

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH

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Halifax, NS B3L 3Y8

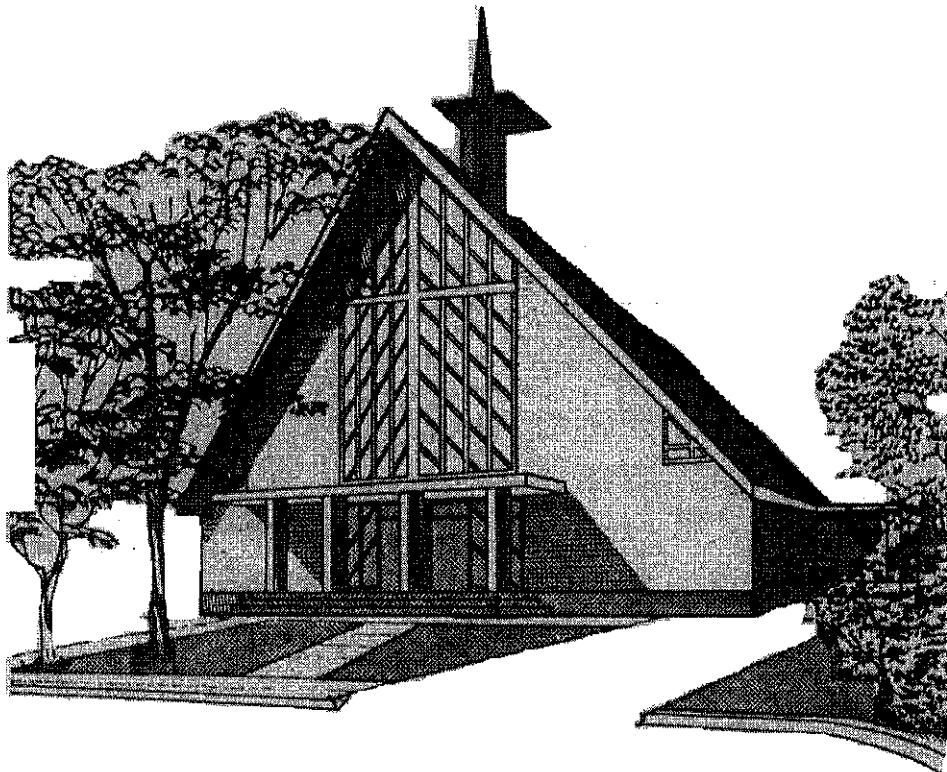
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Annual Report

-2019-

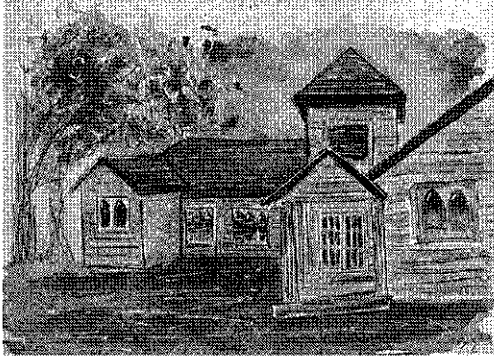
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BETHANY UNITED CHURCH
2019 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
March 22, 2020 - AGENDA

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 31, 2019
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 2020Motion to accept Financial Reports.
9. Nominating Committee Report
Election to fill vacancies
 - a)
 - b)
10. New Business
 - a) Authorizing changes at the Brunswick Street Mission of which Bethany is a supporting church
 - b) Update on the Option 1 renovation project
 - c)
11. Adjournment and Benediction.



MINISTER'S REPORT

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God... Matthew 6:25-33

What do we need to be happy? What do our neighbours need to be happy? What does the world need to be happy? Let's start with the basics; we need food, clothing, fresh air, water and a place to rest. Beyond that what do we need? We need each other, we need community, we need purpose, and we need a reason to get up every morning. We need a place where we can sing our song, individually and collectively.

Faith is the awareness that there is a Creator who invests us with the necessities of life, the purpose of life and the covenant of community to give and receive love. Here at Bethany I have felt my faith grow. The necessities are here, thanks to the Capital Campaign committee who have raised many dollars to make our building safe, accessible and inviting, thanks to our Treasurer Linda who makes us collectively good stewards, thanks to the Board of Managers, who monitor our assets and utilize them in a most effective way and thanks to our hard working staff who carry out their mission and ministry with care, passion and faith.

But to be happy we need each other too. And we need to listen to each other. I talk a lot. But I listen too. People are surprised how I remember their words but not physical details. My faith is growing and I am anxious to hear wisdom from every voice, new or familiar. Our Wednesday senior days, our Joy Lunch Tuesdays, our choirs, our Wednesday afternoons for young students, our Sunday nights for youth, our faith studies, our Community Care Ministry, our Community Lunches, our Muffin Club, our conversation circles with ISANS, our Fall Fair, our plays, our parties, our coffee hour after worship services, these gatherings provide us with access to inviting space, caring people, a Spirit of fun and love and growth, and most importantly, God's enduring Presence.

There is a reason our sacred texts include stories of Creation, our God wishing for relationship and creating water, sky, vegetation, animals and then us, stories of relationship like Ruth and Naomi, stories of surprising relationships like the Good Samaritan, stories of challenged relationships like the Prodigal Son and stories of Divine Presence like the Great Commandment (wherever two or three are gathered...). And that reason is holy community, where we can experience God, grow with God and become whom God wishes us to be, individually and collectively.

If there was one lesson we learned in 2019, that we learn every year and that I pray we learn again in 2020, it is that each of us has something to teach the other. All of you who come to church sit there and listen to me offer a sermon. You listen to me. But I listen to you too. I visit, I seek you out for your opinion, and I always want us to express our vision as a team. I may be loud and extroverted but my philosophy of community is to "wait upon the Lord" for expressions of organic wisdom and vision. It is easy for Ministers to suggest a course of action and then by their position force others to go along. (Though that never really works out.) I prefer to listen and when I discern a consensus emerge that sounds like the God I know articulate that to our larger community with my loud voice.

And in closing let me say I count on the wisdom, humility and knowledge of our extraordinary Executive Board Chair David Rackham. David's health has been fragile of late but his spirit is strong. If you ever need good counsel please speak to David.

Each of us know something of happiness. Each of knows what we need and what we don't need. I need God in my life. I need community in my life. I need your wisdom and your vision. And when sadness, pain and loss comes, and it is part of the human experience, I need your prayer shawls, hugs, tears and soup, because community comes when we are sad and when we are happy. I need your laughter and your humility. None of us have this all figured out and that is why we are called to be together. And most of all, I need your joy, in good times and bad, knowing who we are and whose we are.

Come and be happy with me. Peace, Kevin



IN MEMORIAM

Brenda Desveaux

Betty O'Brien

Bernice Dexter

Sheila Piercey

Les Eldridge

Douglas Soper

Jean Frederick

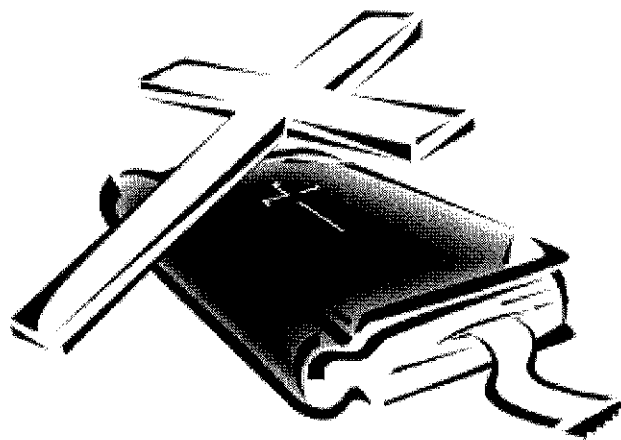
Sandra Smith

Donald Lord

Grace Veino

Carolyn MacGregor

Karl Webb



2018 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
BETHANY UNITED CHURCH - SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2019

PRESENT at HEAD TABLE: Chair- David Rackham
 Treasurer – Linda Knechtel
 Secretary – Gloria Stephens
 Members of the congregation

CALL to ORDER: Chair David Rackham at 12:15 PM – announcement – Easter Letters are available for pickup

PRAYER AND MEMORIAL LIST: Rev. Kevin Little read the Memorial List and proceeded with a prayer to open the Annual General meeting.

MOTION – VOTING PRIVILEGES: moved and second; carried
CORRESPONDENCE: none

APPROVAL of AGENDA: The chair made one addition; 'delegate to Regional Council'. Moved & second, Approval of Agenda- carried

MINUTES APPROVED:

- Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, March 25, 2018- Moved & second to approve March 2018 AGM minutes – Carried
- Minutes of Special General Business Meeting, May 6, 2018 – Moved & second to approve May 6, 2018 special meeting – Carried

BUSINESS ARISING: Don Hatcher- comment regarding page 11 to 15 of 'Session report'- to add total numbers of persons under Pastoral Charge to the Session Report. This was directed to Carol Knapp who will follow through with this request.

PRINTED REPORTS Manual; Moved by Pam Carter and second Don Hatcher that the Printed Reports, excluding the Treasurer and auditor's report be accepted. Carried

FINANCIAL REPORT: (page 6 to 12 in the Printed Annual Report Manual) Treasurer, Linda Knechtel spoke to the report at great length explaining the results and answered several questions and comments regarding separating 'general, maintenance and everyday expenses' in next report. She commented that this may be a possibility. Moved by Linda and seconded by Bill Piercey that Treasurer's Report be accepted. Carried.

Moved and seconded that the Auditor's Report be accepted. Carried

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Heather Brophy on behalf of Chair, Jim Musgrave. First Heather thanked the many volunteers, staff and Rev. Little for their dedication to the workings of the church. Heather then proceeded to announce those who will be retiring from the various positions and committees and then listed those who would be replacing and who agreed to serve in the various positions.

The Nominating Committee consists of Heather Brophy, Amy-Sue Bowers, and Jim Musgrave (Chair). The Committee presents the following report:

Session

We acknowledge the loss to Session of the late Lorne Findlay, a beloved Elder.

Dan Jackson retires from Session today, and we thank him for his valuable service.

Carolyn Kunz has completed a five-year term and is willing to serve a further five-year term, if elected, and we hereby nominate her.

Don Grant has completed a one-year term, and is willing to serve another term of one year, if elected, and we hereby nominate Don.

Gordon Lawley has completed a one-year term, and is willing to serve another term of one year, if elected, and we hereby nominate Gordon.

The following 3 members of the Bethany family have agreed to serve new five-year terms on Session, if elected, and we hereby nominate them. They are:

- *Kathy Brown*
- *Joan MacVicar*
- *Janet Sponnagle Hopper*

Board of Trustees

The following individuals retire from the Board of Trustees today, and we thank them for their service:

- *Jim Musgrave*
- *Les Russell*
- *Jerry Slaunwhite*

The following 3 individuals from our community of faith have agreed to serve new three-year terms on the Board of Trustees, if elected, and we hereby nominate them. They are:

- *David Cameron*
- *Gordon Lawley*
- *Brian Wentzell*

Board of Managers

Chair Gordon McMillan has retired from the Board of Managers after many years of faithful stewardship of our premises, and we thank him for his outstanding service.

