

# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH

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Halifax, NS B3L 3Y8

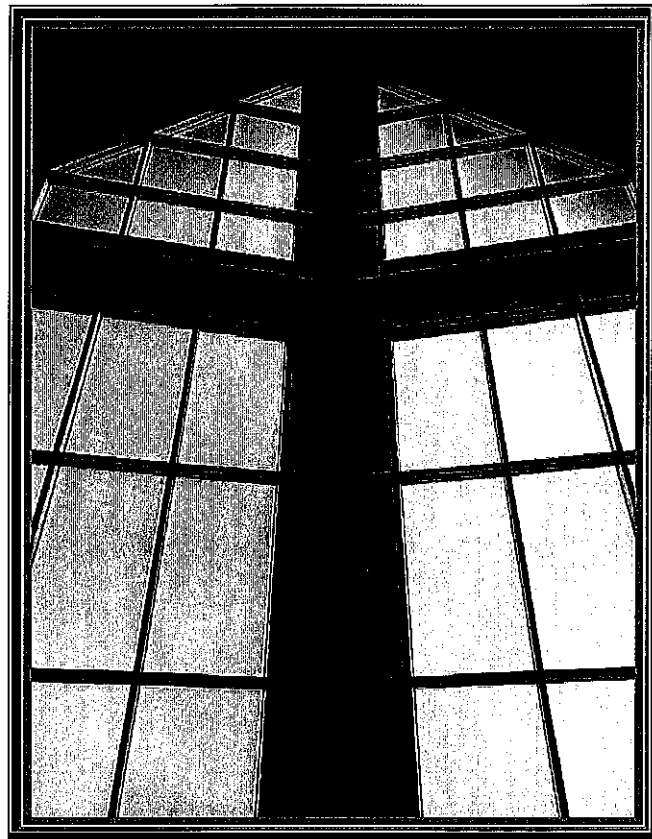
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## Annual Report

-2020-

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# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH

## 2020/2021 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

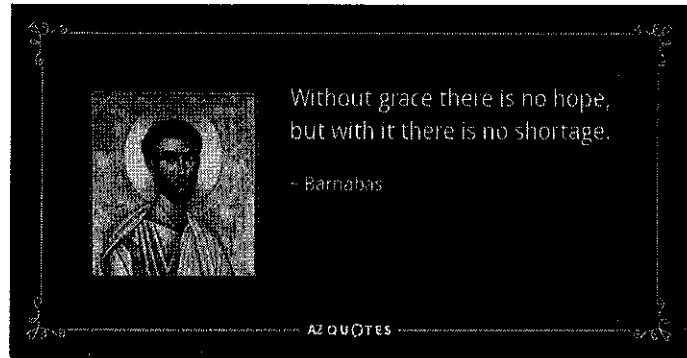
March 21, 2021

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer & In Memorium Recognition of 2019/2021
3. Approval of overall agenda (2020 in retrospect and 2021)
4. Motion regarding Voting Privileges
5. **Annual General Meeting March 2020 (retrospectively)**
  - a. Correspondence
  - b. Approval of Minutes for AGM 2019
  - c. Motion to accept all reports printed in Annual Report 2019 except Treasurer's Report and Auditor's Report
  - d. Financial Reports:
    - i. Treasurer's Report 2020
    - ii. Auditors' Report 2020
    - iii. Motion to accept financial reports 2020
    - iv. Budget for 2020
    - v. Motion to accept budget 2020
  - e. Nominating Committee Report:
    - i. Election to fill vacancies March 2020
  - f. New business 2020 (retrospectively)
6. **Annual General Meeting March 2021**
  - a. Correspondence
  - b. Approval of minutes for AGM 2020
  - c. Motion to accept all reports printed in Annual Report 2020 except Treasurer's and Auditors' Reports
  - d. Financial Reports:
    - i. Treasurer's report 2021
    - ii. Auditors' report 2021
    - iii. Motion to accept financial reports 2021
    - iv. Budget for 2021
    - v. Motion to accept budget 2021
  - e. Nominating Committee Report 2021
    - i. Election to fill vacancies 2021
    - ii. Permission to extend terms by one year to AGM 2022 of those whose board or committee membership terms would normally end with AGM 2021
  - f. New Business
7. Adjournment and Benediction

## **MINISTER'S REPORT**

*There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet. Acts 4:36-37*



Of all the Christian words, concepts and doctrine I have studied in these 30+ years of ministry none have been explored less and understood least than grace. When we typically think of grace we think of an elegance, an effortless offering that seems fitting and delightful. But for Christians grace is the wording for God's love as an unconditional gift. You and I live in a context, a theology and an ideology that privileges hard work, being clever, and productivity. The notion that we are all loved, from the beginning, and therefore can equally claim an inheritance of affection and care from our God/Creator is shocking to many. But faith opens our eyes to this truth. Throughout this pandemic; those months of fear, anxiety, and isolation, churches and church leaders have wondered if the bonds of affection forged over these last 100 years in places like Bethany would survive. Obviously that question pales in comparison to the health of our vulnerable people, to those who lost their jobs, their health, their lives. But there can be no doubt the fate of churches was a lingering question. I heard this discussion in phone conversations, in longer articles and on Zoom conversations with colleagues. Would this model of church we have known for more than a century survive this pandemic?

On the first Zoom meeting with clergy across this province my colleagues shared stories of staff being laid off, the fear their congregation would close, that morale within many churches was at an all-time low. Some even shared that lay-leaders were calling them at 9 am to see if they were awake, out of their pajamas and doing work. Many churches were so in debt and financially strapped that they called the higher courts for support, suggestions, a way out of this malaise.

Here at Bethany 2020 was a year that the storm came, hit us and we survived. Moreover, we stood tall, we cared for each other, and we inspired people to "keep on, keeping on." We did not give up. Better, we didn't just "hold on" we leaned-in, we offered "connections" to keep the community spirit alive. And we did all this while a very extensive renovation was taking place within our walls. How many churches managed a wide ranging project like ours, a pandemic and all the while supported our families who endured many deaths and losses? We kept the faith.

We did this and I thank God for the support, the inspiration and the imaginative impulse to keep reaching out. And I thank some specific people as well.

- 1) Glen Knapp. Glen was at the church every day, working with Phil and his crew, coordinating and delegating with the Board of Managers, keeping staff informed. All the while Glen was reaching out to persons like Hedley, planting a garden, deepening connections, offering a non-anxious presence. We simply could not have found our way “home” without Glen. Thank you Glen.
- 2) Barry Paton. Barry immediately offered to shepherd us through this time of no in-person church services by producing, editing and recording 30 minute services each and every week. The images and the beauty of these services were second to none. If you are a visual person, and most are, you were left awestruck by what Barry did. We will always be indebted to Barry’s ministry. Thank you Barry.
- 3) Linda Knechtel. Linda is our Treasurer, the Chair of our Working Group to plan for our re-opening, one of the ushering team who prepared for our first in-person services in ten months, the one who managed the expenses related to the major renovation that went on inside the building for ten months and counting. Together with Tina, Linda made sure bills were paid, assets were managed, the congregation was kept in the loop. Linda lived the financial challenges related to the pandemic each and every day. She did it with cheerfulness and good humour. We owe Linda many thanks. Thank you Linda.

In Acts there are many references to the believers, the sisters and brothers who made the early church possible, who made the early church an organic, vibrant, and life-giving community. I owe you a deep thanks, every single person connected to this community of faith. You did this. You have held the bonds of affection, not so tightly that anxiety prevented laughter and joy and not so casually that you forgot who and whose you were. But like the Book of Acts there are specific people named (like Barnabas), not so much for praise as for the practice of mentorship, examples of a faith-filled life. Thus I honour and name Glen, Barry and Linda, not because they exclusively did this work but because their leadership led us to a better place. All of us did our best, made a concerted effort, generated spirit and love in the name of our beloved Jesus. And more will come. More will be required. Our work is not done. But God has provided us with *a cloud of witnesses*. We are not without leaders. We are not without support. We are not without faith. Thanks be to God for all the blessings of community life. Thanks be to God for you. Thanks be to God for us.

