirmation complete their preparation this year and join the church in October. We welcomed Jared Dearn, Kelsey Matheson, Nathan Mills, Heidi Reardon, and Vivian Richardson as full members of the church, and we look forward to their continued participation in the life of Bethany.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry was able to start distributing shawls again in 2021, and we shared eighteen shawls with Bethany family and friends. We had six high school graduates in 2021 for whom shawls were created. We congratulate Ben Cameron, Katie Duggan, Laura Duggan, Thomas Hooper, Sam MacFarlane, and Kyla Mills, on their achievements. We also held a prayer shawl blessing during a Sunday Service in July, in which thirty-eight shawls were blessed. Our crafters were very busy over the last year, and we thank them for sharing their gifts of time and talent with others.

We were happy to be able to hold our traditional Olde-Fashioned Christmas event in support of Phoenix House this year in person. We held the entire event outdoors, beginning with The Living Nativity, and then carrying on with carols, crafts, and cookies, and a visit from Santa. Dan Isner once again kindly brought Rosie the donkey and the goats out to join the festivities and everyone had a grand time. Dan also supported our Christmas Eve family service again this year by bringing Rosie along, though we recorded the Nativity portion of the service in November as a contingency plan. We were glad to have that ready as it became clear that an online service would be the safest way forward this year. With the great help of John Briand and Barry Paton, all parts of the service were recorded and edited together and offered as our family service on Christmas Eve.

I thank you all for your support and encouragement as I continue to serve the congregation of Bethany. I am truly blessed to be in this role, and I look forward to whatever adventures and opportunities the next year brings.



Respectfully submitted,
Louisa Duck

Community Engagement Ministry

2021 has felt much like a rollercoaster ride, with ups and downs experienced through lockdowns and re-openings. The Bethany community has proven to be very resilient! Through all the challenges we have faced during this pandemic we continue to find creative and safe ways to be in community with each other, whether in-person, virtually, through emails and telephone calls. No matter how we find community, it continues to be a privilege to minister with each of you in my role as Community Engagement facilitator.

The Bethany Youth Group began the year virtually on Zoom. This was not where we had hoped to be but nonetheless we were happy to see one another's smiling faces without masks! In February we could be in person once again and enjoyed a skate on Chocolate Lake. In March we made snacks for St. Andrew's supper and in April Louisa taught us how to knit, we also had our annual Earth Day hike and trash collection. Unfortunately this was our last in person gathering as we encountered another lockdown. So, back to Zoom, where we baked cookies together, shared our favourite music, and played Trivia with Shawn and Kevin. We wrapped it up with an online Escape Room Game the end of May. In September we were able to gather in person (with masks) and thankfully this continued until our Christmas Break. Some highlights of the fall; a hike with Christie Chisholm at Fox Lake Trail; snack making and winter clothing donations for St. Andrew's Sunday Suppers; Blessing of the Animals with Kevin; and our treasured Living Nativity and Old Fashioned Christmas, which was held outdoors this year and as always included a visit from Santa. Bud MacDonald had been our beloved Santa for a number of years, with Bud's passing his son Michael offered to play this role. We are very grateful, it was truly a special evening. As always the Bethany congregation generously donated stocking stuffers for the youth at Phoenix House. Special thanks to Dana Mills for her continued support as a volunteer youth leader.

Youth Confirmation class was held on a Friday in April. Louisa and I met with 5 youth confirmands in the Chapel for our first session of Narthex, a confirmation curriculum developed by Maritime Conference. It was a great day of learning and engaging conversation. Unfortunately our next session was postponed due to another lockdown, as was our Confirmation date of May 16th. Louisa and I met with the 5 Confirmands for part two of our Confirmation sessions in October. Confirmation took place on Sunday October 24th during morning worship.

Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour was a new initiative hosted by Kevin and myself on Monday mornings for an hour which ran from February to early May. Since we could not gather for our usual Sunday morning coffee hour this virtual platform offered a safe place for Bethany folk to gather for friendly conversation. We had a consistent group of people who enjoyed seeing one another each week to share stories and enjoy one another's company.

The Walk and Talk/Drop-In program was able to resume mid-February until the next lockdown in April. This program offers a place where folks can walk indoors if they choose, enjoy music by jazz pianist Murray Brown. Each week ended with a "physically distanced" conversation circle led by Kevin and myself. In November we were able to gather in person once again for indoor walking, music with Murray Brown, percussionist Huntley Blair and violinist Susan Zurowski. This jazz trio turned out to be the highlight of our week as it brought us great joy to hear live music once again! Kevin joins us once a month for engaging conversation. This program in pre-covid times offered tea, coffee and other social activities, which we hope we can offer again when it is safe to do so.