Greg Rice has completed a three-year term and is willing to serve a further three-year term, if elected, and we hereby nominate him.

The Board of Managers has advised that it does not require new Board members in 2019.

Executive Board

Lyn McMillan has retired as a member-at-large from the Executive Board, and we thank her for her service.

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

As well, John Lorimer has agreed to serve a new three-year term as a member-at-large on the Executive Board, if elected, and we hereby nominate John.

Pam Carter has served Bethany faithfully as its representative to Halifax Presbytery over some three decades, and the words "thank you" seem somehow insufficient for that kind of service. The Halifax Presbytery representative has always had a dedicated seat at the Executive Board, which means that Pam has been an equally valued member of our Executive Board for all those years. The old Presbytery system is now at an end, and all Nova Scotia Presbyteries have been replaced by a new Regional Council covering all of Nova Scotia and Bermuda. With this change, Pam has decided to step back from acting as a representative to the new Council, but has agreed to serve another three-year term as a member-at-large on the Executive Board, if elected, and we hereby nominate Pam.

We are also pleased to advise that Grant MacKenzie has agreed to serve as Bethany's first representative on the new Regional Council, if elected, and we hereby nominating Grant to this important inaugural role.

Bethany United Church has the right to send up to four (4) representatives to the Regional Council, of which Grant would be one, if elected. The Nominating Committee understands a further resolution will be proposed at this Annual General Meeting to address the nomination of future representatives.

Gloria Stephens was appointed as Recording Secretary after the Annual Congregational Meeting on March 25, 2018, with the understanding that she would be officially confirmed today. Accordingly, we officially nominate Gloria to that role, with effect as of and from March 25, 2018, and we thank her for stepping forward. It is an important role.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I now invite the Chairs or Secretaries of each of these Boards and Committees – Session, the Board of Managers, the Board of Trustees, and the Executive Board – to reach out to the new members of your Committees to provide them with minutes from your last meeting and to provide your new members with notice of the next meeting.

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

I would like to thank Amy-Sue Bowers and Heather Brophy for their support on the Nominating Committee this year.

Special thanks to Rev. Kevin Little for his considerable assistance as well, once again this year. He knows more potential Bethany volunteers than Facebook has members.

Special thanks as well to the Chairs, Carol Knapp (Clerk of Session), David Rackham (Executive Board), Andy Williams (Board of Trustees), and Gordon McMillan (Board of Managers) for their support of our work over the past year.

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

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.

Jim Musgrave, Chair, on behalf of the Nominating Committee

Heather moved, seconded by Don Grant, that the full report be accepted. Carried (the full report will be filed with these minutes.)

NEW BUSINESS: Delegate to Regional Council: Bill Piercey moved, second by Cheri Wilson; "The Executive Board to nominate one of three people to represent Bethany United church on the Regional Council". Carried

- Destroy ballots from special meeting of May 6, 2018: Moved by Vince Ihasz, seconded by Carol Knapp ballots be destroyed. Carried
- Option 1 Report- Linda Knechtel reported on the renovations to the church structure completed to date and that in the future will be the stained glass window and floor of the Sanctuary to be considered soon and then to carry on with the other necessary items according to the proposed required list.

Cheri Wilson spoke, thanking David Rackham for his leadership, Rev. Little for his dedication and all the others who so willingly give of their time to support the church in so many ways. It was Vince's birthday so all sang Happy Birthday to him.

Rev. Little then gave the benediction.

Rob Steeves moved the meeting be adjourned.

Recording Secretary,

Gloria Stephens

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

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, now dissolved and replaced by the Region 15 Council. Of course, there are various specific boards and committees that do an excellent job of taking care of day-to-day matters in these various domains. Their reports may be found elsewhere in this Annual Report 2019, but all have representation on the EB.

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

Historically the EB has met an average of five times during a given calendar year, but recent years have required additional meetings given a number of significant matters that required action by the EB. Fortunately, 2019 has been a relatively benign, hence “normal”, year in terms of the number and urgency of matters requiring consideration by the EB, thus fewer meetings than were required in the last two or three years. I express my deep appreciation to all members of the EB and the Bethany community at large for their encouragement and support throughout 2019.

The new three-court model of the United Church governance structure came into effect January 1st 2019. With that major change in the overall United Church governance structure, Halifax Presbytery ceased to exist, as did Maritime Conference, with those two bodies being condensed into what is known now as the Region 15 Council. Bethany has two representatives to the Region 15 Council approved by the EB, namely Grant MacKenzie and Rev. Kevin Little. We thank them for their willingness to serve in this important capacity.

The EB has appointed an *ad hoc* committee to look into the implications of these changes in the overall United Church governance structure for Bethany's own local system of governance but so far we await details of implications of these changes at the higher courts of the church for local churches like Bethany. This committee will presumably get under way in 2020 once we are informed of specific changes in the structure and function of Region 15 that will have an impact on our local system of governance. This committee will also look at possible efficiencies that might be introduced into Bethany's current system of governance.

The Option 1 Renovation programme for Bethany United Church is well underway and is under the ultimate supervision of the EB. However, the EB has delegated the day-to-day implementation of this programme to the Board of Managers who provide regular feedback to the EB on the ongoing state of the programme, including its various financial aspects. A report on progress to date will be presented at the March 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting.

Specific Matters of Business Addressed by the Executive Board in 2019

- Approval of terms and conditions for recruiting and hiring of a Finance Officer.
- During the course of 2019, and in the interests of transparency, the EB approved publication of the minutes of Annual Congregational meetings on the church's website (<http://www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca>).
- The EB is fully cognizant of how fortunate Bethany is in its staffing complement which currently includes Rev. Kevin Little (Lead Minister), Shawn Whynot (Director of Music), Ann Bradley (Community Engagement Facilitator), Louisa Duck (Children and Family Care Ministry), Dana Mills (Ministry Resource Support), Jim Sweet (Caretaker), and Tina Gascon (Finance Officer). All staff members go well beyond any formal obligation of duty in supporting the Bethany community and the EB has been seeking an appropriate and tangible way to express our collective appreciation for their efforts. At Christmas time 2019 a personalized letter of appreciation was sent to each staff member along with a gift card which, as noted, was symbolic of how much they are appreciated by the Bethany community. Efforts will continue in 2020 to formalize a protocol by which we can express our appreciation to staff members on an ongoing basis.
- As requests for raffles to support Bethany United Church charitable and outreach activities have increased over the past year, the EB decided to try to develop a church-wide raffle policy rather than continue to examine each request on a case-by-case basis. Accordingly, an *ad hoc* committee consisting of EB members Karen Finley, Karen Hatcher and Carol Knapp was struck to inquire into this matter. Eventually, a draft raffle policy was formulated for purposes of discussion by the full EB membership. Receiving tentative approval by the membership, legal vetting of the draft policy was then sought before seeking final EB approval. We are most grateful to Bob Carter for rendering his expertise in this regard. The final version of the policy was approved by the EB at its December 2019 meeting.
- Since the single minister policy was introduced on an experimental basis by the Executive Board, it has been reviewed on an annual basis to determine if it is still producing satisfactory results for all concerned. The EB determined that the single minister policy is fully worthy of continuance but will be reviewed again toward the end of the 2020 calendar year. It should be noted that what has made the single minister regime so effective is the extraordinary dedication of our minister, Rev. Kevin Little, along with the support of staff members, especially Ann Bradley, who also does an extraordinary job in offering Bethany's outreach programmes to both the Bethany community, itself, and to the wider community of which Bethany is a part. Together Kevin and Ann, along with the support of other members of the staff, fulfill the duties formerly handled by individuals holding the Minister of Visitation position.
- A job description for the Ministry Resource position was prepared by the Ministry & Personnel (M & P) Committee and formally approved by the EB during the course of the 2019 calendar year. This process should continue throughout 2020 until job descriptions for all staff positions have been updated.

- Each year the EB examines and approves the budget for the forthcoming fiscal year. Such was the case again in 2019. Formal and final approval of the budget occurs at the Annual Congregational Meeting.
- The EB approved a request by the co-chairs of the Community Connections Working Group to support a quest for installation of a digital sign for Bethany which would bring attention to the activities of the Bethany Community to the wider community on an ongoing basis. Funds were acquired to partially cover the cost of this sign, which is now in place and operating, with fundraising efforts planned for 2020 to completely pay for the purchase and installation costs of this sign.
- At the request of the current chair, the EB has agreed to look into appointing a vice-chair of the board following the 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting (to be held in March 2020) as a means of encouraging a smooth transition between chairs as their terms expire. The current chair's term will expire with the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held in March 2021, and it is hoped that with a vice-chair in place, subject to the confirmation of the EB membership following the 2019 AGM, that individual will be able to slip smoothly into the chair's position in March 2021.

Resignations and Changes in Terms of Service by EB Members During 2019

- A letter was received on February 8th, 2019, from Gordon McMillan, Chair of the Board of Managers at that time, indicating that he would be resigning from that position and thus, from the Executive Board as the Chair of the Board of Managers automatically sits on the EB. This resignation was received with regret and on behalf of the EB the chair communicated the board's great appreciation for yeoman service rendered by Gordon on Bethany's behalf over many years.
- Carol Knapp, former Clerk of Session, resigned that role effective June 2019, and with that resignation her membership of the EB came to an end as the sitting Clerk of Session automatically sits on the EB. Janet Sponagle Hopper was welcomed to the EB replacing Carol as Clerk of Session. Great appreciation was expressed to Carol by the EB membership for her excellent service not only to the EB but to the Bethany community at large.
- Dave Reid, long-term chair of the M&P Committee, was finally able to complete his extended term of service in that capacity and with that he left the EB to be replaced by Bob Grant, the new chair of the M&P Committee. Needless to say, the EB has been extremely fortunate to have Dave as a member of the EB representing the M&P Committee for far longer than he had any formal obligation to serve in that capacity. Many thanks to Dave for his yeoman service to Bethany for so many years.
- The EB has had the privilege of having two individuals represent the youth constituency of Bethany United Church. Regrettably, both have had to tender their resignations during the course of the year due to other obligations that made it very difficult for them to attend EB meetings. The EB greatly appreciates the service rendered by Peyton Duggan, now a student at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and Charlotte Moase, a student at Dalhousie University here in Halifax. It is not easy to recruit youth members to any of our boards and committees so we are especially grateful that Peyton and Charlotte were able to share their time and talent with us for as long as they could.

- With the dissolution of Halifax Presbytery on January 1st 2019, Pam Carter, who served as Bethany's representative to Presbytery for many years, thought it appropriate that another individual be identified who would be willing to represent Bethany at the newly established Region 15 Council. The EB approved this idea and subsequently Grant MacKenzie and Rev. Kevin Little were approved by the EB and are now actively serving as Bethany's representatives to Region 15.