Peace, Kevin  
Kevin Little, Minister

# IN MEMORIAM

*Jean Acton*

*Mary Braid*

*Robert Buchan*

*Grant Chisholm*

*Amy Farnell*

*Herberta Fines*

*David Fraser*

*Zalina Hook*

*Charles  
McCurdy*

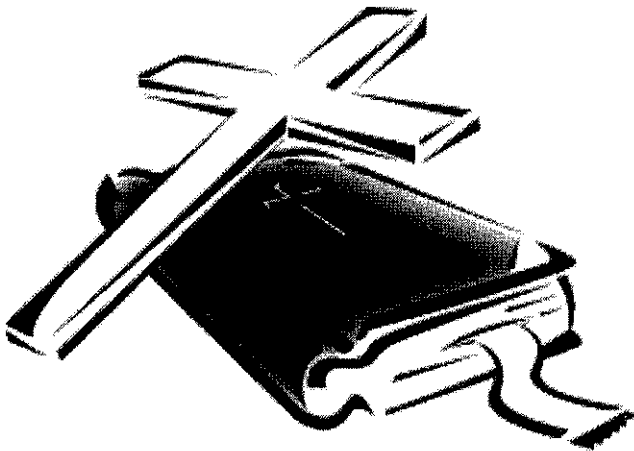
*Alice Miller*

*Myrtle Pineo*

*Cyril Reader*

*Isabel Steeves*

*Florence Tokic*



## **MINUTES OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

### **2019 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MINUTES** **BETHANY UNITED CHURCH**

Due to a provincial state of emergency called on March 22, 2019 in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic the annual general meeting for 2019 was postponed until a further time when the situation improved. The pandemic progressed and the state of emergency remains in effect today in the province of Nova Scotia. Bethany United Church governing boards remained intact from 2019 thru 2020 serving the faith community, with the inclusion of some would be nominated members involved on the peripheral of each working group where deemed appropriate.

Bethany United Church Executive Board Chair, David Rackham met with Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister for Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, Regional Council 15, and First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council, for guidance and direction of how to navigate these uncharted waters.

In faith and peace,

David Rackham  
Executive Board, Chairperson

Gloria Stephens  
Executive Board, Secretary

## 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 acts as a liaison between the Congregation and Regional Council 15 of the United Church of Canada. Various specific boards and committees take care of the day-by-day management and governance of the activities of Bethany United Church. Their reports may be found elsewhere in this Annual Report 2020, 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.

As I think back over the year 2020, I am reminded of that famous quote from “A Tale of Two Cities” by Charles Dickens and its significance for our current, turbulent situation in the world when it may have seemed at times that we were approaching five minutes to midnight:

*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair...*

As we began 2020, it was among the best of times at Bethany. Attendance was up and our financial situation was well in hand. Our minister was in full flight promoting with great success the welfare of our precious Bethany community. Our complement of dedicated staff members was rendering service well beyond any formal call of duty. Bethany, in a word, was flourishing.

And then the pandemic befell us and we were forced into a state of suspended animation. In March the sub-committee of the Executive Board gathered along with members of staff to ponder the situation and agreed that we would have to suspend all Bethany in-person on-site activities for the time being until our path forward could be clarified. Top priority was placed, and remains, on the health and welfare of Bethany members, adherents, and others beyond the community proper who use Bethany's facilities on a regular basis. It was agreed that protocols designed to mitigate the spread of the virus as drafted by the chief medical officer of the province of Nova Scotia, Dr. Strang, and echoed by Regional Council 15 of the United Church of Canada, would be followed strictly, but compassionately, at Bethany. It was clear that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for March 2020 would have to be postponed until such time as it could be held in a safe and efficient manner. As chair, I drafted a letter to this effect which was circulated to all Bethany members and adherents explaining the reason for the suspension of in-person activities at Bethany and prospects for the immediate future depending upon the course of the pandemic.



To sustain the vitality and continuity of the Bethany community during a time when in-person gatherings were not possible, several measures were put into place. These included a continuing series of email-based "Daily Connections" and regular virtual contacts with members and adherents in need of comfort and/or support, and a virtual faith study programme, all offered and sustained for the duration by our esteemed minister, Rev. Kevin Little. Ann Bradley and others coordinated our telephone tree to ensure that as many members of the Bethany family as possible could be kept in the Bethany loop. Kevin Little, Shawn Whynot, Ann Bradley, and Louisa Duck provided the content for our weekly virtual services with Barry Paton, Penny Allen, Dana Mills, and Locke Williams providing the essential technical and logistical support that allowed all this to happen. Dana Mills and Tina Gascon kept the office in remarkably good working order, albeit under the constraint of the pandemic protocols being observed, and Jimmy Sweet kept the premises in good shape despite having to deal with the inevitable debris arising from a major facilities renovation project underway. As our treasurer, Linda Knechtel, has noted on numerous occasions, that "givings" by congregants have been sustained to a remarkable degree despite the perilous times through which we were living for most of 2020. Our various boards and committees of governance have continued to function effectively although obviously not in the traditional, in-person manner to which we had long been accustomed.

Given the suspension of in-person gatherings at Bethany, it became possible to "jump the gun" so to speak and our various Option 1 sub-projects such as restoration of the sanctuary could begin several months earlier than anticipated prior to the suspension of "normal" daily operations at Bethany. As you will know, the sanctuary became available for limited in-person services at the end of November 2020, but due to adjustments to the pandemic mitigating protocols imposed by the government, our first in-person service had to be postponed to January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. A tremendous debt of gratitude is owed to Glendon Knapp, Chair of the Board of Managers, and all members of that board, along with Phil Reardon and his crew who, as all will recognise, have turned the sanctuary into a celebration of light.

In anticipation of a possible re-opening to in-person services in late October or early November, the Executive Board established a working group" to plan for that eventuality. Under the most able leadership of Linda Knechtel, this group worked through August and September and produced a draft plan for re-opening to in-person activities at Bethany as time and circumstances permitted. On September 14<sup>th</sup> 2020, the Executive Board met in virtual (ZOOM) format to examine the draft plan, suggested some minor adjustments, and ultimately approved the plan in principle. As chair of the Executive Board, I forwarded this plan to Regional Council 15 for their consideration and understanding of how we planned to safely resume in-person services and gatherings at Bethany. Kevin Little and I circulated a letter to the congregation informing them of these developments.

The Executive Board also approved the formation of a sub-committee to look into how the management of Bethany's facilities and financial matters could be shared equitably between the Board of Managers and the Board of Trustees. The Boards of Trustees at many United Church Communities of Faith have become less and less active over the years, not due to the fault of any particular individual, board, or committee, but just a reflection of the times. The United Church Manual outlines an extensive list of responsibilities for Boards of Trustees although many such boards have not been engaged in following the manual to the letter of the law. The sub-committee of the Executive Board that we have formed at Bethany will look into how we might re-energise our Board of Trustees in their role in the governance of Bethany in coordination and cooperation with the Board of Managers to the benefit of both these bodies and the congregation at large. Time and resources allowing, a wider mandate may be envisioned under which the domains of responsibility and the linkages between our various boards and committees at Bethany can be specified in greater detail than they currently are.

As 2020 ended, we looked forward to 2021 with a mixture of hope and trepidation. Recent developments in various medical and scientific circles encouraged the idea that light could be glimpsed at the end of this pandemic tunnel through which we had all been travelling in our various ways as individuals, families, and institutions. However, all decisions we may take on behalf of our Bethany community still had to be considered provisional in nature given that much is left to be learned about the SARS CoV-2 virus and its potential variants. The Executive Board will be meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to ponder prospects for Bethany's future. We will find a way to produce the Annual Report 2020 and hold the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March 2021 so that fundamental transactions of church governance such as the appointment and retirement of members of our various boards and committees can be sanctioned by the congregation, not to mention approval of our 2021 budget, and other strategic matters requiring the understanding and approval of the congregation at large. We will be updating you on current developments and prospects for the future sometime during February 2021.

