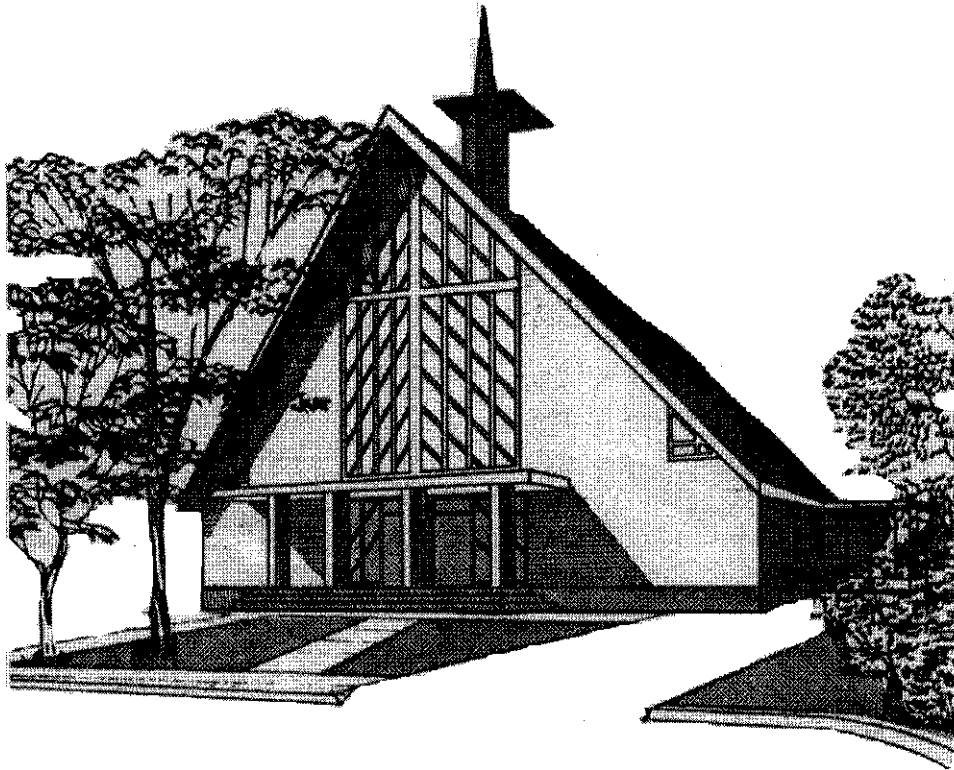


BETHANY UNITED CHURCH

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Annual Report

-2017-

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BETHANY UNITED CHURCH
2017 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
March 25, 2018
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, March 26, 2016.
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 2018Motion to accept Financial Reports.
9. Nominating Committee Report
Election to fill vacancies
 - a)
 - b)
10. New Business
 - a)
 - b)
11. Adjournment and Benediction.

Message from the Minister

For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building
1 Corinthians 3:9

Jesus teaches us about a unique “Kingdom”, some might call it a kin-dom, not building. Let that assertion sink in for a spell. Throughout the Gospels, you can find Jesus teaching on the characteristics of this “Kingdom” where kin or family are defined as being part of something larger than yourself and connected to people who may not necessarily share our history, ethnicity or experience. But together there is an appetite, a hunger, to embrace the character of God in the world that makes us different people. The Church was never about brick and mortar. It was always greater than that. It was about a way of being in the world.

People are the building blocks. Jesus feeds the 5,000. A crowd has been listening to Jesus teach on a remote hillside, you might call it a two-thousand-year-old version of a TED-talk. The gathering there is a mix of the invested, the curious and the skeptical. No sanctuary or liturgy; only Jesus speaking about God in real-time and then sharing a meal with those gathered on the hillside. That would be the model throughout the New Testament: Gather. Eat. Share. Remember me. Live.

The Church grows without a building campaign. The early believers were essentially in-house churches where immediate family, extended family and friends were already living in deep, meaningful community together. They didn't have to rent out space and a sound system and start service planning. They were already living life together organically and so they didn't need to create a destination to foster community. These groups absorbed the new converts, but there is no evidence of the healthy evolution of these communities into organized churches. The only mention we have is in the book of Revelation where large, opulent churches are being chastised for their corruption and apathy.

Jesus says where two or three are gathered he is present. Two or three—not 40 or 150 or 6,000. Not an auditorium with a speaker, a band and dozens of rows of chairs. This is Emmanuel “God with us.” Jesus never promises that with size or organization there would be more of his presence. He didn't leave building instructions or establish an organizational structure or provide liturgical templates. He affirmed that his people and his presence were the only necessary ingredients. They would come to the table together, and he would take a seat there with them. Your kitchen table, a bar in a tap-room, a bench at the park, a coffee shop. He is present there.

The Apostle Paul tells us we are the Temple. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes to tell Christians in that city that God's presence is not just above and around them but within them. They are the very “Body of Christ” on earth, they are the “temple of the Holy Spirit”—living, breathing sanctuaries. The idea of them needing to visit a specific place to have proximity to God was now ludicrous. They were the

place. They needed only to go inward. This is the heart of the Church then. It still is; not where they gather, but as they gather.

Jesus tells the disciples to remember him. At their final meal before his death, Jesus offers bread and wine as a symbol of his presence in community and sacrificial love. He then asks them to remember him when they break bread together in the future.

You may find that building comforting or edifying, and you may find inspiration and wisdom there. That may be spiritual community for you. But don't assume that this building has the market cornered on any of those things, and don't cheapen the spiritual journey of those outside of the building by acting as if everything found there cannot also be found beyond it. Over and over the Bible makes this clear.

All of this Biblical and ecclesiastical introduction is my way of talking about the kind of faith community Bethany was in 2017. Inside and outside our building there was evidence of a "kin-dom" alive in the midst of the world. People who were challenged by life found our community warm and inviting. People who were grieving found our church alive with care and support. People who were hungry for something new found ministries, new and old, to invest in, participate in, and thrive in. People who felt isolated, alone or just separated from their deeper selves found our community a place to call home. What a blessing!

I want to thank all of those who took leadership to express what God is doing among us. Thank you! Your offering, your insight, your work, made a significant difference to many people. Our congregation grew in numbers, our revenues increased (despite losing many, many generous donors in 2017) and our activities grew in number and in the numbers of those who participated. The one challenge we faced as 2017 began and as 2017 ended was our physical plant, which continues to occupy much of our attention and resources. If not for expenses related to the building we would have had a sizable surplus to spend on our mission and ministry. We will need to keep that reality in our minds and hearts as we move forward as a church community, living out the "Kingdom of God" in our midst.

Shawn Whynot has been our Director of Music for 20 years. He tells me the choir, with 33 members now, has never been bigger in his tenure. The choir shows us the way, their care for one another is a beacon to us all on how to care for each other, have fun with each other and share our God-given gifts with others. Whether they are in their usual "stall" or at 5 Ramsgate or singing at a senior's home, the location matters less than the spirit they carry.



Thanks be to God for the spirit that we carried in 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Little". The signature is written in a cursive style with some flourishes.

Peace, Kevin Little - Minister



In Memoriam

John Buchanan

Russell "Pete" Buell

George Clark

Marie Clowater

Gladys Collins

Mary Cooley

Dolores Forbes

David Harrigan

Janet Hutton

Anne Ihasz

Roy Keefe

Wilf Logan

Joel MacLean

Robert McKelvie

Mary Parker

Janet Paton

Troy Richter

MINUTES
2016 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
BETHANY UNITED CHURCH
MARCH 26, 2017

The Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) for 2016 was called to order at 11:52 am Sunday, March 26, 2017 by David Rackham, Chair.

Rev. Kevin Little read the names of all the members of the Bethany family who passed away in 2016 and then led us in prayer.

It was moved by Vince Billard and seconded by Charles Baxter that voting privileges be extended to adherents as well as members of Bethany United Church. MOTION CARRIED.

David Rackham advised that there was no correspondence to be addressed at the ACM.

Bob Eaton moved and Karen Finley seconded the approval of the Agenda as printed in the Annual Report of 2016 with the addition under New Business – Coffee Hour update, Sue Bolton. MOTION CARRIED.

Bob Eaton moved and Jim Musgrave seconded the approval of the Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of March 6, 2016 as circulated. MOTION CARRIED.

Business Arising from the March 6, 2016 Minutes – none.

It was moved by Ian Parker and seconded by Bob Grant that all Annual Reports contained in the Annual Report 2016, with the exception of the Treasurer's Report, Auditor's Report and Proposed Budget for 2017, be accepted and approved with the following correction: in the Session Report under 2016 Marriages, Samuel Edwards' name should be amended to Samuel Edmonds. MOTION CARRIED.

Don MacKay, Treasurer, presented and reviewed the Treasurer's Report, Financial Statements as prepared by Hunter Tellier Belgrave Adamson Chartered Accountants, and the 2017 Budget. Charles Baxter moved the acceptance of the reports as presented in the Annual Report and the appointment of Hunter Tellier Belgrave Adamson Chartered Professional Accountants as our auditors for the year 2017. Motion seconded by Betty O'Brien. MOTION CARRIED.

Don MacKay thanked Doug Shields, Lyn McMillan, Glenn Knapp and the team of volunteers who are helping in the office for all of their assistance and dedicated work. David Rackham thanked Don MacKay for his time and efforts as Treasurer.

Jim Musgrave, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the Committee's report. The Committee consisted of Jim Musgrave (Chair), Heather Brophy and Amy-Sue Bowers.

Session

Ian Parker and Randy Tyler have completed five-year terms on Session and are each willing to serve a further five-year term, if elected, and we hereby nominate Ian and Randy.

Don Grant has completed a five-year term on Session and is willing to serve a further one-year term, if elected, and we hereby nominate Don.

Five members of Session have completed their terms on Session and have advised the Clerk of Session that they do not wish to reoffer, and we thank each of them for their valuable service as Bethany Elders. They are:

- John Geske
- Bev Grant
- Jennifer Mills
- Joel Powell
- Dale Roode

Cheri Wilson retired from Session a number of years ago.

As well, Helen Dickson, listed as an Emeritus member of Session, passed away in the Fall of 2016.