Individuals Serving the Executive Board in 2019

The Executive Board has been most fortunate in its membership throughout 2019. The dedicated, hardworking individuals listed below go well beyond any formal call of duty for their service to the Executive Board and, indeed, in many cases, concurrently to other boards and committees as well. Without this willingness to contribute time and talent to Bethany, this community would be hard pressed to survive, let alone prosper, as it currently seems to be doing. As chair, I am extremely grateful for the kindness and support I have received from the membership through 2019. Without that, nothing could be accomplished.

| <u>EB 2019 Members</u> | <u>Representing</u> | <u>2019 EB Members</u> | <u>Representing</u> |
|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Ann Bradley | Outreach | Charlotte Moase ⁷ | Youth Representative |
| Heather Brophy | Member at Large | David Rackham | Member at Large, Chair |
| Pam Carter ¹ | Halifax Presbytery | Dave Reid ⁸ | M&P |
| Peyton Duggan ² | Youth Representative | Les Russell | Member at Large |
| Karen Finley | UCW | Jerry Slaunwhite | Member at Large |
| Bob Grant ³ | Member at Large/M&P | Janet Sponagle Hopper ⁹ | Clerk of Session |
| Karen Hatcher | Member at Large | Herb Steeves | Member at Large |
| Julie Johnson | Member at Large | Gloria Stephens | Recording Secretary |
| Carol Knapp ⁴ | Clerk of Session | Brian Wentzell | Member at Large |
| Glendon Knapp ⁵ | Board of Managers | Andy Williams | Board of Trustees |
| Linda Knechtel | Treasurer | Cheri Wilson | Revelation Committee |
| Rev. Kevin Little | <i>Ex officio</i> | | |
| Gordon McMillan ⁶ | Board of Managers | | |

¹Former Presbytery Representative, now Member at Large

²Peyton Duggan, Youth Representative through June 2019

³Bob Grant, former Member at Large, now M&P chair

⁴Carol Knapp, Clerk of Session through June 2019

⁵Glendon Knapp, Chair, Board of Managers from Spring 2019

⁶Gordon McMillan, former Chair of Board of Managers through Spring 2019

⁷Charlotte Moase, Youth Representative through December 2019

⁸Dave Reid, former M&P chair

⁹Janet Sponagle Hopper, Clerk of Session from June 2019

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Rackham (Chair)

Ministry and Personnel Committee

The Ministry and Personnel Committee (M&P) consists of church members or adherents selected to support staff relationships. Duties of the M &P include carrying out regular interviews with each staff member, reviewing working conditions, and overseeing the relationship of the staff with members of the congregation and with each other. Any matter brought to the Committee is kept in confidence.

The Committee reports to the Executive Board. During 2019 the Committee held interviews with each staff member in June.

Any member or adherent of the congregation may ask to meet in confidence with the Committee as a whole or if preferred one-on-one with a member of the Committee or submit a letter to the Committee

Members of the Committee are: Bonnie Boyd-Read, Bob Grant, Gloria Hardy, Sherri-Lynn Richardson, and Ian Parker. We welcome Ian Parker who brings to our Committee personnel experience from his working career. Finally a special thanks to David Reid who chaired this Committee for in excess of nine years up to September 27, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Grant
Chair



BETHANY BOARD OF MANAGERS

Bethany Board of Managers summary of 2019:

- The new concrete ramp door is near completion. The recent installation can accommodate manual ingress and egress. The push button and “card swipe” mechanisms will be installed in the early winter of 2020. This “door system” will allow both large item deliveries and access for mobility devices.
- The digital sign is in operation. Although training to post images and messages has concluded, office and other staff continue to exercise their creative talents providing digital messages that are receiving positive feedback from Bethany congregants and the public.
- New exterior lighting has been installed and commissioned. The fixtures are located on the Joseph Howe Drive side of the Fellowship Hall, the wall adjacent the concrete ramp, Office entrance and the large parking lot wall facing the Canadian National Rail Way line. The latter installation required new wiring as the existing wire proved to be a fire hazard. All new lighting is equipped with LED bulbs.
- Application of the grey siding is nearing completion. This stage of the exterior facelift starts at the exit door near the boiler room and ends at the corner of exterior hall wall adjacent the chapel. The gym end wall above the chapel is near completion. Siding has also been installed on the west side gym wall.
- The chapel stained glass window has been removed and the wall temporarily closed to the elements. Modest finish work is nearing completion in the interior side of the closure. Reinstallation is expected in the spring of 2020 and a newly fabricated tracery will be installed ready for stained glass.
- Nine new windows have been installed in the Fellowship Hall, Bethany offices, and adjacent hall. Two remain but it appears the closure of winter will likely relegate this part of the window project to the spring of 2020. The Joseph Howe Drive tower has fallen to the fate – weather. Siding will be expected in the spring.
- Winter weather has also impacted another Bethany project. The Church Spire will be “water tested” in the spring.
- Delays were a part of this, the first complete year of Options 1 renovations. Rot in numerous walls has caused delays in other aspects of building completion, i.e. the Tower on Joseph Howe. “Soft spots” number 22 and we cannot expect the count will be static in the future.
- Finally, the winter of 2019 saw the conclusion of structural and insulation of the Bethany basement. Started in 2018, the conclusion of a complex repair has helped to better warm the west end of our Bethany Structure.

The Board is great full for the generous donations from our Bethany community. These contributions have supported planned, and unplanned, portions of our renovations to date.

In league with congregant support, the Board secured a \$10,00 grant from the Province of Nova Scotia in 2019. This has supported the purchase and installation of the concrete ramp door.

The Hunter Fund application was met with success. Late in 2019 the Board of Managers was successful in securing a grant in the amount of \$50,000.

In 2020 the Board will pursue funding from the City of Halifax, The Government of Canada, The Province of Nova Scotia (again), and the United Church of Canada.

In terms of expenditures, the Board continues to balance renovation “pieces” between Options 1 elements and maintenance requirements. Put another way, Options 1 defines the renovation targets but not the soft spots, not obvious needs and not the unexpected problems of structural integrity.

Finally a communication strategy is being developed for the 2020 construction year. This will start with a scope of work description, under separate cover, informing the Executive Board members of the size and nature of this part of the construction phase. A financial description of this step is near completion.

I would like to end this report by acknowledging the endurance, energy, and foresight of Bethany’s Board of Managers. Members continue to move forward on various fronts creating a better future for our Bethany community.

Put another way, surround yourself with smart people and it makes my job a lot easier.

Blessings in this Season of Lent.

Respectively Submitted to the Members and Adherents of Board of Bethany United Church

Glen Knapp

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am happy to report that the donations from our congregation exceeded our budget for the third year in a row, with no need for a year end appeal. Our other sources of income – rentals within our facility, parking lot fees and, of course, the Fall Fair have all been on or over budget this year as well. When you take into consideration that our Capital Campaign is also receiving money from donations, it says a lot about the commitment of this congregation to keeping Bethany in a healthy financial position.

We were also very fortunate this year to have received a large bequest from the estate of one of our much-loved parishioners, Shelia Piercey who was always a generous supporter of Bethany. This money will become part of our investment portfolio and will be administered by the Board of Trustees.

2020 will be a challenging year for Bethany in many ways. Several of the major components outlined in our Options 1 project will be taking place this summer and into the fall. These are outlined in detail in the Capital Campaign Report found elsewhere in this annual report. This will impact our finances in two major ways: as the required space will not be available, there will not be a Fall Fair held this year, which has been a large part of our extra activities income; and we will be spending a fairly large sum of money on work in the Sanctuary which is not covered under the Options 1 plan. This work is critical for the structural, functional, and aesthetic integrity of the Sanctuary, and for reasons both practically and fiscally prudent, is best undertaken while the Sanctuary is empty over the summer and early fall of 2020.

In 2018, the Options 1 project was presented to the congregation and put to a vote, which passed with 98% of the membership in attendance in support. The financial goal was set using figures that were available and realistic at that time. Since then, costs have increased, as well as the scope of work to be accomplished. Other issues previously unknown and related to the structural integrity of Bethany's facilities have arisen during the course of this extensive renovation, and these, of necessity, have had to be addressed as they were encountered. While all items of the project deemed of primary and secondary importance will have been addressed by the end of 2020 using currently available funds, it is anticipated that another congregational meeting will be required to deal with the extra costs that will be needed to fully complete this project. In the meantime, rest assured that the Board of Managers is exploring all possibilities for additional sources of funding and has already been successful in obtaining two grants totally \$60,000. The congregation will be updated as these fundraising efforts continue.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Bethany community in the capacity of treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Knechtel

Bethany United Church - 2 Yr. Financial Comparison with 2020 Budget

| | Budget | Actual | Actual |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 |
| REVENUE | | | |
| Contributions | 430,950.00 | \$ 381,187.00 | \$ 385,269.00 |
| Year-End Appeal | \$ - | - | - |
| Rentals | \$15,700 | \$ 14,410.00 | \$ 20,154.00 |
| Parking | \$52,250 | \$ 52,296.00 | \$ 51,801.00 |
| Fall Fair | \$ - | \$ 35,715.00 | \$ 32,669.00 |
| Gala/ Auction | \$15,000 | - | - |
| Memorial Donations | \$ 4,500.00 | \$ 3,975.00 | \$ 5,678.00 |
| Dividends & Int. | \$ 500.00 | \$ 12,523.00 | \$ 10,394.00 |
| Jazz Vespers | \$ - | - | \$ 1,337.00 |
| Funerals | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 6,157.00 | \$ 2,758.00 |
| Joy Lunch Club | \$ 150.00 | \$ 359.00 | \$ 20.00 |
| Other | - | \$ 230.00 | \$ 1,357.00 |
| NET REVENUE | \$ 524,050.00 | \$ 506,852.00 | \$ 511,437.00 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Salaries, Benefits, Travel | \$ 319,834.00 | \$ 307,022.00 | \$ 290,675.00 |
| Premises | \$ 152,450.00 | \$ 139,596.00 | \$ 147,536.00 |
| Music | \$ 4,850.00 | \$ 4,621.00 | \$ 3,959.00 |
| Office | \$ 19,950.00 | \$ 20,059.00 | \$ 22,135.00 |
| Christian Education | \$ 4,800.00 | \$ 1,381.00 | \$ 2,981.00 |
| Worship Ministry | \$ 5,650.00 | \$ 7,157.00 | \$ 3,566.00 |
| Presbytery Assessment | \$ 16,316.00 | \$ 16,316.00 | \$ 14,612.00 |
| Communications | \$ 200.00 | - | \$ 1,385.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$ 524,050.00 | \$ 496,152.00 | \$ 486,849.00 |

| Financial Statement Breakdown: | | | |
|---|------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Net operating Income / Loss before stock donations | \$ - | \$ 10,700.00 | \$ 24,588.00 |
| Loss on disposal of investments | \$ - | -\$ 49.00 | \$ - |
| Stock Donations | \$ - | \$ 10,267.00 | \$ 10,823.00 |
| Unrealized gains(losses) on stocks | \$ - | \$ 22,154.00 | -\$ 33,255.00 |
| Excess of Revenue over Expenses | | \$ 43,072.00 | \$ 2,156.00 |

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MISSION AND SERVICE (M & S) FUND

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

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Mission and Service Contributions/Envelopes: | \$20,262.92 |
| M & S UCW | \$ 521.00 |
| M & S World Development | \$ 540.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total: | \$21,323.92 |

CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN

Total envelope issues for 2019: 280 (this includes 94 families on PAR)

Total numbers with Zero balance: 21

Contributions between:

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|------------------|----|
| \$1.00 - \$100: | 25 | \$1001 - \$2500: | 65 |
| \$101 - \$500: | 57 | \$2501 - \$5000: | 41 |
| \$501 - \$1000: | 49 | Over \$5000: | 22 |

IN TRIBUTE & IN MEMORY DONATIONS

\$5,330.00

Bethany United Church expresses thanks to all members and adherents who contributed to the memorial bulletin donations for 2019 "in memory" and all charitable donations made to honour loved ones and friends.