None of the above would have unfolded if Bethany was not a sustaining community for many of its members and adherents. While not the best of times we might have hoped for as 2020 dawned, the last ten months of 2020 at Bethany, in retrospect, have been far from the worst of times as envisioned by Charles Dickens. Where there is a will, they say, there is a way, and thanks to each of you, Bethany has made its way steadily forward despite the perilous times in which we have been living. Praise be to God, and to each of you for this blessing we enjoy!

## Individuals Serving the Executive Board in 2020

The Executive Board has been most fortunate in its membership throughout 2020. 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 2020. Without that, nothing could be accomplished.

<b><u>EB 2020 Members</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>	<b><u>2020 EB Members</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>
Ann Bradley	Outreach	Rev. Kevin C. Little	Minister ( <i>ex officio</i> )
Heather Brophy	Member-at-Large	Charles Maxner*	Member-at-Large
Abigail Cameron	Youth Representative	David Rackham	Member-at-Large, Chair
Elizabeth Carter	Youth Representative	Les Russell	Member-at-Large
Pam Carter	Member-at-Large	Jerry Slaunwhite	Member-at-Large
Karen Finley	UCW	Janet Sponagle Hopper	Clerk of Session
Gary Galant	Member-at-Large	Herb Steeves	Member-at-Large
Bob Grant	Ministry & Personnel	Gloria Stephens	Recording Secretary
Karen Hatcher	Member-at-Large	Brian Wentzell	Member-at-Large
Julie Johnson	Member-at-Large	Andy Williams	Chair, Board of Trustees
Glendon Knapp	Chair, Board of Managers	Cheri Wilson	Community Connections
Linda Knechtel	Treasurer		

\*Subject to retroactive confirmation at AGM to be held in March 2021 as the AGM planned for March 2020 was not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Rackham (Chair)

## MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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

During 2020 we held one meeting with staff before being shut down by COV-19. We have introduced in our program a system of support for staff members whereby

if there are any issues with which M&P can assist, we are able to help. We have assigned one M&P member to each staff member who will keep in touch with that member on a regular basis. We are most pleased with this initiative.

I would like to thank the M&P members for their continued support:

Gloria Hardy

Sherri-Lynn Richardson

Bonnie Boyd-Reid

Ian Parker

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Grant

Chair



## **BOARD OF MANGER'S REPORT**

“Everything old is new again”

Peter Allen

It all started in 2017 and it's not finished yet.

2020 was an amazing year, an amazing journey. You have seen the photographs, some have walked through the Sanctuary, others have recently attended Church; the pictures tell the story.

What the pictures don't tell us is what it took to get there. While the Options 1 story was laid out in agendas prioritized from urgent to scheduled, little did the Board of Managers know that maintenance issues would play such a large part in the renovation of Bethany.

What started out as a plan to replace “bull dog” electrical panels ended in replacing nearly 40 % of Bethany's electrical system (this includes the new lighting in the Sanctuary).

Glen often sends a prayer of thanks to the Structural engineer who condemned the balcony. The entire structural support of the balcony was rebuilt.

All too often the story of the soft walls is told; twenty- seven repairs to restore rotted walls.

Options 1 versus maintenance - planning versus emergency, it is all a part of Bethany's journey.

The five-year plan to address Bethany's physical needs is now three years old. The elephant is through the eye of the 2020 needle. The Board of Managers is now in a position to plan maintenance.

The remainder of Options 1 has been prioritized. The Board of Managers will be in a position to review, recommend, and pair Options1 items with maintenance planning.

All future objectives will proceed with the knowledge of estimates, timing and fiscal support. Pursuing of grants will continue. On the horizon will be Government of Canada small building programs, The Province of Nova Scotia Accessibility Grant, Hunter Fund and a review of United Church of Canada incentives.

Funding under Options 1 will continue in the form of either donations or pledges. It must be said that Bethany's financial support has been beyond compare.

Although Options1 was identified as a five-year plan, the duration is not cast in stone. If it takes more time coupled with financial responsibility so be it. This is not a race but a plan.

Although the plan seems tidy, straight forward, and filled with vision, lurking behind every good intention is the "surprise".

The Board's readiness is supported by the past three years and beyond. It's not the surprise / disappointment, it's knowing how to handle it.

This Board of Managers is honored to have your support, trust and faith in a world that often lacks these qualities.

Respectively presented to the Congregants and Adherents of Bethany United Church

In Faith  
Glendon Knapp  
Chair of Bethany's Board of Managers

## TREASURER'S REPORT

In last year's report, I talked about how 2020 was going to be a challenging year for Bethany. Little did I know just how challenging it was going to be, not just for Bethany, but for the world. The pandemic has affected all of us in different ways and this was reflected in the life and work of our church community.

I am pleased to report, that as far as the finances were concerned, Bethany came through with flying colors this past year. A revised budget was sent out in the fall to reflect the loss of income from rentals and fund raising activities. Many people were able to spare a little extra for donations and this has kept us in a stable financial position heading into 2021. We have increased the number of contributors who use PAR that is very encouraging.

We were also able to take advantage of several of the Covid-19 related grants from the government, which provided us with extra funds.

The Sanctuary work has been completed and the Board of Managers is working on plans for the next phase of our restoration project. The congregation will have a chance to review and vote on our next steps. Decisions will have to be made as to how to fund the balance of work.

I am not going to make any predictions about what is in store for Bethany in the coming year, but I do want to thank everyone who helped keep our community of faith strong this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Knechtel

### 3 YEAR COMPARISON

#### BETHANY UNITED CHURCH - 2 YR. FINANCIAL COMPARISON WITH 2020 BUDGET

	Budget 2021	Actual 2020	Actual 2019	2018
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Contributions	\$ 426,517.00	\$ 440,921.00	\$381,187.00	\$ 385,269.00
Rentals	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 4,760.00	\$ 14,410.00	\$ 20,154.00
Parking	\$ 56,940.00	\$ 50,183.00	\$ 52,296.00	\$ 51,801.00
Fall Fair	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,715.00	\$ 32,669.00
Gala/ Auction	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	-
Memorial Donations	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 5,051.00	\$ 3,975.00	\$ 5,678.00
Dividends & Int.	\$ -	\$ 20,435.00	\$ 12,523.00	\$ 10,394.00
Jazz Vespers	\$ -	\$ 204.00	\$ -	\$ 1,337.00
Funerals	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,023.00	\$ 6,157.00	\$ 2,758.00
Joy Lunch Club	\$ 300.00	\$ 324.00	\$ 359.00	\$ 20.00
Other	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 29.00	\$ 230.00	\$ 1,357.00
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 510,807.00</b>	<b>\$ 524,930.00</b>	<b>\$ 506,852.00</b>	<b>\$ 511,437.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Salaries, Benefits, Travel	\$ 333,285.00	\$ 296,879.00	\$ 307,022.00	\$ 290,675.00
Premises	\$ 125,406.00	\$ 182,947.00	\$ 139,596.00	\$ 147,536.00
Music	\$ 4,850.00	\$ -	\$ 4,621.00	\$ 3,959.00
Office	\$ 20,850.00	\$ 17,822.00	\$ 20,059.00	\$ 22,135.00
Christian Education	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 298.00	\$ 1,381.00	\$ 2,981.00
Worship Ministry	\$ 5,500.00	-\$ 796.00	\$ 7,157.00	\$ 3,566.00
Presbytery Assessment	\$ 16,316.00	\$ 16,316.00	\$ 16,316.00	\$ 14,612.00
Communications	\$ 300.00	\$ 126.00	-	\$ 1,385.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 510,807.00</b>	<b>\$ 513,592.00</b>	<b>\$ 496,152.00</b>	<b>\$ 486,849.00</b>