Guided Meditation led by Yvonne Macor, took place in person in the MacKinnon Chapel mid-February until mid-April when we moved to online until early June. We met again in October to early December in the Chapel. These sessions were well attended by Bethany folk and the surrounding community. We are very grateful to Yvonne for continuing to volunteer her time and talent as we form community meditating together.

Picnic and Prayer was a program offered for three Tuesdays in September. We met at the Dingle and also Horseshoe Island. Folks brought their lunch and a lawn chair. We began with a social time (physically distanced) and then while folks ate their lunch I shared a scripture reading and Kevin offered a short reflection. Outdoor ministries are a safe way to bring folks together safely in Pandemic times as long as the weather cooperates, our third gathering was cancelled due to rain!

Music Mondays Soiree! For three Monday evenings in November Shawn and I offered a 45 minute concert featuring a musical mystery guest each week. The mystery guest was introduced at the beginning of the evening with trivia questions for the audience pertaining to the musical instrument this guest played. Our three guests were Curtis Dietz –Trumpet; Hilary Brown –Cello; and Debbie Miles –Violin/Fiddle. There were approximately 80 people in attendance for each concert. We had a delightful time performing and the audience greatly appreciated the music as well as an evening out with other Bethany folk; so much so that we have been asked to offer another series in the spring. Stay tuned!

The Congregational Care Team of Bethany consists of volunteer lay persons offering care and support to our congregation. This ministry supplements the visitation ministry of our lead Minister. During the pandemic when in person visits and Sunday morning worship were no longer permissible, a congregational phone tree list was resurrected and members of the care team and others, made weekly phone calls to Bethany's congregation. This proved to be an important and much needed ministry and continues to be so especially in times of lockdowns and visiting restrictions by Public Health. Thank you to all who make these much appreciated calls. The care team volunteers delivered the UCW Christmas Gift Bags to parishioners in December. A much appreciated gesture.

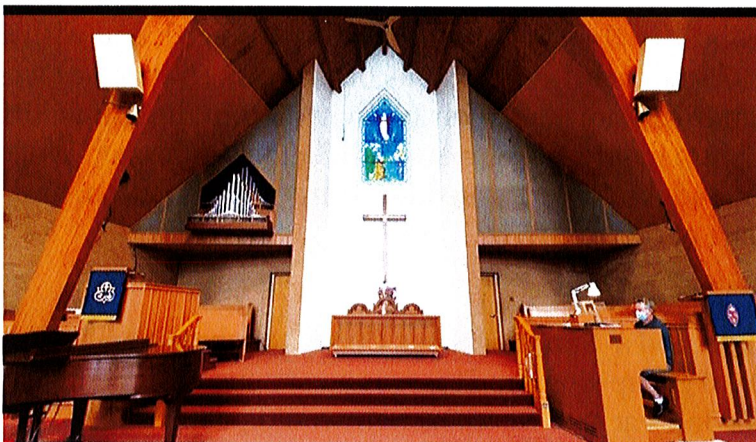
Due to pandemic restrictions and kitchen renovations we are missing our Joy Lunch, Community Meals, ISANS Conversation Circle and other programs that have not been able to happen. We hope that in 2022 we can offer these programs, perhaps with a twist, to meet Public Health Guidelines. As staff liason to the Community Connections Working Group we have not been able to offer new initiatives at this time but we hope to offer take-out meals when the kitchen renovations are complete.

I would like to express my thanks to the Audio/Visual team for their amazing efforts to record and live stream our worship services, and to the staff as well as Board and Session members for their dedicated efforts during these challenging times. It is truly a blessing to be a part of such a caring congregation where a strong sense of community, connection, and a deep faith are unwavering even in pandemic times. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Respectfully Submitted: Ann Bradley



Ministry of Music



It is through challenging times that one must be most creative, adaptive, and willing to change with but a moment's notice. The idea of 'taking things for granted' is no longer, and the notion of 'but we have always done it this way' is not an option, at least for the present. In my role as your Director of Music, I work with a variety of people, both staff and volunteers, whom which the above is not only true, but the new normal by which we must currently abide. Having said all of that, it has truly been a dynamic year of Music Ministries at Bethany in both some tried and true ways, and in some brand-new approaches.