VOLUNTEERS

Bethany is blessed with a dedicated community of faith-filled volunteers.

Our sincerest gratitude is extended to all for the gifts you share.

The value of this stewardship of discipleship is insurmountable.

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH INVESTMENTS

The church's **unrestricted** financial account holdings (by investment type) as of December 31, 2019 are:

Securities

| <u>Common Shares</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Market Value</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Bank of Montreal | 50 | \$ 5,032.00 |
| Bank of Nova Scotia | 1,843 | \$ 135,184.05 |
| Royal Bank of Canada | 885 | \$ 90,933.75 |
| Toronto Dominion Bank | 93 | \$ 6,773.19 |
| Canadian Imperial Bank Of Commerce | 17 | \$ 1,837.02 |
| BCE Inc | 93 | \$ 5,594.88 |
| Great West Life | 160 | \$ 5,321.60 |
| Fortis Inc | 220 | \$ 11,853.60 |
| Total Value of Shares | | \$262,530.09 |
| Accumulated Dividends | | \$ 11,082.86 |

Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs)

| <u>GIC Type</u> | <u>Principal</u> | <u>Interest Rate</u> | <u>Maturity Date</u> |
|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| One-Year Cashable | \$15,256.43 | 1.800% | January 16, 2020 |
| One-Year Cashable | \$502,067.55 | 1.600% | November 6, 2020 |
| Annual Compound | \$ 61,015.44 | 2.770% | May 22, 2024 |
| Total Value of Fixed Income | | | \$ 578,339.42 |

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

Non Redeemable - GIC at Royal Bank - N. Geizer
Balance: \$10,000 3yr @2.25% Maturity date: October 15, 2021

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 donations each year. This year, we also received funds from two document shredding sessions and individual contributors.

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, 2019 | | \$1,113.97 |
| Revenue: | | |
| UCW donations | | \$ 300.00 |
| Document Shredding Fundraisers (2) | | \$ 270.00 |
| Individual donations | | \$ 145.00 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Amount disbursed | \$ 400.00 | |
| Document shredding costs | \$ 191.50 | |
| Closing balance as of December 31, 2019 | | \$ 1,237.47 |

BROOKFIELD FUND

Once again we are thankful to those who supported the Brookfield Fund in 2019. This auxiliary fund began ninety-five 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 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.

Balance January 1, 2019— — —\$1,948.98

New funds in 2019 — — — — —\$0.00

Expenditures in 2019— — — — —\$590.00

Balance December 31, 2019 — — —\$1,358.98

Respectfully submitted,

George Russell, Treasurer

THE EARLE AND JANET REID SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

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

Under the terms of Bethany’s agreement with the CFNS, an Adjudication Committee consisting of three members of the congregation and a representative of the CFNS has been established to review all applications for the two annual scholarships and to recommend the two annual recipients of the scholarships as set out in Dr. Reid’s Will and then to forward their recommendations to the CFNS’s Board of Directors for final approval. In 2019, the three members from Bethany who sat on the Adjudication Committee were Beth O’Brien, Nancy Dearn and Greg McConnell. The CFNS is responsible for promoting the Fund.

This past year (2019), the two annual scholarship awards were granted in the amount of \$2000 each to Abigail Hanson (Port Wallis United Church) and Spencer McFarland (Bethany United Church).

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT

In May 2018 the congregation approved a plan to renovate and repair our church premises. Shortly thereafter the Stewardship committee organized a sub-committee to begin a capital campaign to fund these renovations/repairs. As most of you know, during the fall of 2018 and winter/spring of 2019 the committee canvassed members and adherents of Bethany and as reported to the congregation we were successful in raising over \$1,200,000 which was the initial campaign goal. This could not have happened without the generosity of so many of you. To date in excess of 100 Bethany families have contributed to the Capital Campaign.

Funds pledged and contributed to December 31, 2019:

- Funds received - \$1,037,506
- Funds pledged but not received - \$292,244
- Total committed to Capital Campaign - \$1,329,750

Funds expended to date \$667,837 and work in progress* estimated at \$71,000 as follows:

- Engineer's drawings for Fellowship Hall floor projects
- Structural remediation of load bearing walls and footings under Fellowship Hall
- Removal of debris from Fellowship Hall and Gym crawl spaces
- Spray foam perimeter wall and floor under Fellowship Hall and Gym
- Install vapour barrier and HVR units under Fellowship Hall and Gym
- Replace exterior rotted sill under stage in Fellowship Hall
- Repair structural truss support next to kitchen
- Soft wall repair on exterior of Fellowship Hall, kitchen etc.
- Install new support beam under floor in washrooms adjacent to Fellowship Hall
- Replace 2 windows in kitchen
- Install lights for crawl spaces under Fellowship Hall and Gym
- New concrete ramp and railing at side of Fellowship Hall
- Replace shingles on Fellowship Hall and adjacent walls with vinyl shingles or siding and all associated work including repairing any rot found in walls (in progress)*
- Replacement of exterior windows in Fellowship Hall
- Replacement of Chapel roof
- Replacement of Gym roof
- Replace 3 windows in Gym
- Renovate hallway adjacent to Ladies Parlour, Boardroom etc., including new wiring, foam insulation and new ceiling
- Renovate Janitorial storage room , including new sink
- Investigate & repair gaps in corridor floor between chapel and Fellowship Hall

As you can see from the work done to date Phil Reardon, our Project Manager, and his team have been very busy over the past 2 years. Unfortunately a good deal of this work is not readily discernable to the naked eye but necessary none the less. An item like the structural remediation of load bearing walls and footings under the Fellowship Hall is essential to the structural integrity of the Hall itself but work that we as laypeople would not see being completed. It is also very expensive work and difficult to predict costing in advance. The good news is most of the work planned for the Fellowship Hall, gymnasium and Chapel has now been completed. Lead paint found on the tracery of the stained glass window in the Chapel means this has to be completely replaced, rather than just repaired, as had been planned. This will be part of the work undertaken in 2020.

The plan for 2020 is to concentrate on renovations/repairs to the Sanctuary. This will be a major undertaking that will disrupt our ability to use the sanctuary while this important work is done. The hope is to do as much as possible during late spring, summer and early fall. We will move to the Fellowship Hall for services and other events during this time. We ask for your understanding while these important and necessary renovations are completed.

We want to thank everyone who has contributed to this important capital campaign. As with many projects of this nature, many of the repairs done to date have unfortunately cost more than the amount budgeted. Even though we exceeded our initial goal, more funds will be required to complete all the projects. The Board of Managers is exploring all possibilities for funding sources and already has been successful in obtaining two grants totaling \$60,000. We will keep the congregation updated as these efforts continue.

In case you are wondering, it is not too late to make a contribution if you have not already done so. We would like everyone to feel part of this and whether you give \$5.00 or \$500.00 to the campaign it is all very welcome and you then become part of the project. Please feel free to speak to any member of the campaign team as listed below if you want to discuss your participation further.



Thank you,

Don MacKay - Co-Chair, Capital Campaign
Committee

Gordon Lawley - Co-Chair

Linda Knechtel - Treasurer

Doug Shields

Bill Piercey

David Rackham

FALL FAIR REPORT

“PROVIDING AN AWESOME EXPERIENCE OF GOD’S LOVE.”

October 19, 2019 was a banner year for our annual Fall Fair with 618 people attending, an increase of 28.75% over last year. 170 volunteers including many new faces, worked tirelessly to make the event a success. The Fall Fair Convenors worked diligently to incorporate the suggestions from the 2018 Fall Fair Committee and to try some innovations this year. Our net proceeds this year were \$35,420.34.

Notable changes to the Fall Fair this year included:

- Name changes for some of the tables to provide more creativity and interest
- Increased admission to \$2
- Some tables were relocated for better access and overall traffic flow
- \$50 sponsorship for each table to help defray Fall Fair expenses
- In an attempt to be more eco-friendly cloth tote bags printed with Bethany United Church and the United Church Logo were donated by the Tozer family for sale, with all proceeds going to the Fall Fair
- 40 Fruitcakes were donated for sale in lieu of a cash donation, with all proceeds to the Fall Fair
- Left-over merchandise was donated to the Mission Thrift Store, a “faith based organization” with a mission *“to empower lives in the local community, reducing waste by giving items a new life. Mission Thrift Stores work with various local agencies to provide donated items to people in need due to fire, homelessness or other crises.”* Also, *“all donated goods are converted to cash and invested in leadership/ literacy programs in over 40 countries enabling access to the empowering message of the Word of God.”* Goods were also delivered to the Mission Mart, a faith based program of Souls Harbour Rescue Mission whose drop in centre provides *“up to 100 hot, nutritious lunches every weekday. Guests include men and women facing hunger, homelessness, poverty, abuse and addiction.”*
- Opening our doors to “Non-profit” organizations for a 1 hour free shopping spree to provide items for their clientele. Although this endeavour was not embraced by the many organizations approached, the general consensus of the Table Chairs was that this avenue is worth pursuing in future. ISANS did avail themselves of this initiative and showed great appreciation for our generosity. Many items were also delivered to Adsum House, which derives from Latin meaning, “I am here.” It is a safe place and support to women and families who are homeless and without resources.
- Brown Bag Lunches were made by the Youth Group and distributed to volunteers. The bags included a sandwich wrap, fruit and a sweet. Water was also provided along with free coffee/tea to all volunteers throughout the day.