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

- Nancy Ardenne
- Charlotte Charlton
- Mabel Davis
- Ruth Devenne
- Bonnie Boyd-Reid

Board of Trustees

Chair Sue Bolton has completed her second three-year term on the Board of Trustees and is not eligible for re-election, and we thank Sue for her valuable service to Bethany in those roles.

Andy Williams has 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 Andy.

Trustees Jim Musgrave, Les Russell and Jerry Slaunwhite have technically completed their second three-year terms on the Board of Trustees, and would ordinarily not be eligible for re-

election, but with special approval of the Executive Board, each have agreed to remain as Trustees for an additional one-year term to provide continuity on the Board of Trustees in the context of decisions to be made this year about the future of our facilities.

The following two individuals from our congregation have agreed to serve new three-year terms on the Board of Trustees, if elected, and we hereby nominate them. They are:

- Heather Brophy
- Bill Piercey

Board of Managers

Gordon McMillan has completed a three-year term on the Board of Managers and is willing to serve a further three-year term, if elected, and we hereby nominate Gordon.

Joel Powell has completed a three-year term on the Board of Managers and is willing to serve a further three-year term, if elected, and we hereby nominate Joel.

Don MacKay is willing to serve a further one-year term on the Board of Managers, if elected, and we hereby nominate Don.

Doug Roy and Betty Tozer have completed three-year terms on the Board of Managers. We thank them for their valuable service to Bethany on the Board of Managers.

Andrew Scollick has retired from the Board of Managers and we thank him for his service.

The following six individuals have agreed to serve new three-year terms on the Board of Managers, if elected, and we hereby nominate them. They are:

- Paul Dandurand
- Mary Farmer
- Rob Legg
- Doug Shields
- Carol Simmons
- Rob Steeves

Executive Board

Hilary Steeves is now in university outside Halifax and it is not practical for her to continue as a youth representative on the Executive Board. We thank her for her valuable service.

The following two individuals have agreed to serve new three-year terms on the Executive Board, if elected, and we hereby nominate them. They are:

- Peyton Duggan as youth member
- Jerry Slaunwhite as a member-at-large

The Nominating Committee would like to thank all those volunteers who officially complete their service on these Boards and Committees today, all those who have agreed to renew their mandates today, and all those who have now agreed to serve under new mandates on behalf of our congregation. We are blessed by their service.

Jim Musgrave thanked Amy-Sue Bowers and Heather Brophy for their leadership and vision on the Nominating Committee this year. Special thanks to Rev. Kevin Little for his considerable assistance as well.

All of the foregoing nominations to the Board of Managers, the Board of Trustees, the Executive Board and Session are respectfully submitted and so moved by Jim Musgrave. Motion seconded by Brian Wentzell. MOTION CARRIED.

New Business

- i. Coffee Hour – Sue Bolton reported that Mary Lawley has been organizing volunteers for coffee hour for more years than anyone can remember and it is time for someone to take over from her. Please speak to Sue or Mary if you would like to assist in this very important aspect of our congregational life.
- ii. Bev Grant reported that the Piercy Memorial Garden Committee's report did not get into the Annual Report but their work is continuing.
- iii. Update on Facilities Planning process - David Rackham reported that Betty Tozer is summarizing all the comments and questions received from the workshops on February 19th and 25th regarding Future Facilities Planning and a report in the form of a brochure will be available soon. A Congregational Meeting is tentatively planned for April 23, 2017 to determine the congregation's preference for going forward.
- iv. Don MacKay acknowledged the tremendous amount of work that David Rackham has devoted to Bethany as Chair of the Executive Board and is thankful for the kind of leadership David provides.
- v. Rev. Kevin Little thanked the Ministry and Personnel Committee, especially Chair David Reid, for all the work they have done over the past year.

Bill Piercy moved the meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Rev. Kevin Little gave the Benediction.

David Rackham (Chair, Executive Board)
Lynn Steeves (Recording Secretary)

Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting
Bethany United Church
Sunday, April 23, 2017

The Bethany United Church Congregation met in the Rev. Ewen Moase Memorial Fellowship Hall for the purpose of administering a survey to assess attitudes toward options for the future of the Bethany United Church Facility.

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by David Rackham, Chair of the Executive Board.

Rev. Kevin Little led us in an opening prayer.

Carl Webb moved that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Motion seconded by Maureen Reynolds. Motion carried.

Don MacKay moved that adherents of Bethany United Church be enabled to participate in the survey process. Motion seconded by Charles Maxner. Motion carried.

David Rackham gave a brief explanation of the survey process. Once the overall results have been analyzed, they will be shared with the congregation.

David then instructed the congregation on how the survey form should be completed. Members were asked to print and sign their name to receive a survey form. Once they completed the survey and deposited the completed form in the ballot box, they were free to leave.

David Rackham, Chair

Lynn Steeves, Secretary

Bethany United Church Executive Board

Annual Report 2017

The Executive Board (EB) is generally 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 the church property, and to act as a liaison between the Congregation and Halifax Presbytery. In receiving and disseminating reports from the various boards and committees that comprise the governance framework (polity) of Bethany United Church, the EB 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. EB meetings are the only real forum where a sharing of the activities of the various boards and committees of the church occurs on a regular basis. You are referred to the reports of these individual boards and committees for details. Normally the EB would meet five times during a given calendar year while a small informal Sub-Committee of the Executive Board meets on a more frequent basis as necessary to keep abreast of ongoing developments at Bethany and to prepare for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the full Executive Board. I express my deep appreciation to all members of the EB and the Bethany community at large for their encouragement and support throughout 2017.

During 2017 the EB met on eleven (11) occasions including the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and a special congregational meeting for the congregation to render its verdict on options for the future of the Bethany facility. The highlights of these meetings are outlined below:

- **January 4th 2017**. After the departure of visitors from Halifax Presbytery, a matter related to office management was considered along with a report from the Facilities Planning Committee (FPC) on options for the future of the Bethany facility and how to share this information with the congregation at large.
- **January 16th 2017**. The main item of business addressed at this meeting was a proposal by Rev. Kevin Little that given the departure of Rev. Dr. Randy Crozsmann as Minister of Visitation and Pastoral Care, Bethany might consider embarking on a one-year experimental period with Rev. Little taking care of his usual duties as Lead Minister along with many of the duties associated with the position of Minister of Visitation. After considerable discussion, this one-year experimental period was approved by the EB subject to re-examination at the end of the trial year. The Minister of Visitation and Pastoral Care position remains on the books, and should circumstances warrant, that position could be filled again in the future. A report by the treasurer on a proposed longer-term reorganization of the front office was presented and after extensive discussion was approved by Board members for implementation. It was also reported at this meeting that a long-simmering disagreement between Bethany and Halifax Presbytery in respect to arrears in annual payments by Bethany to Presbytery had been resolved.
- **January 23rd 2017**. This special meeting of the Executive Board was held to receive a presentation by Betty Tozer of the Facilities Planning Committee (FPC) on the various scenarios (options) that this committee had developed for the future

of the Bethany facility. The options presented in brief were: (1) maintain the status quo, (2) partial development, (3a) removal of a portion of the facility and replace it with a new building, (3b) removal of a portion of the facility and add parking, and (4) sell and move to a new location. It was decided to form a small committee to plan various ways of disseminating relevant information to the congregation at large prior to a special congregational meeting at which members of the congregation would be asked to render their opinion on the options outlined above.

- **February 20th 2017.** This EB meeting dealt with the following matters: (a) management of office administration in both the shorter and longer terms; (b) confirmation of time, date and agenda for the 2017 Annual General meeting (AGM); (c) scheduling a date and time for congregational voting on options related to the future of the Bethany facility and determination of a process for assessing the opinion of the congregation on these options.
- **March 26th 2017.** The 2017 AGM chaired by the Executive Board was held following Sunday Service. Minutes of this meeting will be available in the 2017 Annual Report for the church at large to be made available prior to and at the AGM 2018.
- **April 10th 2017.** This EB meeting approved a survey method for the April 23rd 2017 special congregational meeting to assess the congregation's attitudes toward the various options proposed for consideration by the Facilities Planning Committee for the future of the Bethany facility. It was also agreed that the chair of the Executive Board would take responsibility for analyzing and reporting the results of the survey first to the full membership of the Executive Board and then to the congregation at large. Initial work on a process to prepare Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to be submitted to a number of professional firms was approved.
- **April 23rd 2017.** The EB held a special congregational meeting following the Sunday service for the specific purpose of conducting an assessment of the congregation's preferences for the various options proposed by the FPC for the future of the Bethany facility. Following an explanation on how to complete the survey instrument, voting was conducted with dispatch and the results were analyzed over the following weeks for ultimate dissemination first to the EB membership and then the congregation at large. Overall, the survey revealed that a plurality of members of the congregation participating in the survey (N=117) opted for remaining at the present location if at all possible (the status quo).
- **May 17th 2017.** This EB meeting was called to consider in detail four remits developed by the 42nd General Council held in 2015 regarding various aspects of the future shape and governance of the United Church of Canada (i.e., its polity). Pastoral charges such as Bethany were asked to vote on five remits, four by the end of June 2017 and the fifth by the end of February 2018. Joyce Wylie, a member of Halifax Presbytery, kindly agreed to attend this special meeting to "walk" the EB membership through the remits as follows: Remit 1 (Three Council Model), Remit 2 (Elimination of Transfer and Settlement), Remit 3 (Office of Vocation), Remit 4 (Funding a New Model) and Remit 6 (One Order of Ministry). Detailed information on these remits was circulated to the Executive Board membership prior to a vote being taken at the June meeting of the Board. For those interested in more detail regarding these remits, please consult the following United

Church of Canada website (<https://www.gc42.ca/remits>). The other main item of business at this meeting was a discussion of the results of the survey on the congregation's preferences for the future of the Bethany facility and plans to move forward in this regard.