The Senior Choir this past year has been a series of 'musical chairs' if you like. We were put on hold and not allowed to rehearse for public health protocols, and then we were allowed to rehearse according to updated protocols. We met in the Fellowship Hall and rehearsed according to NSHA guidelines. We participated in weekly services singing mostly from the balcony so that we could socially distance. Then we were allowed to move back to the choir lofts down front which was a great plus for the choir and the congregation both visually and listening-wise. However, during December the choir had to return to the balcony for one more time which coincided with our Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. After which, the church went into a lockdown just intime for Christmas Eve, and with no choir or congregation. So, it was a year with much singing but also changing conditions with regards to modes of participation. Thank you, choir, for being such an accommodating group and with such a 'go with the flow' attitude.

The Handbell Choir also faced many of the same challenges as the Senior Choir but was also willing to meet change with an open-mindedness and just to remain positive. This choir rehearsed regularly in the Sanctuary, socially distanced, and with masks. They were able to play in church nearly as much as other years so that was wonderful. A highlight for the Handbell Choir was their participation in the Annual RCCO Carol Service which took place in late November at All Saints' Cathedral. We joined with the St. Matthew's Choir, and we all performed for a large congregation, and it was so rewarding to be a part of this event.

This past summer I started a 'Summer Sings Choir' which met on Tuesday mornings for a 45-minute session of group singing. This was a very successful endeavour and we averaged about 14 people each week. This choir would provide hymn singing and ministries of music for the recorded services during the summer months. This proved to be such a viable resource for all involved that I may just repeat for this coming summer.

As an example of adapting to the everchanging pandemic landscape with regards to what we were allowed to do and not do, I, in response, offered a music lecture series this past spring entitled 'Sacred Music through the Ages.' This was a weekly series that traced church music from the beginnings, Gregorian Chant, up to and including the 20th and 21st centuries. This was well attended and brought together a collection of people from outside of the regular folk that I tend to directly interact with, that is, choir members.

If someone would have said to me even a year ago that I would be teaching a beginner Ukulele class at Bethany to a group of 17 people, well, I think that we know what the response would have been. So, for seven consecutive Wednesday evenings, we faithfully met and learned the basics of playing the ukulele including chords, strumming, plucking, and even a few songs.

Another venture that proved to be very successful this past November was the Music Monday soirees which included along with Ann Bradley and myself, a mystery music guest. This mystery music guest was unknown until the very start of each concert and then was introduced and performed a 45-minute program with us. The three music guests that took part in the series were: Curtis Dietz, trumpet, Hillary Brown, cello, and Debbie Miles, violin/fiddle. These 3 concerts, despite horrific rainstorms during two of

the shows were well attended and raised over \$900.00 for the Paul Rackham Memorial Music Fund. Thank you to all that came out to support these 3 shows.

One of the events that I was so happy to have happened this past year was my favourite, the Silent Movie Performance. This year I was able to perform again The Phantom of the Opera. This screening was very well attended by over 160 people. My very special thanks to Ann Bradley who provided the singing for the character 'Christine,' and to Barry Paton, my formidable IT person and screen technician. This event raised just over \$1600.00 which was donated to the general operating budget. Hopefully, I will see you next year as I will soon be planning my next silent movie to be screened in October 2022.

Rev. Kevin asked if Ann and I would provide musical offerings for his December faith study entitled 'Do You Hear What I Hear.' For 4 consecutive evenings in December Ann and I, following Kevin's introductory remarks, would assimilate a short 15-minute performance to go along with his commendatory. This was a first for me, offering music to enhance a faith-study and it was a very worthwhile endeavour.

In closing, and as I reflect on the activities of the past year, we were able to accomplish a great deal considering all the obstacles that had to be overcome. This does not happen individually but with a great community of people such as Bethany United. I would like to thank the endless support of the staff that I am surrounded by, the many volunteers, and the various boards of Bethany that makes much of the above possible. I do look forward to the new year and the possibilities that await us through pandemic times. Limitations breed creativity, and I for certain am ready to continue to look for new and unique ways to carry on with the music ministry program at Bethany United.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shawn Whynot, Director of Music

Soli Deo Gloria

Memorial Music Fund

Rackham Fund & Lillian Piercey Scholarship Fund

The Fund consists of the Rackham Fund and The Lillian Piercey Scholarship Fund

The Memorial Music Fund bank balance December 31, 2020 \$6, 502.16

Revenue

Donations received in 2021	2, 190.00	
Donations received in 2022	2,153.33	

		\$4,343.33

Monday Night Concerts	1,535.00	
Less, Musicians Expenses	600.00	

		\$ 935.00

Expense

Donation to LiveStream	1,000.00	
Bank Charges	48.00	
Miscellaneous	25.00	
Scholarship for Thomas Duck	1, 200.00	

		\$2, 273.00

The Memorial Music Fund bank balance December 31, 2021 \$9 507. 49

Audio Visual (AV) Ministry

Technology has played a key role in our community of faith's ability to stay connected during the pandemic.