During the week of November 18-21, the Fall Fair Convenors met with table chairs and some volunteers gathering input and suggestions for a future event. The following are “over-arching” comments:

What Worked

- The chowder luncheon and gingerbread desserts were good and chowders “tasty”
- The luncheon tables set-up and décor were attractive
- The Fall Fair was organized and ran smoothly
- Volunteer Handouts and Silent Auction Guidelines were well received, including an Evacuation Plan
- Chairs liked the idea of a convenor designated to each section of the facility; Fellowship Hall, Gym and Perimeter
- The volunteer lunches were much appreciated and tasty
- The cash boxes worked well
- The white bags and PAID stickers worked well to identify products sold
- Using bookcases increased visual display area and provided more space for product on tables
- Bethany’s summer student Loch Williams was a tremendous help
- The teamwork displayed in the Furniture department was great
- Testing all the electronics was big job but well worth the effort
- Re-arranging spaces for specific tables worked well
- The donkey and his side-kick were a big hit; statistics show that at least 7 people attended the Fair as a result of the Rotary advertising

Considerations for Improvement

- Streamline the volunteer lunch process, changing the menu to foods that can be prepared ahead of time; table representative to pick up volunteer lunches from designated area
- Ice Cream Shack didn’t work so well due to cold weather
- Reinstate a variation on the “cake walk” i.e. cupcake walk or donut walk
- Locating Toyland outdoors was good for more space in the building but limited set-up time and provided less time to identify inventory on-hand
- Create a Media Table by expanding the Book table to include DVDs, CDs, LPs, Comics and hardcover books on all topics
- Weather affected activities and booths located outside
- Volunteer lunches had an impact on BBQ sales
- Along with sponsor signs, individual table signs are needed; route maps posted throughout the building not enough
- No rentals should be booked for 2 weeks prior to the Fall Fair

- Email/contact university and college campuses prior to sale as students are always looking to pick up inexpensive furniture/décor items for their accommodations
- Consider changes to Volunteer Friday evening shopping

Considerations for Improvement (continued)

- Using Fellowship Hall entrance rather than the ramp access poses a safety concern; in future ramp entrance to be used exclusively
- The Fellowship Hall should not be used for sorting the week of Vacation Bible School
- The white board for pricing at the Pantry Table was great
- More soups needed for Meals to Go
- Standardized recipes worked well
- Consider having a few events for making jam, jellies, pickles and soups prior to the Fair
- Ensure communication with the Property Committee of the Board of Managers on a regular basis
- ½ price sale could start a bit earlier
- Do not accept computers in future as they are outdated quickly and disposing of them difficult
- Fall Fair spread over longer period; i.e. 2 days
- Table Chairs and Convenors could drop into Wednesday and participate in sorting
- Table Chairs might look at preparing a handout for the Sorting team of items that are accepted for the table
- Reinstigate “fill a bag”
- Continue efforts for a “greener” Fall Fair by using re-usable signs, picture frames for pricing, recyclable food containers as examples
- Improve administrative process for “after-sales” and maintain flexibility to accommodate rentals that may affect “after-sales” (Federal Election this year)

Mary, Betty and Julie would like to express our gratitude to each and every person who made this year’s Fall Fair a success. Bethany United Church is blessed to have so many talented, committed people who share their talents and gifts selflessly, serving as we are called.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10-11

Respectfully submitted,
Mary MacKay, Betty Tozer and Julie Johnson

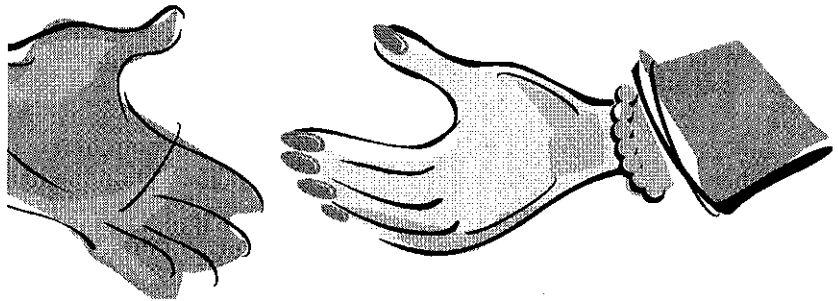
FALL FAIR FINANCIAL REPORT

| Table | Totals |
|---|-------------|
| Admissions (Door) | \$1,190.85 |
| Barbeque | \$557.90 |
| Children's Tickets and Activities | \$116.00 |
| Chowder Luncheon | \$1,239.40 |
| Crafts | \$2,330.50 |
| Delcious Delights | \$1,650.50 |
| Donations \$ Toward Fall Fair | \$1,697.79 |
| Electronics/outdoors/Tools/Sports | \$1,339.19 |
| Finer Things (Home Décor) | \$3,669.90 |
| Framed Things (Art) | \$1,204.10 |
| Fruit Cakes | \$780.00 |
| Furniture | \$3,216.45 |
| Jewellery | \$4,198.65 |
| Kitchen Essentials | \$942.90 |
| Linens and Things | \$978.35 |
| New to You | \$793.30 |
| Raffle | \$1,270.00 |
| Reading Room (Books) | \$1,380.55 |
| Retro and Curio | \$647.75 |
| Santa's Village (Christmas) | \$926.50 |
| Silent Auction | \$5,522.00 |
| Sponsorships | \$950.00 |
| This and That (Flea Market)(Misc & Décor) | \$571.55 |
| Tote Bags | \$260.00 |
| Toyland | \$694.40 |
| Table Revenue Totals | \$38,128.53 |
| | |
| Less Expenses | \$2,708.19 |
| | |
| Net Total | \$35,420.34 |

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

The Board of Trustees met on an as needed basis over the course of the year. Current Board Members consist of:

Andy Williams – Chair
Heather Brophy
Bill Piercy
Don MacKay
Laura King
Lynn Legg
Gordon Lawley
Brian Wentzell
David Cameron



Recently, the Board met with the Treasurer to discuss the present financial health of the congregation and the anticipated monetary requirements, both short and long term. The Board will be considering and addressing these needs in the coming months in our review of all investment vehicles.

This coming year will see the expiry of the current lease agreement with IMP for parking space on the church grounds. The Board has begun the process of exploring the most advantageous arrangement for the renewal of this contract.

My time on the Board of Trustees is coming to an end, having finished my second 3 year term. I want to thank the current and past Board members I have had the pleasure to service with. You are all knowledgeable and dedicated individuals who want success for the ministries and welfare of the Bethany congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Williams, Chair

SESSION REPORT

Rev. Kevin Little – (2015 -)
Carol Knapp – Clerk of Session (2015 - 2019)
Janet Sponagle Hopper - (2019 -)
Louisa Duck - Children and Family Care Ministry – (2010 -)
Ann Bradley – Community Engagement Facilitator – (2016 -)

EMERITUS MEMBERS OF SESSION

Rev. Vincent Ihasz (2015)
Lorne Finley (2018) D

LIFE MEMBERS OF SESSION

Charles McCurdy (1966)

YOUTH APPOINTED MEMBERS (2019 - ...)

Elizabeth Carter
Ainsley Monchesky R

One Year Term

Don Grant
Gordon Lawley

(2020)

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

(2021)

Carol Knapp
Charles Baxter
Pat Farmer
Don Mackay
Andy Williams

(2022)

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

(2023)

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

(2024)

Carolyn Kunz
Kathy Brown
Joan MacVicar
Janet Sponagle Hopper

MINISTRIES OF SESSION - 2019

Social Outreach -

Ann Bradley, Chair
Gary Gallant, Treasurer
Ann Pugh*
Carol Knapp
Cathy MacDonald
Grace Veino* D

George Russell*
Don Grant
Sharon Wentzell
Margie Guy *
Glen Knapp*
Tim Cormier*
Zenora Rackham

Worship Ministry

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

Communion Don Grant

Head Usher Pam Carter

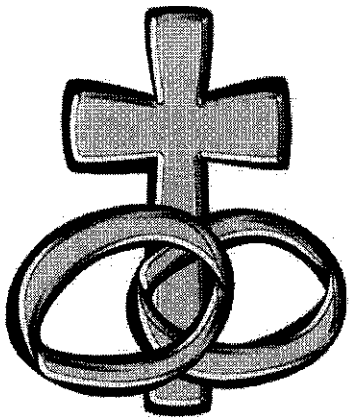
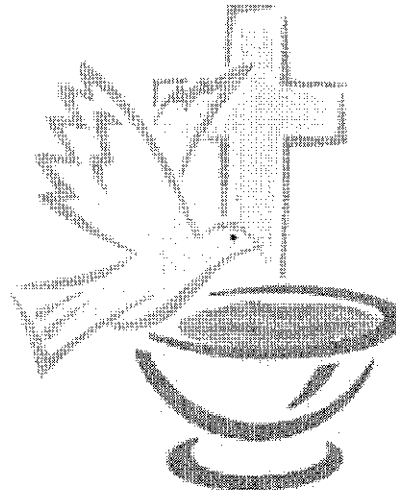
Transportation Heather Gillis*
Harriet King*

* Member at Large

R Retired

D Deceased

2019 BAPTISMS
 Ariana Faith Connors
 Brielle Lily Connors



2019 MARRIAGES
 Laura Fitzpatrick & Louis Westergard
 Jacqueline Clairmont & Aundrea Mitchell

BETHANY SESSION REPORT

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|------|------|------|
| Number of Elders on December 31 (Including Emeritus members) | 40 | 33 | 40 |
| Total number of families under Pastoral Charge | 348 | 349 | 379 |
| Total number of persons under Pastoral Charge | 1009 | 1012 | 1190 |
| Number Baptized | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| Number of Marriages | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Number of Funerals | 17 | 13 | 13 |
| Received by Profession of Faith | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| Received by Certificate of Transfer | 21 | 16 | 16 |

WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT



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 2019: -

1. selecting Dr. David Deane, Associate Professor of Theology, Atlantic School of Theology, as our guest preacher for our October Anniversary Service;
2. implementation of the Methodist communion service together with our regular Presbyterian communion service;
3. the use of more pew cushions in the Sanctuary;
4. use of name tags for our Greeters;
5. youth representation on the Worship Committee;

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 senior members. We are blessed indeed to have a very busy Lead Minister who devotes so much of his time to visitation, and an amazing caring staff, willing to go beyond their job descriptions to make our congregation a successful and sustaining faith community. The Committee is also grateful to

our congregation Lead Minister, despite his very busy schedule, taking the time to organize several faith study sessions during the year.

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 the individual soloists, our scripture lesson readers, technical gurus (Barry Paton, Glen Knapp and their young staff, namely; Thomas Duck, Maggie Duck, John Briand and Krista Whitehouse), our ushers, volunteer drivers, our Elders who serve Holy Communion, and our flower committee and all those who help decorate the Sanctuary and the Rev. Ewen Moase Fellowship Hall throughout the year, and those who help prepare Coffee Hour after the Sunday service, 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 for the use of more pew cushions;

Members of the Worship Committee for 2019 were as follows: -

| <u>Staff</u> | <u>Non-Staff</u> |
|-------------------|---|
| Rev. Kevin Little | Kathy Brown |
| Shawn Whynot | Elizabeth Carter (Youth Representative) |
| Louisa Duck | Bev. Grant |
| | Carolyn Kunz |
| | Bill Piercey |

Bill Piercey
Chair

December 31, 2019

LOCAL OUTREACH MINISTRY

**Jesus said, “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited
me in.**

I needed clothes and you clothed me. (Matthew 25:35-36)

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

This past year we served our traditional meal of ham and scalloped potatoes at the St Andrew’s Sunday Suppers in January, June and November. On average 150- 200 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.

In May and November a No Food - Food Bank Sunday was sponsored by the committee to assist the Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank. These efforts raised \$4300 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 Group also donated healthy snacks and fresh fruit to the Food for Phoenix program.