- **June 21st 2017.** The main purpose of this EB meeting was to conduct a vote on Remits 1, 2, 3 and 4 described above. Members unanimously approved Remits 1, 2 and 3 but declined to approve Remit 4. Results of the Bethany EB voting were relayed promptly to Toronto. Nationwide, all four remits were approved. The EB approved the transfer of archival material held on site at Bethany to the Maritime Conference Archives in Sackville, New Brunswick. A great debt of gratitude is owed to Norman Graham who spent a tremendous amount of time sorting through all this archival material and who then agreed to transport these files personally to the Archives in Sackville. Also considered at this meeting was a plan for developing a template for a Request for Proposal (RFP) to be submitted to various professional firms regarding the Bethany facility and the preferences for the future of the facility as expressed in the results of the special congregational meeting held on April 23rd 2017. A great debt of gratitude is owed to Betty Tozer for her continuing leadership role regarding this critical matter for the future of Bethany.
- **September 27th 2017.** This EB meeting dealt primarily with the outcome over the summer of RFPs submitted to seven companies thought likely to have expertise regarding the assessment and future development of facilities such as we have at Bethany. Despite an extended deadline, none of the seven firms felt able to provide a proposal regarding the feasibility of the top two options preferred by the Bethany congregation for the future of its facility. Finally, when approached again, one firm agreed to provide quotes for the two options in question but no detailed plan. Given the high price of these quotes, the EB decided to ask the Board of Managers to form a committee of people with relevant expertise from among members of the congregation who would conduct a survey of the current state of the facility, collate this with existing evidence from previous analyses, and in due course present their findings first to the Executive Board and ultimately to the congregation for its perusal and deliberation on a future course of action in light of the estimated cost of maintaining the status quo (staying in the same location), the most preferred option by the congregation based on the April 23rd survey results.
- **December 11th 2017.** This was the last EB meeting of 2017. A review of the one-year experimental regime of having only one full-time minister on staff was conducted and it was decided to continue with this arrangement for the coming year along with an extension of hours for Ann Bradley to both enhance our outreach programme in general and in so doing provide supplemental support for Rev. Little. Beginning in early 2018, Ann will be extending her current efforts in the fields of congregational care and community engagement, respectively. The 2018 budget as presented by Treasurer Don MacKay was discussed and approved as presented. The chair asked members to examine the current status of their EB membership

to determine if they are eligible and willing to continue to serve on the EB from AGM 2018. A fund-raising proposal for Camp Kidston was presented and approved by the membership. Members were also asked to consult material on Remit 6 (One Order of Ministry) to be circulated in early January with a vote to be taken at the February 5th 2018 EB meeting.

- **Letters of Commendation.** During the course of the year, letters of gratitude for exemplary service to the Bethany community were sent to Rev. Dr. Randy Crozsmann, our former Minister of Visitation and Pastoral Care, Normal Graham for his tireless work with Bethany's archival records as noted above, Tania and Peter Freeman for their service as coordinators of the 2017 Fall Fair, Karen Hatcher for her constant and invaluable support to the Bethany community, especially in regard to the Fall Fair on this occasion, and Rev. Kevin Little for his exemplary service throughout 2017 as Bethany's Lead Minister. We are deeply grateful to each of the individuals named here and also to the many unnamed individuals who together make Bethany United Church the very special community that it is.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Rackham (Chair)

2017 EB Members	Representing	Members	Representing
Ann Bradley	Outreach Committee	Charlotte Moase	Member at Large
Heather Brophy	Member at Large	Michael Moore	Member at Large
Pam Carter	Halifax Presbytery	Bill Piercey	Immediate Past Chair
Peyton Duggan	Youth	David Rackham	Member at Large, Chair
Karen Finley	UCW	Dave Reid	M & P
Carol Knapp	Session	Gerry Slaunwhite	Member at Large
Alan MacDonald	Member at Large	Lynn Steeves	Recording Secretary
Don MacKay	Treasurer	Andy Williams	Board of Trustees
Gordon McMillan	Board of Managers	Cheri Wilson	Revelation Committee
Lyn McMillan	Member at Large		

BOARD OF MANAGERS - ANNUAL REPORT 2017

This Report is being prepared as I complete four years of service on the Board of Managers, having served as Chair for the past two years.

Members on the Board for 2017: Penny Allen, Mary Farmer, Peter Freeman, Mark King, Glen Knapp, Rob Legg, Don MacKay, Joel Powell, Phil Reardon, Greg Rice, Doug Shields, Carol Simmons and Rob Steeves.

Special thanks to Co-Chair Glen Knapp for his hands-on approach and perseverance to everything from rentals, to heating and lighting issues, to operating our sound system and to serving as a liaison between the Board and our Custodian.

Special thanks to Phil Reardon for continuing to offer his constructive insights into the myriad of repair issues that constantly seem to be presenting themselves.

Special thanks to Don MacKay for continuing on as Treasurer.

Special thanks to Peter Freeman for filling the role of Board Secretary.

Thanks to all the Board of Managers members who assisted in our tasks and donated their time during the past year.

Three Members will be stepping down as of March, 2018. Mark King has completed a three-year term and has decided not to re-offer. Don MacKay has finished his role as our Interim Treasurer and does not wish to continue on the Board. Peter Freeman has completed the third year of his second consecutive term. On behalf of the Board of Managers, I would like to extend our thanks for their time of service.

Our Complex consists of several buildings joined together and continues to require ongoing maintenance and repairs. Over the past year, our Board has been focused on addressing these issues. We sometimes find ourselves in an awkward position with regard to just what repairs and modifications should be done, in what order and to what degree. This is mainly due to the uncertainty surrounding our buildings' future.

The Board has addressed the following issues during 2017:

- Heating system – abatement + new tubes in boiler and several parts replaced on burner and boiler (which passed inspection by Provincial inspector)
- Roofing – sheathing removed on W side of FH; boards fastened to trusses to provide ventilation before re-shingling
- Office exterior – repaired rotted wood along corner + area above canopy; re-shingled N side of office roof
- Canopy on JH Dr. – replaced decaying wooden posts with fibreglass ones (donated)
- Sanctuary doors – sanded, stained, and refinished
- Painting – framework surrounding Sanctuary doors + Gym below chair rail
- Parking lots – asphalt patching done + some lines repainted
- Signage – FH parking; rear parking lot entrance and alongside Sanctuary

- Narthex – new cabinets installed (donated)
- Minister’s Office – window installed in door
- Refuse & recycling – 2 new sets installed in FH and kitchen (donated by Bethany Foot Care); larger outside bins for increased capacity
- Sanctuary – continue to monitor the cracks in the glulam arches
- Lighting – continue to review all lighting areas with emphasis on conversion to LED’s
- Photocopier – Sharp model replaced by a new Toshiba which will yield substantial cost savings
- Rentals – continuing to re-evaluate gathering better understanding of long term renters and apply current community rates to new users
- Website – Canada Helps has been set up

We have had a very productive and busy 2017. I am sure that 2018 will be much the same as we attempt to deal with ongoing challenges.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon McMillan

Chair



TREASURER'S REPORT 2017

2017 was a very good year from a financial point of view and I want to thank all of our members and adherents who contributed to our financial health. Our contributions from envelopes (both regular and special), PAR, loose, Sunday School, on-line donations etc. are up 9% from 2016. A fantastic accomplishment!! As well our annual fundraising events (Spring Gala/Auction, Fall Fair and Spooky Movie Night) continue to raise significant dollars for the congregation. Also the fact our Lead Minister Kevin Little took over the visitation duties in February 2017 upon the departure of Reverend Crozsmann reduced our salary costs 20% for the year. All of this allowed us to pay for a significant portion of the repairs to our heating system and the Ewen Moase Fellowship Hall out of general operating income. The actual final results are reported under "2 year financial comparison" in the following pages. Also if anyone wants to see the Notice to Reader 2017 financial statement as prepared by our chartered accounting firm AC Hunter Tellier Belgrave Adamson please note it will be available at the annual financial meeting or in the church office.

I want to encourage everyone to keep up your contributions to the life and work of the church in 2018. If you are a new or for that matter a long term member or adherent of Bethany but not contributing on a regular basis I would ask that you consider going on PAR or taking out regular envelopes. We continue to face financial challenges in 2018 as we look at more repairs and consider possible renovations to our facilities that will ensure its future viability.

I have been serving as your interim treasurer for a year and a half now. It has been my pleasure to serve Bethany United Church in this capacity. I am happy to announce that Linda Knechtel will be taking over the responsibility of treasurer with the annual meeting in March. She is well qualified and I know you will welcome her to this role and give her the same support I have received.

Thank you,

Don MacKay, Interim Treasurer

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH

INVESTMENTS (Revised)

The church's **unrestricted** financial account holdings (by investment type) as of December 31, 2017 are:

- **Securities:**

<u>Common Shares</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Bank of Nova Scotia	1687	\$136,849.44
Royal Bank of Canada	775	\$ 79,553.75
Toronto Dominion Bank	93	\$ 6,849.45
Great West Life	149	\$ 5,229.90
Fortis Inc	105	\$ 4,841.55
BCE Inc	85	\$ 5,132.30
Total Value of Shares:		\$238,456.39
RBC CASHABLE GIC (0.70%)		\$ 60,330.25
Cash		\$ 426.89
	TOTAL	\$299,213.53

Income Summary:

Accumulated Dividends (year to-date) \$ 8,179.31

The Church's **restricted** financial investment:

- Long Tern Investment – GIC - Bank of Nova Scotia – N. Geizer
Current Balance (as of December 31, 2017) \$ 10,309.07

Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GIC's)

GIC Type	Principal	Interest Rate	Value	Maturity Date
1 Yr. Cashable	\$60,000.00	0.500%		Nov. 16,2018
1 Yr. Cashable	\$15,105.00	0.500	\$15,180.53	Jan. 13, 2018

Bethany United Church - 2 Yr. Financial Comparison with 2018 Budget

	Budget	Actual	Actual
	2018	2017	2016
REVENUE			
Contributions	373,400.00	\$ 382,283.00	\$ 307,867.00
Year-End Appeal	\$ -	\$ 7,600.00	\$ 53,000.00
Rentals	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 13,080.00	\$ 16,046.00
Parking	\$ 52,400.00	\$ 52,136.00	\$ 52,018.00
Fall Fair	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 20,026.00	\$ 20,606.00
Movie	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,716.00	\$ 2,012.00
Spring Gala Auction	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 16,132.00	\$ 13,859.00
Memorial Donations	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 5,540.00	\$ 3,625.00
Dividends & Int.	\$ -	\$ 8,751.00	\$ 9,262.00
Jazz Vespers	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,227.00	\$ -
Funerals	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,845.00	\$ 7,850.00
Christmas Trees	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,750.00
Joy Lunch Club	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,280.00	\$ 1,209.00
Other	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,923.00	\$ 713.00
NET REVENUE	\$ 487,000.00	\$ 523,789.00	\$ 489,817.00