#### Financial Statement Breakdown:

Net operating Income / Loss before stock donations	\$	11,278.00	\$ 10,700.00	\$	24,588.00
Gain (Loss) on disposal of investments	\$	138.00	-\$ 49.00	\$	-
Stock Donations	\$	-	\$ 10,267.00	\$	10,823.00
Unrealized gains(losses) on stocks	\$	(-6,548.00)	\$ 22,154.00	-\$	33,255.00



## **CONTRIBUTIONS TO MISSION AND SERVICE (M & S) FUND IN 2020**

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

Mission and Service Contributions/Envelopes:	\$20,062.42
M & S UCW	\$ .00
M & S World Development	\$ 357.00
	<hr/>
Total:	\$20,419.42

## **CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN – 2020**

Total envelopes issued for 2020: 246 (this includes 97 families on PAR)

Total numbers with Zero balance: 2

### **Contributions between:**

\$1.00 - \$100:	30	\$1001 - \$2500:	60
\$101 - \$500:	47	\$2501 - \$5000:	32
\$501 - \$1000:	42	Over \$5000:	33

## **MEMORIAL DONATIONS RECEIVED IN 2020**

**\$5,051.05**

*Bethany United Church expresses thanks to all members and adherents who contributed to the memorial bulletin donations for 2020 "in memory" and all charitable donations made to honour loved ones and friends.*

## **VOLUNTEERS**

*Bethany is blessed with a dedicated community of volunteers.*

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

## BETHANY UNITED CHURCH INVESTMENTS

The church's **unrestricted** financial account holdings (by investment type) as of December 31, 2020 are:

### **Securities**

<u>Common Shares</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Bank of Montreal	50	\$ 4,839.00
Bank of Nova Scotia	1,956	\$ 134,572.80
Royal Bank of Canada	922	\$ 96,431.98
Toronto Dominion Bank	96	\$ 6,904.32
Canadian Imperial Bank Of Commerce	17	\$ 1,848.24
BCE Inc	97	\$ 5,279.71
Great West Life	169	\$ 5,129.15
Fortis Inc	226	\$ 11,752.00
<b>Total Value of Shares</b>		<b>\$266,757.20</b>
Accumulated Dividends		\$ 12,262.73

### **Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs)**

<u>GIC Type</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>
Annual Compound	\$ 62,704.68	2.770%	May 22, 2024

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

RBC Dominion Securities N.Geizer	\$10,047.47	2.250%	October 15, 2021
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<b>Total Value of Fixed Income</b>	<b>\$72,752.15</b>
Uninvested cash	\$210,037.89

## BETHANY BENEVOLENT FUND

The Bethany Benevolent Fund is a Session Fund for goodwill purposes that is used to help people in difficult circumstances.

Our sincere thanks to the congregation of Bethany for their many generous donations throughout the year.

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

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	Debit	Credit
<b>Opening balance as of January 1, 2020</b>		<b>\$1,237.47</b>
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Individual donations		\$2,463.00
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Amount disbursed		\$2,424.90
Other expenses		\$ 59.00
<b>Closing balance as of December 31, 2020</b>		<b>\$ 1,216.57</b>

## BROOKFIELD INCIDENTAL FUND

Once again we are thankful to those who supported the Brookfield Fund in 2020. This auxiliary fund began ninety-six 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 also be known as the Brookfield Incidental Fund to make it more evident of its purpose.

Balance January 1, 2020 .....	\$1,358.98
New funds in 2020 .....	\$0000.00
Expenditures in 2020 .....	\$0000.00
Balance December 31, 2020 .....	\$1,358.98

Respectfully submitted,  
George Russell, Treasurer



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

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

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

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

This past year (2020), the two annual scholarship awards were granted in the amount of \$2000 each to Elizabeth Carter and Thomas Duck, both of Bethany United Church.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees met both personally and virtually 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  
Jim Musgrave

Despite the challenges of restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic the Board of Trustees has had an active year. The following is a list of the Boards activity.

- Consulted and obtained Project Specific Insurance for the Option One Renovations
- The land lease with CN was renewed for an additional five-year term to July 31, 2025.
- Renewed the License Agreement for the rental of the Bethany parking lot to IMP for a five-year term to December 31, 2025. The agreement increased the monthly rental proceed in line with market conditions and includes an annual increase for the term of the lease.
- Consulted with the Treasurer and Board of Managers on the financial needs for the maintenance of the building.
- Ongoing work with the Financial Advisor for the Investments of the Congregation.
- Work on various special committees to address the ongoing financial health and safety of Bethany.

My time on the Board of Trustees and as Chair was extended due to COVID for an additional year as my second 3 year term was to end with last years Annual Meeting. I want to thank the current and past Board members of which 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 - )  
Janet Sponagle Hopper - Clerk of Session - (2019 - )  
Louisa Duck - Children and Family Care Ministry – (2010 - )  
Ann Bradley – Community Engagement Facilitator – (2016 - )

## EMERITUS MEMBERS OF SESSION

Rev. Vincent Ihasz (2015)

## LIFE MEMBERS OF SESSION

Charles McCurdy (1966) D

## YOUTH APPOINTED MEMBERS (2019 - ...)

Elizabeth Carter

### **One Year Term**

Don Grant

### **(2021)**

Carol Knapp  
Charles Baxter  
Pat Farmer  
Don Mackay  
Andy Williams

### **(2022)**

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

### **(2023)**

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

### **(2024)**

Carolyn Kunz  
Kathy Brown  
Joan MacVicar  
Janet Sponagle Hopper  
Gordon Lawley

### **(2025)**

Lori Cormier  
Laura King  
Rick McFarland  
Diane Plumridge-Reid

## MINISTRIES OF SESSION - 2020

### **Local Outreach**

Ann Bradley, Chair  
Gary Gallant\*, Treasurer  
Ann Pugh\*  
Carol Knapp  
Cathy MacDonald  
George Russell\*  
Don Grant

Sharon Wentzell  
Margie Guy \*  
Glen Knapp\*  
Tim Cormier\*  
Zenora Rackham

### **Worship Ministry**

Bill Piercey, Chair  
Kathy Brown  
Elizabeth Carter  
Bev. Grant\*  
Carolyn Kunz  
Rev. Kevin Little  
Shawn Whynot\*  
Louisa Duck

**Communion**                      Don Grant

**Head Usher**                      Pam Carter

**Transportation**                  Heather Gillis\*  
Harriet King\*

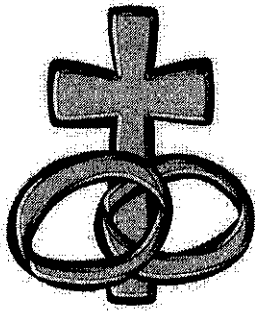
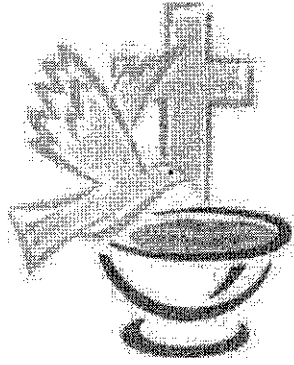
\* Member at Large

**R**      Retired

**D**      Deceased



## 2020 BAPTISMS



## 2020 MARRIAGES

## BETHANY SESSION REPORT

	2018	2019	2020
Number of Elders on December 31 (Including Emeritus members)	33	40	32
Total number of families under Pastoral Charge	349	379	337
Total number of persons under Pastoral Charge	1012	1099*	977
Number Baptized	1	2	0
Number of Marriages	4	2	0
Number of Funerals	13	13	3
Received by Profession of Faith	3	7	0
Received by Certificate of Transfer	16	16	0

\*Please note a calculation error was made 2019 total number of persons under pastoral charge.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee has established a mandate, which is as follows: -

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

It has been the practice of the Worship Committee to meet one hour before the bi-monthly meetings of the Session. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic this past year the Committee has had only one in-person meeting on January 27, 2020 before in-person meetings at the church were suspended indefinitely.