On a Saturday in March and November two teams of 9 people from Bethany arose in the early morning to cook and serve breakfast at the Brunswick Street Mission. This particular outreach is now 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. It was brought to the committee’s attention that the breakfast kitchen at the Mission was in need of a new industrial size coffee maker. The committee approved the purchase of a new coffee maker and it was donated to the Mission in May. This donation was greatly appreciated by all who coordinate and attend the breakfast.

In March the committee and congregation supported a new outreach initiative called **Dignity. Period.** This is a campaign to help people with periods in Nova Scotia afford the menstrual products they need. Nova Scotia is the province with the highest rate of food insecurity in Canada, with 1 in 6 households unable to afford healthy food, which means they also can’t afford personal care products. **Dignity. Period.** is a campaign to get people talking about period poverty and taking action to address it. A collection box has been placed in the Narthex for donations of menstrual products. This campaign has been

well supported and donations are taken regularly to the HWE food bank, Chebucto Connections, Phoenix House and Brunswick Street Mission. Many thanks Bethany for supporting this important outreach ministry.

During the late fall, the Committee sponsored a number of projects to support programs during the Christmas season. Through our clothing box, the Brunswick Street Mission, Phoenix Programs for Youth, and the Salvation Army, received many articles of warm clothing. Many of you also generously donated non-perishable food items and funds to the Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank to provide meals and Christmas dinners. In addition, 135 gifts were donated to the Angel Tree and were forwarded to the Salvation Army for distribution.

We were deeply saddened this past March, by the passing of Grace Veino, longtime member and past Chair of this committee. In Grace's memory a donation of \$500 was made to the Veino Family Scholarship for Phoenix Youth. Grace is greatly missed, but her passion for outreach and serving others will remain in our hearts and our continued service to those in need of a helping hand.

Anne Pugh, resigned from her position as Treasurer, in June. We are very grateful to Anne for her dedicated years of service to this committee and the greater community. We were pleased to welcome Gary Gallant as our new Treasurer. Gary first came to us by finding his way into the kitchen to help with Sunday Suppers. Thank you Gary for accepting the position of Treasurer and being part of the outreach team.

The committee wishes to thank the congregation for their warm and generous support, both financially and in other 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 Tina Gascon for their administrative assistance and support.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Bradley, Chair



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS LOCAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Revenue

| | |
|--|----------|
| Balance forwarded from 2018 | 4618.30 |
| Envelope contributions designated Local Outreach | 12480.26 |
| Interest | .56 |
| Total | 17099.12 |

Disbursements and Expenses

| | |
|--|----------|
| Adsum House | 950.00 |
| Brunswick Street Mission | 1700.00 |
| Bryony House | 700.00 |
| Camp Kidston | 540.00 |
| Club Inclusion | 1050.00 |
| Fairview United Family Resource Centre | 1050.00 |
| Halifax West Food Bank | 1350.00 |
| Hope Cottage | 850.00 |
| Laing House | 1300.00 |
| Metro Turning Point | 850.00 |
| Phoenix | 2300.00 |
| St. Andrews Suppers | 1818.50 |
| Anne Bradley Coffee Pot | 212.75 |
| Office Gift Cards | 350.00 |
| Bank Charges | 1.80 |
| Bank Cheques | 101.11 |
| Postage Stamps | 20.70 |
| TOTAL | 15144.87 |

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Total revenue | 17099.12 |
| Funds disperse | 15144.87 |
| Balance | 1954.25 |
| Bank Statement | 1953.95 |

Respectively submitted

Gary Gallant
Treasurer

CHILDREN AND FAMILY CARE MINISTRIES

Over the last year, our Sunday School has numbered about twenty-five children, with weekly attendance of five to twelve. The children have studied Daniel, Jesus' ministry and miracles, the stories of Holy Week, stories of friendship in each Testament, the Exodus, and stories of Jesus' birth. The Sunday School prepared three services last year. On Sunday June 2, we held our annual Celebration Sunday service to mark the end of our year together. We presented three Grade 3 Bibles, and two of our six high school graduates were presented with prayer shawls. The other four were unable to attend, and received their shawls separately. Our graduates were Peyton Duggan, Hannah Cameron, Mya Aiken, Lucy Little, Michaela Hooper, and Lochlan Williams. Our pasta picnic immediately followed the service in the fellowship hall, and was enjoyed by all. On November 17, we held our annual Children's Sunday service, and introduced our fall project. We raised \$900 to purchase winter supplies for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, to support those who are living in refugee camps through the winter months, a number that is at a record high. The money was raised through special collection envelopes over a two-week period, and through the sale of soup and cookie mix, prepared by our Bethany Youth Group. Our Christmas Eve service was well-attended, as always, and Dan Isner once again generously provided Rosie the Donkey for this service, as well as the Living Nativity on December 8, and we thank him for his continued kind support. This year, Hilary Richardson was Mary, and Ryan Rice was Joseph. Freya Gjesdal was our baby Jesus, granddaughter of Carolyn Kunz, and daughter of Bethany Kunz Gjesdal, who was the first actual baby to play baby Jesus on Christmas Eve, thirty-six Christmases ago. Music for all three services was provided by our JAM choir.

JAM continues to be a busy and active group of eight children. Shawn worked with the children on a wide variety of music, and we also worked on drama, public speaking, and enjoyed many games and stories. We added more bulbs to our butterfly gardens in the fall, so these should be lovely come spring. The children are very excited to see the results of their work. Diane Dingwell has volunteered regularly with the program over the past year, and we appreciate her support. She brings years of experience as a retired teacher, and a great sense of humour and fun that we all enjoy. Thank you, Diane.

Vacation Bible School was held in July with nine children ranging in age from five to twelve. Our theme was Superheroes of the Bible, and we had great fun learning about Noah, Moses, Jesus, and Paul. Charlotte Moase worked with us again, and we also had two junior high volunteers, Abby Titus and Maggie Duck. This allowed us to work in small groups and take trips to the park. The children had lots of active play, and a wide variety of activities based on Scripture stories as we talked about what it means to be a superhero, and how God can use any of us to do great things, even though we are perfectly ordinary.

Our Prayer Shawl ministry continues to be very active. We distributed twenty-one shawls last year, and continue to be supplied by dedicated crafters who are generous with their time and talents.

I thank you all once again for your continued support of our programmes, and I look forward to another wonderful year in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Louisa Duck, Children and Family Care Ministries

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MINISTRY

Bethany's community spirit is much to be thankful for! This faith community comes together in many different ways, engaging all ages and embracing God's Word: "Love one another as I have loved you." It is a privilege to minister with each of you in my role as Community Engagement facilitator. At Bethany we have an extraordinary group of young people who enjoy being together on Sunday evenings. Some of the highlights for the Youth Group this past year included a board game night, skating on chocolate lake, cooking and sharing a meal together, yoga with Susan Zurawski, a visit from beloved dog Ginger Drake, an outdoor hike to collect litter and celebrate Earth Day, and an end of the year sleepover here at the church. During winter and spring the youth made healthy snacks once a month and donated them to a youth program at Chebucto Connections in Spryfield. We also supported a campaign called Dignity Period and invited founder Erin Casey to join us on a Sunday evening as we learned about period poverty and the need for feminine hygiene products in NS. The youth collected and donated such products to Chebucto Connections. In May the Youth Group led a Jazz Vespers service entitled Our Firm Foundation; also in May two Bethany youth attended Youth Forum and Intermediates at Maritime Conference. They met many youth from United Churches across the Maritimes as they explored their faith in a welcoming and safe environment.

We reunited in September with a bonfire and kayaking on Chocolate Lake. Some highlights of the fall were making food for Phoenix Youth, assisting with the Fall Fair and Silent Movie Event, making and selling soup and cookie mix jars to raise funds for UNHCR to purchase supplies for refugee camps during the winter months. 2019 came to a close with our annual Old Fashioned Christmas in support of Phoenix Youth. This year we combined this event with the Living Nativity. The youth group dressed in costumes, participating in the live telling of the nativity story. Thank you to all who assist with this combined event especially Louisa Duck, Laura King, Christie Chisholm and Dana Mills! Phoenix House is very thankful to Bethany for our continued support. Also many thanks to Dana for her continued support as a volunteer youth leader.

The JOY Lunch program also continues to thrive as the hospitality of our Bethany folk spreads beyond our doors. Special guests have included Debbie Simmonds from the African Baptist United Church; Dalhousie University students- Indigenous History and Health in Canada; Kevin Little shared Lucy's art project and trip to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation in Winnipeg; Kathy Brown shared her father's story who served some of the first missions of the United Church on Newfoundland; John Gillis spoke about the Senior's College of Nova Scotia; Gloria Stephens shared unknown stories of VG nurses in time of war; and Sorella Women's Choir presented music of the season at Christmas. 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 is a great way for our community and the greater community to walk safely during the winter months. 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 first Wednesday of each month, engaging us in a themed conversation. HRM Community Health Team member, Scarlett McMullen joined us once a month January –April with a variety of wellness programs. In

November Walk and Talk became a Senior's Drop- In program, where folks can come and sit and converse, walk indoors if they choose, enjoy music and singing in the parlour with Murray Brown on keyboard and Huntly Blair on percussion. At the morning's end people are invited to join the Essentrics Exercise, a 25 minute DVD led program which focuses on strength, flexibility and stability.

Guided Meditation led by Yvonne Macor, took place in the winter, spring and fall months on Thursdays. These sessions were held in the MacKinnon Chapel and were well attended by Bethany folk and the surrounding community. Meditation boasts many health benefits; resting and rejuvenating the mind, body, and spirit. We are very grateful to Yvonne for continuing to volunteer her time and talent as we form community meditating together, quieting our busy minds, enabling us to draw closer to the Spirit at work in each of us.

This past year Bethany volunteers continued to host a conversation circle with Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS). Bethany volunteers supported ISANS instructor Julie MacDonald during three sessions; winter, spring and fall. A dozen or so Bethany volunteers, through a rotational schedule, enjoyed engaging in very beginning level conversation with new immigrants age 55 plus. These new Canadians are very grateful for our hospitality and love to thank us with food! We had a lovely picnic in the Piercey Garden in June and another feast in December. Due to scheduling conflicts the ISANS Sewing Circle, no longer meets here on a regular basis but we continue to store their sewing machines until a new class time can be arranged. Last winter and spring we were pleased to host two new immigrants from the ISANS program for disabled students, attend Walk and Talk each week with their instructors. Unfortunately their schedules changed for the fall and they were no longer able to attend. We keep our doors open and welcome any newcomers who may like to join us!

The Congregational Care Team of Bethany consists of volunteer lay persons offering care and support to our congregation. This ministry supplements the visitation ministry of our lead Minister. The Care Team offers support to those who may be housebound or in senior's residences and can no longer come to church, or to anyone who may feel isolated throughout the week and would appreciate a visit or phone call as well as drives to medical appointments. Visits and phone calls are made on a regular basis to those who have requested visits as well as those whom Kevin suggests through his visitation ministry. The care team delivered 20 UCW Christmas Gift Bags to parishioners in December. These gifts were much appreciated by those who received them.