EXPENSES			
Salaries, Benefits, Travel	\$ 304,200.00	\$ 284,568.00	\$ 355,393.00
Premises	\$ 129,450.00	\$ 182,534.00	\$ 84,880.00
Music	\$ 5,250.00	\$ 4,501.00	\$ 8,361.00
Office	\$ 21,600.00	\$ 31,259.00	\$ 26,789.00
Christian Education	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 3,042.00	\$ 4,796.00
Worship Ministry	\$ 3,950.00	\$ 1,493.00	\$ 7,068.00
Presbytery Assessment	\$ 15,300.00	\$ 14,833.00	\$ 16,589.00
Communications	\$ 1,850.00	\$ 2,927.00	\$ 2,648.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 487,000.00	\$ 525,157.00	\$ 506,524.00

Financial Statement Breakdown:			
Net operating Income / Loss	\$ -	\$ (1,368.00)	\$ (16,707.00)
before bequests and stock donations			
Bequests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,054.00
Stock Donations	\$ -	\$ 9,803.00	\$ 9,944.00
Net Income / Loss	\$ -	\$ 8,435.00	\$ 3,291.00
Unrealized Capital Gain / Loss on stock holding:	\$ 20,148.00	\$	\$ 43,504.00

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MISSION AND SERVICE (M & S) FUND IN 2017

The total amounts of contributions made to the M & S Fund are:

Mission and Service Contributions/Envelopes:	\$28,312.40
M & S UCW	\$ 84.00
M & S World Development	\$ 342.00
M & S White Gifts	\$ 21.00
	<hr/>
Total:	\$28,759.40

CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN – 2017

Total envelope issues for 2017: 284 (this includes 91 families on PAR)

Total numbers with Zero balance: 41

Contributions between:

\$1.00 - \$100:	25	\$1001 - \$2500:	76
\$101 - \$500:	55	\$2501 - \$5000:	33
\$501 - \$1000:	40	Over \$5000:	14

MEMORIAL DONATIONS RECEIVED IN 2017

\$5,540.00

Bethany United Church expresses thanks to all members and adherents who contributed to the memorial bulletin donations for 2017 "in memory" and all charitable donations made to honour 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.

Brookfield Calendar Fund

Once again, we are thankful to those who supported the Brookfield Fund in 2017. This auxiliary fund began over ninety-three 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 welcomed 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 would welcome hearing from you (telephone 902 455-0521) and envelopes will be provided. In future, this Brookfield Calendar Fund will be called the Brookfield Incidental Fund to make it more evident of its purpose.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	Debit	Credit
Opening Balance January 1, 2017		\$1,928.98
Donations / 2017		\$ 120.00
Closing Balance as of December 31, 2017		\$2,048.98

Respectfully submitted,

George Russell, Treasurer

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 UCW of Bethany who continue to support this fund with their generous donation each year.

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

Anyone wishing to contribute to this fund is invited to contact the Office.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	Debit	Credit
Opening balance as of January 1, 2017		\$1,086.05
Revenue:		
Donation received from UCW		\$ 300.00
Expenses:		
Assisted Family with special needs	\$320.35	
Assisted Member	\$ 20.00	
Closing balance as of December 31, 2017		\$1,045.70

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee was reconstituted in 2017 and made a number of approaches to the congregation in 2017 for new and renewed financial support for Bethany and its mission in the world. The response from the congregation was good, with a mixture of one-time gifts, new pre-authorized payment (or PAR) users, and increases in monthly PAR contributions. The Committee's work continues in 2018, and we are grateful for the continued support of Bethany offered by everyone in our pews, in "time, talent and treasure".

Heather Brophy

Don MacKay

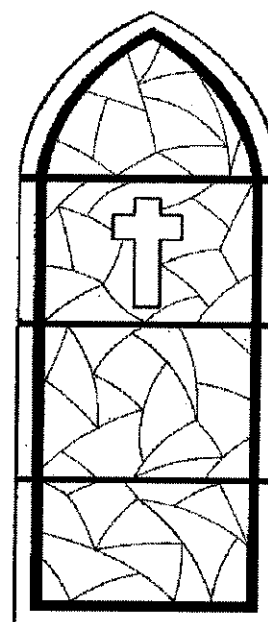
Gordon Lawley

Jim Musgrave

Bill Piercey

Jerry Slaunwhite

Kevin Little (ex officio)



Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees met as required during 2017 on the call of the Chair. Much of the Trustees' work over the course of the year was administrative. There were no major initiatives for consideration by the Board in 2017. I want to express my appreciation to my fellow Trustees, Heather Brophy, Lynne Legg, Jim Musgrave, Les Russell, Jerry Slaunwhite and Bill Piercey for their ongoing support of Bethany and the work of the Board.

Andy Williams, Chair

SESSION (Revised)

Rev. Kevin Little – (2015 -)
Rev. Dr. Randy Crozsmán – Minister of Pastoral Care – (2015 - 2017)
Carol Knapp – Clerk of Session (2015 -)
Louisa Duck - Sunday School and Spiritual Care Coord. – (2010 -)
Ann Bradley – Community Engagement Facilitator – (2016 -)

EMERITUS MEMBERS OF SESSION

Rev. Vincent Ihasz (2015)

LIFE MEMBERS OF SESSION

Charles McCurdy (1966)

One Year Term

Don Grant

Two Year Term

Charles Maxner

(2018)

Pam Carter
Rex Langdon
Heather Gillis
Maryth Maxner
Sheila Gray
Barb Allen
Scott Grant
Glenn Tozer
David Rackham
Zenora Rackham
Sherri Lynn Richardson

(2019)

Gordon Lawley
Daniel Jackson
Carolyn Kunz

(2020)

Lori Cormier
Nancy Doane
Laura King
Rick McFarland
Bud MacDonald
Diane Plumridge-Reid

(2021)

Carol Knapp
Charles Baxter
Lorne Finley
Don Grant
Bill Piercey
Pat Farmer
Don Mackay
Andy Williams

(2022)

Nancy Ardene
Charlotte Charleton
Mabel Davis
Ruth DeVenne
Bonnie Boyd-Read
Randy Tyler
Ian Parker

MINISTRIES OF SESSION - 2017

Social Outreach -

Ann Bradley*, Chair
Ann Pugh*, Treasurer
Carol Knapp
Cathy MacDonald
Grace Veino*
George Russell*
Don Grant
Sharon Wentzell *
Margie Guy *
Glen Knapp*
Tim Cormier*
Zenora Rackham

Communication Ministry-

No members

Worship Ministry

Bill Piercey, Chair
Bev. Grant*
Carolyn Kunz
Rev. Kevin Little
Shawn Whynot*
Louisa Duck*

Communion

Don Grant

Transportation

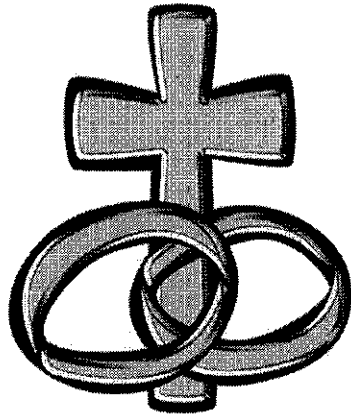
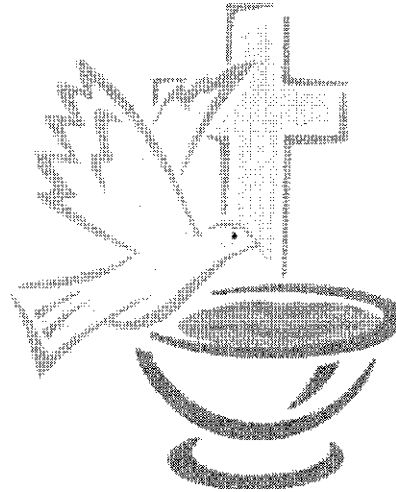
Heather Gillis
Harriet King

* Member at Large

R Retired

2017 BAPTISMS

Emmett Randell (missed from 2016)
 Adeline Higgins
 Victoria Lebans
 Nori Manson
 Bennet Manson
 Robert Gilroy



2017 MARRIAGES

William Piercey and D'Arcy Stonehouse

BETHANY SESSION REPORT

	2016	2017
Number of Elders on December 31 (Including Emeritus members)	31	40
Total number of families under Pastoral Charge	325	348
Number Baptized	6	5
Number of Marriages	5	1
Number of Funerals	19	17
Received by Profession of Faith	5	5
Received by Certificate of Transfer	8	21

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee has established a mandate, which 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".

During the year we have continued to hold special worship services including; monthly Jazz Vespers Services, New Members Sunday, Lent Communion and Worship Service, Service of Darkness on Good Friday, Palm Sunday Jazz Service, Easter, World Wide Communion, Thanksgiving, Children's Sunday, Remembrance Day, Advent Services, Service of Lessons and Carols, Christmas Children's Pageant, and Christmas Eve Communion.

The following are some of the matters discussed at the meetings of the Worship Committee during 2017: -

1. the availability of PAR cards to be used during the taking up of the Offering;
2. doing away with the use of Information Cards in the pews;
3. ordering Visitor envelopes for use in the pews;
4. the use of the Chapel during the week;
5. selection of Rev. Neil Bennett, President of AST, as our Anniversary Sunday quest preacher;
6. recommending Ann Bradley as Sunday preacher during the month of July while Rev. Little was on vacation.

The Worship Committee wishes to thank all of our ministerial staff for their dedication and continuing efforts to make Bethany a meaningful place of worship. The music programs are second to none in HRM. The ministry to our children and youth has continued to thrive and maintain its popularity. The ministry to our seniors, both on the Bethany premises and through the visitation ministry, continues to offer deeply appreciated support to our members. We are blessed indeed to have an amazing caring staff, willing to go beyond their job descriptions to make our church a successful and sustaining faith community.

There are many volunteers who we continually rely upon to enhance our worship experience here at Bethany. Thanks goes out to all of the choirs, jazz band, and other musicians for their faithful focus in the worship services. Thanks also goes to our scripture lesson readers, technical gurus (Lorne Finley, Barry Paton, Glen Knapp and their young staff, Lucy Little and Thomas Duck), our ushers, volunteer drivers, our Elders who serve Holy Communion, and our flower committee, all of whom we rely on to make our worship experience a meaningful one.