At our January 27 meeting we discussed:

- (a) a possible guest preacher for our 2020 Anniversary Sunday in October;
- (b) the setting up of a sub-committee consisting of members from the Worship Committee, staff, the Board of Managers and Session to discuss the temporary relocation of our Sunday services for the period from June 21 to September 20, 2020 to accommodate the scheduled renovations of the Sanctuary. However, before the sub-committee had an opportunity to implement a plan the church premises were shutdown indefinitely as a result of the onset of the pandemic; and
- (c) approving the procurement of an additional 20 pew cushions for the Sanctuary.

In respect to acquiring additional pew cushions the Worship Committee on behalf of the Session wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Maryth Maxner who took on the sole responsibility of making the much needed cushions for the Sanctuary.

The Worship Committee's second meeting of the year (a Zoom meeting) took place on December 14, 2020, the purpose of which was: -

- (a) to consider the introduction of live streaming of the Sunday morning services, and
- (b) recommending to Session that our two Christmas Eve services be virtual services unless Dr. Strang should relax restrictions respecting in-person faith gatherings.

The Worship Committee wishes to take this opportunity, as we near the end of what has been a very challenging year for the congregation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to express its sincerest gratitude to our ministerial staff (namely, Rev. Kevin Little, our organist Shawn Whynot, our soloist, Ann Bradley, and our Sunday Superintendent, Louisa Duck) for their time and dedication in providing both the congregation and our Sunday School with worship services and Sunday school classes that have meant so much to our members during these trying times when we have not been able to worship together.

It goes without saying that these virtual services and Sunday school classes would not have been possible without the dedication and technical skills of Barry Paton and Penny Allen for which we are all very grateful.

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.

Members of the Worship Committee for 2020 were as follows: -

Staff

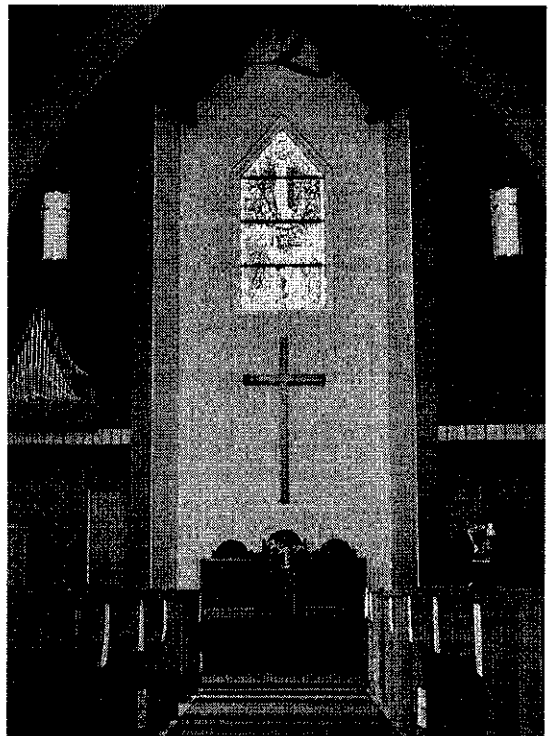
Rev. Kevin Little  
Shawn Whynot  
Louisa Duck

Non-Staff

Kathy Brown  
Elizabeth Carter (Youth Representative)  
Bev. Grant  
Carolyn Kunz  
Bill Piercey

December 31, 2020

Bill Piercey  
Chair



## LOCAL OUTREACH MINISTRY

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

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

This past year, we served our traditional meal of ham and scalloped potatoes at the St Andrew's Sunday Supper on March 8th, this was the last Sunday the guests at St. Andrew's enjoyed a sit down meal. Once the pandemic began St. Andrew's offered take-out meals only. In September members of the Bethany congregation made 20 casseroles and delivered them to St. Andrew's for the take-out meal. During the pandemic numbers attending the supper increased and on average 225 people were served. Many thanks to Bethany for also providing fresh fruit donations for the suppers.

On Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> a team of 9 people from Bethany arose in the early morning to cook and serve breakfast at the Brunswick Street Mission. This particular outreach became 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. Unfortunately due to the pandemic, that Saturday breakfast was the last sit down meal. The pandemic brought many changes to the work of the Mission. The Mission kitchen became a 7 day a week, two meals a day take-out operation and provided food to other shelters as well. We were pleased to have loaned our Bethany kitchen electric range to the Mission as they were in need for the amount of food they were preparing.

During the late fall, the Committee sponsored a number of projects to support programs during the Christmas season. Although we were not gathering for worship on Sunday mornings we were able to organize these initiatives in a safe manner. 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, 120 gifts were donated to the Angel Tree and were forwarded to the Salvation Army for distribution. We also participated in a Christmas Card Campaign for the residents of Northwood. The cards donated brought many a smile to the residents during a time of isolation due to the pandemic.

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 STATEMENT 2020**  
**LOCAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

**Revenue**

Balance forward from 2019	\$ 1953.95
Envelope contributions designated Local Outreach	\$12397.92
Interest	\$ 0.46
Total	\$14352.33

**Disbursements and Expenses**

Adsum House	\$1000.00
Brunswick Street Mission	\$1700.00
Bryony House	\$ 800.00
Camp Kidston	\$ 300.00
Club Inclusion	\$ 600.00
Fairview United Family Resource	\$1200.00
Halifax West Food Bank	\$1700.00
Hope Cottage	\$ 800.00
Laing House	\$ 800.00
Metro Turning Point	\$1400.00
Phoenix Centre	\$1900.00
St. Andrews Suppers	\$1800.00
Gift Cards Ministry (Church Office)	\$ 150.00
Bank Charges	\$ 112.60
Total	\$14,162.60
Total Revenue	\$14,352.33
Total Disbursements	\$14,162.60
Balance	\$ 189.73
Bank Statement	\$ 189.53

Respectively submitted, Gary Gallant, Treasurer

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY CARE MINISTRIES

It was once again my privilege to serve the congregation as the coordinator of our Children and Family Care Ministries, though 2020 did not go as initially planned! When the new year began in January, there were plans in place for Sunday School, our JAM program, the Prayer Shawl ministry, and Vacation Bible School. These plans had to change.

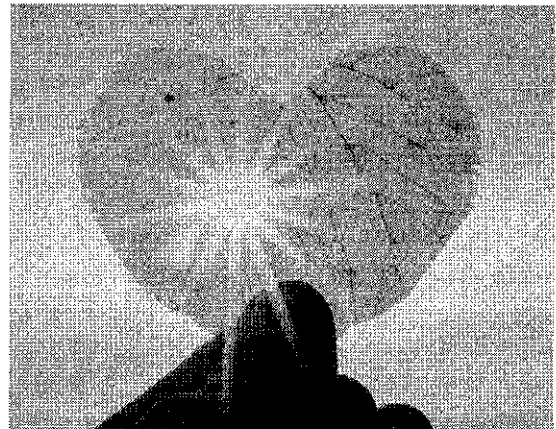
Owing to the pandemic, all our programming was suspended, with the exception of Sunday School. This continued virtually, with families being sent lesson plans and activity sheets each week in order to continue our children's faith formation. This continued until early June, when we virtually celebrated our year together. Four high school graduates were recognized, and their prayer shawls were delivered over the course of the summer. We offer our congratulations to Elizabeth Carter, Thomas Duck, Colby Grant, and Ainsley Monchesky. All four are currently completing their first year of university.

Sunday School began again in September following the same virtual format, with lessons emailed weekly, and materials packets containing art and craft supplies being made available for pickup. We held our usual Children's Sunday service in November, combining it with Remembrance Sunday. Our children and youth recorded their worship offerings either at home or here at the church individually, and then Barry Paton offered a very generous gift of time to edit the service together. We followed a similar process for the Christmas Eve family service, and Ann Bradley and Dana Mills were instrumental in helping to create that service, with the youth group providing the Nativity Story this year.