As staff liaison to the Community Connections Working Group (formerly the Revelation Committee) we had a very successful trial run of offering Community Meals once a month January – April. These meals provide an opportunity for folks to prepare and eat a nutritious meal together. We hosted two lunch and two supper meals with an average of 25 people in attendance. The working group continues to be a support to the current community engagement programming as well as hosting community events and initiating new programs as the need arises. We are very pleased to have our new digital sign on Joseph Howe thanks to the visioning of the original 20/20 Team and the work of this Community Connections Group.

I would like to express my thanks to Kevin for once again inviting me to preside on Sunday mornings this past July, along with my colleague Louisa Duck, while he was on vacation. I thoroughly enjoyed ministering with you through word and song. I feel very blessed to be a part of this faith community as we continue to share God's love and serve others; walking, talking, eating and singing together on this journey as brothers and sisters in Christ!

Respectfully Submitted, Ann Bradley

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES



As I write this annual music report I will have just completed my 23rd year at Bethany United serving as your Director of Music Ministries. Time certainly has a way of passing by especially when you are enjoying the various tasks involved with this position. The Bethany community has been a supportive and vibrant community especially when it comes to the sacred arts. This past year has been no exception and I now take time to review some of the activities and highlights of the past 12 months with regards to the music ministry programs at Bethany United.

Thomas Duck has returned for a second year to the Bethany Senior Choir under the auspices of the Lilian Piercey Music Scholarship. Thomas will continue to sing with the choir during the year as he attends Citadel High School. He is very involved in the music program at his school including both choir and band programs at Citadel. Thomas will also use a portion of this scholarship to afford a trip to Cuba for further musical and artistic endeavours. Welcome back Thomas for another year of making music.

The Junior Choir at Bethany United is also a part of our Wednesday after-school program known as J. A. M. (Junior's on Adventure with Mission). We currently have 9 children attending this program each week for a 75 minute session that includes; singing, snacks, crafts, story time, and recreation time in our gym. The choir will also sing for services approximately once a month. This program is team led with Louisa Duck along with myself.

The Bethany Handbell Choir has enjoyed another year of ringing on our beautiful set of Schulmerich English Handbells. The group meets for weekly rehearsals and will present musical offerings approximately once monthly. The choir regularly participates in our Christmas and Easter services. This past year the Handbell Choir performed at two funerals for former choir members including Jean Frederick and Joyce Clarke. Both Jean and Joyce will be missed but it was with great pride and admiration that we were able to offer our music ministries at their services of celebration of life. In May of 2020 the choir will be travelling to Moncton NB for the Annual Spring Ring Handbell Symposium along with 12 other choirs from around the Maritimes.

The Bethany United Men's Choir includes approximately 14 tenors and basses that rehearse usually following our Thursday night rehearsal and will participate in 6-8 worship services per year. This group sings a variety of repertoire both traditional and contemporary in 2, 3, and 4 part harmony.

The Bethany Senior Choir continues to be the main ensemble at Bethany involved in worship services and provides wonderful leadership for our Sunday morning services. Our choir of adults singing in 4-part harmony rehearses weekly on Thursday evenings and participates in over 40 services per year including special services for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. They are constantly learning new music from a variety of time periods, world regions, and genres, up to and including contemporary repertoire. This group is extremely committed to the music ministry program at Bethany with approximately 34 members at present. This past year the choir performed a memorial concert in April celebrating the life of Janet Paton and a memorial Christmas presentation during the service of Lessons and Carols in memory of Peggy Starkes.

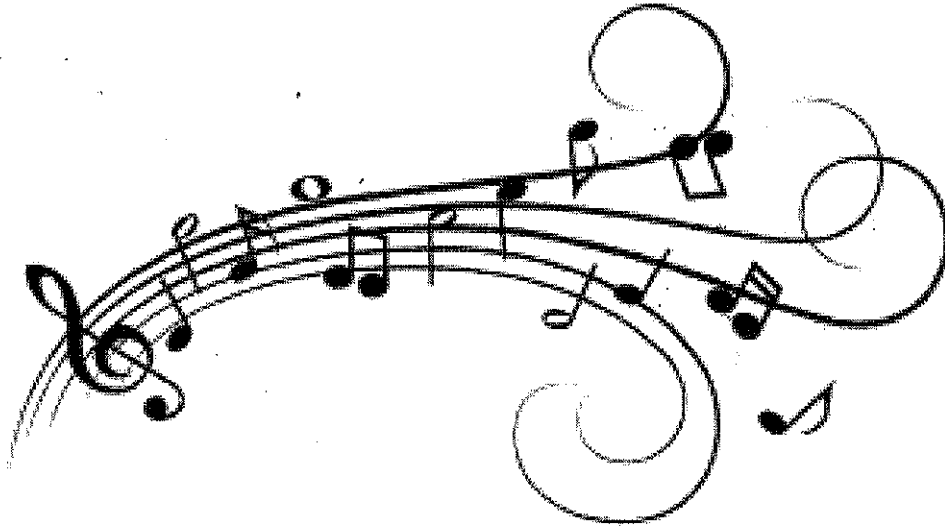
The Jazz Vespers Worship Series continued throughout the Spring of 2019 but took a break in the Fall of 2019. It was decided to present Jazz Services during morning worship on various Sundays throughout the year making this style of worship more accessible to our congregation and so these services will include: Ordinary Time in September, Advent 1, Lent 1, and Palm Sunday, and Pentecost.

Over the past year many concerts and musical events have happened at Bethany United. I would like to highlight a few of those events. A choral concert was presented in April in memory of Janet Paton and the main choral work presented was John Rutter's *The Gift of Life*. In December during the Annual Service of Lessons and Carols and in memory of Peggy Starkes the choir presented Cecilia McDowall's *Christmas Cantata*. Both these presentations were presented with great pride and in loving memory of these two choir members. A personal highlight for me was to present 'Another Night at the Movies' and accompany the comedy silent movie 'Safety Last.' The event was very well attended and proved to be an excellent fundraiser for the church. Personal thanks to Barry Paton for all of his technical support in the presentation of this event.

Personally, I continue to hold memberships with the Royal Canadian College of Organists, The Early Music Society of Nova Scotia, the NS Music Educators Association, and the NS Kodaly Society. This past summer I attended the National Convention of the RCOO which was held in Halifax and this symposium turned out to be an excellent opportunity for continuing education and further networking. I continue to teach organ privately and currently have four students. I also continue to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and during this past summer I was a crew-leader at the Spryfield build site.

In closing I would like to say thank you to the entire Bethany community for their incredible support and their willingness to participate, attend, and donate in various ways towards the music ministry program as this is a collaborative effort and does not happen without the involvement of many people. I would also like to say thank you to our staff for their support and dedication and I look forward to working with each of you in 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shawn Whynot
Director of Music (Soli Deo Gloria)



Bethany United Church

THE RACKHAM MEMORIAL MUSIC FUND

Financial Statement for the year ended December 31, 2019
 The Fund consists of two separate accounts: A) The Rackham Fund and
 B) The Lilian Piercey Scholarship Fund.

| | | |
|---|--------------|--------------------|
| The Memorial Music Fund bank balance December 31st, 2018 | | \$ <u>7,848.21</u> |
| | | |
| A) The Rackham Fund Balance Dec. 31, 2018 | | 6,357.21 |
| Donations received in 2019 | | 800.00 |
| Janet Paton Memorial Concert | | 1,484.95 |
| Musicians fees | 1,150.00 | |
| Bank Charges | <u>48.00</u> | <u>(1,198.00)</u> |
| The Rackham Fund Balance December 31, 2019 | | \$ <u>7,444.16</u> |
| | | |
| B) The Lilian Piercey Scholarship Fund Balance Dec 31, 2018 | | \$ 1,491.00 |
| Scholarship issued | | <u>(1,200.00)</u> |
| Piercey Fund Balance, December 31, 2019 | | \$ <u>291.00</u> |
| | | |
| The Memorial Music Fund bank balance December 31, 2019 | | \$ <u>7,735.16</u> |

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS WORKING GROUP

The Community Connections Working Group (CCWG) is a follow-up group to the Revelation Committee which was mandated to implement recommendations from the 20/20 Visioning process. 2019 was the second year for the CCWG to facilitate community interaction at Bethany.

The Walk and Talk program, now called the Seniors' Drop-In program, continues to be a popular choice. It includes safe winter walking (if you wish) through the meandering network of spaces and corridors of our church, and of course talking and socializing. There is also an option to join in a late morning exercise group, Essentrics, a 25 minute DVD led routine.

Hosting the ISANS Conversation Circles continued throughout the year with appreciation and enjoyment expressed by those who participated. Interaction with newcomers proves to be interesting and rewarding on many levels. Anyone wishing to become engaged with future interactions can do so by speaking with Ann or Cheri.

Our community meals program is one which brings Bethany people together for sharing a lunch or dinner. The idea of this program is to give people a chance to "eat out" among friends. We focus on healthy, nutritious, sustainably grown, and delicious meals families can enjoy as they would their own home-cooked meals. There is also the option, for those who wish, to come in ahead of time and help with the cooking, or to stay after the meal and help with the clean-up. We want the community meal experience to make you feel "right at home".

The first and foremost recommendation recorded in the 20/20 Visioning report was to invest in a digital sign for the Joseph Howe Drive side of the Bethany premises to enable communicating with the broader community and to draw people into our Bethany community. This was finally achieved by the CCWG and our sign is now an active part of the Armdale neighbourhood. An HRM grant of \$15,000 made the purchase and installment of the sign feasible, and several donations have been made by other committees and by individuals. There is still approximately \$15,500 owing and the CCWG will be holding fund raisers to pay for the balance. If you would like to support this important new step in growing our church by making your own donation, your help would be greatly appreciated.

The CCWG hopes its work will build the meaning of "church community" in all our hearts, and you will find the programs we continue to develop, bring a deeper sense of family and belonging to everyone. We believe a church is a place that is uplifting, fulfilling, caring, safe and supportive every day of the week. We believe every person is a vital part of our whole.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Wilson and Ann Bradley

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW) REPORT

Our UCW currently has two active units.

The MacKinnon Unit met the third Thursday afternoon of each month from September to April in various members' homes. Each meeting featured a social outreach component (Brunswick St Mission, Metro Turning Point & Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank among others) plus a worship service, business meeting, program and social time. May saw our closing lunch at Ashburn Golf Club. We, along with the Wilson Unit, supported the Pantry Table at the Fall Fair with both baking and staffing the table. We took the lead in the UCW dinner "Christmas in November" with lots of help from the Wilson Unit.

The Wilson Unit remains fairly active with a couple of annual social and fundraising events. The Wilson Unit planned and hosted our annual "Spring Brunch" on April 27th and provided assistance with the "Christmas in November Dinner." In December, we assembled Christmas gift bags for the Congregational Care Ministry team to distribute as they visited various people in our congregation.

Each group would welcome new members!