The Worship Committee is responsible for monitoring the "Suggestion Box" which is kept in the Narthex and we encourage our members and adherents to help us improve our worship service experience at Bethany by placing in the Suggestion Box any comments or criticisms that they may have about our worship services. All suggestions received are reviewed by the Committee

at its regular meetings and the Committee replies to all suggestions made. Even though we may not be able to act on each and every suggestion received, your suggestions are appreciated and helpful and we encourage you to keep them coming.

The following suggestions deposited in the Suggestion Box were discussed by the Worship Committee during the past year: -

- a request that glass communion cups be used as opposed to plastic cups during the Holly Communion services;
- abolishing the taking up of the Offering during the Good Friday service;
- a proposal that during Coffee Hour coffee be served in ceramic cups and not styrofoam cups;
- a request that less time be taken during the worship service for Announcements.

Members of the Worship Committee for 2017 were as follows:

Staff

Rev. Kevin Little
Shawn Whynot
Louisa Duck

Non-Staff

Bev. Grant
Carolyn Kunz
Bill Piercey

Bill Piercey
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.

In January a Toonie for Tummies Sunday was sponsored by the Committee to help defray the rising costs of our twice-yearly support of St Andrew's Sunday Suppers. This past year we served our traditional meal of ham and scalloped potatoes in February and November. On average 150 people attend the supper, enjoying this hot meal and voice their appreciation of our continued ministry. The supper is a very rewarding experience and a time of community for those who participate in meal preparation and serving this most worthy outreach. Many thanks, to Bethany for providing fresh fruit for these suppers. Also, in April, the renowned Bethany Players donated all proceeds from their incredible performance of "Finn McCool" to Local Outreach. These funds are greatly appreciated and provide much needed assistance to the Sunday Suppers and agencies we support on a regular basis.

In April and October, a No Food - Food Bank Sunday was sponsored by the committee to assist the Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank. These two Sundays raised \$5000 for the Food Bank. The Committee also donated funds to supply snacks to the Phoenix Drop - In Centre where many at risk youth gather each day. The Bethany Youth Groups also donated healthy snacks and fresh fruit to the Food for Phoenix program.

During the late fall, the Committee sponsored a number of projects to support programs during the Christmas season. Through the Clothing Box, Brunswick Street Mission, Phoenix Programs for Youth, and the Salvation Army received over 200 articles of warm clothing, and so many of you generously donated non-perishable food items and funds to the Halifax West Ecumenical Food

Bank to provide meals and Christmas dinners. In addition, over 110 gifts donated to the Angel Tree were forwarded to the Salvation Army for distribution.

On Easter Monday and a morning in December two teams of 6 - 9 people from Bethany arose in the early morning to cook and serve breakfast at the Brunswick Street Mission. This particular outreach is becoming a regular outreach ministry as many Bethany folk have offered their time and willingness to participate. The congregation kindly tosses loose change into a frying pan before the breakfast to cover the cost of groceries. This past summer and early autumn Bethany also gave generously to the call of much needed toiletry items for the BS Mission.

The committee wishes to thank the congregation for their warm and generous support, both financially and in other many and various ways over the past year. I would also 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 Lyn McMillan for their administrative assistance and support.

We would also like to thank Louisa Duck and the Bethany Sunday School for their continued support of Bethany's Local Outreach projects. It is greatly appreciated and a great way to involve the youth of our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Bradley, Chair



Local Outreach Committee of Bethany United Church

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2017

Revenue

Balance forwarded from 2016	1837.92
Envelope contributions designated Local Outreach	12151.65
Toonies for Tummys	730.55
Play	1401.95
No Food Food Bank Sunday	2133.40
Interest	.36
TOTAL	\$18255.83

Disbursements and Expenses

Adsum House	1100.00
Bryony House	1100.00
Hope Cottage	900.00
Saint Andrew's Sunday Suppers	1098.88
Brunswick Street Mission	1500.00
Camp Kidston	500.00
General camp fund	200
Sponsor a child	300
Fairview United Resource Centre	500.00
Long Term Services for Youth(Phoenix programs)	1275.00
Laing House	500.00
Metro Turning Point	1100.00
Food vouchers(church office)	300.00
Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank	3133.40
Street Connection	200.00
Bank Fees	4.80
cheques	60.08
Total	\$13272.16

Total revenue \$18255.83
Funds disperse \$13272.16
Balance \$ 4983.67

Respectively submitted
Anne Pugh, Treasurer

Ministry and Personnel Committee

The Ministry and Personnel Committee, better known as the M&P Committee, consists of church members or adherents that have been selected to support pastoral relationships. Duties of the M&P Committee include carrying out regular interviews with the ministry and personnel staff, reviewing working conditions, and overseeing the relationship of the staff of the pastoral charge with members of the congregation and other staff. Any matter brought to the committee by ministry personnel, staff or any member / adherent of the congregation is kept in confidence.

During 2017, the M&P Committee met twice, in May and November, with each member of the ministry and staff of Bethany United Church to discuss topics such as their job descriptions, continuing education, goals, and general working conditions. The committee reports to the Executive Board.

Any member or adherent of the congregation may request to meet in confidence with the committee as a whole, or speak to any member of the committee. They could also put their concern in writing and submit it to the committee.

As of the end of 2017 the committee members are:

Heather Brophy, Christie Chisholm, Bob Grant, Gloria Hardy, David Reid and Ed Veino. Two of our members, Christie Chisholm and Ed Veino are ending their term on the M&P Committee and as chair of the M&P Committee, I want to extend to them my appreciation for their many years of dedicated service. As well, we are pleased to welcome Sherri-Lynn Richardson, who will be joining our committee in 2018.

Bethany United church is most fortunate to have a very dedicated staff that has the best interests of Bethany at heart and we are very grateful for the enthusiastic volunteers who make Bethany a warm and welcoming congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

David Reid – chairperson

Revelation Committee Annual Report

Over the past year, the Revelation Committee has continued phase two of our mandate, reaching out the broader community to explore the perceived needs of our demographic that Bethany might be able to help fill. We have reached out to Shawn Cleary our District 9 councillor, Lena Diab our MLA, ISANS our immigration services organization, other churches in our community, and schools in our community. This process is ongoing as we gather information to build our awareness about community needs. Several initiatives have been identified as viable for us both through our congregational workshop and through our community outreach.

Dating back to the days of the 20/20 Visioning Committee, an easy to read digital sign for the Joseph Howe side of the premises has been a priority for enabling a more active connection with the Armdale community. To that end we applied for an HRM community grant in the amount of \$15,000 which was the maximum amount for the grant program. We were successful in being awarded but we are still waiting to hear if it is for the full amount. The cost of the sign is considerably higher than the amount we will receive, but we will hopefully find ways through fund raising to accrue the full amount needed.

Last winter, Ann implemented the Walk and Talk program which has been enthusiastically received by many seniors. It takes place every Wednesday morning throughout the winter months and Kevin joins the group once a month for an engaging conversation/discussion circle. This winter the *Ready, Set, Move* program (facilitated by Jenn Manuel from HRM Community Health Team) is being offered as well, in conjunction with Walk and Talk. Thanks go to Ann for arranging this opportunity.

An ISANS program, a *Conversation Circle*, for new immigrants and refugees, is now being hosted at Bethany once a week. This Conversation Circle will run for 10 sessions. A group of 6 volunteers from the Revelation Committee are taking turns assisting the ISANS facilitator each week. If this program is successful it may be continued with more Conversation Circles in the future. Not only is this an important outreach into our broader community, it has the potential of bringing new people into our church. While we wish to extend our support to them, it is also true the immigration community has much to offer us. Thanks go to Ann and to Shelley MacKenzie for their communications with ISANS enabling our involvement.

A Bethany community meals programs is currently getting under way with our first meal planned for February 26th. The idea of the community meals is to share all aspects of a meal – the menu planning, the shopping, the preparation, the eating of delicious nutritious meals, and the cleaning up afterward – as a community family. Of course, not everyone needs to cook or clean. Many will wish just to enjoy eating with others, or to purchase food from our 'take away' option. This season we plan to hold two lunches and two suppers and see which is most popular. Next year we will pick a regular date and time. This is not meant to be a fund raiser, but the program will be self-supporting.

The Revelation Committee will continue to begin or expand programs over time depending on our volunteer base and our community engagement. The mandate of this committee is to develop community engagement at Bethany based on the ideas of congregation and on the needs identified in our Armdale community. The growth of our church is up to all of us, so it is important to go forward in ways and at a pace we can support and sustain through our Bethany volunteers. Over the years Bethany has built, and it continues to build, a solid reputation as a church in strong support of family and community. In our own way, we contribute much to the greater good, and we do so through our great sense of team work. Bravo Bethany!

Many thanks to our committee members:

- Charlotte Charlton
- Bev Grant
- Kathy Grant
- Lisa Harrison
- Karen Hatcher
- Mavis Hicks
- Bev Johnson
- Julie Johnson
- Kevin Little
- Jim Musgrave
- Mary MacKay
- Shelley MacKenzie
- Maureen Reynolds

Report submitted by:
Cheri Wilson and Ann Bradley,
Co-chairs
The Revelation Committee



Fall Fair Report

2017 was another successful year for Bethany's Annual Fall Fair. All ages graciously volunteered their precious time and energy making for a wonderful day. An abundance of donations from our very own congregation as well as the surrounding community were sorted, packed, and stored for months leading up to the big day. Moving boxes, picking up, setting up, and returning tables, pricing, security, admission table, office, decoration, signage, cooking/baking, kitchen to the BBQ and the final cleanup crew were just a few of the many tasks required for sale day.

The front parking area off of Joseph Howe was a buzz with people munching on tasty hotdogs, sausages, chips and cold pop at the always popular barbeque. Bricks for Kidz joined us this year with various Lego building activities. Children bounced, bounced and bounced until they couldn't bounce anymore then it was time for the cakewalk which had many delicious cakes and cupcakes to choose from. Our very own Barry Paton was even spotted playing a couple of rounds in hopes of a sweet treat!

Special thanks go out to our youth who took the time to prepare and sell their premium hot chocolate mix. The youth also sold pumpkins and were seen helping in any way they could.