Our Prayer Shawl ministry continued throughout the year, though we were only able to distribute eight shawls owing to the necessary health protocols. We did share a great deal of yarn with our crafters, though, who made excellent use of their free time and offered their gifts of creativity in wonderful ways. I have several completed shawls in my office waiting to be blessed. Other of our makers asked for project leftovers and have made hats and mittens to be distributed to the community. We thank all of you who contributed your time, talent, and treasure to this ministry.

As we look ahead in 2021, I am exploring ways to reorganize and revamp our programs so that we may offer them safely in person when the opportunity presents itself. I would like to thank the congregation and my colleagues for their support over this past year. It has been a challenge in many ways, but has also allowed me to try new ways of offering curriculum and the weekly Children's Time. I'm looking for simple new recipes to share with you, too! I am blessed to be part of this community of faith, and I look forward to the adventures this year will bring. Thank you again for your support and trust.

Louisa Duck  
Children and Family Care Ministries Coordinator



## Community Engagement Ministry

Bethany's community spirit is much to be thankful for especially during a global pandemic! When life as we knew it abruptly came to a halt this past March due to the Coronavirus, the Bethany community still found ways to engage and support each other. It is a privilege to minister with each of you in my role as Community Engagement facilitator. At Bethany we continue to have an extraordinary group of young people who enjoy being together on Sunday evenings. In January and February we gathered in our Fellowship Hall for fun filled themed evenings which always include food and games! Each week we began our sessions by making sandwiches for the Out Of the Cold Shelter in downtown Halifax. This shelter provides 20 homeless people a warm place to sleep including a hot meal and sandwiches to go. Jody Myers led us in a yoga session in February and number of youth assisted with our Annual Pancake Supper, which was our busiest one ever! In early March we made pretzels for Lent and had a movie night. Little did we know that would be our last in- person gathering until September!

We all stayed the blazes home as we were told during the lockdown, but continued to meet every Sunday evening on Zoom until the end of May. The fun and games continued online and we did some baking too! Jody Myers joined us on Zoom for another yoga session and Shawn and Kevin joined us for a fun trivia night. It certainly was a different experience but one we are truly thankful for as we were able to stay connected and be together during a time of isolation. In September, with low Covid numbers we were able to meet in person at Bethany, with masks and social distancing. When the weather was nice you could find us at Flynn Park, the Dingle and even Deadman's Island for a Halloween adventure. We were back on Zoom in late November and early December but that didn't stop us from making Christmas Cards for the folks at Northwood and collecting stocking stuffer items for the youth at Phoenix House. The youth also created a virtual Christmas Eve Family service that was enjoyed by many on Christmas Eve. Special thanks to Dana Mills for her continued support as a volunteer youth leader.

**The JOY Lunch** program met in February with guest speaker Shawn Parker, a Halifax Outreach Worker, and in March with guest speaker Hilary Thorne, Community Connections Coordinator for ISANS. 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. This program has not been able to continue during pandemic times due to public health gathering restrictions. We look forward to a time when we can be together in fellowship again.

Bethany's **Senior's Drop- In** program (formerly Walk and Talk) was bustling in January - early March. This program offers a place 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. Kevin also joined us for conversation the last Wednesday of each month. 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. This program did not resume for the remainder of 2020 due to public health

gathering restrictions. We did, however, through weekly Wednesday emails stay connected with each other through the spring months.

**Guided Meditation** led by Yvonne Macor, took place January – early March and then again in October and November. These sessions were held in the MacKinnon Chapel and were well attended by Bethany folk and the surrounding community. We are very grateful to Yvonne for continuing to volunteer her time and talent as we form community meditating together. Yvonne also offered Zoom meditation sessions when we are not able to be together in person.

In September when public health restrictions had loosened gathering restrictions Kevin and I hosted a **Picnic and Prayer** gathering at the Dingle Park. 25 Bethany folk were in attendance and it was a wonderful reunion (physically distanced!) Kevin and I also invited folks to attend **Tuesday Tastings at 2:00** each week in October and November in the Fellowship Hall. This was a small group ministry of 10 people, where we gathered in a distanced circle and discussed the upcoming Sunday sermon.

**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. During the pandemic when in-person visits and Sunday morning worship were no longer permissible, a congregational phone tree list was resurrected and members of the care team and others, made weekly phone calls to Bethany's congregation. This proved to be an important and much needed ministry and continues to be so. Thank you to all who make these much appreciated calls. The care team usually delivers the UCW Christmas Gift Bags to parishioners in December. In lieu of visits and gifts this year Christmas cards were sent. Thank you to Carol Knapp for overseeing this outreach initiative.

As staff liaison to the **Community Connections Working Group** we were able to offer two Community Meal lunches in January and February. These meals provide an opportunity for folks to prepare and eat a nutritious meal together. The CCWG had an in-person/ Zoom option meeting in November. At that time we discussed how we would move forward in pandemic times. We hope to offer take-out meals in 2021. The digital sign on Joseph Howe has proven to be a positive way to connect with the greater community. We would like to thank Dana Mills for her time in overseeing the operations of the sign. We are pleased to say that the digital sign has been paid in full with an HRM community grant and CCWG's fundraising efforts, including the festive Valentine Party in February, apple pie making and selling by Mary MacKay, fruit cake sales by Julie Johnson and calendar sales by Maureen Reynolds. A very special thank you to an anonymous donor who assisted us in achieving our fundraising goals.

I would like to express my thanks to Barry Paton, Penny Allen, Dana Mills, Locke Williams, and to the ministry team Kevin, Shawn and Louisa for their **Virtual Worship Ministry**. It has been a privilege to work with each member of this team. It is truly a blessing to be a part of such a caring congregation where a strong sense of community, connection, and a deep faith are maintained even through unprecedented times.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ann Bradley



## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

### **A Perspective of Sorts**

In my 24 years as your Director of Music it is safe to say that this has by far been the most unique. The year began as typical as any other with programs starting up after a Christmas break. The Senior Choir and Handbell Choir came together in early January for their Annual Epiphany Party featuring our traditional meal of Ham, Baked Beans, Scalloped Potatoes, and Brown Bread, all enjoyed in the Fellowship Hall. After which, the Senior Choir, Men's Choir, Handbell Choir, and JAM would all resume their regular schedules. Exactly two months later, March 13<sup>th</sup> to be exact, the activities of the church, and the world, came to a grinding halt. Everything would cease, for at least two weeks, or so we thought. How little we knew back in March compared to what we know now.

Suddenly, we were juxtaposed into an online world. Our weekly services were now to be recorded in advance of the respective approaching Sunday and then uploaded to Bethany's You Tube Channel. Our first 'Virtual Service' was presented via You Tube on Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> and this would continue until January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Bethany did not reopen in 2020 and would remain closed for exactly 308 days. However, our Spirit, Faith, Creativity, and willingness to remain active was unstoppable. For just under 10 months the Ministry Team provided weekly meaningful worship services, faith-filled Zoom sessions, and a flurry of non-stop emails, phone calls, and whatever it took to keep our community ticking along.

Fast forward to early October, both the Senior Choir and the Handbell Choir, under the auspices of the Re-Opening Committee along with strict guidance from the Nova Scotia Health Authority, we were able to resume in-person rehearsals. These groups would follow strict guidelines such as, physical distancing, the wearing of face masks, and contact tracing, making it possible for these choirs to come together and make music once again. The first rehearsal of each group was quite a dramatic experience. People that were used to seeing each other weekly and were not seen for 10 months were now suddenly reunited. Yet, no one could shake hands, no hugs were permitted, and everyone had to remain 6 feet from each other.