Respectfully submitted, MacKinnon and Wilson Units

FINANCIAL STATEMENT BETHANY UNITED CHURCH WOMEN 01 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2019

REVENUE

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Bank Balance 31 Dec. 18 | 2,630.91 |
| Bank Interest | 1.25 |
| Envelope givings | 1,269.10 |
| Donations | 473.00 |
| | <u>4,374.26</u> |

PROJECTS

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| No Bake Sale | 1,300.00 |
| Christmas Dinner & Raffle | 2,675.00 |
| Spring Brunch | 550.00 |
| | <u>4,525.00</u> |

TOTAL

8,899.26

DISBURSEMENTS

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Mission and Service | 500.00 |
| Brunwick St. Mission | 516.00 |
| Hfx West Ecumenical Food Bank | 361.00 |
| Metro Turning Point | 160.00 |
| Bethany Benevolent Fund | 300.00 |
| Bethany United Church | 4,500.00 |
| | <u>6,337.00</u> |

EXPENSES

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Project Expenses | 1,056.48 |
| Operating Expenses | 61.46 |
| Miscellaneous | 200.00 |
| | <u>1,317.94</u> |

Bank Balance - 31 Dec. 19 1,244.32

8,899.26

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 at Christmas and Easter. We also have a supply of Pew Markers which can be borrowed for wedding use.

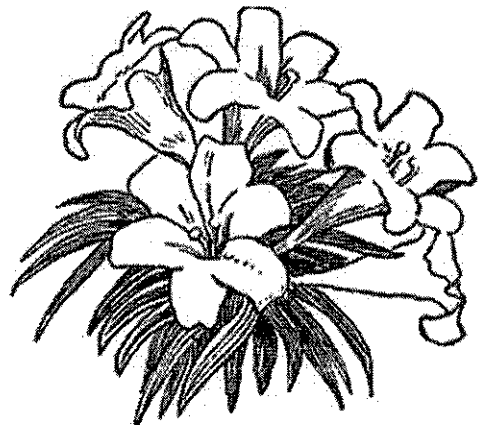
Members of the committee are also responsible for organizing, setting up and managing the FINER THINGS section of the Annual Fall Fair.

The members of the committee are: Chair- Barbara McCurdy; Secretary- Evelyn Smith; co-Treasurers- Carolyn Kunz and Julie Johnson, Janice MacDonald, Zenora Rackham, Karen Hatcher, Goldie Hardy, Lynne Legg, Karen Finley. We are happy to welcome any other Bethany members who would like to lend a hand, especially at Christmas and Thanksgiving. If interested, please contact any of the above members.

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 2019

Opening Balance January 1, 2019 **3,692.73**

Revenue

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Misc. Deposit | 255.00 |
| Christmas 2018 Donations | 510.00 |
| Interest 2019 | 1.37 |

Expenses

| | |
|---|----------|
| Christmas Gift Jim Sweet | 25.00 |
| Christmas Decorating | 168.91 |
| Donation towards SeaCan Storage Container | 1,000.00 |
| Donation towards Electronic Sign | 1,000.00 |
| Fall Fair Sponsor – Finer Things Table | 50.00 |
| Fall Fair Spa Basket Donation | 134.49 |
| Easter Decorating | 114.94 |
| Misc. Flowers – Wedding | 12.08 |
| Thanksgiving Decorating | 115.13 |

Balance December 31, 2019 **1,838.55**

Investments

| | |
|-----|----------|
| GIC | 2,338.65 |
| GIC | 1,547.62 |
| GIC | 1,759.04 |

GIC Interest **120.35**

Total of Investments **5,765.66**

Notes to Financial Statement

1. The Bethany Memorial Flower Fund is taking steps to come into line with CRA charity guidelines.
2. The Bethany Flower Committee will aim to keep it's current account balance under \$2,000 per annum.
3. Contributions will be made to viable projects undertaken by Bethany United Church as needed dependent of available funds. In 2019 donations were made toward the purchase of the SeaCan storage container and the new electronic sign on Joseph Howe Drive.
4. The Bethany Memorial Flower Fund banking institution issued instructions not to roll-over interest on GIC's for reinvestment but to be deposited to the current account for eventual distribution.

COFFEE HOUR MINISTRY

It is with great pleasure that I continue to support the Coffee Time Ministry at Bethany.

In the fall of 2017, I was called to become the coordinator to organize this important fellowship time that started at Bethany in the mid 1970's. It is a special ministry that brings people together to chat and get to know one another after our morning service.

Coffee Time continues to grow and prosper. Most Sundays we serve over 150 people tea, coffee, and juice along with both sweet and savory treats. We continue to strive to be environmentally responsible using mugs & glasses rather than disposable products.

The "Birthday Ministry" on the first Sunday of each month, has us sharing cake and celebrating all those who have a birthday coming up that month.

On Sunday mornings the kitchen is a busy spot as the volunteers prepare, serve, and wash dishes. Most weeks we are blessed to have at least 4 volunteers in the kitchen sharing this work and enjoying each others company at the same time. It is wonderful to have youth volunteer in this ministry by serving Birthday Cake and occasionally assisting at the window to serve Coffee & Tea.

A special thank you, to all the amazing volunteers who participate in this ministry.

Please consider joining this ministry, new volunteers are always welcome.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Jewett-Whitney



BETHANY MEN'S CLUB

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

Chef's Tim Cormier and David Reid with able assistance of the Cormier family and Jim Sweet continued to provide excellent meals.

Speaker for this past year were:

February – Barry Paton - “The Miracles of Malta 7000 BC to 1945 AD”

March – Douglas Ruck - Spoke on his father's experiences as a member of the #2 Construction Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) — also known as the Black Battalion

April -Carl Yates- Halifax Water's methodology for Leakage Detection

November – Gordon Fader - “Oak Island Mystery: Solved: The Final Chapter”

December – Annual Christmas Music and Carol sing led by the Salvation Army Band and Bethany's Men's Choir

Notice of the meetings is published in the weekly church bulletin. Ian Parker chairs the meetings and Randy Tyler looks after communication.

The membership model of having 50 paid up annual memberships to proceed each year and charging \$15.00 at the door for non-annual is working. The group is fiscally sound. In 2019-20, we had 58 annual memberships. In June 2019, after expenses and maintaining a small working balance, the group bought a set of Paderno pots (\$400.00) for the kitchen and gave the Capital Campaign \$700.00.

The Group continues to meet on the first Wednesday of November, December, February, March, and April. There are numerous points of contact to learn more.

Ian Parker, Chair
Randy Tyler
Bethany United Men's Club



BETHANY “MUFFIN CLUB” BIBLE STUDY

BETHANY “MUFFIN CLUB” BIBLE STUDY is a lay-led Bible study, meeting every second Sunday from January to June and from October to December. 8:30 A.M. Coffee and Muffins. 8:45 A.M. Lesson begins.

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, etc. at 8:30 a.m. for those who come earlier!

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

In 2019 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.

During the year, some 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 Rev. Kevin attends Muffin Club as his schedule allows.

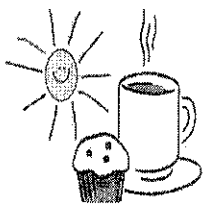
Over and above our regular church donations, we contributed to some other causes, which in 2019 included but was not limited to, the following:

- The purchase of turkeys (donated to the Salvation Army through the Turkey Fund).
- Donations to Margaret House, a Dartmouth soup kitchen
- Donations to Brunswick Street Mission breakfast program
- Donation to Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank

Early in 2019 we were saddened with the passing of our dear friend, Lorne Finley. Lorne was one of the first and a long-time member of the group and we miss his thoughtful observations.

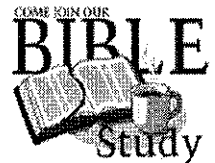
The Muffin Club numbers are stable but we are always pleased to welcome new members and visitors. It is our sincere hope that others will join our group and experience the fellowship, support and learning provided by the Muffin Club.

We pray that during 2020 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,
Bethany “Muffin Club” Bible Study

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



PIERCEY MEMORIAL GARDEN

No major changes were made to the garden this year as the garden plan that was adopted in 2017 has been completed.

Annual flowering plants were purchased and placed around the base of the sundial, in a tub near the chairs, and in three planters by the entrance to the garden.

Members of the committee were responsible for maintaining the space throughout the summer and fall.

We were all saddened by the death of one of our committee members, Grace Venoit. Grace took a special interest in the development of this space and was very generous with her donations of plants, often in memory of loved ones. She will be greatly missed by all.

It is the hope of the committee that all members of the congregation will be able to spend some quiet time in the garden and feel God's presence there.

My thanks to committee members: Judi Fishman, Bev Johnson, Bev Grant, Don Grant, Ian Parker, Maureen Reynolds, Randy Tyler and Grace Venoit.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Knechtel, Chair



AUDIO MINISTRY REPORT (SANCTUARY)

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

In addition to the above we were pleased to have Lucy Little and John Briand as visiting operators.

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
- Vespers Services (4)
- Funerals (10)
- Weddings and Wedding Rehearsals (2)
- Special Events (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 20 hours of equipment maintenance, equipment calibration and review of the current audio system.

Past Objectives:

- The down loading of Sunday Services to a laptop is "running" smoothly. To date there are two years of Bethany Sunday Services and special Sanctuary events recorded in our external hard drive.
- Our new partner in the Sanctuary Sound world, Krista Whitehouse, now edits the memory card recordings. Krista is a new comer to Bethany and her soft ware skills have opened a doorway to posting Sunday Services on Bethany's web site.

New Equipment acquisitions;

- With aging audio equipment, an investigation was launched to research new microphones for Reverend Kevin Little and Louisa Duck. The two were purchased and fitted. These mics are proprietary to the above persons. There was also a need for a wireless hand held mic and a lapel model. Both have been purchased and will fill the need for visitors and presenters alike.
- The purchase of the mics were supported by the interior maintenance fund, reserves from audio operating fees and donations.
- The hand held and lapel models are intended to support Barry Paton's sound operation in the Fellowship Hall.

Current Objectives:

- To continue refining the recording process while providing a better product for Bethany's web site.
- A review of the sound equipment in the sound console will help in better understanding future audio Sanctuary needs.

Acknowledgements:

We are pleased that Krista Whitehouse has volunteered to be our software editor. With interests in audio operation, Krista is welcome to our group.

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

Respectively

Glen, Thomas, Maggie, and Krista

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.

Last year the projectors and screens and new 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
- Funerals and celebrations.
- Fellowship Hall rentals

Sanctuary presentations included:

- Church Services
- Children's Sundays
- Silent Movie Night (Safety Last)

A new Sound System in the Fellowship Hall had worked well and is in contact use.

Financial Statement

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Opening Balance for 2019 | \$ 569.26 |
| INCOME | |
| Funeral and Fellowship Hall Rental fees | |
| Donations for the new system | \$250.00 |
| EXPENSES | |
| Cables, memory cards | \$200.00 |
| Closing Balance December31, 2020 | \$ 619.26 |

The Vision Ministry has no budget. Thanks to church friends and rental fees the service is self-sustaining.

Respectively Submitted: Barry Paton