New to the Ewan Moase Fellowship Hall this year was the sold-out pantry table, including the newest addition . . . meals to go. Delicious pre-made meals of chili to soup to baked beans were a hit.


The fall fair has evolved over the years with so many options to choose from; jewelry, chowder luncheon, home décor, crafts, craft supplies/fabric, flea market, electronics, kitchenware, linens, books retro, new-to-you and furniture. Comments came in over and over on how lovely the Christmas room was merchandised along with the large selections for the little ones in toyland.

Many people, volunteers and our community neighbors said that they simply had "fun". Such a wonderful compliment!

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya & Peter Freeman

Hats! off to everyone who contributed
"time, talent and treasures" to our annual:



The net proceeds for 2017 is: \$20,026.00 made up by the following breakdown:

<i>Furniture</i> \$1,785.00	<i>Admissions</i> \$505.00
<i>Apples / Pumpkins, etc.</i> \$328.80	<i>Fabrics</i> \$328.60
<i>Flea Market</i> \$1,178.95	<i>Luncheon</i> \$980.20
<i>Linens</i> \$259.40	<i>Toys</i> \$760.05
<i>Kitchen Wares</i> \$618.45	<i>Books</i> \$1,211.00
<i>Fall Vases</i> \$444.00	<i>Home Décor</i> \$1858.25
<i>Christmas</i> \$665.70	<i>Electronics</i> \$631.45
<i>BBQ</i> \$545.15	<i>Kids</i> \$343.70
<i>Crafts</i> \$1,194.00	<i>Jewellery</i> \$2,143.95
<i>Retro</i> \$744.20	<i>Pantry</i> \$1,677.15

Extended sales for November and December total: \$1823.00



Sunday School and Spiritual Care

The Sunday School had a busy and successful 2017. The topics covered included the parables, the events of Holy Week, the early church, Samuel the Prophet and the anointing of King Saul and King David, and then Advent, with a focus on angels as messengers of God. Our students were always enthusiastic. We have approximately 35 children, ranging in age from 3 to 14, and most weeks, we have about 20 in attendance. We have a preschool/primary class for our 3-5-year olds, two mixed grades 1-4 classes, and a senior class for grades 5-9, which is our largest, with 12 students present when all are in attendance. We are blessed to have a number of dedicated teachers, and we were fortunate to welcome a few new volunteers to the group in September. Our programme would not run without the time and talent of these individuals, and we are grateful to them for sharing their gifts of ministry with the children.

The Sunday School students led three services last year, with JAM students providing the music; Celebration Sunday in June, Children's Sunday in November, and the Christmas Eve Family Service. At the Celebration Sunday Service in June, Sophie and Madeline Whynot spoke about their trip to Guatemala with Habitat for Humanity. The Sunday School and congregation collected school supplies for the girls to take with them, and they told us about the school to which they were donated. We presented nine Grade 3 students with Bibles, and two prayer shawls to our high school graduates, Charlotte Moase and Drew Williams. The Sunday School picnic followed in the Fellowship Hall. The Children's Sunday Service, held in November, was planned much more directly by our senior class. As a service project, the Sunday School collected coats to share with those in need in Halifax. The youth also prepared hot chocolate mix and popcorn seasoning mix for sale, with proceeds donated to Brunswick Street Mission for the purchase of hats and mitts. The coats were taken to Phoenix Youth Shelter, Phoenix Children and Family Services, and Out of the Cold Shelter, all of whom were very appreciative. The Christmas Eve Family Service, held at 4 PM, was again very successful, with a full house and Rosie the Donkey, who carried Mary to Bethlehem. Charlotte Jackson and Jack Freeman were Mary and Joseph this year. The Living Nativity was held on December 15th, and was a great success. Once again, Dan Isner generously provided the animals for both services.

Vacation Bible School ran the week of July 10-14, and was very successful. We had sixteen children registered, including six from outside Bethany. We spent the week exploring the Holy Spirit, and the children had a good time. Charlotte Moase was my assistant, and was invaluable. We used the Fellowship Hall, gym, and chapel each day, and also went out into the community, on nature walks and to the park. Homemade cookies were provided each day by a number of different members of the congregation, and we thank them for their support.

The Prayer Shawl ministry continued at a steady pace in 2017. We blessed a total of 40 shawls, and distributed twenty-one. The recipients and their families greatly appreciate this ministry. It offers a great deal of comfort to people, and the response is overwhelmingly positive, as people feel it provides them with a tangible reminder of those who love and care for them, and remember them in prayer. We have many crafters who give of their time and talent, and donors who offer financial support for materials, and we are grateful to all of you. Thank you.

I am, as always, grateful for the constant and continuous support of my colleagues and the congregation. I truly love being here at Bethany, and I look forward to another successful year.

Thank you., Louisa Duck

Community Engagement Ministry

We are blessed at Bethany to have a group of dedicated, kind and caring and energetic youth! It is indeed a privilege to minister with this great group of young people. This past year has been a bustle of activity for the **SKILLS** children and **Youth Group** with Sunday night gatherings; a dedicated group of youth keen to be together in community. Some of the highlights for the youth this past year included a skating party on Chocolate Lake, board game night, and movie night, an evening with Barry Paton sharing his Spy adventure novel, preparing and selling Soup Mix Jars in support of Hope Cottage and an outdoor hike on Palm Sunday. The youth group made a very moving video based on the biblical story The Road to Emmaus which was shown at Jazz Vespers in April. The youth led this Jazz Vespers service through word, music and imagery based on the well-known folk tale Stone Soup. In May youth, parents, and members of the congregation participated in the Kairos Blanket exercise held in our Fellowship Hall. This interactive exercise focused on Indigenous relationships and our Canadian history. It was an educational and emotional experience for all. Many youth and parents gathered in late May to create a **Community Vegetable Garden** on the lawn next to the sanctuary. Raised boxes were built, soil was spread and seeds were planted all in a day's work! We planted kale, lettuce, beans, nasturtiums and tomatoes which were enjoyed over the summer months by the congregation. In June we met at the home of Dana and Jeff Mills for our year-end closing bonfire and outdoor games.

We reunited in September with a bonfire and kayaking on Chocolate Lake. Changes were made to the ages of both youth groups. SKILLS now Grades 5 – 7 and Youth Group Grades 8-12. This has been working well and the youth are comfortable with this change. Dana Mills was our guest one evening, with an interactive discussion on Orange Shirt Day/ Indigenous Reconciliation and the involvement of the UCC. The youth also assisted with the Fall Fair and Silent Movie Event and learned about Food Security and Food Sovereignty. In light of this the youth made healthy snacks and collected fruit from the congregation for the youth at Phoenix House as part of the Food for Phoenix program in November. A highlight for myself and the SKILLS group was visiting the home of Gloria Stephens in early December. The SKILLS kids greeted Gloria at her door with a robust rendition of Jingle Bells. The children were mesmerized with Gloria's festive lights and Christmas Village decorations. I hope this becomes an annual event! 2108 came to a close with our annual Old Fashioned Christmas in support of Phoenix Youth. The youth group led worship and presented a drama written by Kevin Little. Former youth group members Sean O'Brien, Hannah King and her husband provided beautiful music throughout the evening. Thank you to all!

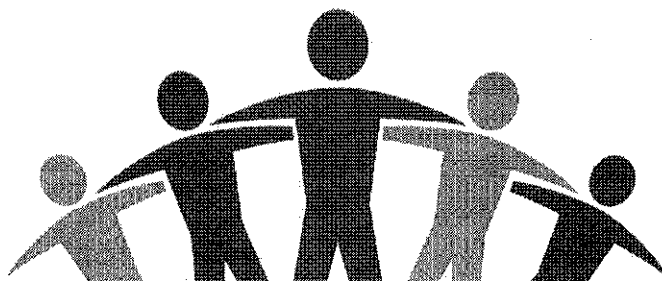
The JOY Lunch program continues to grow in numbers as the hospitality of our Bethany folk spreads beyond our doors. Our Christmas luncheon served 80 people! Special guests have

included Marie-Claire Chartrand of Grey Wave Senior Care; Gloria Stephens on the evolution of nursing; Kevin Little on finding a purpose in retired years; Love Songs for Springtime performed by myself and Shawn Whynot; Lori Cormier shared her work with seniors at Melville Heights; Elizabeth and Bob Carter, and Ian and Mavis Hicks shared their trip to Vimy Ridge; Zenorah and David Rackham shared their memories of Christmas and New Year Celebrations in Japan. Special thanks to Tim Cormier for his time and culinary skills and all those who assist in the kitchen and at the door; Barry Paton for technical assistance; and Rev. Kevin, Rev. Vince and Rev. Elroy for their prayers and blessings at each gathering.

Bethany's indoor walking program **Walk and Talk** was implemented in January 2017. This program arose out of the congregational workshop held in October 2017 hosted by the Revelation Committee. Many seniors felt our building would make a great space for indoor walking during the winter months when walking out doors is not ideal. Each Wednesday morning a group of approximately 20 people enjoy walking laps throughout the building followed by coffee, tea, nutritious smoothies, crossword puzzles and conversation. Kevin joined us on the last Wednesday of each month, engaging us in a themed conversation. This program was so successful we resumed in November. HRM Community Health Team member, Jenn Manuel joined us for an initial introduction to health and wellness programs offered to seniors free of charge. She will be joining us once a month January –April as she shares with us her Ready, Set, Move program; educating seniors on how to stay physically active throughout each day. Kevin continues to join us on the first Wednesday of each month for interesting and enlightening conversation.

I would like to express my thanks to Kevin for inviting me to preside on Sunday mornings this past July while he was on vacation. I am grateful that I was given this opportunity as it allowed me to “step outside the box” and challenge myself in ways I would not have considered otherwise. I thoroughly enjoyed ministering with you the congregation through word, image and song. I am truly grateful and feel very blessed to be a part of this faith community as we continue to share God's love and serve others; walking together on this journey as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Bradley



United Church Women

Bethany UCW has two active units, MacKinnon and Wilson.

In February we held our annual 'No-Bake Sale'. Money raised from this fund raiser and other events throughout the year help support Bethany United Church, the Mission and Service Fund as well as community groups such as Brunswick Street Mission and the Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank.

This year we were especially pleased to support the Vacation Bible School and assisting them with funds for their special project.

In May we hosted our annual Spring Brunch for women of the congregation. This year Sophie and Madeline Whynot gave a presentation on their trip to Guatemala. Lucy Little entertained with her clarinet.