This couldn't have happened without important contributions of time and talent from three groups, each of whom had individually been providing technological support to the congregation even before the pandemic. These groups included

- the AV committee, whose primary focus was audio in the sanctuary.
- the Vision ministry, primarily focused on the fellowship hall and Visuals, and
- IT/Web support, whose traditional focus has been computer/internet/web support.

As a result of these three disciplines joining forces, we've been able to stay in touch through numerous virtual means, including a mix of pre-recorded and livestream services, ZOOM coffee hours, Communion services, faith studies, weekly meditation sessions, youth group and Sunday School. We've also leveraged these platforms to allow the various boards and committees as well as Session to continue to meet on a regular basis.

Late in 2021 we realized the synergy of bringing these technologies together would allow us to further leverage these media to the benefit of the collective wellbeing of Bethany. As a result, in late November the AV Ministry was created/approved by Session.

The full scope of the AV Ministry is being fleshed out, but will encompass, at the very least, the livestreaming capabilities, prerecording capabilities, ZOOM capabilities, and various pieces that go together to provide those tools. It also means we will be looking at ways each of these capabilities can be further leveraged going forward to further enhance and complement existing activities.

For this Annual report, there will still be separate reports from each group. Next year there will only be a consolidated report of the contributions of the newly declared "AV Ministry" to our community:

1) Audio Visual Report (Sanctuary)

2021 was the most exciting and challenging Audio Visual (A/V) year in producing and recording Bethany Sunday Services.

Born of Barry Paton's willingness to start a recording process and coupled with Shawn Whynot's encouragement to investigate Switcher Studio software resulted in a digital journey using iPhones as cameras, and an iPad to record the blended audio and visual elements.

Recording is one aspect of the experience but the real breakthrough in Sunday Service was live streaming.

This Ministry did not happen with the "flick" of a switch. Many long hours of reading manuals (thanks Bill), learning new equipment, experimenting and experiencing a "brave new world". Yes we had our ups and downs!

Now we have a borrowed digital audio console, an iPad blending audio and video signals, and three iPhones serving as cameras mounted on digital tripods. The latter offers horizontal and vertical movement so the iPad operator can choose camera angles.

All of the above serves up to 300 viewers (when Church is not in person) and approximately half that when we distance in person.

There were other aspects of this technology...the cost.

In 2021 \$5815 of donated funds was spent on audio equipment, software licensing, iPhones, Digital Tripods (Osmos), and related cables etc...

Donations were from congregants and the Rackham Music Fund.

The closing financial balance as of December 31 2021 was \$0.00.

Any Ministry needs help – human help. The A/V team welcomes Steve Morley and Penny Allen to the Sunday morning experience.

A large vote of thanks goes to the following volunteers: Barry Paton, Rob Steeves, Bill Roger, Steve Morley, Penny Allen and Glen Knapp.

Without their energy, skills and expertise this Ministry would not exist

Respectively Presented to the members and adherents of Bethany United Church at the Annual General meeting

Respectfully submitted: Glen Knapp

2) Vision Ministry (Fellowship Hall)

The purpose of the Vision Ministry is to enhance the Word or Music through the use of visual images and/or videos where appropriate.

Since the arrival of Covid in 2020 and the church renovations, the stage in the Fellowship Hall was not available. It was used as a storage area and will not be available until the kitchen renovations are complete (soon).

During 2020 and parts of 2021 the vision team recorded and produced the weekly pre-recorded services. In January of 2021, the extended Vision Team started building a streaming system for use in the Sanctuary. Some of the Hall's equipment including the QSC audio mixer was loaned to the Streaming Effort.

Now that the stage will soon be available, we begin the long-awaited renovation in the Fellowship Hall. A new screen will be purchased and installed. It is a hidden screen which can be lowered to a variety of heights so that the projector system can be used for large functions and small functions. Usage will include funeral receptions, plays, concerts, Men's Club, Joy Club etc. It will be fully integrated with the sound system. We believe this will make the Fellowship Hall a prime space for external rentals.