What was amazing, is that through this period of coming together again after such a long hiatus, the attendance was the greatest and most consistent that it had ever been in my 24 years at Bethany. People so wanted to be together and sing and ring handbells. Our community was yearning for a reunion. And so, we rehearsed for approximately 7 weeks and even recorded some of our music and this became musical offerings within the virtual services. In mid-November, the numbers of Covid-19 infections began to rise again, a second wave was coming, and we had to then shut everything down. That would be it for the remainder of 2020. Although there was a glimmer of hope for Christmas Eve services, alas, it was not to be. I then realized that this would be the first time in 40 years that I would not be seated on an organ bench and be playing for a Christmas Eve Service.

There are many people to thank for all that has been presented here. Our dedicated Ministry Team along with the support of the administration in the office was always ready for what was coming next and willing to create so that our Bethany community would remain intact. The work of the Re-Opening Committee was such an important under-taking and this group was able to articulate what needed to happen so that in-person activities could eventually resume. Many people came together to facilitate and make things happen at Bethany during such incredible and trying times, but one person that I would like to name for his unending dedication and his work on the virtual services is Barry Paton. Week after week Barry would come and record the worship services, splice it together with wonderful ideas and imagery, and then present the finished product so that it could be viewed by all of you. And so, we all collectively together say to you Barry, thank you for your dedication and willingness to share your expertise with the Bethany Community.

I am hoping that my annual report this time next year will be more similar to my traditional annual reports. This has certainly been a year of challenges but also a year that has forced us all to be that much more patient, creative, and probably inspired us to called upon our faith more often so that we would be able to get through the more difficult moments. I feel blessed to be a part of such a caring and thoughtful community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shawn Whynot  
(Soli Deo Gloria)

## THE RACKHAM MEMORIAL MUSIC FUND

**Financial Statement for the year ended December 31, 2020**

**The Fund consists of The Rackham Fund and The Lilian Piercey Scholarship Fund.**

The Memorial Music Fund bank balance December 31st, 2019		<u>\$ 7735.16</u>
Donations received in 2020		15.00
Less: Bank Charges	48.00	
Scholarship for Thomas Duck	\$1200 00	<u>\$1248.00</u>
 The Memorial Music Fund bank balance December 31, 2020		 <u>\$ 6502 16</u>

## **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS WORKING GROUP**

The Community Connections Working Group began 2020 with hopes and enthusiasm for another year building Bethany's community connections through providing opportunities for interaction and participation. During the months of January and February two community luncheons were offered accessing local, whole, and nutritious foods. The idea of these community meals is to showcase and bring awareness to ways we can support our local agricultural communities, as well as how to choose food that is nutritious and delicious with every bite.

In February we held a Valentine's Party to raise money for Bethany's new digital sign. Our in-house chefs, Tim Cormier and Dave Reid, along with their great team of Bethany kitchen helpers, prepared and presented a wonderful array of appetizers accompanied by wine. Halifax singer Elsy Makhlof then performed her spirit filled songs while we clapped, sang along, and danced. The evening finished with a buffet of delectable sweet treats. We had a full house and it was a lot of fun. Little did we know that within a month we would be in lockdown and navigating one of the most difficult springs in recent Nova Scotia history. The pandemic has accentuated how much we all count on one another, and has made our need for community more apparent than ever. When we come together in community we are energized and discover purpose. Our spirits are raised as we share life with others.

Since the pandemic our usual activities have been on hold, but there has been some fund raising behind the scenes, including the sale of calendars, donated fruit cakes and apple pies, plus a private donation to top up the remaining payment needs. We are happy to report our new sign has been paid in full and has become an integral part of our community engagement endeavours.

At a virtual meeting in November it was decided, as soon as restrictions are lifted, we will continue our community meals, but only for "take away" until the pandemic has passed. We will keep the congregation posted via email once the meals are available. We are also assembling all the recipes we use in an online cookbook. Eventually, as the number of recipes grows to book size, we plan to publish the collection.

Hopefully by early fall we will be back to meeting in person and offering all our community events once again.

Keep safe everyone, know we are all together while apart, and be well.

Submitted in the spirit of love and community by  
Ann Bradley and Cheri Wilson  
on behalf of the Community Connections Working Group

## UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW REPORT)

Covid, as one might expect, pretty much ground all UCW activities to a halt in 2020.

Our 'MacKinnon Unit' did rise to the challenge, and held an 'in person' meeting in November, which they graciously opened up to all UCW members. Members were masked and socially distanced, had a short worship, exchange of Christmas memories and Christmas treat bags were picked up.

Our "Wilson Unit" was saddened to hear of the passing in December of our namesake "Rev. E. Ellen Wilson". When the Wilson Unit formed almost forty years ago, a lot of our members were women who worked fulltime outside the home so we chose to name our unit after Rev. Wilson, one of our Bethany ministers at that time.

We hope that in 2021, our two UCW units will again have the opportunity to gather and participate in some of our favourite annual events (Spring Bruch, Fall Fair, Christmas in November dinner, etc.) as well as our individual unit meeting.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Bethany UCW

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT BETHANY UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

01 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2020

#### REVENUE

Bank Balance 31 Dec 2019	1,244.32
Bank Interest	0.62
TOTAL	<u>1,244.94</u>
Bank Balance 31 Dec 2020	1244.94

## BETHANY FLOWER COMMITTEE

The Flower Committee has a mandate to enhance the beauty of Bethany throughout the year by supplying flower arrangements, plants and seasonal decorations, both fresh and artificial. We are funded by a bequest from the Nan Geizer Memorial fund and by memorial donations made by Bethany members at Christmas and Easter. We have accumulated a number of arrangements over the years made by members of the committee, and we work to freshen and reorganize these as occasions arise. We also have a supply of Wedding Pew markers and table decorations that are available for use.

During this past year, due to Covid 19 restrictions and Construction and renovations of the building, we have not met since March 2020.

Members of the committee this year are: Barbara McCurdy, Evelyn Smith, Julie Johnson, Carolyn Kunz, Janice Mac Donald, Karen Hatcher, Zenora Rackham, Goldie Hardy, Lynn Legge, Karen Finley. We are happy to welcome any Bethany Members who would like to lend a hand (or ideas) especially at Christmas and Thanksgiving. If interested, please contact any of the above members.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara McCurdy



# MEMORIAL FLOWER FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2020

Opening Balance January 1, 2020	\$1838.55
Revenue	
Christmas Donations 2019	\$1830.00
Interest for 2020	\$1.28
Expenses	
Christmas Decorating(2019)	\$197.43
Balance December 31 2020	\$3472.40

## Investments

GIC	\$1074.02
GIC	\$1834.97
GIC	\$2442.54
GIC	\$1615.43
GIC Interest	\$17.82

Total of Investments \$6984.78

## Notes to Financial Statement

Bethany Flower Committee will to aim to keep the current account balance under \$2000,00 because of the Covid issues, we have not dispensed as we have in the past.

Contributions will be made to viable projects undertaken by Bethany United.

Church as needed, dependent on available funds. 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 have supported the Coffee Hour Ministry at Bethany since 2017.

We began 2020 with a long list of both experienced and new volunteers who had come forward to help each month with the Coffee Hour Ministry. 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 other's company. It is wonderful to have youth volunteer in this ministry by serving Birthday Cake and occasionally assisting at the window to serve Coffee & Tea.

As we all know, this ministry along with every other aspect of our church life came to a sudden stop in mid March as COVID-19 arrived in Nova Scotia.

The supply of non-perishable food items that I had on hand for the Coffee Hour Ministry were donated to St. Paul's United Church Food Bank in early May.

In time, I pray that we will once again be able to experience our Coffee Hour Ministry after our morning service. When that time arrives, I look forward to leading a ministry that will offer both a safe and meaningful community time.

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

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 which provides an opportunity for men of the congregation to meet informally, enjoy a meal, a speaker and a time of fellowship. We are very blessed to have a very active group at the present time.