We continue to organize and staff the Pantry Table at the Fall Fair. In addition to the baked goods, pickles and jams, this year we added "Meals to Go" (homemade chili, beans and soups) which proved to be very popular. We are thankful to all members of the congregation who contributed.

Our Christmas Turkey dinner which has become an annual treat for the women of the congregation and their guests was a sell out again this year. We had a wonderful dinner, catered by Tim Cormier and helpers, a sing-along with Noteworthy and time to do a little shopping at our Silent Auction organized beautifully by Tanya Freeman. Many door prizes were distributed as well and all women look forward to this event.

In December the Wilson Unit distributed Christmas cards and special Christmas cookies when they visited those who are unable to get to church on a regular basis.

UCW - FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2017			
REVENUE		DISBURSEMENTS	
Bank Balance 31 Dec. 2016	1,495.69	Mission and Service	500.00
Bank Interest	0.82	Bethany Vacation Bible Sch	200.00
Envelopes	670.00	Bethany Benevolent Fund	300.00
Donations	517.00	Bethany United Church	3,700.00
	2,683.51	Brunswick St. Mission	300.00
		Hfx W Ecumenical Food Bk	175.00
			5,175.00
PROJECTS		EXPENSES	
No Bake Sale	1,153.00	Project Expenses	941.15
Christmas Dinner / Auction	3,247.00	Operating Expenses	221.79
Spring Brunch	663.00	Miscellaneous	300.00
	5,063.00		1,462.94
		Bank Balance - 31 Dec. 17	1,108.57
TOTAL	7,746.51		7,746.51

Respectfully
Submitted,

UCW Executive

BETHANY FLOWER COMMITTEE

The Flower Committee has a mandate to enhance the beauty of Bethany throughout the year by supplying flower arrangements and seasonal decorations. We have a large supply of silk and artificial arrangements which are available for use in the Narthex, Sanctuary, Chapel and Fellowship Hall for weekly services and special events. During Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving fresh flowers plants and supplies are purchased thanks to funds from the Nan Geizer Memorial bequest and memorial donations made by Bethany members during the year. We also have a supply of Pew Markers which can be borrowed for wedding use.

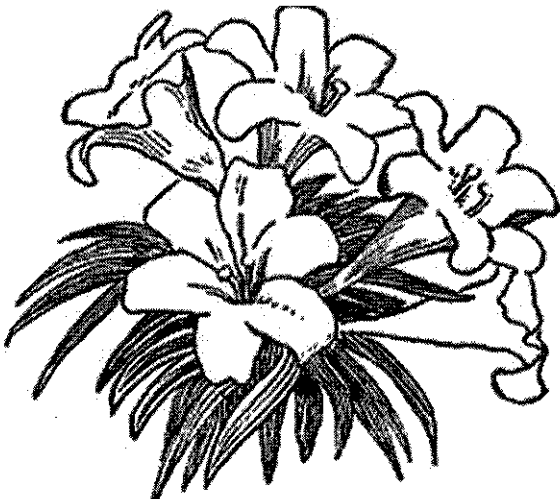
Members of the committee are also responsible for organizing, setting up and managing the HOME DÉCOR section of the Annual Fall Fair.

We are very pleased to announce that a new storage cupboard has been built in the left front cloak room to house our increasing supplies. This is thanks to Doug Reid and members of the building committee that have worked hard to provide this much needed storage space.

We were saddened by the death of long time member and supporter Anne Ihasz this year and recognize her faithful and helpful service over many years.

The members of the committee are: Chair- Barbara McCurdy;, Secretary- Evelyn Smith, ;Treasurer- Tanya Freeman;, Carolyn Kunz, Janice MacDonald, Zenora Rackham, Karen Hatcher, Goldie Hardy, Isabel Steeves, Sheila Gray, Sharon Wentzell, Julie Johnson, Lyn Legge, Karen Finley. We are happy to welcome any other Bethany members who would like to lend at hand, especially at Christmas and Thanksgiving.

Our sincere thanks go out to Jimmy Sweet who is always on hand to help out with the many chores involved with setting up and putting away of our decorations.



Respectfully submitted,
Barbara McCurdy

BETHANY MEMORIAL FLOWER FUND

Financial Statement 2017

Opening Balance January 1, 2017: \$2,158.08

Revenue	Debit	Credit
Christmas Donations Rec'd in Jan. for 2016)	\$75.00	
Easter Donations		\$90.00
Interest for 2017		\$ 0.94

Expenses

Thanksgiving / Christmas Supplies / Poinsettias (2016)	\$268.38	
Thanksgiving Supplies / 2017	\$ 53.46	
Thanksgiving Pumpkin Varathane	\$ 14.74	
Poinsettias / Christmas 2017	\$137.94	

Balance in account for December 31, 2017: \$1,849.50

INVESTMENTS

GIC	\$2,302.22
GIC	\$1,523.62
GIC	\$1,734.70
GIC / Interest reinvested	\$ 26.90
GIC / Interest reinvested	\$ 51.07

Total of Investments: \$5,560.54

Bethany Foot Care Clinics

The Bethany Foot Care Clinic continued until October 2017. This was a program I started in 2011 and we met on a monthly basis. All funds were collected for projects within the church. This year we collected \$2400.00.

This was a very rewarding time for me, as I was able to meet new people and provide care and health teaching in the care of their feet.

Because I retired from the nursing profession, I felt it was important to discontinue this service. However, I am still available to help provide names and information to independent providers.

The funds from this endeavour continue to support the coffee hour and we are pleased to see how this continues to grow.

Thank you to all who supported the Foot Care Clinic and I hope you continue with good foot health

Mary MacKay

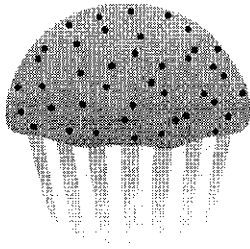
BETHANY MEN'S CLUB

In the 1920, s, during the pastorate of Reverend Harry Burns a men's prayer group was formed. Over the years it has evolved in The Bethany Men's Club which provides an opportunity for men of the congregation to meet informally, enjoy a meal and a speaker.

There is an annual fee of \$60 which covers the cost of meals for the five meetings. Men of the congregation who have not paid the annual fee are encouraged to attend at a cost of \$15 per meeting. Meals are prepared by Chef Tim Cormier and his family, and David Reid. In 2017, there were five meetings with 73 paid members and an average of 54 attendance.

Notice of the meetings in published in the weekly church bulletin. Ian parker chairs the meetings and Randy Tyler looks after communication. Thanks to Gordon Lawley for his continued support of this popular group.

Norman Graham, Secretary



MUFFIN CLUB BIBLE STUDY

is lay-led Bible study, meeting every second Sunday from January to June and from October to December over coffee, tea, and muffins and much more!

8:30 A.M. Coffee and Muffins. 9:00 A.M. Lesson begins.

Contact: Ian Parker or the Bethany Office for more information.

The Muffin Club was started in 1988 with a goal of studying God's Word and how it applies to our lives today. It provides an opportunity to participate in lively discussion, share in great fellowship, offer prayer and support to one another and share coffee/tea and muffins at 8:30 a.m. for those who come earlier!

The fellowship and friendship that has bonded us together over the years has resulted in a wonderful Christian community in the Muffin Club which is such a valuable support to us when situations arise in our lives when we need the support of friends.

In 2017 we continued to use devotional books and other study resources, or a video presentation, as chosen by the member who is leading the session for that day. Leadership of a lesson is shared by those members who have an interest in preparing a lesson on a particular Sunday. In this way, we seek to grow in our walk with God and understand more about the Bible, as well as our role in the world around us.

We sometimes invite a guest speaker from the community to speak on various topics relating to their own particular walk with God concerning current events.

During the year, several of us participated in the Bible studies led by Rev. Kevin, inspiring much thought and discussion in the group. We look forward to more of these studies which serve to strengthen and encourage us in our daily lives. We are gratified that our clergy attends Muffin Club as their schedule allows.

Through our own donations, we continued to support local outreach at Bethany, which in 2017 included but was not limited to, the following:

- The purchase of turkeys (donated to the Salvation Army for distribution to families in need through the Turkey Fund).
- Donations to Margaret House, a Dartmouth Nova Scotia soup kitchen

We continue to support Lorne Finley, a long-time member of the Muffin Club, in prayer and fellowship, as well as others of our group who for reasons of health or weather, are not always able to join us. We sometimes meet occasionally outside our regular meetings to share in a meal or other activity.

The Muffin Club continues to grow, and we are always pleased to welcome new members and visitors. It is our sincere hope that others will join our group and experience the fellowship, support and learning provided by the Muffin Club.

We pray that during 2018 we will continue to grow in our faith journey and bring our love and understanding of God to all community activities and interests of which we are a part.

Respectfully submitted by the Bethany "Muffin Club" Bible Study

PIERCEY MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

This committee was formed after the congregational meeting in 2016, under the chairmanship of Rev. Randy Crozsmán. The mandate of this committee was to review the purpose of the garden and discuss ways that it could be renewed and rejuvenated.

After extensive discussion by the committee members, regarding the purpose of the garden, the following points were identified: it should be a peaceful place; it should be open and accessible to everyone in the congregation; elements in it should be moveable (if the church decides to change the configuration of the present buildings or move to another location); it should be easy to maintain; it should not be too expensive.

The committee spent some time in the garden, trying to work out how best to achieve these objectives. It was decided to hire a landscape designer to help with planning the space. Kelly Grant, from Bloom Greenhouse and Garden Center, visited the space with members of the committee, who explained what we were trying to achieve. We received a detailed plan from Kelly in June, 2016.

The next few meetings were spent discussing how best to go about implementing her plan. There were several items that needed to be addressed before any planting could be done. These included: a new lock on the door to the garden to prevent people from getting locked in; repainting of walls and window trim; placement of heavy duty plastic over the grass in areas that would be covered with pea gravel. Many thanks to the volunteers who accomplished these projects.

A budget was prepared using Kelly's plan, which included all aspects of the plan, i.e. new shrubs and perennials, garden soil, pea gravel, garden furniture and a rain barrel. An announcement was put in the bulletin asking for donations, either money or items, and an account was set up by the treasurer.

As Rev. Randy left Bethany in January, 2017, Linda Knechtel took over the chairmanship of this committee.