Financial Statement

Opening Balance January 1,2021 \$ 5,619.26

Closing Balance December 31,2021 \$ 6,381.89

The Vision Ministry has had no budget, however due to the generosity of church members and rental fees, the service has been self-sustaining.

Respectfully submitted: Barry Paton

3) IT/Web Support

The main players in this group include Penny Allen, Dana Mills and Rob Steeves.

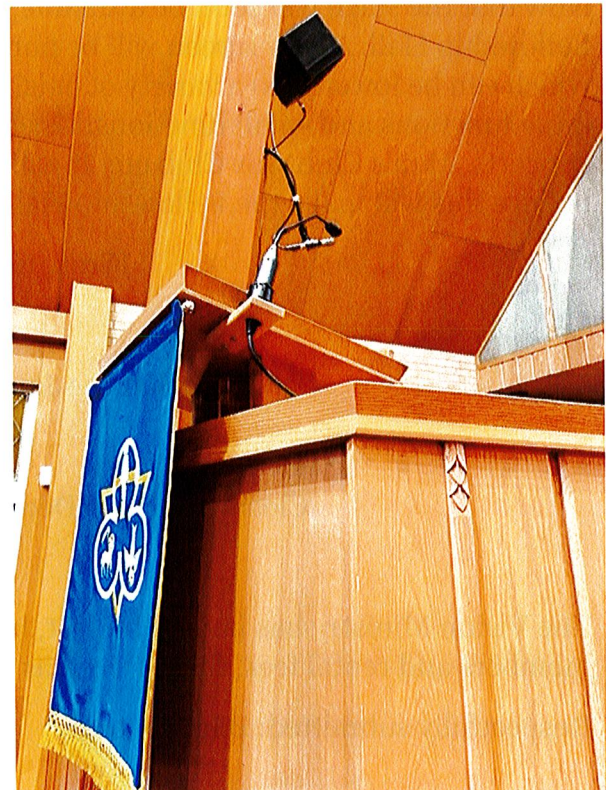
Penny is our webmaster extraordinaire. She goes above and beyond making sure our web page is up to date and has the latest links to Sunday Services and bulletins. She's even on standby on Sunday mornings to help with any last-minute issues we may have with the livestream. On several occasions Penny has acted quickly to post last minute changes to the streaming links on a Sunday Morning!

Dana is also well versed in web page maintenance, making updates, posting our Community Spirit newsletter etc. She has also become our Zoom host expert, managing our two ZOOM licenses: scheduling and setting up meetings, providing user training, etc.

Rob lends a hand to the backend of all three technology streams in this collective, providing hardware support when and where needed. (Glen refers to it as "Quality Control"!)

WHO KNEW?!?!...Here's a few fun-facts on our use of Zoom this year..... From February through November, we hosted over 85 ZOOM meetings, logging some 6000 minutes of meeting time, with a total of over 750 participants!

Consolidated report compiled by Rob Steeves



2021 FINANCIALS - UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

FINANCIAL STATEMENT			
BETHANY UNITED CHURCH WOMEN			
01 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2021			
REVENUE		DISBURSEMENTS	
Bank Balance 31 Dec. 20	1,244.94	Brunswick Street Mission	95.00
Bank Interest	0.71		
GIC Interest	10.20		
MacKinnon Unit	425.00		
	1,680.85		95.00
		Bank Balance - 31 Dec. :	1,585.85
TOTAL	1,680.85		1,680.85

The pandemic, as one might expect, continues to prevent all UCW activities to occur in 2021. Activities took place as the situation allowed. The 'MacKinnon Unit' held several 'in person' gatherings as they were able throughout the year. Members were fully vaccinated, masked and socially distanced during all times of sisterhood in faith.

In December the Wilson Unit collected and filled over 25 Christmas gift bags. These gifts were then delivered to congregants who Ann and Kevin identified as in need of a little cheer or lift in their Christmas spirit.

Hope remains that in 2022, our two UCW units will again have the opportunity to gather and participate in some of our favourite annual events (Spring Brunch, Fall Fair, Christmas in November dinner, etc.) as well as 'MacKinnon Unit' meetings.

The UCW is open to any women of the congregation who are interested in joining one of our units. We can be contacted through the church office.