In the fall of 2019 we had 58 people paying the annual fee of \$60 which covers the cost of meals for the five meetings. Men of the congregation who have not paid the annual fee are encouraged to attend at a cost of \$15 per meeting. On average we have about 10 people per meal choosing to do this. Meals are prepared by Chef Tim Cormier and his family, and David Reid. In March we were saddened to hear that Tim was in the hospital and we called Shawn LeBlanc a local chef who willing took on the project with great skill and enthusiasm. We are pleased to hear Tim's health has greatly improved and looking forward to his return.

In 2020, we had two gatherings before we had to stop meeting because of Covid-19. When it is safe we will start up again so stay tuned as we only were able to offer 4 of the 5 meetings that the annual membership covers.

Our speakers for 2020 were:

February - Trained volunteers in the Halifax Regional Police Seniors Home Safety Program ran a very informative session on frauds and scams awareness. Fraud and scams is a growing problem in today's world. Maybe you or someone you know has been a victim. It's easy to fall for fraud because criminals are very creative and they keep changing their tactics to ensnare new victims.

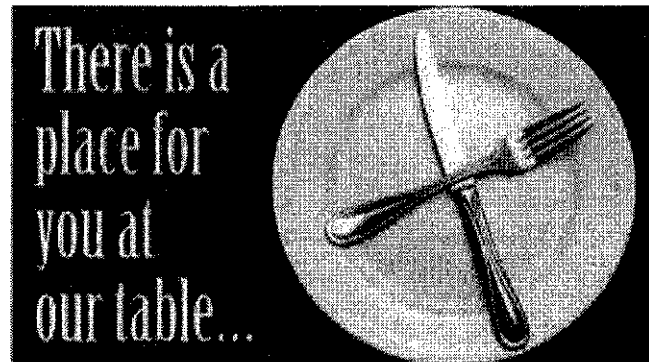
March –George Woodhouse and Alannah Phillips from Sable Island National Park Reserve provide an excellent presentation. They provided many unique stories about the island, plant and animal species and many more tales of rare natural phenomena. It is hard to believe this all takes place on this crescent-shaped island 42 kilometres long, sand bar which lies 161 kilometres from Nova Scotia's coast, at the edge of the continental shelf. For centuries Sable Island has spiked the interest of people from around the world.

The group is fiscally sound. During the year we purchased a large outdoor gas grill. The grill top will also work on the gas range in the kitchen which will great improve the cooking capacity for pancakes.

We have also been able to reach out and offer some small support to local outreach during the pandemic.

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

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





## MUFFIN CLUB

The Muffin Club is a lay-led Bible study, meeting ordinarily every second Sunday from January to June and then from October to December. However this year due to stormy weather and Covid we only met 3 times with limited numbers in attendance. We would usually meet at 8:30 A.M. for Coffee and Muffins with the lesson beginning at 8:45 A.M.

Once we are able to start up again Contact: Ian Parker or the Bethany Office for more information.

The Muffin Club was started in 1988 with a goal of studying God's Word and how it applies to our lives today. It provides an opportunity to participate in lively discussion, share in great fellowship, offer prayer and support to one another.

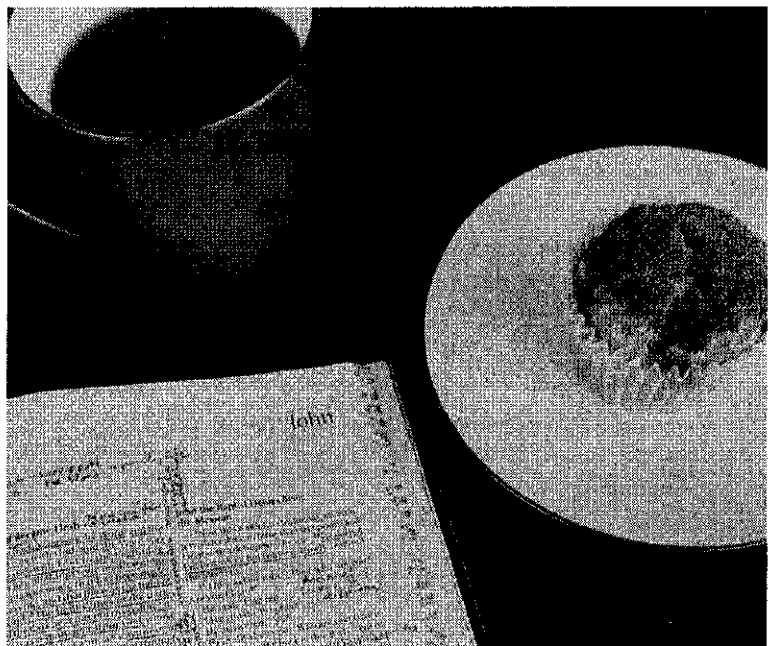
The fellowship and friendship that has brought us together over the years has resulted in a wonderful Christian community in the Muffin Club and is a valuable support when situations arise in our lives when we need the support of friends.

Over and above our regular church donations, we contributed to some other causes, which in 2020 included but was not limited to, the following:

- The purchase of turkeys (donated to the Salvation Army through the Turkey Fund).
- Donations to Halifax West Food Bank.

The Muffin Club numbers have been in decline over the last couple of years. 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 once we are able to return to our bi-weekly faith study meetings

Respectfully submitted,  
Bethany "Muffin Club" Bible Study



## AUDIO REPORT (SANCTUARY)

Operating duration for 2020 commenced Jan 5 and concluded March 8.  
Glen Knapp was the operator.

Audio visual recordings were as follows:

- Sunday Services (10 in Sanctuary)
- Funerals (3)

New Equipment acquisitions:

In attempt to upgrade the Sanctuary sound system the following equipment was acquired:

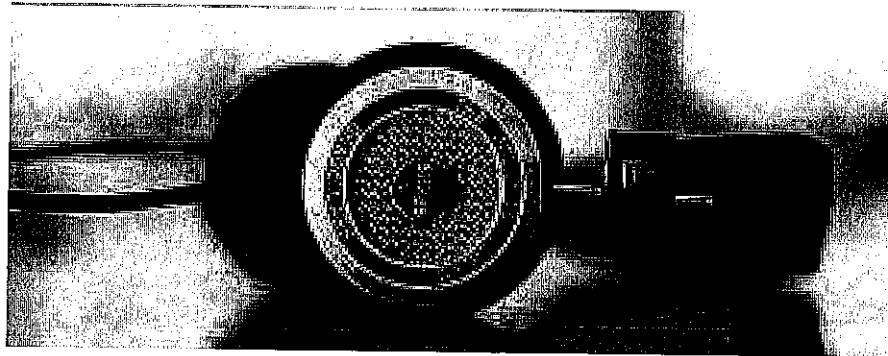
- A used LS9 Yamaha sound console
- 2 Digiflex stage boxes
- 2 eight channel audio snakes
- 150 feet 14 gauge sound wire
- 3 Shure hanging mics
- 1 Senhausser wireless hand held microphone

The above acquisitions were supported by a donation of \$6,000.

Presented to the members and adherents of Bethany United Church.

Respectively

Glen Knapp



## 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 due to Covid-19 the projectors, screens and new the sound system were used for only a few events (Jan- Feb) including Joy Club, Men's Club, Valentine's Day and several funerals.

We are currently planning for the opening of the Fellowship Hall. New mounts and electrical outlets will be installed on the stage. A new retracting screen is planned to replace the current standing screen. The audio visual will be controlled remotely so the console will be permanently stored in the off-stage room out of sight.

### **Financial Statement**

<b>Opening Balance for 2020</b>	<b>\$ 619.26</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Donations for the new system	<b>\$5000.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
<b>Closing Balance December31, 2020</b>	<b>\$ 5619.26</b>

We developed a technique to provide a Bethany Virtual Church Service on YouTube each week. It has run each week from Mar. 22 till the end of the year2021.

Equipment was provided at no charge to the church.

Respectively Submitted: Barry Paton