As soon as the weather was favourable, the garden development got underway. Many plants were donated – some as memorials – as well as comfortable chairs and small tables. By the end of July, the garden was useable.

There are still some items on Kelly's plan that have yet to be implemented, but we anticipate having those completed in 2018.

Members of the committee are:

Grace Veniot
Bev Grant
Maureen Reynolds
Judi Fishman
Bev Johnson
Don Grant
Ian Parker
Randy Tyler

We welcome any suggestions that you might have as to how the space can be made more welcoming for the congregation and hope that you will enjoy spending many peaceful hours there.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Knechtel, chair



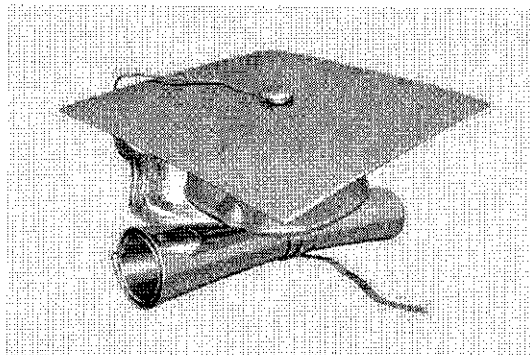
THE EARLE AND JANET REID SCHOLARSHIP FUND ("the Fund")

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 over 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 providing the expertise to maximize the benefit to each of these funds. Since all of 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. Currently, the three members from Bethany who sit on the Adjudication Committee are Beth O'Brien, Nancy Dearn and Greg McConnell. The CFNS is responsible for promoting the Fund.

This past year (2017) the two annual scholarship awards were granted in the amount of \$2,000.00 each to Charlotte Moase (Bethany United Church) and Jacob MacFarland (Bethany United Church).



DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

It is with great pleasure to write my annual report regarding the Music Ministry programs at Bethany United Church for the year 2017. Bethany continues to be an active and thriving congregation with many individuals participating in the program offerings. All of this participation enhances both our worship experience and the sense of community that is such an important characteristic of the Bethany congregation. I know that I speak for everyone at Bethany as to how appreciative and thankful we are to all of those individuals that take the time to become active in the music programs.

It has been very rewarding to have Isabelle Riche join us here at Bethany United as part of the Senior Choir and she does so as a recipient of the Lilian Piercey Music Scholarship. Isabelle is a first year music student at Dalhousie University studying pipe organ and composition, and she began singing in the choir this past September. The opportunity to nurture a future church musician is an important role that Bethany United is playing and I know that Isabelle is very appreciative.

The Senior Choir continues to be the most active choir in the music program and they participate in weekly services between September and June. This choir learns a variety of music from a variety of eras and share a great deal of enjoyment in doing so. The Senior Choir has also experienced positive growth over the last year and we are very blessed with such a well-balanced and fine singing ensemble. This past year we also, sadly, had to say good bye to our beloved choir member and friend Janet Paton. Janet was a long time member of Bethany United Church and she brought a fun loving spirit to whatever activity she became involved with; the Handbell Choir, the Senior Choir, or the Bethany Players. Janet had a true and authentic zest for life.

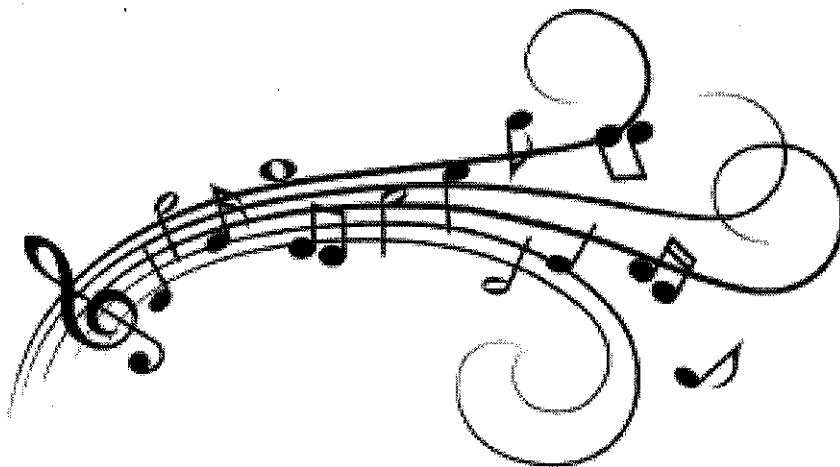
The Handbell Choir is our celebrated ensemble of ringers adding beautiful music to our services on a monthly basis. This choir also rings at high feast Sundays such as Christmas and Easter. This past September the choir jointly with St. Matthew's United Church hosted a Handbell Ringing and Techniques Festival here at Bethany. Guest clinician Mr. Terry Head visited was brought in from Ontario and provided a weekend of continuing education. The weekend was capped off with a final concert. A total of 8 bell choirs from across Nova Scotia participated in this rewarding event.

We are fortunate to have a fine collection of tenors and basses that make up our Men's Choir. This choir is under the umbrella of the Senior Choir and prepares music to be sung at weekly services throughout the church year.

Bethany's Junior Choir, also known as JAM, is offered as part of an after-school program on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 – 4:45 PM. This is presented jointly between Louisa Duck and me. The children that take part in this program enjoy a snack and social time, singing and musical activities, crafts, story time, and then play time in the gym. This choir will sing in church during the year and more specifically on Children's Sunday in November, Christmas, Easter, and other occasions. This year we have also collaborated with the children of the Sunday school program to involve them in the presentation of music during worship.

Jazz Vespers continues to be a viable monthly offering for not only for the people of the Bethany congregation, but for the wider community. I say this because we consistently have new guests and returning guests that enjoy attending this service. Jazz Vespers happens the last Sunday of each month from September – May. We are also fortunate and thankful for our musicians that provide leadership each month including: Alison King, bass, Sean Weber, saxophone, and Ray Roberts, percussion.

In closing, I would like to express as to how fortunate we are to have a strong and committed team of staff personnel. It is a joy to have such support, vision, and passion with regards to the worshiping community at Bethany through Rev. Kevin, Louisa, Ann, Dana, Lyn, and Jim. Thank you to each of you for your continuing inspiration and support.



Respectfully
Submitted,

Shawn Whynot
Director of Music
Bethany United
Church, Halifax, NS

RACKHAM MEMORIAL MUSIC FUND

Financial Statement for The Rackham Fund:	Debit	Credit
Opening Balance January 2017		\$5,345.21
REVENUE		
Donations / 2017		\$1,140.00
Canada Day Concert / Chester Brass & Organ Proceeds		\$1,416.00
EXPENSES		
Musicians Fee / Chester Brass & Organ Concert	\$1,000.00	
Jazz Services Musician Fees	\$ 550.00	
Bank Service Charges	\$ 48.00	
Balance as of December 31, 2017		\$6,303.21

LILLIAN PIERCEY SHCOLARSHIP FUND

Financial Statement for the Lilian Piercey Scholarship Fund:	Debit	Credit
Opening Balance January, 2017		\$1,957.00
REVENUE		
Donations / 2017		\$ 334.00
EXPENSES		
Scholarship issued	\$600.00	
Balance as of December 31, 2017		\$1,691.00

Audio Report (Sanctuary)

The Audio "group" comprises of a number of operators; including Glen Knapp, Thomas Duck and Lucy Little.

In addition to the above we were pleased to have Maggie Duck, Jack and Jed Freeman and Daniel Carter helping with the sanctuary sound and just hanging out!

The operators have provided Audio / Video recordings of Bethany's Sanctuary events including:

- Sunday Services (51 in Sanctuary)
- Christmas Services including Children's Pageant and rehearsal and Communion Service.
- Good Friday Service
- Covenanting Service
- Vespers Services (4)
- Funerals (11)
- Weddings and Wedding Rehearsals (2)

Fellowship Hall

The Sanctuary was pleased to provide support to Barry Paton regarding Fellowship Hall events.

Maintenance and Recording

The Audio group has dedicated 25 hours of equipment maintenance, equipment calibration and installation, making copies of DVD's (20) and planning for future hard and soft ware acquisitions.

Past Objectives:

- There has been a shift from investigating live feed of Sunday Services to the internet. We have now turned to down loading entire Sunday Services to a laptop. Sound from our console and video from the camera have produced a recording on the camera's memory card.

New Equipment acquisitions;

- Purchase of a new tripod for the video camera.

Current Objectives:

- To take the recorded Sunday Service on the laptop, modify the size of the recording, and create a sound clip of the sermon for use on Bethany's web site. Once perfected a new sermon would be posted weekly.
- To seek out a local consultant regarding the assessment of our Sanctuary equipment, and provide guidance to the "new" method of recording.

Acknowledgements:

- Lorne Finley is always with "us" in the balcony, his fingerprint of operation in our every move. Although Lorne is not capable of joining us his wisdom and gentle manner are ever present.
- John Briand lends a helping hand every time he visits Halifax. Glen can attest that once the student is now the teacher.

Presented to the members and adherents of Bethany United Church at the Annual General Meeting.

Respectively

Glen, Thomas, Lucy, Lorne and John

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.

This year the projector and screen in the Fellowship Hall and the sound system has been used for the many activities, including:

- Joy Club, UCW, and Men's Club
- Youth Group (Movie nights)
- Church Meetings
- Bethany Choir
- Fund raiser for Local Outreach (The play: Finn McCool)
- Funerals and celebrations.

A secondary goal is to make the Church Hall more attractive to commercial events, including Political Parties, Athletic Clubs, ISANS, other Churches and City Events.

Sanctuary presentations included:

- Easter and Jazz Vespers
- Children's Sundays and Camp Sunday
- Silent Movie Night (The Monster)

All church services are video recorded and made available in real time to the nursery. Copies of these services are available through the audio team (see Glen Knapp).

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

Next year we look forward to providing a new Sound System for the Fellowship Hall. This is an expensive venture (\$4,000.00). It will mean that all in the Fellowship Hall will be able to hear presentations and events.

Financial Statement

REVENUE	Debit	Credit
Opening Balance for 2017		\$4,498.49
Income (Rental fees)		\$ 486.04
EXPENSES		
Purchase / New Projector, Couplers	\$1,080.30	
Closing Balance December31, 2017		\$3,904.23

Respectively Submitted: Barry Paton