Respectfully Submitted, Bethany UCW

Bethany Flower Committee

The Flower Committee has a mandate to enhance and contribute to the beauty of Bethany throughout the year by supplying seasonal decorations in the sanctuary, narthex, chapel and fellowship hall. This includes both fresh and artificial arrangements as occasions arise. This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the committee has met in person for decorating five times-- in January (church re-opening), February (cleaning and reorganizing our storage spaces), April (Easter), October (Thanksgiving) and November (Christmas). We are funded by a bequest from the Nan Geizer Memorial Fund and memorial donations (Poinsettias) by Bethany members at Christmas.

Members of the committee are Barbara McCurdy, Evelyn Smith, Carolyn Kunz, Julie Johnson, Janice MacDonald, Zenora Rackham, Karen Hatcher and assisted at Christmas time by Karen Finley, Maryth Maxner, Lynne and Rob Legg.

We offer special thanks to Jim Sweet who is always on hand to help out with the many chores involved with the setting up and putting away of our decorations.

We welcome any members of Bethany who would like to lend a hand (or ideas) to join us at any time by contacting a current member.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara McCurdy.



2021 Financials – Bethany Flower Committee

Opening Balance January 1, 2021	\$3472.40
Revenue	
Interest for 2020	\$ 0.96
Expenses	
Flowers for re-opening (January 15, 2021)	\$ 115.00
Flowers to refresh (January 17, 2021)	\$ 12.00
Flowers for Valentine’s Day (February 14, 2021)	\$ 71.27
Easter Decorating	\$ 25.28
	\$ 35.22
Thanksgiving	\$ 54.00
Christmas Poinsettias	\$ 209.22
Kitchen Renovation Donation	\$1000.00
Balance December 31 2021	\$1951.37

Investments

GIC	\$1586.18
GIC	\$2397.44
GIC	\$1837.97
GIC Interest	\$0.00

Total of Investments **\$5821.59**

Notes to Financial Statement

- In 2020 Financial Statement in error a GIC for UCW was reported.
- Interest of GICs had not been deposited into bank account as directed December 7, 2019.
- Replacement GICs were issued March 2021 with maturity March 2022.
- Further follow up appointment at TD February 7, 2022

COFFEE HOUR MINISTRY 2021

The Coffee Time Ministry at Bethany along with many other aspects of our Church life continued to be on hold throughout the past year. As we move through the pandemic, I anticipate a time in 2022, when we will be able to experience this warm, engaging gathering after our morning service.

When it is safe to do so, I look forward to supporting this ministry and the many volunteers who offer their time and talent to it each Sunday.

We will be blessed with a freshly renovated kitchen that will support our ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Jewett

BETHANY MEN'S CLUB

In the 1920's, during the pastorate of Reverend Harry Burns a men's prayer group was formed. Over the years it evolved into the Bethany Men's Club which provides an opportunity for men of the congregation to meet informally, enjoy a meal, a speaker and a time of fellowship. We are very blessed to have a very active group at the present time. However, we have not been able to meet since March 2020.

The group is fiscally sound. With the cancelation of our last meeting in 2020 anyone with a paid membership for 2019-2020 will have a credit towards our first meeting for 2022. Once the pandemic allows group meetings to resume and the kitchen renovations have been completed, we will resume our meeting with a new format keeping in mind covid restrictions. We will keep the members and other interested parties informed by e-mail or with a message in the Community Spirit. If you wish to be added to the email list, you can send us a message at bethanyunitedmensclub@gmail.com.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to all who supported or help make the men's club the continued success it has experienced these last number of years. The willingness of everyone to lend a hand has made this group a great blessing. Looking forward to seeing everyone when we can meet again

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Parker & Randy Tyler

BETHANY'S MUFFIN CLUB

The Muffin Club Bible Study did not meet on a regular basis during 2021 as has been our practice since we started in the fall of 1988. This was due to limitations placed on gatherings of all types by Public Health authorities due to the Covid -19 Pandemic.

Although our members did not meet on a regular basis, the friendships established over the history of Muffin Club continued to be alive and active through contact and support of one another during the past year. This is an acknowledgement of the long-lasting comradeship of belonging to a Christian based group.

And although regular meetings did not happen, we were still able to make a very kind donation to one of our congregation members who required some assistance at Christmas time.

The future of the Muffin Club for the year 2022 and beyond remains in the hands of God for His guidance and direction.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany "Muffin Club" Bible Study

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany "Muffin Club" Bible Study

